

# Message from the President

March 2017

There is no escaping the fact that we live in a digital age. It is a commonplace that well over a billion images are uploaded to the Internet daily. Even the last of our film-based photographers have succumbed to the tide and adopted digital capture for almost all of their work. Similarly, ubiquitous electronic screens serve up those images when we wish to view them. All fine and good, to a point. Beyond that point, though, lies the tangibility of the print and the permanence of the book. The longevity of digital files remains to be tested. The world's first photo book was produced in 1843 and copies survive to this day.

There is great pleasure to be found between the covers of photography books. A case in point recently came my way quite unexpectedly. My neighbour handed me three hard cover volumes containing a timeless collection of black and white plates from the portfolio of master photographer Fan Ho (1931-2016). I was mesmerized as I savoured the flavour of humanity and geometry captured mostly on the streets of Hong Kong.

Closer to home, fellow club members have taken advantage of self-publication platforms to transform portions of their work into durable book form. Lloyd Houghton recently displayed a collection of his signature impressionistic images, all enticingly arrayed between the covers. Mike Wooding's inventory of images from the natural world are at the top tier of the genre. His first volume, on the birds of Canada, features 140 pages of what can truly be called fine portraits, each dedicated to bringing out the character and individual worth of its subject.

Possibly fleeting "ones and zeros" vie with the tangible permanency of the book. This may be seen as a challenge to each of us. Would we hope to see at least some of our hard earned photographic treasures placed on the latter side of the ledger? As a start I would suggest producing some hard copy in the form of prints, either for purely personal enjoyment or, hopefully, for entry into club competitions. The next step, assembling a set of images into book form, is, perhaps, more daunting. I have yet to take that leap. All of the foregoing, though, pushes, or better, pulls me in that direction. Perhaps it is not too late in the new year to make a resolution aimed at that target.

At the end of the year let's compare notes and see just how many of us have produced prints and, dare I say, a photo book or two.

Garry Schaefer, President