

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 529 February 2017



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & SURVIVORS' BANQUET

Milt Tam

The annual PSMS business meeting and survivor's banquet will be Saturday, March 11, at 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm for the social hour), at the Center for Urban Horticulture. This replaces our March general membership meeting.



It's time again to gather and congratulate each other for making it through another season of finding, cooking, and eating mushrooms. Sign up online on the PSMS website, psms.org. Seating will be limited, so register early to guarantee your place. You must be registered to attend. The cost is \$5/person to cover incidentals. As in previous years, the event will be a potluck dinner for PSMS members only, but if your significant other or dinner partner is not a member, you may still include them. We will have a banquet permit, so bring your favorite wine or beer, but no hard liquor, please!

Our banquet theme this year is "A Late Winter's Pick-Nic." For this potluck dinner we encourage you to bring your best picnic-worthy dishes featuring mushrooms, wild or cultivated, and come dressed in your best field-trip attire. Please label your contributions with the ingredients and species of mushrooms used, if any. We will have a short presentation (or two), introduce the newly elected officers and board members for 2017–2019, announce the winner of the 2017 Patrice Benson Golden Mushroom Award for outstanding service to our society, and hand out a few door prizes. This promises to be a fun evening with friends and family, so come join us!



Raffle tickets for an original watercolor by Russian artist Alexander (Sasha) Viazemsky will also be available for purchase. Questions? Please email outreach@psms.org.

Emily Sue Routledge

We regret to report that PSMS member Emily Routledge, 55, passed away unexpectedly on January 5. Emily was one of the quiet but incredibly helpful members who form the backbone of PSMS. She served on the board, was publicity chair, and hosted field trips. She could be found at any of our events, always helping out, always smiling, greeting other club folks, new and old, making friends, and making connections. Emily will be missed.

HOW MANY SPORES ARE THERE? Bryce Kendrick

Fungifama, So. Vancouver Island Myco. Soc.

One specimen of the common bracket fungus *Ganoderma applanatum* can discharge 30,000,000,000 spores a day from May to September, for a total of 4,500,000,000,000 spores.

One fructification of the wood-inhabiting ascomycete *Daldinia concentrica* can shoot 100,000,000 ascospores a day.

A single wheat grain infected with stinking smut (*Tilletia caries*) contains 12,000,000 spores.

One 2.5 cm-diam. colony of the green mold *Penicillium* can produce 400,000,000 spores.

And I have just done a rough calculation showing that a large specimen of the giant puffball *Langermannia gigantea* may contain about 1,000,000,000,000,000 spores, give or take a decimal place or two.

So you will not be surprised to learn that the air we breathe sometimes contains as many as 10,000 spores per cubic meter!

JOHN GOLDMAN LEAVING AS TREASURER AFTER 12 STRAIGHT YEARS

Kim Traverse

For many of you, PSMS is something you connect with maybe one or twice a month—a meeting, a class, a foray—but for John Goldman it has been almost a daily involvement. Some people grow into their role. John's role grew into him as he dramatically expanded the basic duties of being PSMS Treasurer to include oversight of much of the business we transact. He has handled contract negotiations (including our lease at CUH), insurance issues, book inventory and sales, and vetting spaces for the annual show as well as handling the finances. Twelve years straight and he had served as treasurer a few years before that stretch began! The board recognized his tremendous contribution years ago by awarding him the Golden Mushroom Award, but he can't be thanked enough for what he has done. He has been meticulous, dedicated, and almost omnipresent, but now he would like to do a few other things. He and his wife, Andrea Rose, herself a dedicated PSMS volunteer for the past two decades, plan to get some traveling out of their system. It has been a personal pleasure working with John, and we send him our best wishes. Board member Donna Naruo, who over the past year has been helping John prepare our monthly financial reports, has been appointed to finish out John's term. We welcome her expertise and willingness to step forward into this important job.



John Goldman

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CALENDAR

- Feb. 7 Membership meeting, 7:30 pm, CUH (**changed**)
Feb. 21 *Spore Prints* deadline
Feb. 28 Deadline for mailing mail-in ballots
Mar. 11 Survivors' Banquet & Annual Business Meeting,
7:30 pm, CUH

BOARD NEWS, January 2017

Luise Asif

Important: the February Membership Meeting will be on the first Tuesday, February 7. Planning is under way for shows and forays in 2017. Sweta Agrawal has assumed the position of chair for Ben Woo Scholarship grants and has updated the application forms. The Bridle Trails/Mycoflora project is being updated, and preparations are under way to collect actively in March. Thank you, Daniel Winkler, for all your hard work on this project. A **Project Manager is still needed to assist Daniel.** In conjunction with this project, plans are under discussion on the best way to encourage more people to become identifiers for PSMS. John Goldman is in the process of transferring the accounting process to Donna Naruo, with the goal of completing the transfer in April. John has done an amazing job bringing PSMS to its current financial position. Thankfully he will remain involved as advisor.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2016, at 7:30 pm at the Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

In February Dr. Albert Garcia-Romeu of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine will speak on "Psilocybin as a Tool for Modern Psychology and Medicine." His talk will present an overview of contemporary research with psilocybin, with a focus on the work conducted since 2000 at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



Dr. Garcia-Romeu

Research on using psychedelics as an aid in the treatment of mood and substance-use disorders has generated renewed interest over the past decade. Recent pilot studies have shown the safety and feasibility of using psilocybin, a naturally occurring psychedelic found in some mushrooms of the genus *Psilocybe*, as a therapeutic tool in the treatment of depression, end-of-life anxiety, and alcohol- and tobacco-use disorders. Moreover, preliminary data suggest treatment with psychedelics can produce profound and lasting changes in mood, behaviors, and attitudes consistent with enhanced health and well-being, consistent with early researchers' observations that the subjective effects of psychedelics play a pivotal role in facilitating ongoing benefits.

Despite these compelling findings, the mechanisms involved in psychedelic-facilitated treatments remain poorly understood.

Albert Garcia-Romeu, Ph.D. is a member of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences faculty at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he studies the effects of psychedelic drugs in humans with a focus on psilocybin as an aid in the treatment of addiction. He received his doctorate in psychology from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California, where he researched self-transcendence, meditation, and altered states of consciousness.

Would people with last names beginning with the letters L-Z please bring a plate of refreshments to serve after the meeting.

BRIDLE TRAILS PROJECT: Update and Call for Project Leader

Daniel Winkler

January 5, members of the Bridle Trails project held a small meeting at the Bellevue library to see what can be done to put our project on a more solid foundation. In attendance were Danny Najera, Chi Tran, Shannon Adams, Danny Miller, Wren Hudgins, Daniel Winkler, Kim Traverse, Andy Held, and Luise Asif. We agreed our project has two main aspects: First, PSMS wants to contribute to the North American Mycoflora project by photographing, noting important observations, collecting, identifying, and drying fungal specimens for vouchering and DNA testing and to slowly develop a fungal inventory for Bridle Trails State Park (BTSP). We have been working on a vouchering slip to be used when collecting specimens to note important specimen observations and site information. Chi Tran and Danny Najera are also working on an "iNaturalist" citizen science platform for the project.

The other aspect is that the specimen collection and identification should be included in a framework that emphasizes education,

offering a learning experience for club members to develop their identification skills and species knowledge. We intend to restart our activity in March. For the beginning we plan to offer bi-monthly outings in BTSP, one on a Monday afternoon in conjunction with the Hildegard Hendrickson ID clinic offered by Danny Miller and others at CUH and the other on a weekend with an ID session close to BTSP. We are still looking into options to enable a group of 6 to 12 people to identify mushrooms in a dry space there.

One of our main challenges is finding a project leader. I have filled that role so far, but because of my frequent travels, I am not able to provide steady support. I am, however, willing to assist anyone who could take on this task. Luise Asif and Chi Tran have offered to be our communication center. We will have a follow-up meeting in February, the date and location will be announced later. If you are interested and have not already contacted Daniel regarding the Bridle Trails project, please contact Luise at asif@hotmail.com.

CYTTARIA DARWINII

Denise Banaszewski

D. Banaszewski



I get to do a mushroom post once in a while, especially when I see hundreds of what appear to be mushroom trees.

We first saw this super cool mushroom while on a tour through Tierra del Fuego National Park, which is accessed

from Ushuaia, Argentina, at the southern tip of South America. Ushuaia somewhat oddly touts itself as “El Fin del Mundo” (the end of the world), and is the place from which most ships to Antarctica leave...which seems to be a more fitting place to call the end of the world. Ushuaia is on the Beagle Channel, named for Charles Darwin’s boat. We’re currently stuck here for nearly a week because the buses out were full until Friday. The temp here is in the 40s and it’s rainy, so it feels like we’re living through the Seattle winter we meant to escape, although it looks more like Alaska with a very low tree line and peat bogs, and a bit more charm in spots. But, I digress. After we got back from Antarctica, we went on a hike out of Ushuaia and saw a bazillion of these mushrooms, both in the trees and decaying on the ground.

They grow right on the branches and trunks of beech trees, but then in time form large cankers and grow out of the cankers.

They don’t appear to kill the host tree because they are all over young and old trees down here. They range in size from a small marble to a racquetball at the very largest, but most are smaller than a golf ball. They are very firm, and bounce back when you squeeze them. The specimens I split open were primarily gelatinous throughout, similar to some coral mushrooms. *Cyttaria* are only found in the Southern Hemisphere, and *Cyttaria darwinii* are only found in South America. They are edible, and according to our guide, the native people here ate them and the locals today call them “Indian Bread.” According to a Patagonian fungi book I found in a bookstore, they don’t have any taste. So I didn’t try them.

Denise is a former secretary of PSMS. Last November she and her husband, Peter Truog, embarked on a year-long trek around the globe and are presently in the far reaches of South America. This article was submitted by Milt Tam who abstracted it from their blog, www.peteanddenise.com.

THE BLOB CAN LEARN—AND TEACH!

The Spore Print, LA Myco. Soc., Jan. 2017

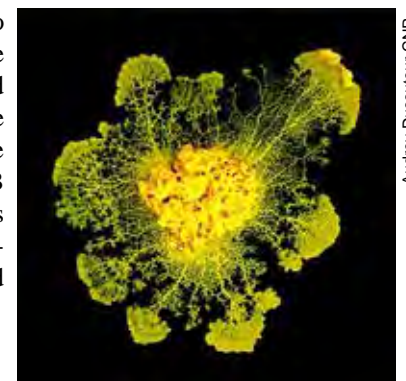
It isn’t an animal, a plant, or a fungus. The slime mold *Physarum polycephalum* is a strange, creeping, blob-like organism made up of one giant cell. Though it has no brain, it can learn from experience, as biologists at the Research Centre on Animal Cognition (Université Toulouse III—Paul Sabatier) previously demonstrated. Now the same team of scientists has gone a step further, proving that a slime mold can transmit what it has learned to a fellow slime mold when the two combine. These new findings are published in the December 21, 2016, issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Imagine you could temporarily fuse with someone, acquire that person’s knowledge, and then split off to become your separate self again. With slime molds, that really happens! The slime mold *Physarum polycephalum* is a unicellular organism whose natural habitat is forest litter. But it can also be cultured in a laboratory Petri dish. Audrey Dussutour and David Vogel had already trained slime molds to move past repellent but harmless substances (e.g., coffee, quinine, or salt) to reach their food. They now reveal that a slime mold that has learned to ignore salt can transmit this acquired behavior to another simply by fusing with it.

To achieve this, the researchers taught more than 2,000 slime molds that salt posed no threat. In order to reach their food, these slime molds had to cross a bridge covered with salt. This experience made them habituated slime molds. Meanwhile, another 2,000 slime molds had to cross a bridge bare of any substance. They made up the group of naive slime molds. After this training period, the scientists grouped slime molds into habituated, naive, and mixed pairs. Paired slime molds fused together where they came into contact. The new, fused slime molds then had to cross salt-covered bridges. To the researchers’ surprise, the mixed slime molds moved just as fast as habituated pairs, and much faster than naive ones, suggesting that knowledge of the harmless nature of salt had been shared. This held true for slime molds formed from three or four individuals. No matter how many fused, only one habituated slime mold was needed to transfer the information.

To check that transfer had indeed taken place, the scientists separated the slime molds 1 hour and 3 hours after fusion and repeated the bridge experiment. Only naive slime molds that had been fused with habituated slime molds for 3 hours ignored the salt; all others were repulsed by it. This was proof of learning. When viewing the slime molds through a microscope, the scientists noticed that, after 3 hours, a vein formed at the point of fusion. This vein is undoubtedly the channel through which information is shared. The next challenges facing the researchers are to elucidate the form this information takes, and to test whether more than one behavior can be transmitted simultaneously. If Slime Mold A learns how to ignore quinine and Slime Mold B to ignore salt, the biologists wonder whether both behaviors can be transmitted and retained through fusion.

Physarum polycephalum.



Audrey Dussutour CNR

BEAUTIFUL AND RARE BLUE FUNGUS FOUND IN AFRICA DISCOVERED IN THE MIDDLE OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND

Tristan Cork

Bristol Post, Jan. 17, 2017



Steve England

Terana caerulea, the Cobalt Crust fungus.

A strikingly beautiful and extremely rare type of bright blue fungus has been discovered in a park in Bristol.

The Cobalt Crust fungus, also known as “velvet blue spread” was discovered on a broken log in the Stoke Park Estate by renowned naturalist and guide Steve England at the weekend.

England, who takes people of all ages on nature walks through the estate on a daily basis, said it is only the second time he had seen the fungus. It is usually found in warm, wet, deciduous hardwood forests in Africa and Asia and is virtually unheard of in Britain.

The fungus, which has the Latin name of *Terana caerulea*, is award-winning—it was named “Fungus of the Year” for 2009 by the German Mycological Society—and its discovery in more northerly climes in Germany pointed to more evidence of global warming

It’s a special fungus—the blue color comes from a unique mixture of polymers that are structurally related to telephoric acid—and it can also be medicinal. When exposed to high temperatures, it produces an antibiotic that inhibits the growth of *Streptococcus*.

England, a *Bristol Post* columnist, posted his remarkable discovery on his Facebook page. “Found some amazing cobalt crust fungi today—only the second time I have seen this beauty,” he added.

IRISH PARAMEDICS REFUSE TO DRIVE AMBULANCE INFECTED WITH FUNGUS Pat Flynn

The Clare Herald, Jan. 12, 2017

Ambulance paramedics in Ennis, County Clare, are refusing to drive an ambulance that they say has had to be “deep cleaned” three times in recent weeks because of a recurring fungus infestation.

The vehicle had been assigned to another station before being relocated to Ennis. Soon after the ambulance arrived, Ennis crews began to notice a large growth of fungi in one corner of the vehicle close to where the patient stretcher is located.

The 6-year-old ambulance was sent away for “deep cleaning” twice before Christmas and again this week.

“We’ve been detailed to drive this vehicle, but on health and safely grounds, for both patients and staff, we have refused to. It was sent away for deep cleaning twice before Christmas after concerns were raised but the fungus has appeared again,” a source said.

“We don’t what this stuff is. We don’t know if its poisonous or if it can affect us or our patients in any way. We won’t take the chance though,” he said.

Another paramedic said: “We will not drive this vehicle until we see documented proof that the ambulance has undergone decontamination and is passed medically safe to transport patients and staff too. We want the fungus analyzed to see whether there has been a threat to the health of patients or paramedics.”

The National Ambulance Service maintains, “Immediate and appropriate corrective action was taken, which included the company conducting a complete deep clean on the vehicle. We can confirm that this is ongoing and the vehicle will not be released back into service until the NAS are satisfied that the situation has been rectified,” the NAS spokesman added.



Mystery mushroom growing in Irish ambulance.

Election

For our elections, **we vote online electronically.**

This year we will be voting for a President, a Secretary, and five Trustees. Please read the following candidate profiles carefully.

To vote electronically, go to the PSMS website at www.psms.org and click on “Members’ Page” under the heading “Membership.” You will need to log in with your username and password. If you have forgotten your password, please fill out the section “Forgot your password?” at the bottom of the page and click on “Reset your password.” If you cannot remember your username, contact Alyssa at membership@psms.org or Marian at outreach@psms.org. When you successfully log in to the Members’ Page you will see an icon named “Elections” at the bottom of the page under “Engagements.” Click on the icon and follow the instructions to

Election

vote. It will be helpful to have your *Spore Prints* issue with the candidates and bios available to view when voting. You may only vote once. There are two votes per family membership, but you will each have to log in separately and use your individual user IDs to vote.

Members who do not have computers or who have not provided an email address will receive their ballots by mail. Please contact Marian Maxwell at outreach@psms.org if you have any difficulties voting. These mailed ballots need to be returned in person at the February meeting to Alyssa Panning at the Membership desk or be mailed to Marian Maxwell at 14269 145th PI SE, Renton, WA 98059 by February 28. Votes received after that date will not be counted. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting and Survivor’s Banquet on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

Election

Kim Traverse

President

Secretary

Luise Asif



I would like to continue to work on behalf of PSMS for another 2 years as President. I joined PSMS after attending the 2005 show and realizing how little I knew. I was first Librarian, then served on the board under two presidents. I've chaired many Annual Exhibits and helped with ID Clinics, Mushroom Maynia, and a few field trips. I look forward to continue working with a new Board and other members to ensure we continue making people delighted that they joined PSMS.

I have served on the PSMS board in the past for 4 years and would be honored to continue serving as Secretary for a second term. APSMS member since the mid-90s, I have volunteered for the Annual Exhibit and various shows and events, and currently have the pleasure of doing the Hospitality for our monthly meetings.



Trustees

Teddy Basladynski

Starting in 2011, I served two consecutive terms as a board trustee. During my time on the board I hosted and attended multiple field trips, helped with the wild mushroom show, redesigned the PSMS website, and co-chaired the planning committee for the 2014 NAMA foray. If elected again, I look forward to more opportunities to help PSMS.



Erin O'Dell

I've been a PSMS member about 4 years. I was asked to guide on my first foray, and Josh Powell schooled me on how to keep people together in the woods. Since then I regularly guide field trips and volunteer at the annual wild mushroom shows. I love the mission PSMS has—to impart its knowledge and share experiences of the fungi world to those who seek it.



Shannon Adams

Since joining PSMS in 2001, I have found a wonderful community and an interest that keeps growing. I would love to help others develop a lifelong passion for mushrooms that may begin with "can I eat it?" but ends with a deeper understanding of species, ecology, our trees, and the forests around us. I would love to serve on the board.



Jamie Notman

Hi, I am Jamie Notman. I have been an active member of PSMS since 2000, been involved in Mushroom Maynia since its conception and now chair the event. I have chaired the cooking and tasting demos at the show for over 10 years. I feel I could better serve the club if I were a board member when things happen that affect the events I chair.



Derek Hevel

I joined PSMS in fall 2013 and has been obsessed with mushrooms ever since. As a board member, I hope to contribute to the smooth overall running of the Society, with particular interest in increasing member participation, streamlining group communications, and expanding education about all aspects of mushrooms.



Carlos Cruz

I believe the trustees hold a responsibility to safeguard the tenets of the organization and help fulfill its mission for each generation, much like the fruiting bodies of the organisms that we study with such relish. I would like to continue to help bring to PSMS enthusiasm, curiosity, and a will to contribute to the science and knowledge of mycology with a second term.



FUNGI ON STAMPS AND POSTAL ITEMS FROM AUSTRIA

Brian S. Luther

Well less than half the size of Washington State, Austria is surrounded by eight other countries: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Germany, all of which have issued fine sets of stamps showing fungi. I've already discussed the mycophilatelic items issued by Slovenia (Luther, 2015a) and Italy (Luther, 2016) in previous articles. In this article I discuss six fungus-related items from Austria.

The six items are listed in Table I. M=mushrooms or fungi as the main illustration; MID=mushrooms or fungi in the design, background, or border of the illustration but not the primary illustration; AE=antibiotic effects; FDC=first-day cover, an envelope (cover) cancelled on the first day of issue and with an illustration (cachet) of the same theme; maxicard=a postcard with a similar illustration and also cancelled on the first day of issue. All catalog numbers are from the Scott Postage Stamp Catalogues. *=catalog numbers not assigned at the time this article was published.

Table I. Austrian myco-postal issues.

Date of Issue	Scott Cat. No.	Value	Type	Subject
8/26/1983	1250	S5	AE	Penicillin tab on Petri plate
1989	not listed	S4	M	<i>Boletus edulis</i>
10/25/2002	1907	0.58€	MID	Polypore conks on a tree
6/15/2011	2324	0.90€	MID	Nature in forests
7/28/2016	*	0.68€	M	Native edible mushrooms (eight different species, see text)
8/29/2016	*	0.68€	MID	Moldy cheese on booklet cover and inside

Comments

1983 Stamp

The 1983 stamp (Scott 1250) commemorates the 13th International Congress for Chemotherapy. On the left is a penicillin tab in the center of a Petri plate with the nearby bacterial colonies killed; on the right is another plate with hydra-like serpents symbolizing the harmful alternative of not using antibiotics. No *Penicillium* species is shown, only the effects of the antibiotic on the bacterial colonies. According to McKenzie (1997) what's shown is a plate of "Penicillium colonies," but that's incorrect. I concur with Gerlinger (1991), who states that the stamp shows "Symbole de l'efficacite de la penicilline V." According to the 2011 Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue, this stamp shows a "Penicillin test on cancer," which is also incorrect. The stamp is perforated with gum.

Austria Scott 1250, with a penicillin tab on a Petri plate.



1989 Postage

In 1989 Austria issued two different postal cards with printed postage showing *Boletus edulis*. One card shows only the mushroom postage; the other shows additional postage with a scene from a municipality of Vienna (Wien - Heiligenstadt) worth 50 Grosche. This postage was only issued pre-printed on these postal cards and was not sold separately as stamps. The illustration shows two *B. edulis* mushrooms and is very attractive. Vertically on the left side of the postage it says "Fichtensteinpilz" which means Spruce Bolete. The Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue does not treat these because they were never issued separately as postage by themselves. However, they are treated in the specialized German Michel Austrian catalog as #P499. These cards are called Ganzsachen in German, meaning postal cards with pre-printed postage.

Brian S. Luther



Austria, 1989. Postal card with printed *Boletus edulis* postage.

Austria, 1989. Postal card with *Boletus edulis* postage, second version.



Brian S. Luther

2002 Stamp

I recently discovered the 2002 stamp (Scott 1907) while studying Austrian stamps in detail under magnification. It shows a scene from Thayatal National Park in which a large tree trunk that's hanging over the river clearly has two polypore conks growing together on it showing characteristic growth layers. *Ganoderma applanatum* is a distinct possibility, but it could be several different species of fungi and without inspecting an actual specimen, it cannot be identified with certainty. (Two of the very earliest international postage stamps illustrated with fungi also show conks, Luther 2012.)

Brian S. Luther



Austria, 2002. Scott 1907. Thayatal National Park with polypore on tree.



Austria, 2002. Closeup of polypore conks.

Brian S. Luther

2011 Stamp

The 2011 stamp is highly unusual in being round and is titled Land der Wälder (Country of Forests). It commemorates the 2011 Inter-

national Year of Forests. It features a scene showing a tree, a large Red Deer stag, a pheasant, a badger, and two stylized mushrooms in the foreground with a silhouette of forests and meadows in the background. The mushroom on the left is dark red and the other is greenish-brown, but otherwise they have the same form with sharply conic caps and pronounced partial veils. The gills appear whitish on one, but both are clearly just artistic renditions of mushrooms and thus unidentifiable. The stamp is perforated with gum. I consider the mushrooms to be essentially equal partners with the other four organisms shown on the stamp, but since the mushrooms are not exclusively the primary illustration, I put them into my MID category. I've previously discussed other stamps issued to celebrate the 2011 International Year of the Forests that show fungi (Luther, 2014).



Austria, 2011. Scott 2324.



Austria, 2011. Scott 2324. Closeup showing mushrooms.

2016 Booklets

In 2016, Austria issued two attractive booklets, one titled *Heimische Speisepilze* (Native Edible Mushrooms) and the other *Weingenuss* (Wine Enjoyment).

Native Edible Mushrooms

The front cover of the first shows a photo of a basket full of gorgeous trimmed boletes, mostly *Boletus edulis*, while the back cover shows the eight different stamps that are included inside. The text in the booklet gives the German common names and the scientific names for the eight species shown on the stamps, but the stamps themselves are not labelled (except for country and value). Separate photos, nontechnical descriptions, a recipe, and a very appetizing photo of the prepared dish are provided for each species. Four stamps are together on a page (on two separate pages), which also shows a habitat photo of a Steinpilz (*B. edulis*). All stamps are perforate, gummed, and have the same value.



Austria, 2016. Front cover of *Native Edible Mushrooms* booklet.

The first pane of stamps in the booklet, between pages 8 and 9, shows *Boletus edulis*, *Lactarius deliciosus*, *Macrolepiota procera*, and *Pleurotus ostreatus*. The second pane, between pages 20 and 21, shows *Pleurotus eryngii*, *Cantharellus cibarius*, *Morchella esculenta*, and *Agaricus campestris*. The illustration of what they're recalling *Agaricus campestris* on page 10, the photo on page 11, and the stamp photo itself do not appear to be the species claimed. They show a related species of *Agaricus* which has a taller stature with a longer stem and a large flaring partial veil (ring); the photo on page 11 also shows distinctive scales along the lower stem and the stem base enlarges where contacting the grass on the ground in one illustration and on the stamp photo. *Agaricus campestris* has a shorter stem which normally always narrows to a point at the base, does not have dense scales on the stem, and does not have a large partial veil, but rather has a very fine fugacious veil that never looks like what's shown in the booklet.



Austria, 2016. *Native Edible Mushrooms*, first pane of four stamps.



Austria, 2016. *Native Edible Mushrooms*, second pane of four stamps.

This booklet has lots of delightful mushroom art throughout. Besides the fungi featured on the stamps, a few other species are shown: the middle illustration on the bottom of page 8 shows a species of *Amanita* with a deep cup-shaped volva, and I'd say this was probably not a good choice to include in a stamp book devoted to edible fungi, even though it's clearly just a decoration; page 9 shows a huge mushroom basket full of mostly *Boletus edulis* and a few Chanterelles, but I can also see *Cortinarius caperatus* (Gypsy Mushroom), a *Leccinum* sp., a different small bolete with an all-brown stem and brown-staining pores, and a couple of *Suillus* spp. (Slippery Jacks). I count a total of 13 species of fungi illustrated throughout the booklet.

I contacted the Austrian Post and they informed me that neither an FDC nor maxicards were issued for this set, so these stamps came only in booklet form. If the stamps alone were collected, then you'd miss out on seeing this amazing and colorful booklet that's packed full of information. I'm looking forward to trying some of the very appealing recipes.

cont. on page 8

Wine Enjoyment

Brian S. Luther



Austria, 2016. Wine Enjoyment booklet with *Penicillium roqueforti* on Gorgonzola cheese.

The other 2016 booklet is titled Weingenuß (Wine Enjoyment), and the cover features a photo of a wedge of Gorgonzola cheese with distinctive dark blue veins from the mold *Penicillium roqueforti* throughout. The inside of the booklet also shows this cheese with the mold visible on pages 46 & 47. This is a large, colorful, glamorous stamp booklet that's more like a small

book itself (8¼ × 5¾ inches). It discusses all the major wine grapes and wines produced in Austria, along with recipes and photos of the prepared food that complement the wines. Even though in German, I recommend this gorgeous stamp booklet for anyone who's a wine lover. The stamps inside the booklet do not have any fungi on them. Refer to an earlier article I wrote to see another stamp showing this same fungus species on cheese (Luther, 2015b).

As with the postal authorities of many other countries, you can now personalize Austrian postage, and I've seen many privately created mushroom stamps from Austria available for sale on eBay or other sources. Austria also has some long-standing mycological societies that have privately printed and issued attractive mushroom illustrations on covers (envelopes), and/or have specialty cancels they've designed showing fungi. Because there's no limit on what can be personally created and since these were not pro-

duced, distributed, or offered for sale to the public, none of these will be listed in international postage stamp catalogs and will also not be covered in this article.

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