

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Ontario! Since it is now into February, it is a bit late to wish all members a Happy New Year, but as we are almost snow free, I guess it is appropriate.

The ATA show in 1988 was to be held in Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with the first Annual show and bourse of the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association. This was a good show location for me, as the town of Aurora, where I live, is on Yonge Street, which starts in Toronto and extends north to the Holland Marsh, passing through Aurora on the way! For many years it bore the sobriquet of "The World's Longest Highway," but this is incorrect, as it becomes Highway 11 north of the Marsh and various extensions eventually reach Rainy River, close to the Minnesota border.

The show programme had a picture of Toronto's first post office, run by a Mr. Howard, serving the 9000 citizens of the city and there was no home delivery. Every three months, Howard published an advertisement in the local press listing citizens who had mail to pick up. Over the years, the building became decrepit, but was rescued during a period of reconstruction and serves as a post office to this day.

There were 145 frames of thematic material to be judged by a panel consisting of Mary Ann Owens, Stephen Luster and Irving Weinberg, with the apprentice judges John O. Griffiths, Frank Alusio from Toronto, and Ingeburg Fisher. There were three gold awards: "Buzz" (Bees, Beekeeping & Honey); "Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People," and "The Panama Canal Story." Unfortunately, I cannot remember which exhibit came out on top.

One thing that has always puzzled me is why topical or thematic collecting does not seem very popular north of the border, except at local club shows, although a fair number of thematic exhibits may be found at the larger shows in Canada. This was illustrated by the fact that on the night of the Awards Banquet, the C.S.D.A. put on a fairly large auction, which took away many people who would probably have attended the banquet and resulted in some financial difficulty.

Another odd occurrence was from one of the exhibitors, whose entry, titled "The Virgin Mary—A Life and Role in History," did not get a high award. The exhibitor (female) raised a big fuss at the critique on the fact that an exhibit on such an important subject should get such a low award and it took quite an effort on the part of Mary Ann Owens and myself to get her calmed down. We must have made an impression, as she was among the judges at a much later show.

I contributed a piece to the programme titled "Why I Collect Thematics," in which I challenged any collector who has a "country" exhibit to try a thematic! It can be rewarding to do both.

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Don Wright, our Associate Editor for Entomology, sent along an image of a recent birthday card.

"Here's about the funniest birthday card I ever received, although maybe only an entomologist would really appreciate it."

The designer of the cartoon is Tim Whyatt and it was published by Sellers Publishing, Inc., of South Portland, Maine.

