

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THEME OF SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO

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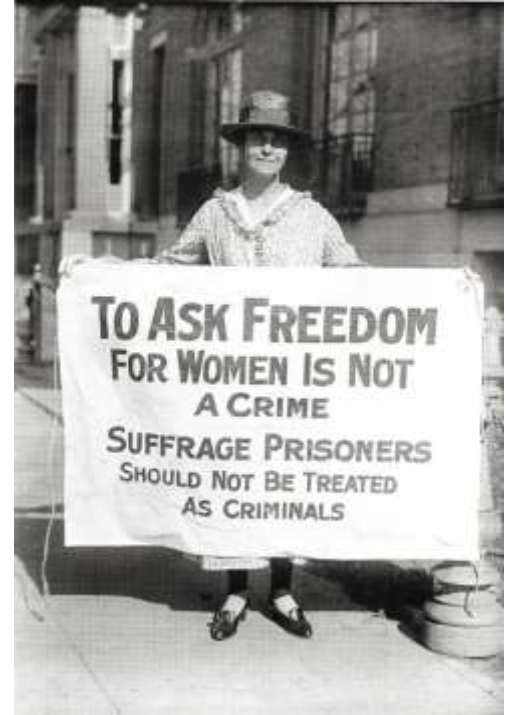
This year's Southeastern Stamp Exposition (SESE) held 31 January through 2-February in Atlanta, Georgia, featured speakers on women's suffrage, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Speakers included Kris McIntosh of Arizona, speaking on events leading up to the vote. Warachal Faison, M.D., president of the Ebony Society for Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER), gave a moving talk on the Black Americans involved in the movement, including Frederick Douglass. She read a speech Douglass gave, relating the struggles of Black Americans and suffragettes.

On Saturday afternoon, there was a reception for women leaders in philately, with decorations on the suffrage theme. Those honored included: Warachal Faison, president of ESPER; Dawn Hamman, ATA president; Jennifer Miller, ATA executive director; Nancy Clark, a founder of SESE; Kathy Johnson, exhibitor and chief judge; and Elizabeth Hisey, chair of the Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ).



Suffrage postcard



The ATA booth was a busy place throughout the show. A commemorative packet with a women's suffrage stamp and a reproduction postcard were given to visitors at the booth. A total of 17 new members were recruited.

The women's suffrage theme will continue this summer, as the ATA has decided to make it the focus of their booth and promotional efforts at the Great American Stamp Show in Hartford, Connecticut, on 20–23 August.

WOMEN IN PHILATELY

“Stamp collecting” involves the acquisition and storing of postage stamps, whereas “philately” pertains to the study of stamps and related material.

From its beginning, the stamp collecting hobby has been dominated by men. One of the initiatives that was recently announced by Robert Zeigler, president of the American Philatelic Society, is to find ways to increase the involvement of women in stamp collecting in general and in philatelic organizations in particular.

It occurs to me that the American Topical Association has a good start on this effort to increase women's participation. Although women only make up about 20 percent of the present ATA membership, the current ATA president, executive director, secretary, and one-third of its officers and board are women. In addition, the leaders of six ATA study units, including our own Biology Unit president are women.

ATA member Jean Wang from Toronto, Ontario, was recently appointed to Canada Post's 12-member Stamp Advisory Committee that chooses subjects for new Canadian issues. Dr. Wang is a grand award winning thematic exhibitor.

The highest recognition given by the ATA is the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award. Of the 122 recipients of this award during its 70-year history, 35 (29 percent) have been women. Women may be fewer, but they are involved at the top level in topical collecting.

Of course, the involvement of women is not nearly as high as it ought to be. There are some groups that are trying to correct this. One of them is Women Exhibitors (www.aape.org/weweb.asp). It currently has more than 100 members (some of them are men) who are organized to promote and encourage the participation of women in the area of philatelic exhibiting.

This year WE is holding their seventh **WE Festival** at Chicagopex 2020 on Wednesday and Thursday 18–19 November before the show opens at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca, Illinois. Everyone, women and men, is welcome to attend. The event will include several hours of seminars for beginning, advanced, and future exhibitors, as well as many social activities. It will be a great way to learn more about philately, specifically exhibiting, and meet others in the hobby.

GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW

Our parent organization, the American Topical Association, will hold its annual philatelic exhibition in cooperation with the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) on 20–23 August 2020, at the **Connecticut Convention Center** in Hartford, Connecticut, in what is being called “The Great American Stamp Show.” It will be by far the largest national stamp and postal history show in the United States this year. More than 75 dealers are expected.



The ATA portion of the exhibition will continue to be called the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), but it will be a subsection of the overall exhibition. The NTSS will host all the thematic, topical, and display type exhibits. The APS portion will feature traditional exhibits, and the AFDCS section will host the first day cover exhibits.

As each organization's exhibition is a World Series of Philately event, each will present its own set of awards (grand, reserve grand, single frame grand, and most popular). Special awards such as the WE Sterling Achievement Medal will be spread across all three groups. The organizers are expecting more than 800 frames of exhibits. Several rare postal items will be on display including the famous “Inverted Jenny” air mail error stamp.

The total quantity of competitive exhibits among all three organizations is limited to 120 with 30 being the single frame limit. Single frame entries in particular will probably be closed before the 15 April entry deadline and others will go on waiting list, so it is important for exhibitors to get their applications in as soon as possible.

As is usual at this annual event, there will be a multi-session public auction. The U.S. Postal Service is a co-sponsor and they will have a large retail booth at the show. It is possible that there will be a first day of issue ceremony for a new U.S. stamp, but the USPS has not released its plans yet.

ATA events include its **annual general meeting** on Friday, 1:00–2:30 PM; President's Reception, Friday evening; Hobby Honors Banquet, Saturday evening; informal nights out; and a full-day tour on Monday.

Admission to the show is **free** and everyone is invited to the family-friendly event. In conjunction with the bourse and exhibition, there will youth activities and the show will host dozens of seminars and meetings of several societies. Both the ATA and the **Biology Unit** will hold their **annual general meetings** at the show. The schedule is still in the planning stage. Check the APS website (www.stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show) for the latest details.