

December 18, 2008

NATIONAL TOPICAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT DAYTON, OHIO CONVENTION CENTER

Robert J. Mather, the immediate past president of the American Topical Association, (ATA) has announced that National Topical Stamp Show 2009 (NTSS '09) will be held in the Dayton Convention Center, located in the downtown area, on June 12-14. The ATA last held a convention in this city in 1954. Adjacent to this facility is the Crowne Plaza Hotel which is offering special rates of \$104.00 per night plus local taxes. Their telephone number is 937-224-0800.

NTSS '09 with its theme of Flight will celebrate two milestones. One will be the 60th Anniversary of the ATA, founded in 1949 by Jerry Husak. Mr. Husak will speak at the Awards Banquet about the history of the organization. Also, Dayton, Ohio is known as "the cradle of aviation" and this show coincides with the 100th anniversary of the sale of the first Wright Military Flyer, to the U. S. Army for evaluation. The United States Air Force Museum in Dayton has brought in a reconstructed copy of that aircraft to celebrate this event and will have it on display throughout the year. Visitors to the NTSS may join a Monday morning tour of the Museum following the show's closing.

To recognize this anniversary, the United States Postal Service will be present and offer a different flight related pictorial cancel on each of the three days. With the co-operation of the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation, the ATA will again have a foreign First Day of Issue release on Friday, June 12th at 9:15 AM. This year's emission will be from The Gambia on the West Coast of Africa. Gambian stamps were first issued in 1869 as a British Crown Colony. It became independent in 1965 and a republic in 1970.

The sheet of nine stamps and the Souvenir Sheet of one will all commemorate the US Military Aircraft Anniversary. Each stamp will picture different US aircraft. The images are from paintings by aviation artist Lonnie Pickett of Massachusetts (see copy of SS below).

A US Air Force pilot has been invited to address the First Day of Issue attendees and make a presentation pertaining to US Aircraft. Other activities are in the planning stages and will be announced shortly.

Collectors who belong to a wide range of aviation ephemera collecting organizations, outside of philately, have been invited to attend, along with the airmen from nearby Wright-Patterson AFB. All stamp clubs in Ohio and adjoining states have also been invited to attend. The Space Unit of the ATA has planned to hold their annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, June 13th. This will be followed immediately by a reorganization meeting of the Aircraft Study Unit. Several other specialty topical groups are planning to hold their own meetings with most, if not all, open to the public. The show admission is free as are the meetings and seminars.

This year's incentive to help entice more attendees to review the many interesting frames of

topical exhibits will be a “Search for Amelia Earhart”. Somewhere among the many pages of exhibits, a stamp picturing the missing aviatrix will be hidden and one lucky, sharp-eyed collector will win \$25 ATA Boy Bucks for making the discovery. In past years the ATA has had hunts for Saddam Hussein and the Oregon Trail.

Although the NTSS is comprised of topical exhibits and meetings, the dealers are being invited from all walks of philately. Therefore collectors with other collecting interests are encouraged to attend and meet some dealers who may not have shown their wares in the Dayton area previously.

Prospective dealers, attendees and exhibitors can obtain more information along with dealer applications and a show prospectus by contacting the ATA Central Office at americantopical@msn.com. By mail the address, through February 28th is ATA – PO Box 57 – Arlington, TX 76004-0057. Announcements as to the new location of the ATA Central Office will be found in press releases to be printed in a short time or at the ATA website www.americantopicalassn.org.

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.

100th Anniversary of
US MILITARY AVIATION
 1909 - 2009



Wright Military Flyer - 1909



National Topical Stamp Show
 June 12-14, 2009 - Dayton, OH
 100 yrs. Military Aviation

P-38 and downed German plane

The Gambia D145

P-38

ME262

100 YEARS US MILITARY AVIATION

P-38
LIGHTNING
 "The Fork-Tailed Devil"

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