

I had occasion recently to reread (photocopies of) several early volumes of *Topics*. The hobby has changed over fifty-five years, but some of the old articles are every bit as interesting as those in this current issue. *Topics* at that time was primarily a forum for exchange of incomplete information, and in that sense had much in common with current study group newsletters. Of course there were fewer reference books in print, and many members were delighted just to find someone else who collected the same little specialty area. There are lists of cancels, revenue stamps, precancelled stamps, postal stationery, philatelic literature etc., but proportionately much less discussion about covers and rates than about adhesives. Newfoundland was still a stamp-issuing entity, and numerous articles and comments appeared concerning all aspects of Newfoundland philately. In Vol. 1, #2 of *Topics* Jim Sissons began his series of advertisements on the outside back cover—a tradition that continued for more than fifty years. It was the later years of World War II, and there were ads reminding members to buy war bonds.

One aspect of BNAPS history that has tended to get lost from time-to-time is that we exist because a group of American collectors, primarily in the New York area, felt the need "to form a club for collectors of B.N.A." The organizational meeting for BNAPS was held at the Collectors Club in New York. The foresight and efforts of this small band has led to the Society we have today. The initial issue of *Topics* listed forty members, more than two thirds from the United States, and there was even a member from Cuba.

Some of the names in the first list are familiar even after all these years: Jack Levine (secretary for many years and also, during part of that time, the editor of *Topics*—Alec, would you like to edit *Topics* in addition to your secretarial duties?), C.B.D Garrett, the Meyerson brothers, Walter Hoffmann (our first president and a regular at BNAPEX conventions for many years), A.L. McCready (Popular Stamps), Jim Sissons and Vinnie Greene to name a few.

If the labours of such a small regional group could lead to the formation of an international society such as BNAPS has become, members should consider what the needs are in BNAPS today. Look at where you want the society to be ten or twenty years from now and make it happen. Get involved. Ask members of your executive what you can do to help. Check the list of vacancies for duty officers and for editors and chairpersons of study groups. Be an active participant in your society.

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