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Andy Harris

With more people working from home there are many negative consequences to ponder upon. Depressingly enough, philately and postal history have seen the postponement of stamp exhibitions, big and small, with no certain dates for rescheduling; this has caused collectors to become impatient and uncertain about the future.

On the other hand, auctions continue as usual and internet bidding has become second nature, thus generating enthusiasm on all sides of the pond: that is to say collectors, stamp dealers, consignors, buyers, and auctioneers.

Collectors do miss the exhibitions, both as spectators and participants, nevertheless, the internet is busier than ever with virtual stamp exhibitions at all levels: from small shows to those virtual events bordering international exhibitions. The viewers can have all the time they want to examine displays of their favourite collecting areas, much more than at real shows. The same is true of the jury members who in most instances have to trot through the frames at real exhibitions, while on the internet they can examine page by page at their pace.

For the past decades, the best advice given to exhibitors was "be concise and use words sparingly as if they cost you \$5 each". That approach was dictated by various reasons: one being, some good collections losing their fizz because of endless captions to the covers or cards on display; the other reason, you guessed it, the jurors who had to examine an average collection of 80 to 120 pages could not spend five minutes on each page, else the awards banquet would take place a month or two later. Internet stamp shows have eliminated the trotting of jurors and spectators and the pain of bending down to see the pages at the bottom of the frame. Another success story is the Zoom conferences/lectures where even yours truly has learned a lot of things he did not know before Covid. More importantly, we have learned to be more optimistic and that is a great achievement.