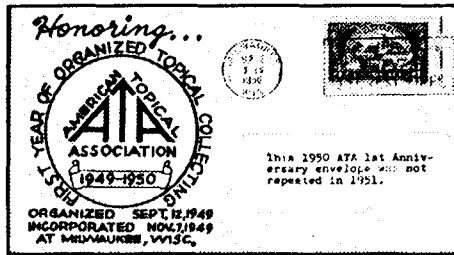
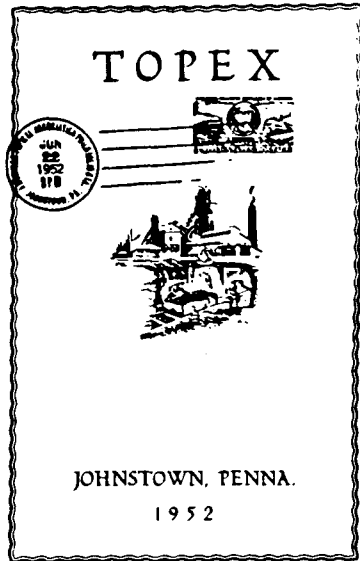


# ATA Conventions 1950-1998

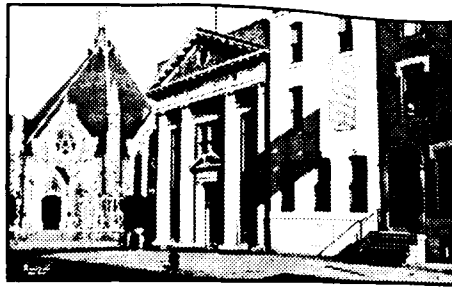
This pictorial presentation reviews each ATA convention and exhibition from 1950 to 1998. As early as January-February 1950, ATA co-sponsored a 200-frame non-competitive topical stamp exhibition in Philadelphia, and ATA's Second Topical Exhibition was held March 2-4, 1951, in Camden, New Jersey, in conjunction with SOJEX.



ATA's First Anniversary was observed with this cacheted cover cancelled in Milwaukee on September 12, 1950, one year to the day of ATA's founding. Then on September 17, 1950, ATA's first anniversary was celebrated at a Regional Convention at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, with members from six states in attendance.



The First ATA National Convention & Exhibition, called TOPEX, was held June 20-22, 1952, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania at the Fort Stanwix Hotel, hosted by Johnstown Stamp Club; Homer L. Jones served as general chairman. There were only four dealers in the Bourse, but there were 249 (nine-page) exhibition frames with 56 exhibits.



The 1953 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held June 19-21 at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (shown here). It was hosted by the Museum and the Philadelphia ATA Chapter #6, with William M. Wilson as general chairman. There were 300 (nine-page) exhibition frames with 76 adult and 20 junior exhibits. The exhibition remained on view in the Museum until July 20, 1953.



This cover was used for the 1954 ATA Convention and Exhibition which convened June 18-20 in Dayton, Ohio, at the Miami Hotel. It was hosted by the Dayton Philatelic Society, and Carl Soendlin served as the general chairman. There was a Bourse of 16 dealers, and 150 (nine-page) exhibition frames and 46 exhibitors.



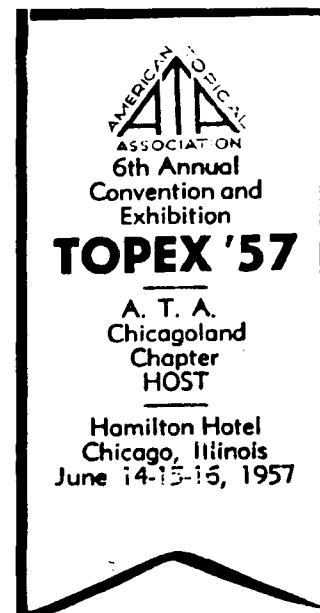
ATA President Homer Jones and TOPEX General Chairman Dessie E. Bodamer (left)

buys stamps at the postal station from TOPEX post-mistress Hazel C. Williams during the 1955 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 17-19 in Decatur, Illinois, at the Hotel Orlando; it was hosted by the Decatur Stamp Club. There were 252 (nine-page) exhibition frames with 88 exhibits, and a Bourse of 14 dealers.

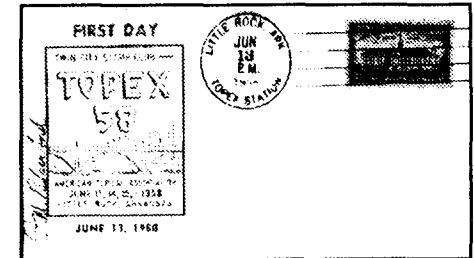
The 1956 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held June 15-17 in Detroit, Michigan, at the Hotel Tuller hosted by the ATA Greater Detroit Chapter #14. James C. Gardner served as general chairman, and there were 323 (nine-page) exhibition frames with 96 exhibits, as well as the First Court of



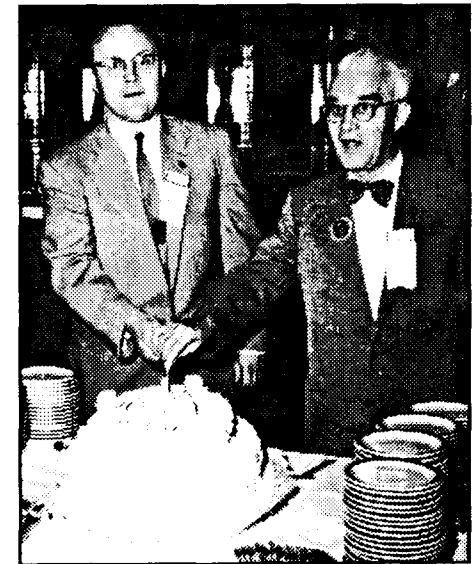
Honor. Those depicted in the photograph taken at TOPEX '56 are (standing, left to right) Sidney Esten, Leonard Zeller, Walter Sievers, Edward Flath, and Lawrence Husak. Those seated (left to right) include Harold F. Rayl, Gertrude Husak, Mildred Soendlin, Theresa Smith, Florence Williams, and Carl Soendlin.



ATA members convened at the Hamilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, for the 1957 ATA Convention and Exhibition, June 14-16, wearing this ribbon. The meeting was hosted by the ATA Chicagoland Chapter #15, and Joseph A. Hudcc served as general chairman. There were 250 (nine-page) exhibition frames, with 85 exhibits.

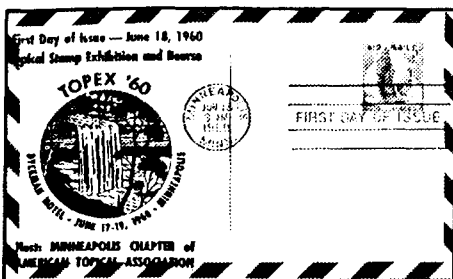


The 1958 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held June 13-15 in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the La Fayette Hotel, hosted by the Twin City Stamp Club. O. M. Blackford served as general chairman, and autographed the cover shown here. There were 250 (nine-page) frames with 52 exhibits. For the first time, the Grand Award went to an exhibitor from outside the U.S. (see listing of Grand Award winners on page 50).

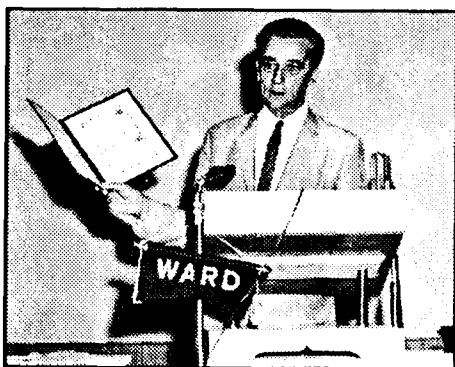


ATA president Harvey Johnson and Jerry Husak cut the birthday cake at ATA's Tenth Anniversary Convention and Exhibition which was held June 19-21, 1959, in New York City at the Sheraton McAlpin Hotel. It was jointly hosted by the ATA New York Area Chapter #3 and the ATA New Jersey Chapter #17, with Leonard Helm serving as general chairman. There were 85 exhibits in

212 (16-page) exhibition frames, and for the first time a first day of issue ceremony was held at a TOPEX for the 14 denominations of postage due stamps (Scott J88-J101).



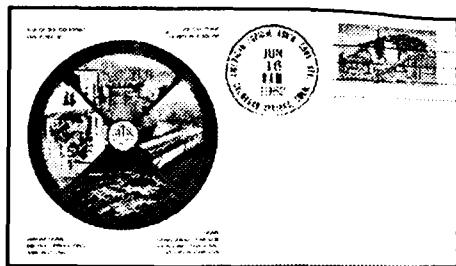
First day of issue ceremonies were held for the U.S. airmail postal card (Scott UXC3) at the 1960 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 17-19 at the Dykman Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was hosted by the ATA Minneapolis Chapter #28, and Levi M. Hall served as general chairman; the banquet speaker was Stanley Hodziewich, curator of the U.S. Post Office Philatelic Exhibits. There were 62 exhibits in 225 exhibition frames.



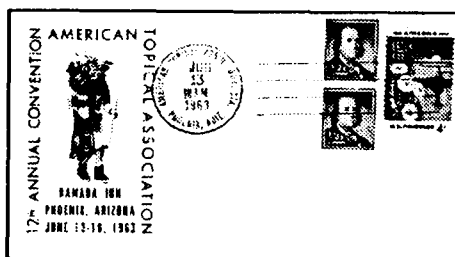
Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., presided at the first day of issue ceremonies for the 11-cent air lettersheet (Scott UC35) at the 1961 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 16-18 at the Johnstown Masonic Temple in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Homer L. Jones served as general chairman, and there were 82 exhibits in 366 exhibition frames.



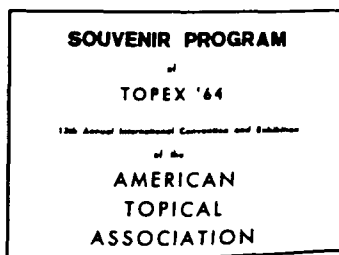
The TOPEX '61 general committee included (seated left to right) Reuben K. Zettle, Curtis P. Paessler, general chairman Homer L. Jones, and Myrtle I. Watt. Standing (left to right) Paul Hirpupsky, Ralph W. Conley, and Henry M. Walter. Not shown are George Alstetter, Alma Cramer, and Donald W. Smith who was the photographer.



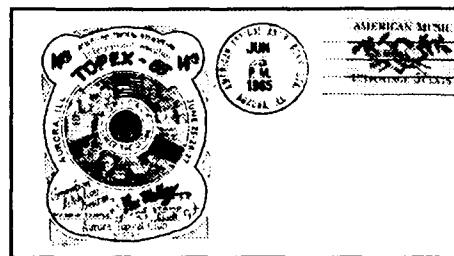
ATA members traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 1962 ATA Convention and Exhibition, held June 15-17, and hosted by three organizations: the Colorado Springs Stamp Club, the Air Academy Stamp Association, and the Kit Carson Stamp Club. The convention used the Antlers Hotel, and John H. Jeffus and Zeta Zimmerman served as co-general chairmen. There were 73 exhibits in 300 frames.



Kachina dolls, made by Hopi Chief White Bear, were presented to all first place exhibit winners at the 1963 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 13-16 at the Ramada Inn in Phoenix, Arizona. It was hosted by the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists (ATA Chapter #13), and Robert E. Ditzler served as general chairman. There were 105 exhibits in 400 frames; each frame held only six album pages.



The 1964 ATA Convention and Exhibition celebrated ATA's 15th anniversary June 19-21 in Camden, New Jersey, at the Walt Whitman Hotel. It was hosted by the ATA Philadelphia Chapter #6, and Melvin J. Andrews served as general chairman. A highlight of the meeting was "ATA Day" at the New York World's Fair on June 22. There were 304 exhibition frames of 12 pages each, and 67 exhibits.



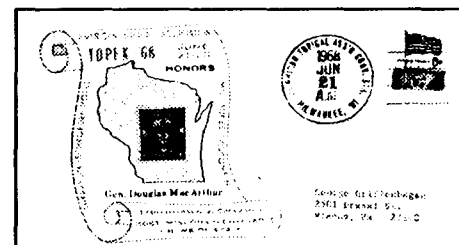
The 1965 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held June 25-27 in Aurora, Illinois, at the Aurora Hotel and the Masonic Temple. The hosts were the ATA Aurora Topical Chapter #40, and the Fox Valley Stamp Club, with Ashton J. Humiston as general chairman. There were 79 exhibits in 237 (nine-page) exhibition frames.



It was at the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston, Massachusetts, that ATA members assembled for the 1966 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 24-26, 1966. Attendees stayed at the Charter House Motel, and Arthur B. Crowell, Jr. served as general chairman. There were 53 exhibits in 175 (sixteen-page) exhibition frames.



Henry Peterson (left) and Lawrence ("Pop") Husak enjoy themselves at the 1967 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 23-25 in Rochester, New York, at the Manger Hotel. The gathering was hosted by the Rochester Philatelic Society, and Dorothy Fordham Smith served as general chairman. There were 51 exhibits in 119 (sixteen-page) exhibition frames.



It was back to the birthplace of ATA for the 1968 Convention and Exhibition held June 21-23 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Sheraton Schroeder Hotel. Hosted by the ATA Wisconsin Chapter #5, Clarence Beltmann served as general chairman. There were 64 exhibits coming from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, South Africa, Sweden, and U.S., in 300 (nine-page) exhibit frames. This was the first time that Canada Post operated a postal station at TOPEX.



ATA president Fred Korotkin and Jerry Husak cut the 20th anniversary birthday cake at the 1969 ATA Convention and Exhibition

held June 27-29 at the Sheraton-Chicago Motor Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. It was hosted by the ATA Chicagoland Chapter #15, and Donald J. van Winter was general chairman. There were 91 exhibits in 316 exhibit frames.

**TOPEX '70**

La plus grande exposition internationale jamais tenue au Canada      The largest International Stamp Exhibition held in Canada

LE 20<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS ANNUEL      THE 20th ANNUAL CONVENTION

ET      AND

EXPOSITION      EXHIBITION

DE LA      OF THE

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

For the first time, ATA members traveled outside the U.S.A. for the 1970 ATA Convention and Exhibition. The bilingual program was held June 19-21 in Montreal, Canada, hosted by the Union Philatelique de Montreal. Sessions were held at the Paul Sauve Sports Centre with Clarence de Bellefeuille serving as general chairman. There were 41 exhibits in 300 (eight-page) exhibit frames, and a first day ceremony was held for Canadian Reil stamp (Scott 515).

The new ATA logo, designed by K. Theodore Korn who autographed the cover shown here, was introduced at the 1971 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 18-20 in Syracuse, New York, at the Onondaga County War Memorial. The Syracuse Stamp Club hosted the meeting, and Elsie P. Rose served as general chairman. There were 74 exhibits in 325 (six-page) exhibit frames.

The Maine Philatelic Society  
**MAIPEX 72**

Hosting the  
21st Annual  
TOPEX 72  
Convention

at Falmouth  
Maine

George Driffenbagen  
2501 Broad St.  
Vienna, VA 22180

Member of the General Expositions, Thematic, Maine

Governor Curtis proclaimed "Maine Topical Stamp Collecting Week" for the 1972 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 23-25 in Falmouth, Maine. Hosted by the Maine Philatelic Society, the show was called TOPEX-MAIPEX '72. It was held at the Falmouth High School with Harold M. Karkos as general chairman. There were 69 exhibits in 250 (nine-page) exhibit frames.

**TOPEX-ROMPEX '73**

26th Annual Convention and Exhibition  
AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION  
Sponsored by  
ROMPEX - Rocky Mountain Philatelic Association

George Driffenbagen  
2501 Broad St.  
Vienna, VA 22180

This souvenir depicting stamps having had first day of issue in Colorado was prepared for the 1973 ATA Convention and Exhibition. It was held June 22-24 in Denver, Colorado, at the Denver Hilton Hotel. Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition, the show was entitled TOPEX-ROMPEX '73, with Bruce Cary as general chairman. There were 49 exhibits in 278 (nine-page) exhibit frames.

**ROPEX-TOPEX '74**

June 21-23, 1974

Sponsored by  
The Rochester Philatelic Association  
Rochester, New York  
International Postal Union 1974

George Driffenbagen  
2501 Broad St.  
Vienna, VA 22180

ROPEX-TOPEX '74 was the name for the 1974 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 21-23 in Rochester, New York, at the Flagship Hotel. Hosted by the Rochester Philatelic Association, John H. Kalbfus served as general chairman. There were 65 exhibitors in 252 (sixteen-page) exhibit frames.

**LINPEX-TOPEX '75**

26th ANNUAL ATA CONVENTION

Sponsored by LINCOLN STAMP CLUB

The 1975 ATA Convention and Exhibition, called LINPEX-TOPEX '75, was held June 27-29 in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Radisson Cornhusker Hotel. Hosted by the Lincoln Stamp Club (ATA Chapter #46), Walter L. Knight served as general chairman. There were 39 exhibits in 251 exhibit frames.

American Topical Association  
27th Anniversary Convention

Interphil '75  
JUN 27 1975  
Sponsored by Lincoln Stamp Club  
June 1 & 2, 1975

For the first time, ATA did not hold its own exhibition at the ATA Annual Convention in 1976 which was held in conjunction with INTERPHIL '76. ATA sessions were held June 4-6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. Francisco Crestana of Brazil was keynote speaker for the ATA convention.



Jerry and Sally Husak enjoy themselves at the 1977 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 17-19 in Dallas, Texas, at the Marriott Hotel. Hosted by the North Texas Philatelic Association with the theme "Six Flags Over Texas," Sam Wilkinson III served as general chairman. Astronaut Henry Hartsfield was the keynoter, and there were 48 exhibits in 300 exhibit frames.

**TOPEX '78**

28th ANNUAL ATA CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

ATLANTIC CITY '78

Hosted by Seashore Stamp Collectors Club

George Driffenbagen  
2501 Broad St.  
Vienna, VA 22180

ATA members rolled the dice at the 1978 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 23-27 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the Ocean One Motel. Hosted by the Seashore Stamp Collectors Club, George Prague served as general chairman. There were 36 exhibits in 150 exhibit frames.

**TOPEX '79**

30th ANNUAL EXHIBITION CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

JUN 22-24 1979

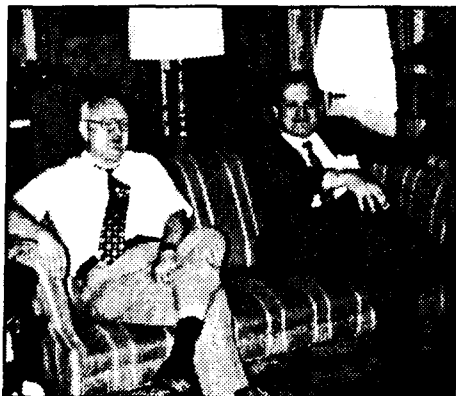
George Driffenbagen  
2501 Broad St.  
Vienna, VA 22180

ATA members traveled to the northwest for the 1979 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 22-24 in Spokane, Washington, at the Ridpath Hotel. Hosted by the Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Al Seeber served as general chairman, and Hugh W. Johnston was vice chairman. There were 50 exhibits in 398 exhibit frames.

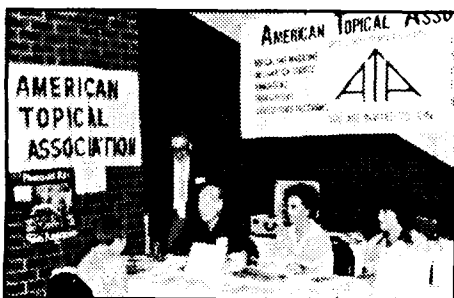


Herman "Pat" Herst was the awards banquet speaker at the 1980 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 20-22 in Portland, Maine, at the Holiday Inn. Maine Philatelic Society again hosted the meeting with Earle C. Brooks as general chairman. There were 43 exhibits in 276 exhibit frames.

Giancarlo Morolli of Italy, keynoter at the 1981 ATA Convention and Exhibition, visits with Jerry Husak. The convention was held June 26-28 in Chicago, Illinois, at the Palmer House. Hosted by the ATA Chicagoland Chapter #15, Armin Kusswurm served as general chairman. In addition to the first ever literature exhibit, there were 76 thematic exhibits in 342 (sixteen-page) exhibit frames.



Donald W. Smith, Donald Brenke, and Arlene Crosby staff the ATA table at the 1982 ATA Annual Convention at BALPEX in



Hunt Valley, suburb of Baltimore, Maryland, on September 5. The 1982 ATA convention and exhibition was to be held June 25-27 in Anaheim, California, but it was cancelled, and ATA was unable to hold its own exhibition.



Dottie Smith beams at her exhibit on Castles during TEXANEX-TOPEX '83, the name for the 1983 ATA Convention and Exhibition. It was held June 17-19 in San Antonio, Texas, at the Four Seasons Hotel. Hosted by the San Antonio Philatelic Association, John Taddy served as general chairman. There were 47 exhibits in 230 exhibit frames. In addition, first day of issue ceremonies were held for the U.S. 1984 Olympic Games block (Scott C101-C104).

## LINPEX-TOPEX '84

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

26TH CONVENTION

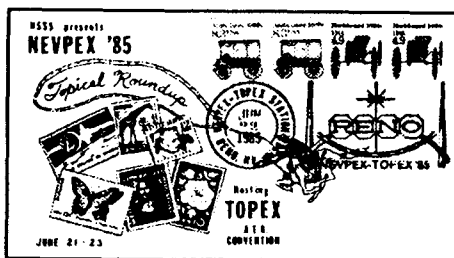
June 16-17 Lincoln, NE

HONORING



JERRY SALLY  
HUSAK

Jerry and Sally Husak were honored in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the 1984 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 15-17 at the Hilton Hotel. Entitled LINPEX-TOPEX '84, and hosted by the Lincoln Stamp Club, Kenneth Pruess served as general chairman. There were 33 exhibits in 150 exhibit frames.



First day of issue ceremonies for the Ambulance 1860s and Buckboard 1880s bulk rate transportation coils (Scott 2124 and 2128) were held at the 1985 ATA Convention and Exhibition June 21-23 in Reno, Nevada, at the Riverside Hotel. Held under the name of NEVPEX-TOPEX '85, it was hosted by the Nevada Stamp Study Society, and Richard Dreiling served as show chairman. There were 33 exhibits in 200 exhibit frames.



Just as ATA did for INTERPHIL in 1976, the 1986 Annual Convention was held with-

out its own exhibition. ATA met in conjunction with AMERIPEX '86 in Rosemont, Illinois, May 30 to June 1 at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel. Franceska Rapkin of Great Britain addressed the special ATA luncheon.

## SEPEX-TOPEX '87

SPONSORED BY  
THE COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
and the  
AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION  
23RD ANNUARY CONVENTION  
COLUMBIA, S.C. JUNE 26-28 '87

23rd  
Southeastern  
Philatelic  
Exhibition



The 1987 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held June 26 to June 28 in Columbia, South Carolina, at the Radisson Hotel. Hosted by the Columbia Philatelic Society in conjunction with the 23rd Southeastern Philatelic Exhibition, hence the name of SEPEX-TOPEX '87; Harry McDowell served as general chairman. There were 34 exhibits in 140 exhibit frames.



It was back to Canada for the 1988 ATA Convention and Exhibition held June 17-19 in Toronto at the Sheraton Centre. Alan J. Hanks served as general chairman of the show which was held in conjunction with the first annual meeting of the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association. There were 31 exhibits in 145 exhibit frames.

ATA president David Kent and executive director Donald W. Smith head for the 1989 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 16-18 in Spokane, Washington, at the Ridpath Hotel. Hosted by the Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Albert Seeber served as general chairman. This show was the first to qualify for the APS World Series of Philately. There were 43 exhibits in 200 exhibit frames.



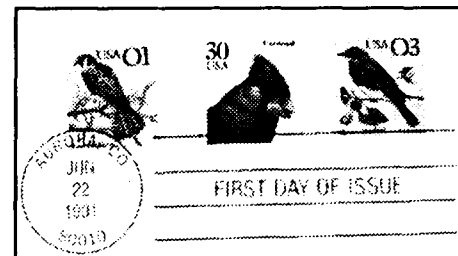
This is the banquet program for TOPEX '90 at RIPEX XXV which was the name for the 1990 ATA Convention and Exhibition



TOPEX '90-RIPEX XXV  
BANQUET  
JUNE 2, 1990

OMNI BILTMORE HOTEL  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

held June 1-3 in Providence, Rhode Island, at the Omni Biltmore Hotel. Hosted by the Rhode Island Philatelic Society, Kenneth Woodbury served as general chairman. There were 59 exhibits in 217 exhibit frames.



A first day of issue ceremony was held for three U.S. bird stamps: the sparrow hawk (Scott 2481), the bluebird (Scott 2482), and the cardinal (Scott 2489) at the 1991 ATA

**Convention and Exhibition** held June 21-23 in Aurora, Colorado, at the Radisson Hotel. Hosted by the Topical Philatelists in Colorado, the theme was "A Mile High Philatelic Experience," and Donald G. Beuthel served as general chairman. There were 38 exhibits in 200 exhibit frames.



Members attending a luncheon at the 1992 ATA Annual Convention received a copy of this special Guernsey first day cover in keeping with the theme of the World Columbian Stamp Exposition in Rosemont, Illinois. Meeting without its own exhibition, ATA's sessions were held May 29-31 at the Radisson Suite Hotel with eight special lectures, and meetings of 16 affiliates. Daniel Olsen presented an address at the ATA luncheon.

## TOPEX '93

44th Annual ATA Convention  
Saluting  
America's Dairy Industry



Hosted by  
The Waukesha County Philatelic Society  
June 25-27, 1993

The Grand Milwaukee Hotel  
Milwaukee Wisconsin

The 1993 ATA Convention and Exhibition, saluting America's dairy industry, was held June 25-27 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel. Hosted by the Waukesha County Philatelic Society, Robert Mather served as general chairman. There were 43 exhibits in 200 exhibit frames. A first day of issue ceremony was also held for the red squirrel booklet (Scott 2489).

Welcome to

## TOPEX '94

*the annual show for collectors of  
Topical Postage Stamps*

Hosted by the  
**Omaha Philatelic Society**  
at Holiday Inn Central, Omaha, Nebraska  
June 17 to 19, 1994

*With Emphasis on the Plains Indians*



Brave Sioux Chief Mollou Horn Bear

## TOPEX '94

is the 45th Annual Convention of the  
American Topical Association

A tribute to the Plains Indians was the theme for the 1994 ATA Convention and Exhibition which was held June 17-19 in Omaha, Nebraska, at the Holiday Inn Central. Hosted by the Omaha Philatelic Society, Robert C. Loeck served as general chairman. There were 28 exhibits in 166 exhibit frames.



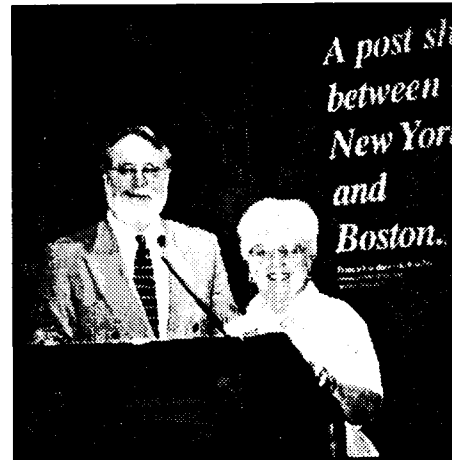
First day of issue ceremonies for the U.S. peaches and pears stamps (Scott 2487-2488) were held at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nevada, July 7-9 during TOPEX-NEVPEX '95, the name for the 1995 ATA Convention and Exhibition. Hosted by the Nevada Stamp Study Society, Ruthe Dreiling served as general chairman. There were 38 exhibits in 185 exhibit frames.

The 1996 ATA Convention and Exhibition was held July 10-12 in Dallas, Texas, at the Medallion Hotel. Hosted by the Southwest Philatelic Foundation, the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library, and

14 North Texas stamp clubs, Larry D. Sall served as general chairman. There were 42 exhibits in 180 exhibit frames.



Among the many special symposia at the 1997 ATA Annual Convention held in conjunction with PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco, California, was "Thematics Around the World" with moderator Ann Triggles and left to right Bernard Jimenez of France; Giancarlo Morolli of Italy; Margaret Morris of Great Britain; Gunnar Dahlvig of Sweden; and Ruden Reis Kley of Brazil. ATA sessions were held June 6-8 at the King George Hotel and the San Francisco Convention Center.



ATA members were greeted by museum director James H. Bruns and ATA president Dorothy C. Smith for a reception at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., during the 1998 ATA Convention and Exhibition. Under a new title of the National Topical Stamp Show, and the first to be organized exclusively by ATA, sessions were held July 17-19 in Falls Church, Virginia, at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel. David Kent served as convention chairman, and there were 40 exhibits in 200 frames.

Happy 50th Birthday ATA!