

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Regrettably this issue contains some sad news. Jerry Husak, the founder of the American Topical Association, recently passed away. In addition, two of the longest serving Biology Unit members and former Unit Directors, Dr. Beverly Ridgely and Dr. Kenneth Pruess, have also passed on. You will find their stories following the Secretary-Treasurer's column.

This edition has the full complement of the established New Issues columns for the first time in a while. However, I am still looking for someone to take on the task of preparing a Microbiology column. We have neglected this major branch of biology for too long.

I wish this edition included more articles, but there is not much in my inbox. I have filled in with several announcements about new issues. Please take a look at your collection and write a page about one of your favorite items for me to include in a future edition.

I am also interested in publishing information and reports about shows and exhibits with a biological theme.

Also, note that we have no new members to report for this quarter. Now I know that a very large portion of topical collectors are interested in and collect some sort of biological topic. Check with your fellow club members and others attending your local shows and recruit them for the Unit. There are many advantages for them in becoming a member including not only the articles and new issues listings in this journal, but also access to other information on our website.

Another advantage of membership is exchanging information, ideas, and stories with like-minded collectors. In that regard, the Unit will be holding its annual meeting at the joint ATA-APS StampShow in Columbus, Ohio, 9-12 August 2018. See page 91 for more information. This show will be the biggest in the country this year and will have by far the largest quantity of dealers and exhibits. In addition, there are many terrific events and presentations. If you have not already, make plans to attend and enjoy this show. See <https://stamps.org/STAMPSHOW-SS> for more details and to register for the show.

If you look at the bottom of the inside cover, you will see that one of the main purposes of this journal is to provide listings of biological stamp issues "identified and classified to the best of our ability." I noted while editing the lists in this edition that there are many entries tagged "U/I" (unidentified). In some cases, the depiction may be so small or distorted that identification is impossible. But in many other instances, there is a clear, unambiguous image that neither I nor our associate editors are able to recognize. Many of you are experts in your topic and have libraries with extensive references that can help with these identifications. That "U/I" code is an indicator that we want your help with figuring out just what the image represents. It might be a species that has never been depicted previously on a stamp and can become a candidate for entry in the ATA's newest handbook *What's First?*. Contact the associate editor to provide your identifications, and thanks for your help.

Jack R. Congrove



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