

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings once again from a distinctly summery Ontario, although we did have some hail and snow squalls yesterday. We have a Magnolia tree in our front yard and we can usually rely on it to give us a reasonable display of flowers. However, last year was a complete disaster, as we had early high temperatures followed by a killing frost. This year has more than made up for it, as the numerous Magnolias around the town had glorious displays of flowers over a fairly lengthy period.

Recently, I attended the ORAPEX stamp show held annually in Ottawa, Ontario and it was a real pleasure to spend a couple of days with many of my philatelic friends. The exhibits on display were of a very high order and a larger than usual number of gold medals were awarded. Many of the exhibits dealt with early Canadian Postal History and made very interesting reading.

Unfortunately, there were very few exhibits of a thematic nature and it seems that thematics are just not popular north of the border! As I have mentioned in previous columns, I have been working on the disposal of a large collection and I took a few binders of Canadian Revenue material with me. Much to my surprise, I was able to dispose of the whole lot, with a promise from one dealer that he would be happy to take more material!

Nest weekend (May 17-19), the annual show of the American Topical Association is being held in Rochester, New York, together with the annual ROPEX show, in effect two shows in one, and I am really looking forward to that, as I have quite a few acquaintances in the Rochester Philatelic Society as well as many in the ATA. For a number of years, I have been charged with one pleasant duty, which is to find a prize to be awarded to the best exhibit of a biological subject in any category at the annual ATA show. Usually I manage to find a book and I hope that the awards have given some pleasure to the lucky winners.

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks