

March 14, 2006

ATA RELEASES NEW GENERAL PURPOSE TOPICAL COLLECTING HANDBOOK

Topical collectors want to know the who, what, when, where, why - and especially the how, of collecting and exhibiting topical stamps. With the newest handbook published by the American Topical Association, Don Beuthel's Topical Helpline, the vast majority of answers have been compiled into a single seventy-two page handbook that answers the bulk of questions which collectors have voiced.

Don Beuthel, a past president of the American Topical Association, wrote a "Helpline" column in the association's journal, Topical Time, starting in January 1996 and continuing on through December of 2001: a total of six years of solid topical collecting information on a wide range of subjects.

Karen Cartier of the ATA office has compiled the columns into an easy to read handbook that answers questions ranging from "How do I start?" and "Where can I obtain stamps?" to "What mistakes should I avoid?", "What philatelic elements should I add to an exhibit?" and "How do I dispose of a collection?".

Don brought a wealth of experience to his column and now it is available to collectors everywhere who want to experience the fun, the educational benefits and the creativity that topical collecting affords to its followers.

This handbook contains thirty-two illustrations in black and white. It concludes with the new 2005 ATA Judges Evaluation Sheet for the Novice Exhibits Category for Topicals, written by Alan Hanks. This is a new category approved by the ATA Board of Directors last June and was established to help new exhibitors learn the ropes of exhibiting topical collections.

"Don Beuthel's Topical Helpline" is available from the ATA for \$7 plus \$2 postage and handling to non-members of the association. ATA members and those enclosing \$20 dues (US) or \$39 dues (International) receive a \$2 discount from this price. Requests for this book, and a listing of other available handbooks currently on sale, should be sent to ATA – PO Box 57 – Arlington, TX 76004-0057 or contact the ATA at americantopical@msn.com.

For information on the world's largest all-topical philatelic organization and the 2006 convention to be held at WASHINGTON 2006, along with information on the National Topical Stamp Show to be held in Irving, Texas, June 17-19, 2007, contact the ATA Central Office, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone: 1-817-274-1181; email _americantopical@msn.com); or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.