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Date	2013 Programme	Display
18 February 2013	John McKay	Swedish Neutrality Mail
15 April 2013	John Young Tony Lyon	WW2 Horseshoe Route Mail WW2 NZ POW Mail
17 June 2013	Michael Barden	1935-38 QANTA mail from Verviers to Oz & HB Smith

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Editorial

Tony Lyon

Collecting is such an interesting pastime. It has captivated the minds of millions of people. President Roosevelt was a well known collector and is quoted as suggesting that 'stamp collecting dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens and in innumerable ways, enriches our lives.'

The novelist Ayn Rand collected stamps as a child for a couple of years, but states that she had to give it up and had no thoughts of taking it up again. She resumed collecting 50 years later, and that by chance. Often asked why people like stamp collecting. Her response was:

The pleasure lies in a certain special way of using one's mind. Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people – because, in patterns, it has the essential elements of a career, but transposed to a clearly delimited, intensely private world.... A career requires the ability to sustain a purpose over a long period of time, through many separate steps, choices, decisions, adding up to a steady progression to a goal.... Purposeful people cannot rest by doing nothing.... They seldom find pleasure in single occasions, such as a party or a show or even a vacation, a pleasure that ends right then and there, with no further consequences. (Why I Like Stamp Collecting. www.bcphilatelic.org/images/ayn-rand-quote.pdf Accessed 6 December 2012).

Clinton Fadiman says something similar:

The philatelist will tell you that stamps are educational, that they are valuable, that they are beautiful. This is only part of the truth. My notation is that the collection is a hedge, a comfort, a shelter into which the sorely beset mind can withdraw. It is orderly, it grows towards completion, it is something that can't be taken away from us. (Any Number Can Play <http://stampinformation.blogspot.com.au/2010/10/famous-quotes-on-stamps-and-stamp.html> Accessed 6 December 2012).

So there you are, we are in some very sane company.

Christmas and New Year Greetings.

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