

Turpitude

Slanapa 464
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How could it be September all ready? The kids are back to school and Summer is gone ~ and the Earth continues it quiet path undisturbed. At age 62, I notice the seasons quickly coming and going more than I ever did before, when I was a Young Man and then a Middle-Aged Man.

Back in the 1960s there was a poster that dictated to us to “Live Today As If It Were Your Last.” I casually thought about it and pretty much agreed, but I found my brain too overflowing with excitement and ideas to keep it in mind. Now, however, with the seasons passing fast, I must live as if there were no tomorrow. If there are ten years of tomorrows facing me at present, they will shortly be over.

I’ve been selling quite a few pieces of my amateur radio equipment. The garage is getting cleaned out. Even sold a few boxes of books on eBay. I can’t say that more is going out than is coming in; I enjoy the hunt for stuff ~ and if today were my last day, I would spend part of it looking for some bargain!

My postcard collection is steadily growing. I collect cards on the following subjects: Russo-Japanese War; my old “home towns” of Watsonville, California,



Pittsburg, California, and Stayton, Oregon; World War One and Patriotics; turn of the century expositions (Panama-Pacific International Exposition, Panama-California International Exposition, Jamestown Exposition, Lewis & Clark Expo, and Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo); Japan; China; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Zagreb, Croatia; J. Allen St. John art; stamps pictured on postcards; pretty ladies; and Wireless (radio before 1926). Yes, that’s quite a few, but do note that it’s not like my stamp collection where I collect stamps from every country in the world!

My stamp collecting has been going on slowly; I haven’t felt much like working on it of late. I have spent a bit of time, working on the stamps issued from the Treaty Ports of China. That’s been lots of fun; the stamps aren’t too expensive but they are quite difficult to find; a perfect combination for me! I have these stamps mounted on home-made pages (that I like to think are better than the professional ones available) and put in a beautiful, leather-bound binder. (It’s important that the stuff look good on a shelf as that’s where it sits most of the time.)

My ham radio hobby is in trouble. I had to take down my tower the other day. Ostensibly, it came down

because of the house re-siding; really, though, two of the three legs were completely rusted off and the third leg stayed on with a wing and a prayer! Tower down means the antenna is down and I am off the air. After the house gets painted, I will put up a new and bigger tower and a huge antenna that will grasp all the ether waves and direct them to my radio! Next weekend I will be going to Appleton, Washington, to participate in the Worked All Washington Counties. My friend there invited me to join him for the festivities and I accepted gratefully ~ who could miss the chance to operate from rare Klickitat County?

My book collection seems to grow no matter what I do. I unearthed (from my garage) a 39 volume set of Hubert Bancroft's works. It was in poor shape and seldom read,, so I sold it in pieces on eBay. I got a good return for my original investment. But, e'gad! A few days later a complete set in the rare fine binding came up for sale on eBay ~ opening bid was \$3500 with a note to make an offer if you dare. What the heck, the binding was superb so I offered him the \$1000 I got for my old set. Five days later, I got an email from him telling me that I'd won the books. I got them more by accident than anything. Oh, well, I'll enjoy having them on my bookshelves and will sell them in a few years.



Dale suggested that you might find it interesting if I make a note about what books I am currently reading. As you know from past *Turpitudes*, I rarely finish a non-fiction. My list is as follows: *The Economic Aspects of the History of the Civilisation of Japan*, *Foreign Financial Control in China*, *Chino-Japanese Treaties of 1915*, *A History of Haiku*, *Snow Falling on Cedar*, *All the Dark Men* (the new Rostnikov), *Contemporary Politics in the Far East* (1926), and a couple more whose names are so dusty that you, My Reader, would lie ashen-faced on the floor if I listed them.

Dee ~ Your comment on Slate is interesting. I don't have a sense of smell. I don't think I ever had it. And, yes, I frequently feel like I am watching my life on TV and not living it. // Thanks for the Toothpick Story. I can barely imagine the possibility of being accused of wizardry. Dale tells me that 96% of the people in America believe in angels. Wow; next thing you know someone will want the notion that God created Earth in seven days, etc, taught alongside Darwinism.

As usual, this month's television watching peaked out at two hours, so I continue to not understand so much of what's in Slanapa. What'd I watch? 1776. I really enjoy that movie. I've got about a thousand DVDs with movies, etc, waiting to be watched; don't record much any more :).

Mike