

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my last message, I mentioned that my Wife and I were about to leave for the APS StampShow in Milwaukee. Well, that got “nipped in the bud,” as she had to go into hospital! Fortunately, my Daughter was able to come and take care of things for a few days, so off to the show I went.

There was a good reason for attending, as I had arranged to take all my Southern Rhodesia postal stationery to a dealer friend who would be at the show. I also took quite a lot of miscellaneous thematic covers and managed to dispose of almost everything at very reasonable prices. In addition to the philatelic goings-on, I had a chance to meet with Jack Congrove and Larry Davidson and discuss the current state of *Biophilately* and what else can be done to improve the publication. I think we got some good work done. The show location was at the Hyatt right downtown and I found that this was one of the U.S. cities that seems to “shut up shop” over the weekend—much different from Toronto or Montreal, both of which have many things going on and hosts of visitors all the time.

While at ROPEX earlier in the year, I had made arrangements with a dealer in natural history subjects to come up to Canada and look at my butterfly and moth collection. He had already purchased the “other insects” in Rochester. So, on returning from Milwaukee, I got started on organizing the collection and updating the catalogue, which took quite some time. In due course, he arrived and we sat down to look at the material. He was favorably impressed and we agreed on a price quite quickly, but I was quite sorry to see all my lovely material fly away, as it were. Still, I had great fun putting the collection together over the years and separating material to include in my “Microcosmos” exhibit, which had received a couple of gold awards in exhibition.

One thing I did before retiring the exhibit was to make a color photocopy of the whole thing, so at least I can look through it from time to time and remember all the fun and hard work over the years. Exhibiting really is challenging, but as long as one does not do it “just for the medals,” a great deal of pleasure may be had. I would urge any of our members who have not done so to “give it a go!” Love those Australian expressions!

Until next time...

*Alan J. Hanks*