

The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Colorful Stamps of San Marino are Major Revenue Producer

By Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

Remember when you first started collecting stamps and came across those colorful issues from tiny countries you never heard of before? San Marino, for instance.

The situation is the same today for those entering the hobby. The big, colorful and inexpensive issues of this tiny country continue to intrigue the interest of beginners, just as they did so many of us years ago.

These thoughts came to mind recently when I was looking at the stamps being issued by several countries to commemorate Second World War events. I thought of San Marino and its own involvement during the war.

We first have to remember where and what San Marino is. The oldest and smallest republic in the world, it is located entirely within the borders of Italy, an ally of Germany during the conflict. At the time, it had a population of 14,000.

In September, 1940 San Marino sided with Germany and Italy and declared war on Britain. Newspapers of the time suggested the war had escalated ever so slightly because its army of 1,000 posed little threat. Even this declaration was something of an embarrassment because San Marino first had to end its 30-year state of war with Germany, something it had overlooked doing following the First World War.

But as quickly as San Marino marched into the war, it marched right out again. A month later, suggesting they had been pressured into the conflict by Italian dictator Mussolini, San Marino withdraw its

declaration of war. Even so, San Marinesi volunteers joined the Italian army but when fascism fell they were jailed under an old law against "serving a foreign power." In 1943 the country's fascist leaders were ousted and San Marino remained neutral for the duration.

Still, the republic had its taste of war. U.S. aircraft bombed the area when it was occupied by German troops. American troops finally drove them from the republic.

An enclave in the Papal States, San Marino used stamps of that region from 1850 to 1870, and those of Italy from 1870 to 1877. The republic then started issuing its own postage stamps and today the sale of stamps to collectors is one of its major industries. So much so that one of the country's museums is dedicated to its stamps.

Covering only 24 square miles, San Marino is perched on the slopes of Mount Titano. The three peaks of the mountain are shown on the arms of the republic, reproduced on a number of stamps including an early 1890 issue. With limited local subjects to be commemorated, the country has looked far afield for stamp subjects. Topicals are plentiful—olympic subjects are popular along with such other topics as trains, dinosaurs, art masterpieces, horses and flowers. The country doesn't have an airport but has issued scores of airmail stamps.

The population now is about 23,000 and the country has slowly moved outward into the world,

becoming a member of the United Nations and other

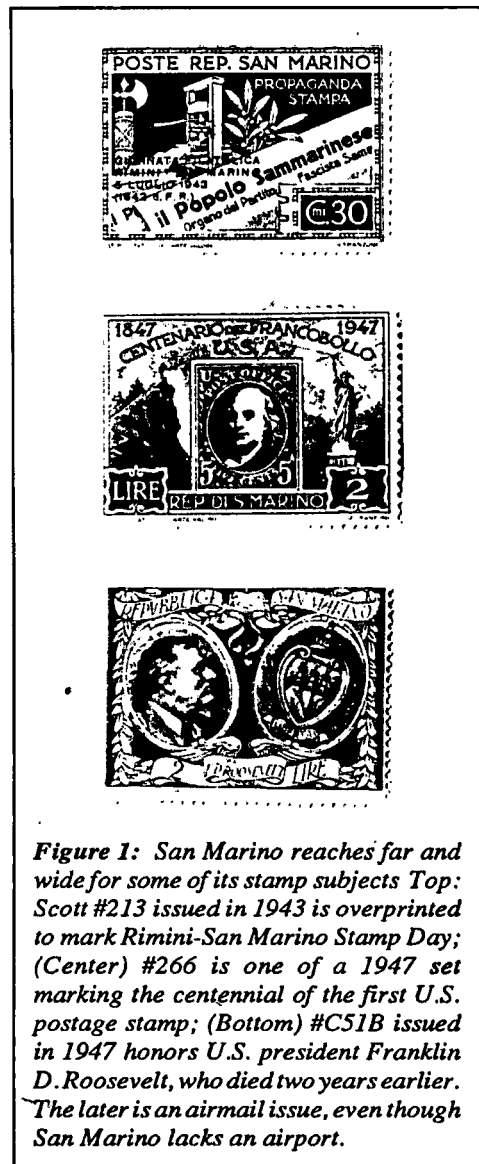


Figure 1: San Marino reaches far and wide for some of its stamp subjects Top: Scott #213 issued in 1943 is overprinted to mark Rimini-San Marino Stamp Day; (Center) #266 is one of a 1947 set marking the centennial of the first U.S. postage stamp; (Bottom) #51B issued in 1947 honors U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died two years earlier. The later is an airmail issue, even though San Marino lacks an airport.

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San Marino (Continued from Page 1)

international organizations. Stamps remain a major source of income and beginning collectors will no doubt be looking at San Marino's stamps for years to come. ••

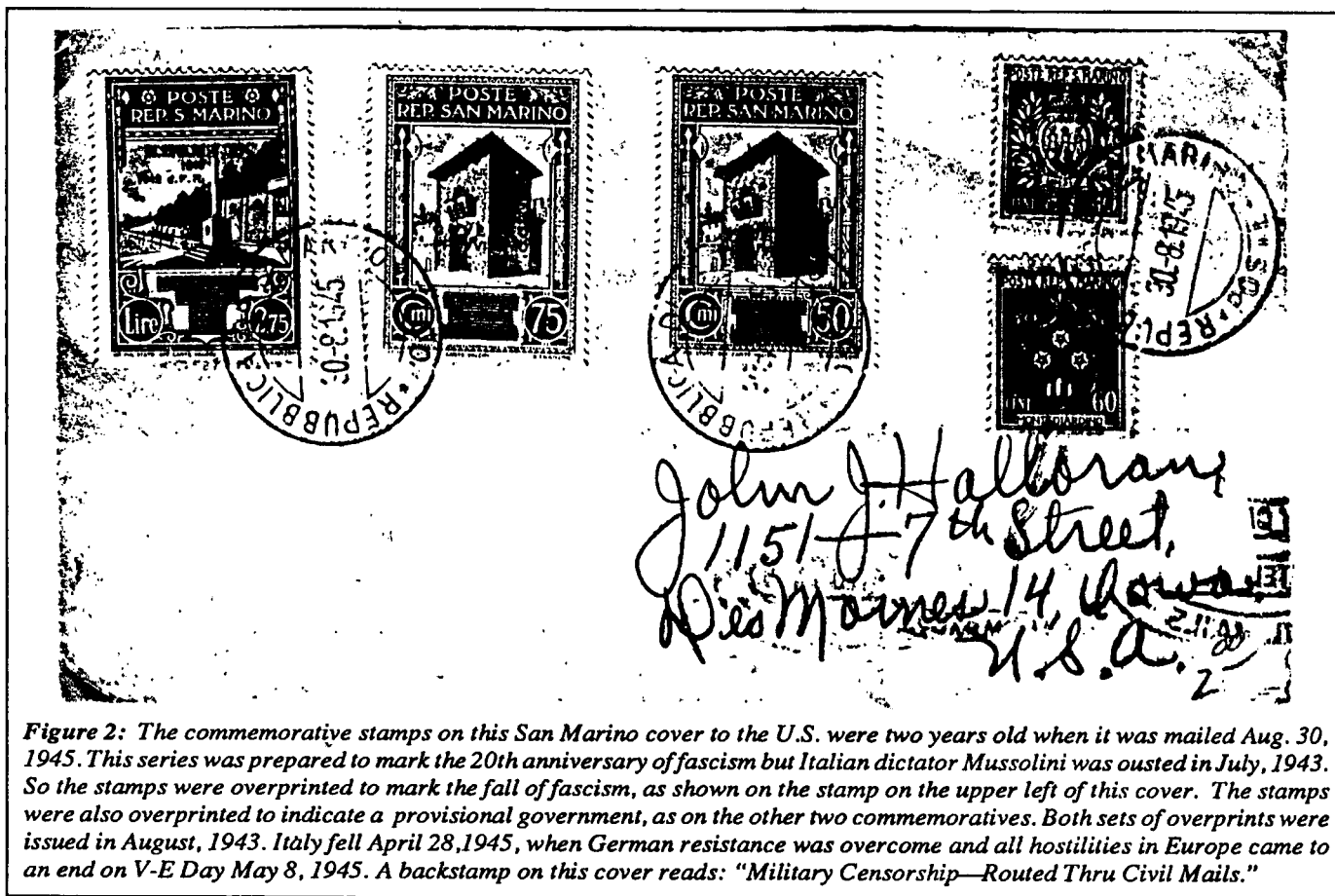


Figure 2: The commemorative stamps on this San Marino cover to the U.S. were two years old when it was mailed Aug. 30, 1945. This series was prepared to mark the 20th anniversary of fascism but Italian dictator Mussolini was ousted in July, 1943. So the stamps were overprinted to mark the fall of fascism, as shown on the stamp on the upper left of this cover. The stamps were also overprinted to indicate a provisional government, as on the other two commemoratives. Both sets of overprints were issued in August, 1943. Italy fell April 28, 1945, when German resistance was overcome and all hostilities in Europe came to an end on V-E Day May 8, 1945. A backstamp on this cover reads: "Military Censorship—Routed Thru Civil Mails."

Vice President's Report by Ken Costlow (#142)

Donations of stamps for the Youth Program have been pouring in since early October as a result of membership renewals and new memberships. Several parcels were sent out to group leader who requested stamps, either in stamp publications or from me directly, in Illinois, South Carolina, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas (3), and Montana. A thank you note received from one stated, "...on behalf of the students at West Allegheny Middle School, thank you for your donation. The package arrived on Wednesday and already many students have found stamps for their collections. Sincerely, Sherry Remaly."

I appreciated all the kind words and letters that arrived with the stamps donated by members. Included were appreciative notes and praise for our fine organization, its purposes, and the work of the officers of ISWSC. Specifically mentioned were Jerry Gross for his great job on the OMNI Exchange and Rita Kallal for her effort and dedication to the editorship and publication of the newsletter.

Several members asked about the type of stamps that were preferred or needed, and whether more than the required 250 could be sent for use in the Youth

Program. I reply to these questions, undamaged and larger type foreign stamps and U.S. commemorative issues are considered best to get youth interested and started in stamp collecting. The smaller stamps are usually definitive typed and are easier for new collectors to obtain. As for the number of stamps to be sent, we never get too many, as uses can always be found for them that will benefit youth collecting interests.

If any member knows of a youth group that needs stamps, please suggest to the leader that he or she write to me.

I have continued to keep my eyes open on Prodigy

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ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT
TO BECOME PART OF A SWAP CIRCUIT
Send 100 Large Foreign Stamps to:
Swap Circuit - Dalene Thomas
8612 W. Warren Lane
Lakewood, CO 80227

THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN *by Tom Fortunato (# 379)*

In this, my first column as your President, I thought I would introduce myself and tell you of some of the many things in the works.

I started collecting stamps when I was about 5 years old. A neighbor had given me a US stamp album and I dutifully glued all of my gems into the book, not knowing any better. Another neighbor's mother died a few years later and I wound up with the leftovers; a giant bag of assorted worldwide stamps off paper, some Harris US catalogs, glassines, a world stamp identifier and a musty, old 1964 Scott's world catalog which nearly wound up in the trash if my parents had their way.

Without an album to hold these foreign stamps, I was forced to sort and separate the pile into glassines. The process took three years (there were over 20 pounds of stamps!) and it was during this time that I taught myself the "basics", including what a hinge was. It also led to a far better understanding of geography, history, foreign languages and other cultures than school ever taught.

My interest in stamps waxed and waned through high school and college. A small dorm room prevented me from bringing my albums, catalogs and other paraphernalia along, which had grown to a bookcase full of items. After college, I joined the APS and

ATA and started subscribing to *Linn's Stamp News*. You see, learning never ends!

I now find myself as your new leader for the next two years, an active member and VP of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the PR director of the Cover Collectors Circuit Club, a life member of the APS and ATA, a judge for the Central New York Federation of Stamp Clubs and I will be exhibiting for the first time in a few months. Don't worry, I enjoy all of the activity and plan my time well.

We always have something new going on with the ISWSC. Here's a taste of what's up in the next few months. The society continues the work of filing for incorporation and tax-exempt status with the IRS. This will allow us to apply for greatly reduced mailing rates and permit US members to take a tax deduction for their donations. The leader to leader program is in high gear and expanding. Your board of directors will be considering offering family memberships and allowing stamp clubs with at least 5 ISWSC members to affiliate with us. The big meeting of the year will be held in Pittsburgh, PA during STaMpsHOW '94 in August. And don't forget that we will have an election to fill two directors at large positions in September.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of other projects and plans underway. As you will see in *The Circuit's* masthead, officer phone numbers will be listed in the next issue. We are all at your service whenever you need to contact us. If it's not an emergency, write with your queries. A SASE is always appreciated, for we all volunteer our time and often absorb such expenses ourselves. So do our many managers, overseas secretaries and countless others. Never forget that this club is a team effort and everyone should play an active role in its running for the benefit of all!

On a personal note, I will be

travelling July 1-14 to Dublin, London and Paris on a concert tour with our community choir. I'd be happy to visit with any members that might be available during that time. Let me know! ••

A Contest Just for Fun

Fellow member John Hotchner runs a wonderful contest in his *Linn's Stamp News* column where a US stamp is presented to the readership for a humorous caption. I'd like to give the idea an international flavor with a twist.

I will give you a humorous caption and ask you to find the most humorous stamp in your own collection that matches it best. It doesn't matter if it is mint or used. Then send a photocopy of the stamp on a black background to me. You will have three months to send in your selection (only one entry per member, please).

I will pick the winner and it will be published in *The Circuit*. The winner of this contest will receive a group of covers from Andorra.

Send your entries to: ISWSC Humor Contest # 1, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA.

This contest's phrase is, "*I can't believe I ate the whole thing*". Good luck! ••

Photocopy Help Needed

Here is another way you can help the ISWSC and the leader to leader youth program. We need volunteers who have access to copy machines to duplicate a variety of support materials and albums, most of which are under 12 pages each (6 double-sided pages). Anyone who can provide 50+ copies would be most helpful.

These can be mailed to the project managers by special 4th class within the USA. Your donation would be most appreciated, freeing youth funds for other purposes. If you can help, please write to Al and Mildred Feinberg at 3340 Dale Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. Foreign members may write to their Regional Secretary to assist in this project. ••

Join the Sales Circuit

Send for details to sell and/or buy fellow members' stamps at bargain prices

Send a #10 SASE to:
Judy Hungerford
219 Stanford Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708

Currently Available to US members only

Secretary-Treasurer's Report *by Carol Cervenka (# 498)*

It is an odd sensation to write "Happy New Year" while 1993 is still marching to a conclusion. Publication deadlines have me living in the future to some extent. I know some members on the following lists will have renewed by the time this column is published. If you have paid and see your name on the list, please contact me to make certain I have received your dues. Our economy has seen an increase worldwide in mail pilfering. Bob Eddy writes of an entire mail truck that was hijacked and there have been incredible difficulties with the automatic canceling machines. Some letters are arriving in plastic bags, others never get where they are addressed - shredded or mangled to the extent mailer and recipient are impossible to discern.

The following members have been dropped for non-payment of dues: 722 Sack, 775 Edwards, 777 Karlson, 779 Renard, 801 Garland, 810 Bridgers, 811 Hamburg, 823 Shau, 824 Ryder.

A number of members have not as yet renewed, and will be dropped if dues are not received in the near future. Members on the "endangered" list are: 94 Steiner, 105 Rovere, 123 Sivak, 173 Erickson, 177 Svatik, 276 Fromer, 277 Nebel, 304 Luthlie, 311 Hodges, 333 Gooch, 336 Beard, 366 Collazo, 369 Holman, 375 Domingo, 377 Bernstein, 399 Curtis, 420 Hoard, 471 Osbourne, 474 Heinz, 478 Sobel, 484 Clauser, 485 Waterman, 487 Pruett, 503 Kiepora, 525 Kroll Jr, 527 Fort, 537 Bird, 588 Vogt, 642 Stoevski, 646 Merelaid, 660 Wright, 670 Rehling, 724 Davison, 773 Welky, 781 Rainbow Services, 831 Morse, 832 Brake, 843 Gesell, 853 Janssen, 881 Boyd, Y904 Bricker, 855 Gomez, 857 Meyer, 859 Perez Esteve, 861 Werner, Y862 Canaday, 863 Lambert, Finnerty, 867 Hunter, 876 Topp, 880 Fitzgerald. If you know any of these members, please encourage them to renew or contact us with their reasons for not doing so.

While we can't be all things to all collectors, this is your club, and we want to have the services you want and need. Priorities ebb and flow as we go through life, and at times hobbies have to take a back seat to more pressing matters. If this is your case, please send

SERVICES ARE FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Recently there have been several attempts by non-members to use ISWSC services. The swap circuit seems to be especially popular. When making application to the manager of all ISWSC services, you **MUST** give your membership number. Managers will not enroll anyone in a service without verification of active membership. Member's dues help pay costs of some services; members who fail to pay dues will be dropped from service rolls. While the ISWSC Youth Program and the Leader to Leader program do not require membership, these services benefit groups of young stampers by providing a variety of materials and program ideas, and are not for adult collectors. ••

an explanation and resignation. If you simply overlooked your dues notice, please send it in so we can keep sending *The Circuit*. Some of the members listed participate in one or more of ISWSC's services such as the Swap Circuit, Omni Exchange, Auction, or Sales Circuit. These services are for members only, and renewal is necessary if you wish to continue. There are many new and exciting things planned for 1994, and we have added several new services over the past two years. Since some members have missed notices printed in the newsletter, you will find a complete list elsewhere in the next issue. Each listing has the name of the person in charge of the service. **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WHEN SIGNING UP FOR A SERVICE**, and allow time for verification of your membership status by the manager of that service. Since each service (as is the entire Society) is run by volunteers, the information is subject to change. Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

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EXPLORE THE WORLD, past and present with worldwide stamps on approval. For quality and personal service write Elk Valley Stamp Shop, P. O. Box 8604, South Charleston, WV 25303 (2/2)

TRULY WORLDWIDE APPROVALS. All countries including U.S. Complete sets or penny packet approvals. Discount with ISWSC number. Comprehensive New Issue Service info. Dave Becker, Box 3284-H, Portland, OR 97208 (2/6)

OUR FEARLESS LEADER, Tom Fortunato wrote most of this ad. Something for everyone. Beginners, 100 worldwide foreign for \$1. All approvals priced at 50% catalog with bonus on each purchase. Advanced, high catalog seconds at 10%. What do you need? Album Service, Soledad, CA 93960 (2/2)

MAIL BID SALE. Quality worldwide and U.S., stamps, covers, collections, accumulations, sold to the highest offer. Send for free catalogue. Jim Mettler, P.O. Box 240652, Memphis, TN 38124-0652 (1/1)

GERMANY AND JAPAN Price Lists. I have used Japan and mint and used Germany, also Manchukuo. Send large SASE for lists. Grant Dyer, 2553 Kopf Lane, West Lafayette, IN 47906-5769 (1/3)

Back Issues of Circuit - For Information send SASE or IRCs to Peter Bylen (#695)

PACKING UP 40 plus years of accumulating stamp doubles into manila envelopes, wide assortment of stamps - \$5.00USA. \$10.00USA brings stamps plus postcards, covers, valentines and unknown paper collectables. State clearly your dislikes, will try my best to send only desirable material. D. Westrate, PO Box 333, Augusta, MI 49012-0333 (1/2)

ALWAYS TRADING POT-LUCK. Send 150 or more large your country (duplicates OK), I return same number Australia/NZ mixed used. Crowe (#459), PO Box 33-724, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand (1/6)

ISWSC LOGO PINS - For Information on ordering, send SASE or IRCs to Sec'y Carol Cervenka (#498)

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Deadline: Next Issue
January 20, 1994

Items received after deadline
will appear in another issue.

Advertising Policy: All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready) per Insertion:

Full Page	\$40.00**
Half Page	20.00**
Quarter Page	10.00**
Per column inch	2.00

* Camera Ready means ready to paste-up and print. reductions and typesetting extra

** Discounts for 3 or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display ad rates available. Write to ISWSC Editor or Fax direct 24-hr. line 1-(318) 325-4539 for special rates.

Classified Rates per Insertion: First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00. State abbreviations are one word. "P.O. Box 12345" is two words. Zip Code is one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in US funds. Send payment along with copy to the Editor.

**Officers, Chairpersons, Managers**

President: Tom Fortunato (#379), 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA
Vice President & Youth Stamp Program: Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginus Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA (Send Required Stamps for Dues for Youth Stamp Program to the Vice President.)
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