

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

There was some confusion involved with mailing the last edition. Our Publisher inadvertently used the mailing list from 2015 instead of the current list. Therefore, some of our newer members did not receive their journal when it was published in late May and only recently did we catch the discrepancy and correct it. We apologize for any confusion.

Our Publisher, Dick Roman, has agreed to be the Associate Editor for Herpetology. His first column appears on page 223.

I will deal with a couple editorial issues now. You may have noticed that the code we use for list entries sometimes has an asterisk beside it. This is an artifact from the times when most stamp issues were printed in a single color and the editor used this device to note when an issue was printed in all of its natural colors. Because current stamps are almost always in full color, I have decided to discontinue this usage.

Sint Maarten versus Saint Martin. About 190 miles east of Puerto Rico lies a small, beautiful island in the Leeward Islands archipelago that is one of the few such places in the world under separate political administrations. The northern 60 percent of this island, known as Saint-Martin, is an overseas collectivity of the French Republic, while the southern 40 percent, known as Sint Maarten, is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Having visited this island, I can attest to the attractiveness of both sections. However, that is not the issue at hand. The postal administration on the Dutch side issues its own postage stamps and we see them imprinted with the name "Sint Maarten." If you were to look for this name in the *Scott Catalogue*, you would find that the index refers you to the listing under "Saint Martin." Probably the reason for this is that Saint Martin is the collective name given to the island as a whole and the one recognized by international convention. Because the French administration is not authorized currently to issue its own stamps, this is the convention we will follow in *Biophilately*.

Over the past two years we have featured articles about Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. In this edition we begin a series of articles dealing with a third great naturalist of the 19th Century who had an influence on both of these men, Alexander von Humboldt. Dr. Lyman Caswell presents a case for identifying Humboldt as the world's first environmentalist.

Our Biology Unit is the second oldest study unit in the American Topical Association. Our members have published many of the ATA Handbooks and recently CDs, helping many to define their topics. Many members have received the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award, including Alan Hanks and Don Wright. The Biology Unit has funded publications of ATA, sponsored the Banquet at the annual meeting, and actively supports the ATA.

In the last election, Dale Smith was elected the President, Dawn Hamman the First Vice President and your editor the Second Vice President of ATA. Laurie Ryan is the ATA Secretary. Dick Roman, our Publisher and newly appointed Herpetology Editor was elected as a Director. Larry Davidson, Beth Collins, and Jeff Hayward also serve on the ATA Board and Chris Dahle was just appointed to fill a vacancy. All of us on the Board would like to encourage each Biology Unit member to join the ATA. To make it easy, a membership form is included in all mailed copies and easily accessible on our web site.

Jack R. Congrove



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Please see the Biology Unit website ([www.biophilately.org](http://www.biophilately.org)) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to:  
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