

July 20, 2007

ATA DUES TO INCREASE JANUARY 1ST, 2008

It has been eleven years since the American Topical Association last raised domestic dues, and seven years since they have revised the two and three-years dues for non-US resident's memberships. With the inflation over that period of time, tied with the recent increases of postage rates that run from 8% to 15%, the ATA has found that it must also increase its income to cover the costs of additional business expenses.

At the ATA annual Board meeting in June, the Board voted to increase the dues of membership effective January 1, 2008. Members of the ATA who extend their memberships before that date can obtain the current rates for the extension period.

U. S. resident dues will increase from \$20 to \$25 for a one-year membership and from \$39 to \$45 for a two year membership. Three-year's dues will increase from \$58 to \$65. However, the ATA has also added a five-year membership option of \$100 which means that members who obtain a five year membership will pay only \$20 per year which will not only be a savings to them, but will help reduce ATA costs in mailing reminders for annual membership payments.

Non-US members will have their dues increased from \$30 to \$33 for one year, from \$50 to \$60 for two years and from \$78 to \$82 for three years. The newly created five year rate is \$125, which results in an annual cost of only \$25 per year. Since the non-US increases were last changed in 2000, the increases were not as high as for US members.

The ATA is, for the first time, seeking members who may wish to sponsor another member who cites "money" as their primary reason for having to drop his or her membership. The ATA will then advise the donor when the next person who needs help to retain their membership agrees to receive outside help. The names of both parties will be kept anonymous. The ATA wants to help anyone who wishes to enjoy topical collecting in any way possible.

For information on the world's largest all-topical philatelic organization, 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.