

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In this issue, you will find several references to the joint stamp show this summer being sponsored by the American Topical Association (ATA) and the American Philatelic Society (APS). The StampShow-National Topical Stamp Show will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on 1–4 August 2019. This will be the largest stamp show in the United States this year and the organizers expect to build on the outstandingly successful joint show held last year in Columbus, Ohio.

This joint show concept is expanding to other shows as well. Combining the efforts of two or more organizations certainly has some great benefits for these groups. They can share the expenses and work efforts and that reduces the costs for both groups. The synergy also enables them to offer more activities and expose visitors to more philatelic possibilities, not to mention expanding the dealer base and the quantity and quality of exhibits and presentations.

However, there is a cost to following this concept. The most important is that it results in fewer philatelic shows and that means fewer opportunities for dealers to make sales and fewer chances for collectors to attend a show. This makes it even more important to make plans to come to Omaha and take part in this opportunity. See you there.

There is no Herpetology column in this edition, but our Associate Editor tells me he should have a listing in the next edition. Also, my inbox for articles is almost empty, so I urge everyone (once again) to check your collections for an interesting item and write it up for the rest of us to appreciate.

There have been some questions about how we create our new issue listings.

Each of our Associate Editors constructs their new issue listings in accordance with their own interpretation of the topic. Some editors only list items that depict an identifiable subject. In some of these cases, the subject may clearly be animal or plant, but the image may not be refined enough to make a confirmed identification, so we list it as unidentified (U/I). This is your cue to chime in with what you think the subject is.

Other editors include designs showing stylized images of the topic in order to provide more complete listings for those collectors who wish to include these items. In some cases, editors may even list stamps showing related subjects such as biologists, or scientific establishments that do not show an image of a biological subject at all.

If the listing in your topical area does not satisfy your interest, please contact the corresponding Associate Editor and let him know what other information you would like to see included.

I would like to remind all readers that we have a listing of websites in the back of each issue that provide useful information about biological subjects including topics on stamps. Many of these sites include images of stamp issues.

Jack R. Congrove



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