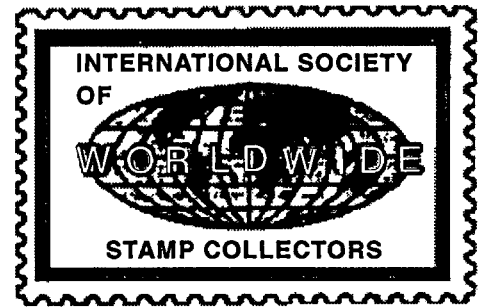


# The Circuit

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Affiliate of: APS (#151) & ATA (#89)  
 Current Membership: 641 Collectors Worldwide!

May/June 2000 • Volume 18 No. 3

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

## Malawi and Its Stamps

By Charlie Jensen (#1367)

I get to work my way through a lot of mixed world-wide mixtures, and enjoy finding stamps I don't have, stamps I forgot I had, and groups of stamps that, together, can in some way make up a set to be traded with other collectors and stamp pen-pals.

The stamps that show up from Malawi are frequently colorful, interesting, and in these mixtures are not only used, but more often than not are neatly cancelled.

Since the obliteration is usually a postal circular date stamp from legitimate postal facilities, one could easily believe that they were postally used.

*Au contraire, mes amis!*

While sorting a large group that had a significant number of Malawi from the mid-80s, I began to notice the printing on the reverse side from the cancelled stamps. Gradually I accumulated enough samples to be able to reconstruct the original document that the stamps had been affixed to, and the purpose of the

cancel. (See Fig. 1, below.)

(In case the printing is too hard to read, the document's wording is reconstructed here): "Malawi Government Pension Warrant and Receipt: This warrant is not transferable and cannot be endorsed to a third party or used as security for debt. No claims in this respect will be accepted by the Malawi government. Payment may be made only at the particular Post Office, or Sub-Treasury Office authorized by the Accountant General within six months of the due date. Pensioner must produce pension book to Paying Officer, who will detach this warrant upon payment of pension. Payment will not be made against loose warrants. Pensioner must sign or thumbprint this warrant in the presence of the paying officer before payment is made."

Below are sections for signatures, the all-important  
**See "Malawi," page 9:**

**MALAWI GOVERNMENT  
 PENSION WARRANT AND RECEIPT**

14TH APRIL, 1982

This warrant is not transferable and cannot be endorsed to a third party or used as a security for debt. No claims in this respect will be accepted by the Malawi Government.  
 Payment may be made only at the particular Post Office or Sub-Treasury Office authorized by the Accountant General within six months of the due date.  
 Pensioner must produce pension book to Paying Officer who will detach this warrant upon payment of pension.  
 Payment will not be made against loose warrants.  
 Pensioner must sign or thumbprint this warrant in the presence of the Paying Officer before payment will be made.

<p>RECEIVED the Amount stated hereon</p> <p>Signature of Pensioner:  <i>C. M. Mphahlela</i></p> <p>Signature of Paying Officer:  </p> <p>Thumbprint          (if pensioner unable to write)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>PENSION NO.</td> <td>780648</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAYABLE TO</td> <td>SOMANJE A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MONTHLY PENSION</td> <td>20.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GRADUATED TAX</td> <td>= 82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NET PAYABLE</td> <td>19.67</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">PAYMENT WILL NOT BE MADE EARLIER THAN THE FOURTEENTH</p>	PENSION NO.	780648	PAYABLE TO	SOMANJE A	MONTHLY PENSION	20.49	GRADUATED TAX	= 82	NET PAYABLE	19.67
PENSION NO.	780648										
PAYABLE TO	SOMANJE A										
MONTHLY PENSION	20.49										
GRADUATED TAX	= 82										
NET PAYABLE	19.67										

Fig. 1:  
 Malawi  
 Gov't  
 Pension  
 Warrant  
 and  
 Receipt

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*Phone or send your questions to the appropriate volunteer. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope or an IRC for a reply. Please note: Editor does not mail out the Circuits. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!*

**ISWSC President's Column**

by Tony Zollo (#856), President and Executive Director, ISWSC

There is much going on in the ISWSC, as this issue of *The Circuit* bears out. My column will be short due to space limitations. However, I do want to give you all early notice of a change in the ISWSC dues, approved by a vote of the board. Due to the unpopularity of the late fees imposed one year ago, there will be a change. Instead of a stick, we will try to use a carrot.

As of July 1, 2000, the dues for the ISWSC will increase to \$12 per year (payable in US dollars, mint US stamps, or mint stamps from your country with a face value equal to \$10 US per year of renewal). However, we will offer a \$2 discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the expiration date (the last day of the odd numbered month shown on your membership card and on your address label from this newsletter). In other words, if your expiration date is July 2000, this translates to the last day of that month (July 31, 2000), and your renewal must be received by June 30, 2000.

Therefore, as long as you renew early, you can continue the \$10 annual dues for a long time to come. Remember, you can renew for up to three years in advance. Notice of this change will appear again in the July issue, but it pays to be prepared!

Till next time...

**REGIONAL SECRETARIES**

*These secretaries represent the ISWSC and distribute stamps to youth programs in their region.*

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**DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: MAY 20, 2000**

## Andrew McEachern: New Australia/New Zealand Rep.

Andrew McEachern, our new representative for Australia and New Zealand, describes himself as a willing victim of volunteerism and a persistent whole-of-world philatelist. After many years as chief of a group of eight Victorian fire brigades near Melbourne, career advancement took his family 1,300 miles north to settle in Queensland. Looking for a new outlet for his spare-time energies, he spoke up too loudly at the local philatelic society and found himself made public relations officer. From this it was a short step to Society President, and then to Secretary of the Queensland Stamp Promotion Council, and to national President, Australian Stamp Promotion Council (Australian Philatelic Federation forerunner). In the latter position, he personally supported 330 school stamps clubs with six-weekly kits and newsletters, gained membership of FIP for Australia, and founded the Card from Santa project, inter alia, until senior corporate appointments took him out of stampdom. He has won awards at STAMPEX (UK) and ANPEX (Australia) but does not now actively exhibit. In 1981 he was given a special Philatelist of the Year Award for services to national philately.

He took an early "retirement" in 1998 after having been CEO of Credit Union Australia for many years, followed by being Chairman and CEO of a multinational, he now has a small stamp business with a big name—Stamps International (A/Asia) Pty. Ltd. He runs monthly fairs in the state capital, Brisbane, and attends club days. Andrew conducts the world's only interactive correspondence course for wannabe stamp dealers, conducts quarterly mail bid auctions, and is moving some activities onto the Internet. With his wife, he travels to at least three international and national stamp exhibitions around the world yearly.

His collection is extensive, and, he admits, overdue for thinning out. "Its like working in a chocolate factory," he says. "When I buy in a collection, it gets raided for my needs before I prepare the balance for sale." He 'froze' some of his favourite countries by buying the annual albums from 1981 on, thus being able to concentrate on searching for items issued earlier.

He has great optimism for the future of stamp collecting. McEachern has noted a new breed of collector at fairs, who don't want to belong to clubs, and have no intention of exhibiting, treating FIP type rules with disdain—just doing their own 'thing.'

### Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$10\*

Youth membership (under 18), \$8\*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$17\*

\*=plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US \$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, PO Box 150407 Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA.

### Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, *only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads*. 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, \$75\*\*; Half page, \$40\*\*; Quarter page, \$20\*\*; Per column inch, \$5. Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue. \*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra. \*\*Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p.2) for special rates.

### Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1. NOTE: State abbreviations = one word. "PO Box 12345" = two words. Zip code = one word.

**Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor, Marian MacLeod.  
For all addresses, refer to page 2.**

"Looking back in hobby history, meter mail was seen as a threat, Tanna Touva and Lundy Island were seen as album weeds, and the trend to full-colour stamps was seen as obscene by traditionalists" he says.

"But still the collector scene is active, very active, in new ways, and we must all recognise the old maxim, 'To each his own,' as we adapt to new ways to collect." McEachern is also a qualified disaster controller, reached A-1 Editor rating as a journalist, and runs the local Neighbourhood Watch.



## ¿Whatzits? Answers Continued, Plus Another One!

*Note: The March–April Circuit contained some responses to the January–February ¿Whatzits? This column had to be cut short because of lack of space. The conclusion is here, by Randy Smith, #1111:*

“**T**he area in question is now known as the Western Sahara and is located in northwest-ern Africa. It is a desert country and consists of two main regions – Saguia el Hamra to the north and Rio de Oro to the south. Western Sahara is bounded by Morocco on the north, Algeria on the east, Mauritania on the south, and the Atlantic ocean on the west.

“Prior to 1884, the area was more or less independent, being outside the area controlled by the Sultans of Morocco. In 1884, Spain claimed portions of the area as a protectorate, having recently lost their colonies in Latin America. Spain later spread their claim to the area then known as Spanish Sahara and parts of Morocco. Spain didn’t inhabit most of the area and very little resistance was met from the Saharawis, a nomadic tribe of people who historically have lived in the region. Around 1906, a war began between the Saharawis and the Spanish colonial power, lasting until 1934 when the French aided Spain in defeating the Saharawis. Spain then occupied strategic points in the interior of the region and ruled through a series of administrative agencies until 1975.

“In 1956, Spain’s rule of the area began to crumble as Mauritania began claiming territory in the south. In an effort aimed at self determination, the Saharawis began an independence movement in 1960. In 1966, Spain promised to allow self determination in Western Sahara, but it never actually happened. In 1973, the Saharawis organized a military liberation group known as the POLISARIO Front, short for “The Popular Organization for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro.” In that same year, Morocco started claiming territory in the north, while Mauritania continued claiming territory in the south. In 1975, King Hassan II of Morocco, wanting to secure the resources of Western Sahara and wanting to distract his military from the numerous coups attempts it had staged, ordered approximately 350,000 civilians to march across the border into Western Sahara. This action was dubbed the “Green March.” In late 1975, Spain entered into a tripartite agreement (known as the Madrid Accords) with Morocco and Mauritania, dividing Western Sahara into two parts – the northern two thirds, rich in phosphate, was given to Morocco and the southern third was given to Mauritania, with Spain keeping some areas rich in fishing and a share of the phosphate mining profits. This action came in

spite of the International Court of Justice ruling in favor of independence for Western Sahara and the Saharawis.

“For their part, the POLISARIO opposed the Madrid Accords. Unable to persuade Morocco and Mauritania to withdraw from the region, the POLISARIO engaged in military resistance against both countries. During bloody battles, thousands of Saharawis were massacred and many fled to neighboring Algeria and other areas. (Recent estimates indicate 165,000 Saharawi refugees are currently in Algeria alone.) After the death of Spain’s dictator in 1975, Spain withdrew from Western Sahara in 1976. Corresponding to this action, the POLISARIO formed the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (S.A.D.R.). The S.A.D.R., or R.A.S.D. in Spanish (Repulica Arabe Saharawi Democratica) and in French (Republique Arabe Saharouie Demo-cratique), is currently recognized by over 75 countries as the legitimate government of the Saharawi people, even though the government is in exile.

“In 1978, after a military coup, Mauritania gave up their claims to the southern third of the region. After this action, the POLISARIO occupied three-fourths of Western Sahara (or Sahara Occidental), but still didn’t actually control any of it. Morocco, intent on keeping the area they controlled, started building massive fortifications along their expanded border. Throughout the 1980s, Morocco and the POLISARIO engaged in sporadic fighting over the region. In 1988, Morocco and the POLISARIO agreed in principle to a United Nations peace plan calling for a cease fire, an exchange of prisoners and a referendum designed to give the inhabitants of Western Sahara a choice between independence or integration with Morocco. The two sides, however, refused to agree on who could vote in the referendum. This disagreement led to several delays in the referendum in the early 1990s, despite the United Nation’s attempts to get the two sides to reach agreement and hold the referendum. Throughout this time, both sides accused the other of violating cease fire agreements and trying to manipulate who was eligible to vote in the referendum.

“In 1993, the Moroccan government and the POLISARIO held their first direct talks, however little was accomplished. During the mid-1990s, the POLISARIO underwent a series of changes in leadership, following defections by key leaders, leading to speculation that the group was in disarray. In 1996, the United Nations continued its ongoing attempts to negotiate a settlement between the two sides and appointed former Unites States Secretary of State

¿Whatzits?, continued

Howard Baker as special envoy to Western Sahara. Baker was able to get referendum talks resumed in 1997. In 1998, both sides agreed to the rules for the referendum and agreed to accept the outcome of it, no matter which side won. Early in 1999 however, the United Nations postponed the referendum once again, citing disagreements between the POLISARIO and Morocco over how the poll would be organized. In May, the United Nations announced a new agreement between the two sides and set a July 2000 date for the referendum.

“All of the Sahara Occidental stamps that I have seen are cancelled to order (CTO), with portions of a neat “SAHARA OCC.” and “CORREOS” circular cancellation in one corner. While I haven’t seen anything to specifically prove it, it seems safe to assume that the POLISARIO created the stamps and probably uses the stamps to spread its message, perhaps even to raise funds for its purposes. Given that S.A.D.R. is a government in exile and most, if not all, of the stamps are CTO, it appears unlikely that the stamps will be given catalog status.”

And now a new ¿Whatzit? for you, from Robert McKenzie (#1055):

See at right a photo of Cape Verde stamp with three separate overprints:

orig. stamp '00 cat. val.  
Cape Verde #31 \$7.75

“130 Riis” ovpt.  
Cape Verde #75 \$2.25  
“REPUBLICA” ovpt.  
Cape Verde #192 \$1.50

“\$04” ovpt.  
Cape Verde #203 \$1.25

This stamp was recently offered in one of our sales books for \$0.30.



## QUIZ: Cities on French Stamps

By Robert C. Toole (#696)

Not surprisingly, France has pictured many of its cities on its stamps. *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary* lists 10 “chief” cities. All have been shown on from two to 50 stamps each, averaging six or seven.

The populations given here are mostly 1990 estimates:

**Cities**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bordeaux      | 6. Nice          |
| 2. Lille (Lisle) | 7. Paris         |
| 3. Lyons (Lyon)  | 8. Saint-Étienne |
| 4. Marseilles    | 9. Strasbourg    |
| 5. Nantes        | 10. Toulouse     |

— The river port (population 2.2 million) on both sides of the Seine in northern France is the capital of the nation. A pre-Roman settlement on an island in the river was captured in 52 BC and fortified by the Romans. The city has had 50 stamps in its honor, far more than any other

French city.

- The seaport (801,000) in southeast France on the Gulf of Lyons was colonized by Phocaeans (Ionian Greeks) about 600 BC. 7 stamps.
- The city (415,000) in east central France at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers was founded in 43 BC and was sometimes the residence of Roman emperors. 7 stamps.
- The city (359,000) in southern France on the Garonne River was founded in about the 4th century BC and taken by the Romans in 106 BC. 3 stamps.
- The seaport (342,000) in southeast France on the Mediterranean was founded by a colony of Phocaeans from ancient Massilia and became subject to the Romans in the 2nd century BC. 5 stamps.

See “Quiz,” continued on page 7.