

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the Christmas and New Year's celebrations have passed and winter is well on its way, so I daresay everyone is looking forward to spring weather. I am a member of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, which meets every month in Toronto. There are around 68 members with philatelic interests ranging far and wide, with many interested in Canadian material, but few in topicals or thematics. The fact of mortality was brought home to us quite forcibly at the end of 2012, when we lost four members in the space of a couple of weeks. Needless to say, they will all be missed, but my thoughts turned to the idea that we all must enjoy life to the fullest while we can, and also that having an interest in Philately can help us to do just that.

My collection of material having a connection to insects is now in the process of being broken down into sections and I was a little frustrated at the Scott catalogues in our local library while trying to catalogue large numbers of booklets. There are several countries where the fact that booklets have been included with new issues is mentioned in the listings and values for the booklets are included. For some other countries, only panes from the booklet are given a value, which I suppose is okay if you have the complete booklet and can count the panes. I guess the best thing will be to contact a dealer who specializes in booklets to get some help. Also, we are all aware that there are "countries" that issue stamps that do not figure in Scott, and I am not only thinking about the early issues from countries in the Middle East. It probably would have been a good idea to keep a record of prices paid for this type of material, but one never thinks of these things at the time.

Still, I am having fun and that is one of the main aims of the hobby. My wife gets a bit frustrated when supper time is approaching and the table is covered in stamp paraphernalia, but I just say that it is one of the little problems that we all have to deal with!

Until next time...

*Alan J. Hanks*



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