

## **MYRON MOLNAU SELECTED AS 2011 ATA DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST**

Retired university professor Myron Molnau of Moscow, Idaho, has been selected as the American Topical Association's 2011 Distinguished Topical Philatelist, according to an announcement by DTP committee chairman Donald W. Smith. The award will be presented June 25, 2011, during the ATA annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Myron currently serves as a member of the ATA Board of Directors and Secretary of the ATA Ships on Stamps Unit. He joined the unit in 1963 and since 1969 has held various offices including that of President to which he was elected in 1972. He established an internet ships on stamps discussion group in 1997, and the Ships on Stamps unit website in 2000. He is co-editor and publisher of a series of six CD-ROMs and DVDs featuring information about the ships shown on stamps, including all issues of *Watercraft Philately* from 1955 through 2009, and a two-volume DVD depicting over 14,000 ship stamp images.

Myron started constructing model boats while in high school and continued this hobby through the early 1960s while attending the University of Minnesota. In 1959 he married his high school sweetheart, Corrine. In order to learn more about a set of ship stamps that his wife had given him, Myron visited the university library where he discovered a large section of books on stamp collecting. Included in the library was a handbook of ships on stamps, and he was hooked!

Myron joined the American Topical Association in 1963, the British North American Philatelic Society in 1964, and later the American Belgian Philatelic Society. Since lighthouses are essential to guide ships, Myron is a member of the ATA Lighthouse Stamp Society. As an avid reader of books on medieval history and nautical fiction, he developed a collection of stamps picturing books, and recently became a member of the ATA Graphics Philately Association.

Myron Molnau was born in Carver County, Minnesota, July 4, 1938, and received a Ph.D. in water resources in 1969 from Iowa State University. He then served on the faculty of the University of Idaho where he taught engineering hydrology until his retirement in 1999. During his tenure as professor, he was instrumental in establishing the Idaho State Climate Services office when the National Weather Service discontinued its program. He also served in the 1990s as both Secretary and President of the American Association of State Climatologists. He is fondly known among his academic colleagues as "Idaho's first climate historian."

The ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome Husak to recognize notable service in topical philately. This award has been presented in the past 62 years to 117 topical philatelists, including residents of Canada, Great Britain and Italy. The current selection committee, chaired by Donald W. Smith, consists of Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Jerome Husak, Ann Shoemake, Dorothy Smith, and Dalene Thomas.