

<b>FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK</b>
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Once again I have managed to send out a late issue of your journal and I am sad to say that our daughter's health has been one of our primary concerns for quite a while now, as one problem after another seemed to assail her. Our living room was decorated with a hospital bed for some time, since she was unable to climb stairs and we live in a split-level home. Hopefully, she seems to be on the mend now and is walking in the house unsupported and outside with a walker, but she can make it up and down the stairs, so we are hoping this trend towards better health continues.

This issue is short of a couple of columns, one of them being fungi, but this is probably due to the fact that not many stamps appear for this than for other more popular subjects. Also, our fish editor has been having some problems but said he will have a column in the next issue. I have been worrying a little bit about the quality of pictures I can produce, particularly for the "New Birds" column, and it would be great if we could have colour in the journal. However, the images you see are scanned from black and white copies sent to me by Chuck Braun. These are of course then copied again when the journal pages for mailing are produced, so they are at best third hand reproductions. I will have some dialogue with Chuck to see if we cannot improve on this a little bit. As you will see, the bird coding has been dropped, as it appears from a survey that few members were using it. This tells me that our editors are trying to keep up with any current trends in the scientific side of our hobby. Next year, I plan on trying to get the four issues to the publisher at three-month intervals, which should make it somewhat easier for all our editors to have their columns prepared to a similar schedule.

Recently, the primary stamp show in Canada was held here in Toronto, as ROYAL 2007, under the auspices of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the Greater Toronto Philatelic Alliance. Also heavily involved from a dealer standpoint was the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association. I had volunteered to act as Exhibits Chairman for the show (something I have done before) and it was very rewarding to end up with some 350 frames of exhibits. Unfortunately, there were very few thematic entries, but this seems to be the usual thing at Canadian shows. Most of the exhibits were outstanding, which would indicate that there are many collectors who have entered the field of exhibiting and are doing very well.

A report in Topical Time on the NTSS show in Texas was pretty favourable except that the attendance was not what might have been expected considering the amount of advertising that Ray Cartier undertook. Strangely, it was the collectors from the local area that did not turn up, although there was a good representation from 'out-of-town'! Apparently, the dealers were reasonably happy, so the stamp business seems to be in good health. I shall be acting as Exhibit Chairman for the NTSS show to be held near Portland, Oregon in 2008 and I hope to see some of our Biology Unit members putting in exhibits.

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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