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Editorial

These are indeed tough times for everyone, but there are also some positive aspects. For example, the C.I.F.O., Collectors Club and American Philatelic Society internet lectures have proven very successful generating much interaction between the public and the lecturers. I followed all the C.I.F.O. lectures with a weekly schedule of two or three of them attended by an average of 50 participants. I enjoyed them and learned so much. A few ICSC members were participating, including Susan. I was also told that similar initiatives in other European and overseas countries were very successful. I want to believe that this is a new approach that will continue until it becomes a tradition. There is so much technology nowadays and we should use it to the maximum advantage.

Once upon a time philately and postal history depended on philatelic media and the occasional tv or radio broadcast, as well as some rare article in the newspapers. Presently we can do some global promotion of our hobby every so often using social media, Facebook, Instagram, Tweet - all of them accessible from your personal computer or mobile tablets, smartphones, and cellphones. Indeed, there are some negative aspects such as unwanted commentary, censoring on the part of social media who struggle to keep fake news and other insane activities at bay, sometimes blocking your rather innocent postings. In general, the good outweighs the negative; Nevertheless, I prefer reading the hardcopy version of newspapers, periodicals, and magazines, but we must also stay in step with the times. Other good news includes an unexpected rebound of philatelic and postal history sales; in fact, live internet auctions have been very successful lately with most lots selling at 50% over the estimates. Most of all, our hobby has made our "lockdown" more bearable and unbelievably active and productive.

GM