



**EDITOR'S
CORNER:**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As I sit down to write this column for the last time, it seems as if it was just yesterday that I was nervously preparing my first issue of the Journal 23 years ago. Since that time, every issue has been a journey that I have enjoyed. I've felt enriched by the Philatelic experts who have contributed to the vast amount of information IPPS has published.

Thanks to all who contacted me to wish us well and to express their appreciation for what IPPS has offered over the years. All expressions are gratefully appreciated.

There has been a good response on the Archive discs project. For myself, I must confess that to have the ability to sit down at the computer for a few minutes and have the wealth of information instantly available from the IPPS publications has been a real asset and a time saver, especially when I am looking for something specific. I must also mention that Jon's directions to access the information are easy and quick; even for those of us who are "computer challenged." The reaction from members who have received them has been "amazing to exciting." Check the Philippine Philatelic Book Store on page 25 for ordering details.

I assured those concerned about the future of IPPS that once the "time for a change" word was out, members would volunteer to help and accept responsibilities. As I've said before; this has always happened, and it was that way this time. I will leave it to Don Peterson, the new IPPS Overseas Coordinator, to present the new and old members in charge, but I must say; I could not have done a better job of picking capable people if I had personally appointed them.

There is still much to be worked out, but "all systems are go," as they say, and whatever comes up will be dealt with in a positive manner. Much of visual burden will fall on Hans Becker's shoulders as the new Journal editor. I would ask that those of you who have thought about contributing an article or two, do so in the next few weeks. A good supply of written material will help Hans with the assembly of his first Journal. I understand at least one member has made that commitment already!

Even though this is the last issue we will prepare, we'll help where we can. I do want to thank all those who have been so much help over the years. It's been well appreciated. That's what makes the system work.

I also want to thank those of you who were involved in granting the special award. It was completely unexpected, but is greatly appreciated. Thanks one and all. As you can see from the picture on the next page, the award is one that any collector would proudly display. I had mine to use for the picture but I'm told Abe's is the same. Congratulations Abe!

Bob Yacano



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A NEW "OLD" EDITOR

WITH A DIFFERENT STYLE

It was a surprise for me to hear that I was "elected" as the new PPJ editor at the beginning of this year to take over Bob's excellent work. It's not really new for me to put together a philatelic journal (I edited the PPS-UK-Journal since 2002), but this time it will be for a much greater audience. I'll do my best to please as many members as possible but I know that it will be difficult to please everybody. I do have a different style as you'll get to see and the journal looks different from what you are used to over the years. For members who do not know me, a quick introduction: I'm 61 years old, of German origin, married to a Filipina for more than 30 years and we have one son. Living and working in Luxembourg, a very small but beautiful country in Europe with 38 active Stamp Clubs and a population with 40% foreigners from over 100 countries. When I was in the Philippines in May this year, I met Pio Rodriguez for the first time. We



Pio Rodriguez and Hans-Werner Becker

had a very interesting conversation and he promised to promote the IPPS a bit more in the Philippines. At the Manila Central Post Office's Philatelic Section, there is as well a change. Ms. Corazon Loza, a young and dynamic lady, took over the leadership of the Section. She has some good ideas to improve the customer service; which will be moving soon to a new and more modern place just a few steps away from the old one in the same building. Collectors of Philippine stamps living in the Provinces, still have a problem in getting new issues, because only definitive stamps are forwarded to the Provincial Post Offices. Ms. Loza has promised to resolve that problem. Back home, I participated with a one frame exhibit in the Luxembourg's Maximaphilie Days, a national exhibition with international participation. I was awarded "silver" for it. The Maxicards were prepared by Ed Jacinto of Cabanatuan City.

Since this publication is the first IPPS Journal in colour, I hope that more members will be encouraged to come up with articles, pictures etc. for publication in future journals. It should not always be the same few members who write and spend their sparetime for the benefit of all others. Remember, this is your Society, so I encourage each of you to start coming up with your own contributions to the journal.

Hans