

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, here we are in 2007 and I hope that all our members will enjoy a happy and productive year – speaking philatelically of course. Our Winter here has been really strange, with the cold weather staying away for some time, There were even pictures in the newspapers of golfers playing in January. Then the weather got its own back by a period of bitter cold that had the furnaces going full blast for many days. Then the temperatures suddenly zipped back up to around 10° for a few days and now they are back down to –10° again! Never a dull moment I guess.

One thing which concerns me from time to time is when I have to cut a submitted column a bit short and then include the last part in the next journal and perhaps I should explain this for the benefit of our Associate Editors. When I complete an issue, I have the responsibility of sending out copies to our Canadian and overseas members, many of whom require the journal to be mailed. The previous issue, together with a mailing envelope, came in at a hair under 200 grams. This resulted in mailing costs (current listing) of Can\$1.86 for Canada and Can\$5.98 for overseas. One additional page would put the weight at over 200 grams, with the result that the costs would now be Can\$2.55 for Canada (not all that much) but Can\$11.98 for overseas (almost double)! So you can see that it can be quite a juggling act to put an issue together.

Glenn Mertz has his first bird new issue column in this journal and I am sure all the bird enthusiasts will be very thankful. We also have a lengthy Botany column from our Secretary, as he has included stamps that were Scott listed while he was away on an extended overseas trip last year. Unfortunately, Herpetology and Marine Invertebrates are missing, and will be in the future unless we can find a volunteer to do them. Fungi and Ichthyology are also missing, but there are not always sufficient new issues for those categories to have a column in every edition of the journal.

Many of you who are ATA members will have been following the various developments regarding the upcoming NTSS-2007 show in Texas. Barbara and I are looking forward very much to visiting the Lone Star State once again and perhaps driving on out to the McDonald Observatory in the David Mountains near Alpine, north of “Big Bend” National Park. We visited there in 1998 after the AAPE show in Houston. Barbara and I have many diaries covering our trips to the ATA annual shows and we have seen many wonderful sights travelling around the U.S., all recorded on colour slides, which I hope to write up whenever I get a little spare time!!!

The Biology Unit meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 16th, closely followed by the Lepidopterists meeting at 11 a.m. I do hope to meet many more members of both units and talk about some of the things that are of interest to all of us.

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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