

Topical Show Headed to Milwaukee

This year's National Topical Stamp Show, a WSP show sponsored by the American Topical Association, will be June 23-25 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport. Show hours are 10-6 Friday and Saturday, and 10-3 Sunday. The hotel has free parking and airport shuttle; admission of \$5 covers all three days.

The ATA show has attracted dealers from throughout the U.S., with topicals, as well as countries, covers, revenues, cinderellas, ephemera, etc. The show is unique, in that all exhibits must be thematically treated; that is, they tell a story. They tend to be creative exhibits that make for enjoyable reading.

A highlight of this year's show will be keynote speakers. Barry Stagg, chair of the British Thematic Association, will speak on topical/thematic collecting and exhibiting in the U.K., and will also show images of creative collections/exhibits, including his own large gold award winner on parachuting. Accomplished exhibitor Jack Congrove will give a much-requested program on making album and exhibit pages on the computer. Genealogist Norma Nielson will speak on "Using Genealogical Resources for Philatelic Research." There will be a reception and program on thematic exhibiting pioneer, Mary Ann Owens, by ATA past president Jack André Denys.

Other features of the show include meetings of ATA-affiliated study units, a Disney-themed beginner/youth area, *What's in Your Attic* evaluations, and the ATA annual meeting. Igor Grigorian of California, and Kim Kellermann of Illinois will be installed as board members. ATA executive director, Vera Felts, will receive the organization's highest award, Distinguished Topical Philatelist, at the Saturday evening awards banquet.

In addition, the United Nations Postal Administration will have a booth and exhibit, and the ATA will introduce its new *Amphibians* handbook. Silent auctions of a wide variety of philatelic materials will be held each day.

The ATA was founded in Milwaukee in 1949 by Jerry Husak, who now lives in Arizona. ATA shows in Milwaukee are always a special "homecoming" for the organization.

The theme of the 2017 ATA show is "Brewing Up Topicals." The daily show themes are Nature, Culture and Technology, ATA's major checklist categories. Three cachets will highlight the daily themes. The show events will also include numerous social activities and area tours. For a complete show schedule, visit the ATA website at www.americantopicalassn.org. Phone ATA at 618-985-5100.

