

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings once again from Aurora (Ontario), where the weather has been extremely kind to us, unlike Europe, where they seem to be experiencing what I have always thought of as a typical North American Winter, with piles of snow everywhere. At my somewhat advanced age, I employ someone to clear the driveway, and he is having a very easy time of it. Since I have been told many times “never count your chickens...,” there will probably be some really bad stuff ahead for us, but I hope not.

I was thinking the other day and trying to remember how long I had been a Biology Unit member and since I joined BU before I joined the ATA in Philadelphia, 1976 at the International show, it amounts to thirty-five years. The first ATA show I attended was in Atlantic City in 1978, where we had camped with our tent trailer nearby on the way home from the annual holiday with our two children. At the Unit meeting, they said they were looking for a new Treasurer and I found my hand was up! It created quite a stir, as some members wondered if it was all right to have the money with the neighbour to the North! The following year, the ATA Convention was in Spokane in Washington, and I really wanted to go, so I suggested to my wife Barbara that we should fly out and leave the kids with some friends. She said “spend the weekend with a bunch of stamp collectors – you must be mad.” Luckily, I convinced her and we had a wonderful time out there, setting the stage for what has been an annual event for us during the summer of most years since then.

If you have never attended an ATA Convention, I urge you to take the opportunity whenever the show is within relatively easy reach. This year, the Convention is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Amish country. There are lots of events planned, so if you can possibly make it, go to the show and have an enjoyable time! The Biology Unit meeting is usually on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and I hope to meet some of you there!

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

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