

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My calendar tells me that it is now July 2nd, one day after Canada's annual Birthday of July 1st, when traditionally, everyone has a good time and fireworks are let off in the evening after dark. Last night, mother nature weighed in with some fireworks of her own, with thunder and lightning to dwarf the puny efforts from the humans below. This has been a bit of a difficulty over the past week or so, as I have been told that it is not wise to be running the computer with thunderstorms around, and I have had to shut down work on this journal periodically.

Washington 2006 is now history and Barbara and I enjoyed our visit to the show, the primary purpose of which of course was to attend all the ATA annual meeting functions, which I need to do as a member of the Board of Directors. Barbara helped out at the ATA table and I even managed to find a few spare hours to try and find some additions to my various collections. There were very few dealers with a thematic stock, but many of the post offices from overseas were there and one could obtain various topical new issues from them. A short report on the Unit meeting is included in this issue. We stayed in Alexandria, close to the banks of the Potomac River and it was a very nice hotel. Jerry Husak had arranged a tour on parts of the city for some ATA friends and that was most enjoyable. In addition, we had an invitation to the banquet and awards ceremony, which was most interesting. Many attendees in dinner jackets and elegant dresses, so that was a most interesting event - our second at an International show, as we had attended the banquet at Ameripex some years back.

On to some Unit business. We have been very fortunate, through the work of Wallace Ashby, in finding another editor for the Paleontology column - Dr. Hans-Peter Schultze of Lawrence, Kansas. His address may be found in the editor's listing. Our grateful thanks are due to Wallace for all his contributions over the years and his last effort is herein as well as the first column from Hans-Peter. In addition to this, we have some other good news. Chuck Braun came up with the idea of contacting the editor of "Flight", the bird stamp journal from the U.K. and he is willing for us to use the new issue column from that journal. There are a few "nuts and bolts" to work out, but hopefully we shall get back on track with the bird new issues column. Also, Carl Spitzer has given up the job of Librarian and that has been taken over by Mark Reineke of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Thanks to Carl for all his work over the years and for compiling lists of the journal contents. There is no Botany column in this issue, as Chris Dahle was on long trip and unable to submit new issues, but hopefully that will also be caught up fairly quickly.

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks