

October 18, 2005

ATA CHANGING SLIDE AND LECTURE PROGRAM

Mr. Dennis Dengel of Poughkeepsie, NY has agreed to take over the ATA Slide Lecture Program leadership, replacing Mrs. Florence Wright of Rochester, NY. In doing so, Mr. Dengel will spearhead some new changes to add new CD and DVD philatelic programs for the ATA with assistance from Mr. Harvey Edwards of Carson City, NV. Together they will copy existing slide shows to the new formats while also encouraging the creation of new programs from members, especially from those who have won higher awards with their topical exhibits or who have garnered the *Most Popular Exhibit* awards.

The ATA Board of Directors has, as a result of this new direction, changed the name of the Slide and Lecture Program to the Audio Visual Program.

With new technologies emerging, slide shows are now going the way of 8mm movies. Only one company is still making slide film and Kodak has stopped production of its once extremely popular carousel projectors. Most, if not all, of the lower cost slide projectors have disappeared from the marketplace. Some can be found but the lower demand has raised the pricing. The current replacements for slide projectors are, for the most part, higher dollar projection systems using laptop computers. Whereas some stamp clubs may have members with access to these, many clubs have small groups of attendees at meetings and can use computer monitors effectively at these events. It will take some clubs longer than others to embrace the new technologies, and for that reason the existing ATA slide programs will continue to remain available.

Moving toward CDs and DVDs will bring something new to the way things have been done in the past. As it is now, ATA slide shows could not be sent overseas for fear of losing them. With the new technology, the ATA will be able to make multiple copies of presentations, many if not all with sound, and can either rent them for \$5.00 plus postage or sell them to clubs or individuals for \$10.00 plus postage. Clubs will be able to build up their own libraries in this manner. This will give the ATA an opportunity to expose more people to collecting Topicals on stamps while raising awareness of how this branch of philately expands an individuals' knowledge and creativity.

Mr. Dengel, who is also the current contact for the ATA Americana Study Unit, can be reached at 17

Peckham Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. He can send brochures showing the current available slide shows from the ATA. An SASE would be appreciated. Those people wishing to create new shows whether they be slide, PowerPoint or some other type on electronic media may contact either Mr. Dengel or the American Topical Association at P.O. Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057

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.