

## NEWS OF NOTE

### BIOLOGY UNIT FEATURED

In the lead-up to the joint APS StampShow-ATA National Topical Stamp Show, the American Philatelic Society featured the Biology Unit in its June 2019 APS digital newsletter. The informational article included links to the Biophilately website and to sample pages of the Biology Unit “Spare Time” exhibit.

### THEMATIC PHILATELY BOOK

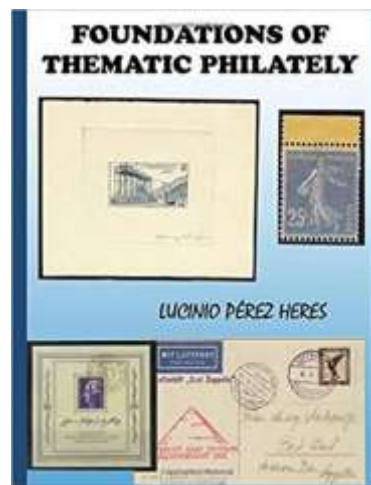
Originally published in Spanish, a new English translation of *Foundations of Thematic Philately* has been released in June 2019. The author, Lucinio Pérez Heres, is a mining engineer from the University of Oviedo in Asturias, Spain. He has had a fondness for philately for as long as he can remember. He became interested in thematic philately in 1991, and began his first thematic collection shortly thereafter.

Some of his collections include, “The World of Mining;” “The Odyssey of Minerals;” and “Gods, Kings, and Tombs.” He has also written several articles for philatelic magazines and given some lectures on thematic philately.

This book is a manual for starting your own thematic philately collection. Do you know what Tin Can Mail is, or other philatelic terms like balloon mail, *Boule de Moulins*, V-mail, I.R.C., precursor, carrier, paquebot, crash mail, and fancy cancel? Can you distinguish the different kinds of proofs, such as artist proof, engraving punch proof, workshop proof, ink proof, offset proof, plate essay, color proof, progressive proof, printing proof, un-adopted proof, deluxe proof, etc.?

You will find all the answers here, as well as recommended ways to arrange, present, and describe the material in your collection. The book provides some ideas on choosing the theme, creating the title and plan, and offering tips for developments. The last part of the book comprises the FIP Rules for Presentation and Evaluation applicable for exhibiting at the different levels.

Both print and digital versions of book are available on Amazon.



### NEW ATA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The American Topical Association, our parent organization, has named Jennifer L. Miller of Greer, South Carolina, as its new Executive Director. She is replacing Vera Felts who has been the Executive Director since 2009, and is retiring.

Miller is an enthusiastic topical collector and ATA member. She collects sheep, teapots, coffee, and Disney on stamps.

She has many years of customer service experience working for the Walt Disney Company and most recently has 13 years of business experience with Starbucks. She has a degree in education and was a teacher at the beginning of her career before spending some years raising her three children.

She is married to Martin Kent Miller, also an avid philatelist, who was previously the Chief Content Officer for the American Philatelic Society and editor of *The American Philatelist*.

Miller officially assumed her new position on 15 August. The new address for the ATA Headquarters is: P.O. Box 2143, Greer, SC 29652-2143. The email address and phone have not changed: [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com), and (618) 985-5100. Please welcome Jennifer to her new position.



### NEW PENGUINS LOGO

The Penguins on Stamps Study Unit (POSSU) has adopted a colorful new logo for their organization. The design features “Tux,” a stylized Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) in his formal penguin attire including a ceremonial sash with the words “I ♥ POSSU.”

The logo was designed by Martin Kent Miller from Greer, South Carolina. The POSSU uses it on cinderella labels, note paper, and their newsletter, *The Rookery Report*.

The Emperor Penguin can live for 20 years and is the tallest and heaviest of all living penguin species. It is endemic to Antarctica. The male and female are similar in plumage and size, reaching 122 cm (48 in) in height and weighing up to 45 kg (99 lb).

If you are interested in joining or learning more about POSSU, you can visit their website at [www.penguinstamps.org](http://www.penguinstamps.org), or email [gentoo172@yahoo.com](mailto:gentoo172@yahoo.com).



### TIGER COVER

The Cats on Stamps Study Unit (COSSU) was the featured study unit at the APS-ATA joint show this year in Omaha, Nebraska (see the show report on page 172). The study unit was celebrating its 40th anniversary. Among other materials and souvenirs, they were selling the pictured cover with an eye-catching color cachet of a tiger and franked with the Save Vanishing Species semi-postal stamp (Sc#B4). This stamp was issued in 2011, and withdrawn from sale at the end of 2018.

I purchased this cover and had it canceled at the USPS station at the joint show using the ATA 70th anniversary postmark.

By the way, I asked one of the ladies from the Stamp Fulfillment Center in Kansas City, who was working at the show to hand stamp all of the cancels, to give me an estimate of the quantity she had applied in her 15-year career with the Center. The answer: 1.5 million!

The cachet was created by artist Ole Nordhavn, who also happens to be the COSSU President.



The uncanceled cover is available from COSSU for \$5 plus \$1 postage. If you are interested in joining or learning more about COSSU, you can visit their website at [www.catstamps.info](http://www.catstamps.info), or email [catmews1@yahoo.com](mailto:catmews1@yahoo.com).

### OCTOBER IS STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

#### ***Everyone Recruit One!***

To celebrate Stamp Collecting Month, the ATA is rolling out a special offer for ATA members. It's their *Everyone Recruit One* campaign, and they hope you will participate. For each new member you recruit in October, you will receive a \$5 checklist credit. If you recruit a former member after a lapse of more than a year, you will get a \$5 credit for that also. And, yes, you can recruit more than one member! If the new member signs up on the ATA website, be sure to let us know you are the member who recruited him/her.

## PRIVACY POLICY

The General Data Protection Act is a set of rules that enable European citizens to learn how their personal data is used and allow them to control how that data is used by companies and organizations that collect that data. Because the ATA and the Biology Unit both have European members, they need to have a policy in place that spells out what personal data they collect and how they collect and use it.

The ATA is currently developing this policy and will publish it within the next few weeks. The Biology Unit must also adopt such a policy and most likely will use the same one as the ATA. It is also expected that the US and others will implement similar requirements in addition to those that already exist regarding sensitive personal data.

The policy will reset everyone to zero. In other words, all members will be opted out of personal information retention. The policy will specify exactly what personal information the organization will collect such as names, addresses, and other contact information. Information might also include collecting interests and other data. Each member will be informed of the policy and given the opportunity to opt in. The policy will be posted on the website and designated on all forms and other correspondence.

Currently, the ATA and the Biology Unit do not share any personal data with other organizations, and this is not expected to change. Sharing data within the organization will be addressed as part of the policy. Other details will include staff training, electronic security, and response plans. More information will be provided soon.

## BOGUS STAMPS

Recently, there was an article in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* magazine titled, "The Abuse of Topical Collectors," by Richard Lehmann. (*ASD&C*, May 2019, p. 68). This article decried the prolific release of so-called "bogus" stamps by questionable production groups and called on the ATA to lead the way in putting an end to these issues.

ATA President Dale E. Smith, responded in another article published in the June edition of the same magazine (*ASD&C*, June 2019, p. 16). His article recaps some of the efforts made in the past by the stamp collecting community to thwart the production and sale of these items. He then presents the ATA's policy regarding them.

The bottom line is, until each of the countries allowing these stamps to be produced takes action to control them and prosecute these printers and publishers, nothing will happen to stop, or reduce the flow. These countries are being defrauded and their reputations and integrity besmirched.

It is not the responsibility of the ATA to be the world's policeman of this situation. The ATA does not have the staff, financial resources, or complete information to aggressively combat the large web of dishonest individuals and organizations involved in this scheme.

Further, it is not the job of the ATA to tell collectors what they should, or should not collect. Many collectors do realize that these items are questionable, or even fake issues from fake "countries." But they are interested in having these things in their collection for their design, or because they depict a subject found on no other stamp in the world. Most topical collectors are not buying their stamps for investment purposes.

The ATA does have the responsibility to inform and educate topical collectors about these fraudulent issues, and to make buyers aware that these items are, at best, labels and cinderellas and will be worth nothing when it comes time to sell them.

Here in *Biophilately*, we try to do this very thing by flagging the entries in our new issues sections. We know that many members still may wish to add them to their collections. And this also provides a warning to other members, who will undoubtedly encounter them in dealer stocks, or on-line markets, about their questionable nature.