

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Ontario! I do hope that all our members had a great summer and managed to expand their collections to the point where they may be thinking about exhibiting, which to me is one of the main reasons for collecting.

I wrote in my last message about our early days in the ATA and travelling to the 1985 show in Reno, Nevada. In 1986, there was to be another international show titled Ameripex and held in Chicago from May 22 to June 1 with the ATA annual meeting being held at the same time.

Since this was a different scenario than the usual ATA show, the scale was very large, with a huge hall to accommodate the dealers and more exhibits than I had ever seen in one place. I was happy to find two exhibits on Lepidoptera, the first being "The Pursuit of Butterflies" by Greg Herbert (USA) that received a Vermeil award and "A Lepidopteran Love Affair" by Vincent Lucas (USA) that received a Large Silver award.

I had been working on an exhibit titled "The World of Insects" and had found myself in competition with Vince Lucas at StampShow 94, where he received a gold for "The Lepidoptera" and I received a Vermeil for my exhibit. By this time, we were good friends although in competition together with Greg Herbert.

In 1987, "Sepex-Topex '87" was held jointly by the Columbia Philatelic Society and the ATA in Columbia, South Carolina. We took three days to drive down there and it was fun to travel through the Appalachians by means of a tunnel.

We had visited up and down the eastern seaboard in previous years when our children insisted on having holidays in close proximity to the sea. The Columbia Philatelic Society ran a good show (together with the ATA) and put out a very nice programme that contained an interesting write-up by George Griffenhagen titled, "What's in a Word?" that highlighted the difference between "topicals" and "thematics" after *Linn's Stamp News* had stated that there is no difference!

Letters from readers correctly gave the view that "topical collections present a subject as a random sampling," while "thematic collections show more research in telling a story in a logical manner." Mary Ann Owens noted that the transition from a topical to a thematic collection usually takes place when the collection is being transformed into an exhibit.

At the show, Don Brenke of the Americana Unit of ATA invited Barbara and me to visit him in Washington for a couple of days on the way home. So after spending a day visiting Charleston, we drove up to Washington and Don treated us to a three day tour around the city, which was really informative and we finished up at the Washington Monument on Independence Day (July 4th) among what seemed like thousands of people to hear the Navy Band and watch the fireworks display, which was most impressive. Back home on the 6th after another interesting TOPEX experience and my last as President of the ATA!

Until next time...

*Alan J. Hanks*

