

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from a very hot Ontario, which my wife hates, but I do not mind. I find I have to back-track in to my last column with something I forgot to add. I had entered my Rhodesia exhibit in the 1989 ORAPEX show in Ottawa and while I was there, one of the club members said he would like to take it to PHILEXFRANCE, which was coming up in July and for which he was acting as Canadian Commissioner.

Needless to say, I was very pleased to comply and later in the year received a letter from Robson Lowe, the famous British philatelist and author complimenting me on the entry. I replied and said that I was planning on visiting the U.K. for the Stamp World London 90 show in May 1990.

Shortly after this, a further letter arrived inviting me to join him and some other of his friends for lunch on May 10th at the East India Club in St. James's Square in London. This was quite an honor, so I contacted a friend near London (actually a past girl friend) to see if she and her husband could put me up for a few days while I attended the show. She replied that they would be happy to see me, so I was all set.

I arrived in the U.K. on Sunday May 6th, rented a car, and drove out to Beaconsfield where they lived. I was made very welcome and we chatted for quite a while about old times. Sunday was a Bank Holiday, so spent the day visiting with Pat, Jon, and their two children. The eldest girl spent some time asking me about my early years in the U.K. and seemed intrigued to be talking to her mother's old boy friend!

Off to the show on Tuesday and it was much the same as such shows in Canada and the U.S. with some great exhibits and lots of dealers. I met Bill Maresch, who was a dealer from Toronto and several other acquaintances as I circulated round the dealer's tables, without much success. More of the same on the 9th and then on the 10th it rained, so I took shelter in the Underground, before walking up to St. James's Square. The luncheon was very good and there were several dealers and collectors from the States and South Africa, so there was plenty of philatelic conversation and I had a very entertaining afternoon.

I spent the next few days visiting places that I knew well and was not really surprised to see that little had changed, except that my local theatre was boarded up and the name of my school had changed. Then I said farewell to my hosts and thanked them for taking care of me before heading off to the airport for the flight home.

TOPEX 90 was being held at RIPEX XXV, the annual show of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society. This was good news for us, since the distance involved was smaller than usual. I just drove to Buffalo and then headed east on various expressways until we reached the sea. There were plenty of exhibits at the show—217 frames in all with 17 from junior exhibitors. There is one thing that had been bothering me for some time regarding exhibits at TOPEX shows and this is the appearance of some exhibits concurrently at several shows without any noticeable changes having been made. There does not seem to be any point in doing this.

There were several outstanding exhibits and at least four gold and seven vermeil medals (I did not mark all the scores in my catalog). My "Insects and Man" exhibit was awarded a silver and I guess I had some more hard work ahead of me.

Until next time...

*Alan J. Hanks*

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#### TRIVIA ANSWERS (from page 199)

1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-d, 5-c, 6-d, 7-a, 8-d, 9-c, 10-a

#### STATE BIRD (from page 237)

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia

