

APS STAMP SHOW 2013

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the American Philatelic Society held its annual StampShow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during 8–11 August 2013. Your Editor was happy to be able to attend because this is the largest stamp show held in the United States each year. In addition to more than 100 stamp dealers from around the country and the world, the show had about 15,000 pages of exhibits and no fewer than five first day ceremonies.

The four-day schedule was crammed with society meetings (including an ATA member roundtable), seminars on all sorts of philatelic subjects, and social activities such that there was no way for one person to attend all of them. The Regency-Superior and Harmer-Schau auction houses both conducted auctions at the show.

Even with all the activities, buying opportunities, and exhibit viewing, the most appealing aspect of the show to me is the chance to see old friends and meet new ones. All of the newly elected Unit officers attended along with Publisher, Dick Roman, and your Editor. This enabled us to hold an ad hoc Board meeting to work out some details on the publication of the Biology Unit History and *Biophilately* Index due out later this year.

I especially like to check out the exhibits and some of the finest in the country were there. This show hosts the World Series of Philately where the Grand award winners from each of 30 national shows compete for the Champion of Champions award. This year James Gough won with his postal exhibit titled, *The UPU and Its Impact on Global Postal Services, 1875-1920*. There were no biology related exhibits in the Champion of Champions class, but the Open, Single-Frame, and Youth classes all had exhibits with biophilatelic features.

In the Open class, Phillip J. Stager won a Gold and Best Thematic Exhibit with *Coconuts*. Kathryn Johnson won a Gold and Best Display Exhibit with *Ceylon's Economic Evolution from Coffee to Tea, 1836-1910*. In the Single Frame class, Joel A. Hawkins received a Gold medal for *The Fox*, and Larry Fillion won a Silver medal for his usages of the anti-malaria commemorative issue. Biology was popular in the Youth class. Mia Fillion won a Gold and the ATA One Frame Merit Award for *The USDA "My Plate" Food Plate*. Her sister, Alexandra Fillion won a Vermeil for *Dairy Products of the Cow*. Autumn Hanley, one of this year's Young Philatelic Leaders Fellows, won a Vermeil and the AAPE Novice Award for *How Sweet It Is*.

I attended the Writers Unit 30 Breakfast on Sunday, where the guest speaker was Chad Snee, Editor of the Scott Catalogue. He provided some very interesting details concerning digital publishing efforts that Scott is employing and plans for upcoming enhancements. Scott already provides a free app for iPad owners that enables the user to access fully searchable electronic versions of the catalog available for \$29.95 per volume. Snee spoke about several enhancements including the capability to include bookmark comments and a checkbox feature. Scott also plans to make the electronic version available to other platforms.

I encourage all of you to attend the StampShow next year to be held in Hartford, Connecticut, during x-x August. The admission is always free and I guarantee you will find many philatelic activities to enjoy.

ATA RELEASE

New Member Incentive Extended Through End of 2013

If you have a friend who is interested in topical collecting, be sure to tell him/her that there has never been a better time to join the ATA. A special membership incentive that offers a free checklist has been extended to the end of the year.

Here is how it works. Each new member may choose a free checklist, up to 50 pages, from the list of more than 600 topics. For a list longer than 50 pages, the new member receives a \$10 credit toward the purchase of that list. Checklists are now available printed or digitally, as an Excel file. A complete list of the more than 600 checklists is on the ATA website at www.americantopicalassn.org.

ATA membership, at \$25 a year, includes the quarterly journal, *Topical Time*; a copy of the book, *Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting*, and a free handbook from a list of 42 books. ATA members may also sell stamps and other philatelic items on the new website www.topicalsonline.org. Both members and nonmembers may make purchases there.