

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings to all members from the Editor, once again with apologies for the lateness of this issue, which will be the last for 2005, as there is no time left to put together a fourth issue. I obtained permission from the President to stay with three issues this year, something which had occurred once before under a different editor. I will try to prevent it happening again! I am sorry about that, but a lot of things conspired against me in causing the situation.

First, Barbara and I went off to the U.K. to visit some relatives, one of them being my wife's elder sister, who has not been at all well of late and we had to take the opportunity of going to see her. On returning from the U.K., I was heavily involved in the STAMPEX show here in Toronto, to which we have managed to have National status granted by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. We have not had a National in Toronto in some time. I was looking after the exhibits and making sure that the judges were sent the title pages/synopses in timely fashion in order for them to do some homework. The show was quite successful and hopefully it will now become an annual event. In addition to that, the AmeriStampExpo show is being held in Toronto in April of 2006, as the big International show is in Washington in May-June. I am also involved in that in the same capacity as for STAMPEX.

After the hard work of the show came more hard work as we decided to have a new floor put into the basement and have the place painted. This necessitated removing all the books, journal runs and everything else from the bookshelves in order for the job to go forward. After 44 years in the house, I could not believe how much stuff had accumulated, but it was a grand opportunity to get rid of a lot of unwanted material.

Now, with respect to the "bird" issue, I have had suggestions from Glenn Mertz and Chuck Braun about contacting Roger Chapman, the editor of "Flight" in the U.K., which is the journal of their bird society. I have e-mailed him but no reply as yet. I have included the second half of Randy Shore's last column in this issue so at least the bird collectors will have something to work with until we get things sorted out. Obviously, we still need to find a full-time editor for the bird new issues so any suggestions from members would be very welcome. Better yet, a volunteer. I suppose the problem is that many of our editors and members are getting on in years, in fact, I have my 75th birthday on December 7th, so sometime in the foreseeable future, I shall have to step down as editor. There are a number of other things that I want to do, not the least of which is getting my "Microcosmos" exhibit up to 7 frames, and that takes quite a bit of time.

We are working on the Biology Unit frame for Washington 2006 and I have recently sent a piece on the Biology Unit for inclusion on the ATA website, so those of you with internet access could probably find it soon at www.americantopicalassn.org

Since this will reach you near the end of the year, I do hope everyone enjoys the holidays and can look forward to a wonderful new year.

Until next time.

Alan J. Hanks