

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

There has been little activity to report this quarter. We have two new members:

NEW MEMBERS

The Biology topic is immensely popular. It is likely that someone in your local club is a collector of something related to zoology or botany. Sign them up. The Biology Unit welcomes the following new members:

1874	Kate White, Country Club Hills, Illinois	not listed
1875	Jeroen Vancutsem, Belgium	butterflies & moths (7)

NEWS OF NOTE

BIOPHILATELY WINS GOLD MEDAL

Your editor entered *Biophilately* in the philatelic literature exhibition at the annual American Philatelic Society Stamp Show held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 20–23 August 2015. The journal received a Gold Medal in the Journals and Periodicals division. This is the first time in its 64-year history that the journal has received a Gold.

There currently are only two philatelic exhibitions in the United States that host formal competitions for philatelic literature: APS Stamp Show and Chicagopex.

In past competitions, the publication has typically received criticism for having too many pages of checklists and too few pages of news and articles. We have been trying to add more of the latter while still maintaining the new issues listings that most of our members want and rely on.

You as a member and reader can help us greatly to maintain this level of quality by submitting an article about any subject that relates to philately or biology. Tell us about an interesting item in your collection, how you acquired some special item, or what motivated you to collect your topic. Do not worry about formatting, spelling, or grammar. It is the job of the editor to handle all of that. Just give us your ideas.

We also entered the index to the first 62 years of the journal, *The Mother of All Indexes*, in this competition. It received a Silver Medal. The jury provided some valuable feedback on ways to improve it, so look for an updated version in another year, or so.



BIOLOGY UNIT DIRECTOR WINS JENNY JACKPOT

[Ed. Note: Fred Skvara, one of our Unit directors, received one of the 100 copies of the valuable upright \$2 Jenny Invert sheet. This is from an article he wrote for his local club's newsletter, *The Westfield Philatelist*, for which he is the editor and publisher.]

I am the editor and publisher of two American Topical Association study unit journals—*Scalpel & Tongs* and *Americana Philatelic News*. *Scalpel & Tongs* is the journal of the Medical Subjects Unit and is published quarterly on 8½×11-inch 24 lb. paper and mailed in a 9×12 envelope (weighing 2.8 ounces).

Our unit has 50 overseas members and the First Class Mail International postage is over \$4.00 per mailing. As I have been using 400 of the Inverted Jenny stamps a year to mail our journal to our members overseas, I have so far purchased close to 200 panes.

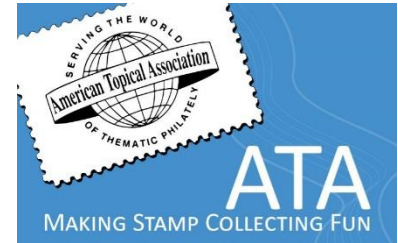


None of those panes were the “Upright Jenny” variety. Instead, in a last minute decision, I added three of those panes to an order for a number of recent postal issues in early August from the USPS's Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City. On August 18, I received the order. As I opened the first Jenny package, I could see the top of some printing on the filler card and knew immediately that I had received an “Upright Jenny” pane. When I called the number on the enclosed card to register the pane, I was told that it was the 20th pane registered with the USPS.

ATA RELEASES FREE HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

The American Topical Association has just the thing to put you in the holiday spirit: a free checklist. This year's topic is indeed jolly, as the checklist of stamps and related items features the characters of Charles M. Schulz.

The list includes 68 stamp items, plus 34 postmarks, cinderellas, etc. The checklist will be updated as new information becomes available. It can be downloaded free through the end of December at www.americantopicalassn.org. A free print copy of the three-page list will be mailed when an addressed, stamped envelope is received by ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008.



As with all ATA checklists, the Schulz list can be searched and sorted by country, issue date, or Scott number, and there is a description of each item. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Woodstock, Lucy, Linus, and all the others can be found on stamps. The list can be used to start a topical collection, or for a fun holiday project.

This is the fourth year the ATA has offered a free list. Previous topics were Halloween, turkeys, and gingerbread. This year's list was compiled by topical cartoon collector Carol Costa and Jack André Denys, ATA President.

ATA members may obtain, for a small fee, checklists on more than 1200 topics, and the newly expanded dATAbase can also be "custom searched" for stamps on very specific topics. ATA membership benefits and membership information are on the website.

WORLD STAMP SHOW NY-2016

As most of you probably know, the United States is hosting its decennial international stamp show next year in New York City. The eight-day show runs from 28 May to 4 June and will be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center located at 655 West 34th Street in downtown.

Admission to the show is free and the organizers expect more than 200,000 people from all over the world to attend. More than 200 stamp dealers will be selling and buying stamps, covers, collections, post cards and a wide assortment of ephemera and philatelic items and supplies.

The show will have 4,000 frames of exhibits and right now they have received applications for more than 6,400 frames. I would not like to have the task of determining which exhibits will be rejected. This show will also introduce a new style of exhibit frame that is half the weight of the one currently in use.

Of course, this means that the remaining exhibits will be of the highest quality with some of the world's greatest stamp and postal rarities on display.

There will be First Day stamp release ceremonies for US, UN, and several other nations.

Family friendly activities and events are also available including a 5,000 square feet Youth and Beginner area that includes a theater and many interactive games and projects.

The Biology Unit will be helping to man the ATA booth at the show. There will be 60 other specialty philatelic organizations covering every facet of the hobby there as well. If you are planning to attend this show (and you should as it is the premier philatelic event of the year), the Unit could use an hour of your time to help at the booth.

NY-2016 has partnered with Delta Airlines to provide special discounts for both domestic and international flights. They also have made arrangements with 27 New York and New Jersey hotels for discounted rates. But these properties are already nearly sold out.

See the NY-2016 World Stamp Show website at www.ny2016.org for more details about all aspects of the show.

