

<b>FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK</b>
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Well, here we are with the first issue of the journal for 2008 and the outside temperature a bit above zero and rising! I think that this has been one winter that the residents of Eastern Canada would as soon forget, as the snowfall here in the Toronto area has equaled or exceeded a long standing record. I do know that when Barbara and I first moved to Aurora forty odd years ago, the winters were much more like the one we have been experiencing and the past several years have been a bit of an anomaly. I hope that we get more anomalous winters in coming years, equating with less shoveling of white stuff!

This issue also marks a bit of a milestone, as I am turning the mailing of copies for Canadian and overseas members back to Fran in Colorado. We changed this some years back, when it became obvious that the Canadian mail rates and dollar made it much more advantageous to mail from here. But, the US and Canadian dollars have been running at about par for some time and the rates between Canada Post and the USPS are not much different. I wish I could help Fran with the envelope stuffing, as it is a bit of a chore, but the self-stick envelopes make it somewhat easier. Thanks Fran for taking the job back!

Don Wright sent me an e-mail recently to alert me to the fact that the Marlen Stamp & Coin Company are advertising many butterfly stamp issues from place such as St. Thomas & Prince Islands, Congo Democratic Republic and Guinea with the notation that these issues are not put out by the reigning "government" postal authorities and may be purchased with the fact know that the issues are listed as "illegal". The cost for these items is by no means on the low side, with small sheets of four or six retailing at \$12.95 and souvenir sheets a lot higher. Don has stated that he is not going to list these spurious issues in future "Entomology" listings and I would certainly concur with that and warn members against buying them. I use a new issue service located in New York and while some of the countries they list might also be suspect, the material is a bit cheaper. As the old saying goes "caveat emptor".

The National Topical Stamp Show is being held in Portland, Oregon (actually in Clackamas – a suburb) on June 13-15 and the Biology Unit meeting will be held as usual on Saturday morning at 10 a.m., followed by the butterfly and moth unit at 11 a.m. If you are planning on attending the show, make sure you come to one of those meetings to greet the various officers, most of whom wear two hats – one for each unit! Exhibits are a bit slow in coming in (your editor is the Exhibit Chairman) so if you have a biology exhibit which you would like to show, let me know and I will send an entry form. The cost is reasonable, \$10 per frame for a multi-frame exhibit and \$25 for a single frame. Get the best critique you could find from our panel of judges, all experienced in thematics. One of the great things about the NTSS is that it moves around the country from year to year, just like StampShow and AmeriStampExpo. This is a great idea, as it gives show visitors a chance to meet with people from other areas around the country, and for those of us that attend regularly, a chance to continue friendships that have been built up over the years.

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

<b>DUES RATES</b>		<b>ADVERTISING RATES</b>	
Regular membership all categories	\$20	Full page insertion	\$20
(For overseas airmail - add \$10)		Half page insertion	\$10
		Quarter page insertion	\$ 5
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