

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

by Vic Willson

A New Year brings resolutions, or at least reflections, for many people. For stamp collectors it may afford the opportunity to take stock, to review collecting goals and perhaps to change them. For some collectors it may mean the conclusion of some phase of their activity. My good, greatly missed friend Ed Richardson reviewed his collections and goals that way for the last decade of his life, deciding what to pare away, what to enhance. Of course, with his great variety of collecting interests this was a serious enterprise. For many of us, with fewer areas, it is less comprehensive a task but no less important or difficult. Senior collectors must make decisions about their level of activity, while those more junior must decide what to emphasize, add, or delete.

No matter how deep the pockets there are limits in collecting scope or depth for every collector, and as that limit approaches in a given collection a decision must be made to continue fishing or cut bait. That happened to me with Australian Kangaroos a number of years ago, when I was three stamps shy of basic completion (guess which ones) and had a good deal of specialty material. I sold out. Looking back, it was a good decision, because it allowed me to move into a new area, Canadian postal history, that I could not have developed without freeing up some money. Also, the payoff in knowledge must be considered. While there is much to be learned yet in the 'Roos it would have come much more slowly in personal investigation due to the time and money needed to follow most areas of inquiry. I will admit that 19th century Canadian postal history is not necessarily inexpensive, but I can honestly say that I have been able to follow my interests to great depth without extraordinary expenditure. That is one of the interesting

things about postal history today. Its development is in a stage close to that of classical philately at the turn of the last century. At a Prairie Beaver meeting a few years ago Ed Richardson listed, with examples, twelve collecting areas that could be developed, and I am sure he would have done so himself if he felt he had the time. Most of them were in the postal history or cancellation area. Many of them were modern. It is no wonder that most regional and national shows, including BNAPEXes, have in the last decade received an increasing proportion of exhibits devoted to postal history. Collecting interests are stimulated by what is seen in exhibits, what is written about in magazines and journals, and what is sold at auctions. Pricing of material, the NH craziness, and other factors also contribute.

As you take stock, consider adding a new collecting interest in Canadian philately. There are literally hundreds of areas (Ed Richardson boasted of having over 250 separate collections at one time), and many will cost you little or even nothing, especially modern postal history. You ought to see what I pull out of the waste basket at the post office as I leave - great covers and express mail items. I trade those for other items or sell them. A great way to expand your horizons quickly and inexpensively is to join a BNAPS study group. Each is a wonderful source of information that you can use to your advantage at almost every dealer's table, except those who belong to BNAPS and the study groups! Everyone who belongs to a study group has a story of a find directly the result of information from the group. Join one this month.

This issue has several letters and notes that are one side or another of a philatelic debate.

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It is inevitable in historical study (and never forget that stamp collecting is inherently historical) that interpretation of past events and written print occur. It is of great importance that this be done in good spirit, with a better understanding of the past the goal, and with no malice ever intended. Human beings have emotions, and they can be hurt by careless or

deliberate wording. Our journal must be a forum for ideas but must not be an intentional vehicle for feuds or vendettas. All who write are liable for criticism, and should expect to receive it occasionally, but they should expect it to be polite and in a comradely, we're-all-in-it-together style. Let's all strive for this approach to the study of our beloved BNA philately.

EARLY EXHIBITION COVERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Kenneth Ellison

VICTORIA EXHIBITION 1904



Fairs provided times of holiday and merriment, and families would travel miles to attend. Railways would offer excursion fares and they were often very successful in getting people to come. Some of the features of this exhibition were military and civil bands, horse racing, sports, and 'novel attractions'.

This cover, with the Victoria duplex cancellation, was used by the insurance and real estate firm of R. P. Rithet on August 11, 1904.

BNAPS NEEDS NEW MEMBERS