

January 11, 2005

2005 NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMPS SHOW TOURS PLANNED FOR MILWAUKEE



Santiago Calatrava's Quadracci Pavilion – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Two fascinating tours have been planned in conjunction with the 56th annual convention of the American Topical Association's National Topical Stamp Show. The 2005 show will return to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, birthplace of the ATA, on June 17-19 at the Four Points by Sheraton – Milwaukee Airport.

The **Milwaukee City Tour**, on Thursday, June 16, 2005 will leave the Four Points Hotel promptly at 11:45 A.M. and will arrive at the Calatrava designed Quadracci Pavilion addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum. This magnificent glass and glistening white stone architecture is the show piece in the western hemisphere for the world famous Spanish Architect, Santiago Calatrava, who is now involved in the design for the World Trade Center site in New York City. The Calatrava addition has been labeled "A Wonder of the World". The tour bus will arrive at the museum in time to watch the Burke Brise Soleil wingspan, a 217 foot, wing-like sculpture that acts as a sunscreen for the museum, being opened and closed. This procedure is done each day at noon for the benefit of the viewing public and is an inspiring sight to see. Tour participants will have time to look over the inside of the museum addition, which is as inspiring as the outside, and will be able to get a bite to eat in the museum restaurant.

The tour will continue into the heart of downtown Milwaukee to view some of the early architectures that were built with the moneys of the early beer barons. Milwaukee City Hall, for

example, is a Romanesque Revival design of granite, limestone, brick, marble, slate, copper, terra cotta, and wrought iron --- all painstakingly honed by Old World artisans. The elegant Pabst Theater will be on the route and then the tour will pass through Marquette Campus with its many fine architectural buildings. The tour will pass Miller Park Stadium with its unique pie-shaped opening roof panels, the home of the Milwaukee Brewers of Major League Baseball, and will wind up at the Mitchell Park Domes. These three one-acre glass domes are 7 stories high, allowing full sized trees to grow inside. Attendees will be able to stroll through "Tropical Dome" with its dense jungle setting; "Arid Dome" with its cacti and desert plants; and then through "Temperate Dome" with its world class floral settings. The tour will wind up back at the Four Points hotel at 3:00 PM. The cost for over three hours of this guided tour is only \$22.00

The all-day **House on the Rock and Wisconsin Countryside Tour** will take place on Monday, June 20th. Participants will receive a detailed map of the sixteen buildings included. Those who come to the House on the Rock enter a world of wonders, spun into existence from the imagination of an American visionary: Alex Jordan. Awe-inspiring, there is something new and different at every turn. This architectural marvel is perched on a 60-foot chimney of rock, and overlooks a breathtaking panorama of Wyoming Valley.

This fourteen-room House is the original structure of what is now an extraordinary complex of rooms, streets, buildings and gardens covering over 200 acres. Some of the many features include a 218-foot infinity room with walls of glass that project out over the Wyoming Valley. Through the 3,264 windows, the views that feature vistas up to 30 miles away, are breathtaking.

Other interesting artifacts include a giant 200-foot sea monster engaged in a struggle involving an enormous octopus and a whaling expedition. The transportation building features various displays of different modes of transportation and a display of nostalgic Burma-Shave signs. Music of yesterday is featured with the world's largest collection of animated music machines and gigantic pipe organs. Other highlights are Streets of Yesterday; Spirit of Aviation; the World's Largest Carousel (269 hand crafted carousel animals); Organ Room; Doll House Building, with 250 dollhouses and furnishings; Circus Building (1 million circus miniatures); Village Shops and Display Gardens. There will be an optional stop at a deli restaurant midway through the tour. Several rest areas will be available for those who want to stop for a while and take in the scenery. This fabulous tour will leave the Sheraton at 8:00 A.M. and will return at 6:30 P.M. The cost is only \$49.00 per person.

Payments can be accepted by check, money order, VISA or MasterCard payable to the ATA. PayPal is also available through americantopical@msn.com.

Send reservations to: Caroline Scannell, 14 Dawn Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787. The deadline for receipt of reservations will be May 27, 2005, but we would advise not waiting too long as the tour is limited to the bus seats available. Attendees can make credit card e-mail reservations to: philate@ix.netcom.com.

For additional information on the American Topical Association contact the ATA Central Office, PO Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone 817-274-1181; fax 817-274-1184; email americantopical@msn.com, or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.