

## **THE MANY FACETS OF SAMENESS**

**by Ralph W. Liebing, RA, CSI**  
**Cincinnati, OH**

Yep! We're all the same-- but different!

We are beyond male and female; tall and short; slender and not so slender, etc. The same we are, yet different—undeniably!

Now Sheldon Wolfe will disarm you with a quip; Lynn Javoroski always has a ready quote; Margaret Chewing has her rapier sharp change tracking, her flare for educating, and the poise that only a true soprano can carry and project; Robert Johnson has the depth of knowledge becoming wisdom gained through many years of high service; Dennis Hall combines wit with indomitable spirit and infatigable tenacity...and so on.

But what of Jordan, Pegues, Axt, Geren, Everding, Volz, and the myriad others we know, know about, or know of? Even to Meier, Rosen, Regener, and Heineman—and Hoyer, though retired.

Oh, they, too are all the same! Bar none!

Distinctive each—ah, but still a mutual sameness (is that redundant?)

By now you see or know the common thread (bad term in this electronic age)—perhaps better, “the tide that binds”.

Despite the name, known and unknown and the business card espousals, they all, at once, are specifications writers!!! Born to it—we think, yes. Come to it—perhaps some. Loving it—all. Nonetheless, they are there, working, dedicated, wondrously precise (to the chagrin of some!), experienced, open, helpful (except when you ask the wrong question too many times) grizzly when necessary, affable after just one drink, but prompt, interesting to hear, and wonderfully professional.

Viva la, sameness!!!

Now comes MF04 and falls into the hands of these sameness folks. No sweat-- the document is available to serve all in the SAME way, but differently. What?

Go back and read again from the above—we speak of sameness but there is no denying the many facets—i.e., the differences that exist in each of the "same-ones". MF04 is an uncommonly fine common denominator, a base line, from which all of the same-ones can move ahead, each in their own way, and in their context and direction. For the same-ones for all their similarities, have very different roles to play, songs to sing (Margaret is the coloratura!), pressures to attend to, and goals to achieve. Their charges are as different as their diplomas, their interest, their families, their hobbies, and all the others things that make them, them!

But let's look yet another place. All diamonds are diamonds; but all are different in size, coloration, cut, and yes, by golly, in the number of facets!

So today we declare—the sameness in specifications writers makes them diamonds!

Go smoke that in your pipe!