

## NEWS OF NOTE

### SPECIAL OFFER

The Maximum Card Study Unit is running a special offer for Biology Unit members who are also ATA members. They will give you a free full year membership in their study unit. All you need to do is contact the President, Terry Watson ([terryw7633@comcast.net](mailto:terryw7633@comcast.net)), and provide your email address. Their journal is published only in an electronic format.

We will be running an article about maximum cards and how they are created in the next edition of *Biophilately*. These items can add a colorful aspect to your topical collection. You can find many that feature biological subjects and you can make some of your own. The upcoming article will teach you how.

### ATA PUBLICATIONS WIN AWARD

Auction house Christoph Gaertner in Germany has sponsored a philatelic literature competition each year since 2013. This year, Vera Felts, the Executive Director of the American Topical Association, the parent organization of our study unit, entered *Topical Time*, the ATA magazine, in the regular category and *The Magical World of Stamp Collecting* in the youth category. A few weeks before the award announcement she was asked if it was OK if they combined the two entries into one category, which would receive more points. Of course, she agreed to permit this.



Roger Van Laere (R) accepts First Place award on ATA's behalf from Christoph Gaertner

On 22 October, the awards were announced and the ATA entry received the First Place award. This is no small achievement as the competition involved 22 entries from many countries and many prestigious philatelic organizations. The First Place award comes with an impressive plaque, certificate, and not least, prize money of €2,000.00 (approximately \$2,300.00).

Biology Unit member Roger Van Laere from Belgium, represented the ATA in receiving the award. See the complete listing of awards at the CG website: ([www.cg-award.com/2018\\_de.php](http://www.cg-award.com/2018_de.php)).

Congratulations to Wayne Youngblood, *Topical Time* editor, and Aimee Devine, Assistant ATA Youth Coordinator and editor of *The Magical World of Stamp Collecting*.

### CHEMISTRY ON STAMPS

One of the newest members of the American Topical Association, Gu-Gang Chang of Taiwan, has created a website focusing on Chemistry on Stamps (<http://www.chemophil.blogspot.tw>). This site has some very interesting information that relates to biophilately including a section on the "Chemistry of Life."

The site contains hundreds of fascinating exhibit pages showing stamps, covers, ephemera, and other wonderful material from his collection relating to chemistry, medicine, biology, and scientists. All of the text and captions are in English.

### LONG TIME PHILATELIC PUBLISHER CLOSING

Washington Stamp Exchange of Florham Park, New Jersey, a fixture of the stamp hobby for 85 years, is closing its business at the end of 2018.

The decision was announced in a 19 October press release. The company discontinued its ArtCraft first day cover (FDC) line at the end of 2015, citing decreasing sales and high production costs. The company reported that it intends to sell everything in its stock “at steeply discounted prices,” including FDCs (ArtCraft), albums (White Ace albums and pages) and supplies (StampMount).

The company is offering products through its website (<http://www.washpress.com>).

### LABELS PURPORTING TO BE STAMPS

The Collectors Club of Chicago was founded in 1928, and has as its mission “the documentation, preservation, advancement, and promotion of philately through education, study research, and services...” The CCC organized the Arthur Salm Foundation in 1991, in order to conduct technical research on philatelic products, and to report on matters relevant to philatelic forgeries and fantasies. The foundation has issued a series of reports over the years.

The first edition of Salm Paper No. 4, “Labels Purporting to be Stamps,” was issued in May 1997. The document was initiated when CCC member and well-known philatelic writer, Lester E. Winick, received a letter from a collector of topicals, who had purchased hundreds of dollars of stamps representing the fictitious modern-day nations of “Abkhazia,” “Batum,” and “Easdale Island” at stamp shows as prestigious as CAPEX '96. The collector was told by a stamp dealer at the bourse that “...these countries were emerging nations as a splinter off old Russia.” Another collector buying the same issues was told that “...these countries were forerunners, and would be valuable in the future.”

In 2012, Charles E. Cwiakala completely updated and revised the original document, adding a great deal of further or new information. This listing is a valuable reference for identifying bogus issues. You can view this listing on-line at the CCC website ([www.collectorsclubchicago.org/label-stamps.php](http://www.collectorsclubchicago.org/label-stamps.php)).

### REMINDER

In the last issue, I mentioned that some members were unaware of the distinguished history of the Biology Unit. In 2013, we published *The Mother of All Indexes*, which details this history. I would like others to know about our Unit and its contributions and I offered to email an electronic copy of *The Mother of All Indexes* to any Unit member who contacts me before 31 December ([jackcongrove@comcast.net](mailto:jackcongrove@comcast.net)). Time is running out on this offer.

### TOPICAL COLLECTING VIDEO

In the report on the 2018 National Topical Stamp Show in the last issue, I mentioned that videographer Graham Beck had produced a high quality video report on the show (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bImEro1G30>). Beck has continued his video presentations and one of his latest is titled *Top 10 Topics*, which he produced in conjunction with the American Topical Association. In this video, he explores the top ten most popular stamp collecting topics as determined by the ATA member submissions for its membership directory.

Three of these top ten topics relate to biophilately. Can you guess what they are, or what topic is Number One? You will have to watch the video to find out (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H64CWAYpA7E>). It is also available for ATA members to download from the ATA “Because You Belong” website so you can use it for a presentation at your local club meeting ([www.ata-becauseyoubelong.org](http://www.ata-becauseyoubelong.org)). You have to log in to this website.

There are a number of other videos relating to topical stamp collecting. You can find links to them at the ATA website (<http://www.americantopicalassn.org/videos.shtml>). I noticed subjects such as aquariums, cats, chickens, donkeys, elephants, fossils, and more.

### DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST NOMINATIONS

Each year the American Topical Association presents its highest award, the Distinguished Topical Philatelist (DTP) award to a deserving individual. The DTP is awarded for service to topical philately in general and to the ATA in particular. It was established in 1952, and has been presented to more than 120 individuals since its inception. Thirty of these awardees have been members of the Biology Unit—more than any other study unit.

This is the most prestigious award given by the ATA. The DTP Selection Committee is accepting nominations for the 2019 recipient. You can submit your nomination to the chairperson, Jean C. Stout, P.O. Box 8174, Jackson, MS 39298. Please include a description of the individual's philatelic contributions and activities.

### EVENT CALENDAR

Event	Dates	Location
Southeastern Stamp Expo	25–27 January 2019	Hilton Atlanta Northeast, Norcross, GA
Sarasota National	1–3 February 2019	Municipal Auditorium, Sarasota, FL
AmeriStamp Expo/ARIPEX	15–17 February 2019	Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, AZ
Garfield-Perry March Party	15–17 March 2019	Holiday Inn Strongsville, Strongsville, OH
St. Louis Stamp Expo	29–31 March 2019	St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Plymouth Show	13–14 April 2019	Hellenic Cultural Center, Westland, MI
WESTPEX	26–28 April 2019	San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, CA
Philatelic Show	3–5 May 2019	Boxboro Regency, Boxborough, MA
PIPEX	10–12 May 2019	Red Lion Hotel on the River, Portland, OR
ROPEX	17–18 May 2019	Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, Canandaigua, NY
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show	24–26 May 2019	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Denver, CO
NAPEX	7–9 June 2019	McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corners, McLean, VA
COLOPEX	14-15 June 2019	St. Andrew-Nugent Parish Hall, Columbus, OH
Royal*2019*Royale	21–23 June 2019	Hilton Mississauga, Mississauga, ON
OKPEX	28–29 June 2019	Reed Convention Center, Midwest City, OK
Minnesota Stamp Expo	19–21 July 2019	Crystal Community Center, Crystal, MN
Americover	26–28 July 2019	Renaissance St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO
<b>NTSS-APS StampShow 2019</b>	<b>1–4 August 2019</b>	<b>Hilton Omaha, Omaha, NE</b>
BALPEX	30 Aug–1 Sep 2019	Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, Baltimore, MD
SEAPEX	13–15 September 2019	Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, WA
MILCOPEX	19–21 September 2019	Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, Milwaukee, WI
Filatelic Fiesta	9–10 November 2019	Elks Lodge, San Jose, CA
CHICAGOPEX	22–24 November 2019	Westin Chicago Northwest, Itasca, IL
FLOREX	6–8 December 2019	Osceola Heritage Park Events Center, Kissimmee, FL
Omaha Stamp Show	12–13 September 2020	Metro Community Center, Omaha, NE
INDYPEX	2–4 October 2020	Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds, Noblesville, IN