

My Topic *by Don Neal*

Lesa Morgan: Accordians



Lesa Morgan is originally from Shelbyville, Illinois, but currently lives in St. Charles, Missouri, with her husband Pat and two daughters, KT and Maddie. She is an IT Manager for the Boeing Company and joined ATA in 2019.

What is your topical interest?

I have two topical interests. My first collection is somewhat generic, or as I call it, "My Cool Collection." It includes any stamps that remind me of my childhood. For example, I have strawberry stamps that remind me of my Uncle Delbert's U-Pick Strawberry Farm. My main collection, however, is accordions.

What attracted you to this subject or fascinates you about it?

My Dad, Tony Klepzig, always wanted me to play the accordion as a child, and even got an old one for me. Sadly I wasn't very interested in it at the time, and there was nobody local who could repair it or teach me to play. A few years ago, however, my son-in-law acquired an accordion and asked if I knew anyone who would want to buy it. I did! After a couple introductory lessons, I began teaching myself to play. My husband, Pat, then shared his stamp collecting hobby with me. After finding my first accordion stamp, I decided to see how many I could find.

Is there a particular stamp(s) in your collection that is a favorite or was a special (or challenging) find or acquisition?

My favorites are any of the cartoon versions; in particular, this Japanese stamp of a crocodile playing



accordion (Scott No. 2862) from 2003. One of the things that has most surprised me from collecting accordion stamps is that the accordion has been a popular instrument all over the world and for many different musical genres, not just polkas.

Have you shared your topical collection with others?

I have shared my collection with our local stamp club, Greater Mound City Stamp Club, and even played my accordion during our recent “show and tell” night. I also learned of several accordion stamps through a HipStamp forum, and shared my research with them. I currently have 89 of the 142 accordion stamps (commemorative, selvaige and cinderellas) of which I am aware. I’m also a member of the Closet Accordion Players of America.

Is there an elusive (rare or expensive) stamp that you would like to add to your collection? Are there any variations or related stamps that you would like a postal service (or country) to issue to enhance your collection?

Although the accordion was first invented in 1822 in Berlin, the first postage stamp we’ve found that features an accordion is this one from Bulgaria (Scott No. 409) from 1942. The more elusive stamps to find are the more recent ones. I’ve also not been able to find a couple of North Korean stamps (Scott No. 1908 from 1980, and Scott No. 3574 from 1996). I’d really love for the U.S. Postal Service to issue an accordion stamp, as there is such a strong heritage here, from Polkas, to Country & Western, to Cajun & Zydeco.

The ATA is helpful in building or organizing a topical collection. But, in your case, how have you helped the ATA with this topical interest?

I’m really excited to share the listing of accordion stamps that my husband and I have put together with the ATA so that other collectors have a checklist to use. I also hope that it might spark interest in collecting stamps related to other individual musical instruments. ☐



Don Neal, a member of the ATA Board of Directors, seeks to highlight the various interests of the many members of American Topical Association.

He needs your help. Please consider taking a few minutes to answer the questions addressed in this column and send your response to Don at: esperdon@verizon.net. Or refer to his complete contact information on Page 4, for telephone and postal address.