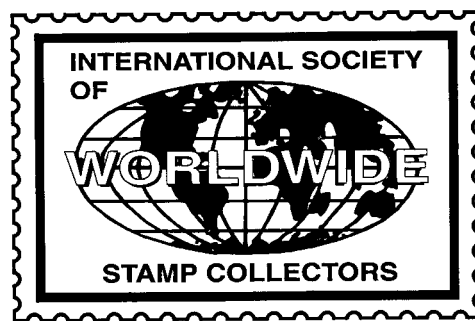


# The Circuit

July/August 2001 • Volume 19 No. 4



Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)  
Current Membership: 609 Collectors Worldwide!

**The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors**

## Ruanda-Urundi: 1902-1918

by Frank Ceraso (#1420)

**A** lonesome Longcrested Eagle is gliding majestically, high above the snow-clad peaks of the Ruwenzori in southwestern Uganda.

Do eagles fly that high — 17,000 feet? Well, just imagine that this one does. Now it's sailing south, looking down upon the 65-mile long mountain range. Also imagine that there are no clouds, no mist above the massive cluster of ridges and spurs studded with bamboos, tree-heaths, lichens and lobelias, and the air is as transparent as Waterford crystal. Congratulations, with your imagination you could be that eagle! So tell us, what do you see? You have eagle eyes after all, and from up there everything is (ahem)

crystal clear (see map).

To your right, the rift valley of the Semliki River cuts a deep wound on the face of the Earth. Beyond it, a mighty wall of cliffs and the black-green forests of the Congo. "Heart of Darkness," Conrad would say.



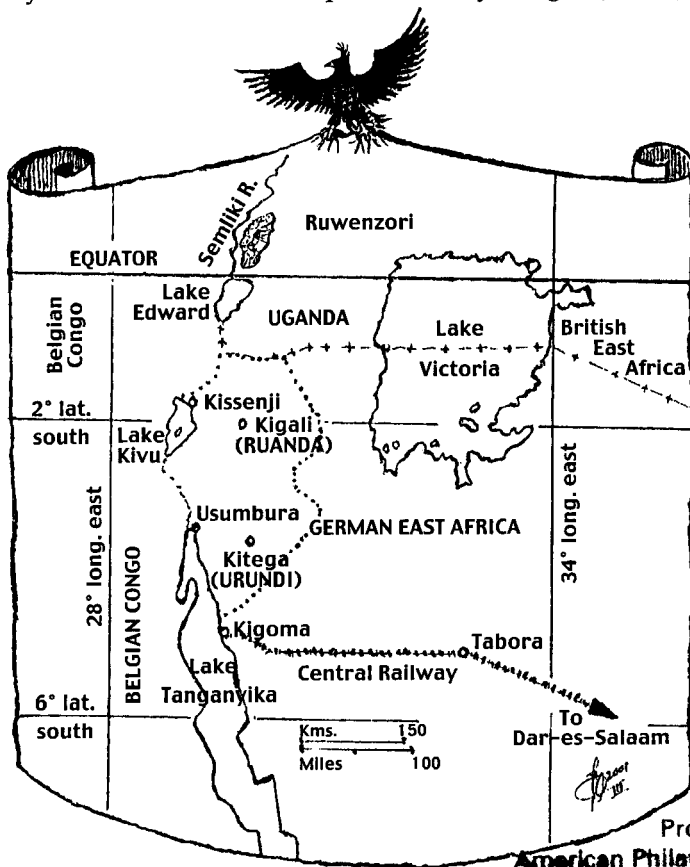
Fig. 1

To your left, that enormous shining expanse of Lake Victoria. It doesn't look that big? What about three times larger than New Jersey? A little reservoir where Switzerland would fit comfortably, with 10,000 square miles left for swimming.

Straight ahead of you, the light-green waters of Lake Edward, then the lowlands of Ruanda-Urundi; low, that is, compared to the Ruwenzori, for the greater part of the region is mountainous and lies at a high altitude — Lake Karago is at 6,000 feet. But beware, this is the land of the Watusis: spearmen and herdsmen of the longhorns, roaming by the thousands amid the rolling hills and high plateaus of the central region.

To the west, the turquoise triangle of Lake Kivu. The Kirutiga Mountains, a jumble of craters and lava fields boasting two active volcanoes, seen only from afar by early explorers such as Speke (1861), Stanley (1876), and Von Goetzen (1894). Were these the legendary "Mountains of the Moon"? Captain Herrmann thoroughly explored them in 1903 on behalf of the colonial government; because the entire area was then part of German East Africa (GEA). Postal facilities were established and GEA postage stamps were utilized.

The first post office to open was at Usumbura (now Bujumbura on Lake Tanganyika, Republic of Burundi) on September 22, 1902. Figure 1 shows the



## OFFICERS, MANAGERS & SERVICE CONTACTS

### President & Executive Director:

Anthony Zollo, MD (#856) .  
P.O. Box 15047  
Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 – USA  
zolloam@lcc.net

### Immediate Past President (Board Member):

Tom Fortunato (#379)  
42 Maynard St.  
Rochester, NY 14615-2022 – USA  
stampmf@frontiernet.net

### Secretary/Treasurer: Dalene Thomas (#101)

8612 W. Warren Lane  
Lakewood, CO 80227-2352 – USA  
dalene1@uswest.net

### Vice President for Charitable Services:

Mike Crump (#2126)  
P.O. Box 57  
Yorba Linda, CA 92885-0057 – USA  
StampGuy47@aol.com

### Vice President for Public Relations:

Dave Nelson (#25 – Past President)  
200 Prospect Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952 – USA  
garcianelson@home.com

### ISWSC Board: Joan Roderick (#669)

12 Red Oak Road  
Asheville, NC 28804 – USA  
jnroderick@earthlink.net

### ISWSC Board: Ken Costilow (#142)

Virginia Beach, VA – USA  
kcos32@home.com

### ISWSC Board & Canadian Secretary:

William Silvester (#1058)  
378C Cotlow Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA  
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

## AUCTION

### Manager: Everett King (#1389)

P.O. Box 127  
Whitehorn, CA 94586 – USA  
Ph: 707-986-7230  
stamps@whitehorn.com

## SALES CIRCUIT

### Manager (U.S.): James M. Gaul (#1853)

1920 Fawn Lane  
Hellertown, PA 18055 – USA  
terrynjim@enter.net

## OMNI CIRCUIT

### Manager: Jim Millette (#1314)

8901 Marcel Cadieux (#207)  
Montreal, PQ H2M 2L9 – CANADA  
jmillette@globetrotter.net

### Co-Manager: David Paul (#59)

2 Heritage Drive  
Belchertown, MA 01007 – USA

*Phone or send your questions to the appropriate volunteer. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or IRC for a reply.*

# President's Column

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

**J**t is time to call for candidates for all the officers of the ISWSC. This includes the President, Secretary, VP for Charitable Services and VP for Public Relations.

The last election of officers produced no candidates for either the Secretary or President except for the two incumbents. Both the current officeholders (Dalene Thomas and I, respectively) have served two terms and are therefore prohibited from running for re-election. Besides, I believe it is crucial to have new thoughts and initiatives brought in to keep the ISWSC moving ahead. IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE HAVE CANDIDATES WILLING TO RUN FOR THESE OFFICES. Please, I ask that you strongly consider running for one of the open positions. The future of the ISWSC depends on YOU!!!!

Continued on next page

## SWAP CIRCUIT

### Coordinator: Randy Smith (#1111)

P.O. Box 21115  
Eagan, MN 55121-0115 – USA  
rasmary4@earthlink.net

## SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

*According to the first initial of your last name.*

### A–I: Scott Sadger (#882)

2140 Miller Road  
Buchanan, MI 49107 – USA

### J–Z: Jack Searles (#982)

733 Front Street  
Olean, NY 14760-2851 – USA

### Super Circuit: Randy Smith (#1111)

P.O. Box 21115  
Eagan, MN 55121-0115  
rasmary4@earthlink.net

### CTO Circuit: William Silvester (#1058)

378C Cotlow Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA  
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

### Small (Definitives) Circuit:

Kenneth Wills (#2150)  
5308 Shadow Glen Drive  
Grapevine, TX 76051-7350 – USA  
wills@airmail.net

## REGIONAL SECRETARIES

*Represent the ISWSC, distribute stamps to youth programs in their region.*

### Australasia:

Andrew McEachern (#1755)  
Suite 3333  
236 Hyperdome  
Loganholme 4219 – AUSTRALIA  
Ph: 61-7-32083720  
valerieanddrewhenry@bigpond.com.au

### Eastern Europe:

Jan Szpyrka (#539)  
ul.Srebrna 29  
PL-44121 Gliwice – POLAND  
szpyrka@zeus.polsl.gliwice.pl

### Western Europe:

*Position Temporarily Vacant*

### British Isles:

Chad Neighbor (#510)  
28 Relugas Place  
Edinburgh, Scotland EH9 2PY – U.K.  
cneighbor@scotsman.com

### Cuba:

Adrian Portuondo (#952)  
Apartado 9009  
Santiago 90900 – CUBA

### Scandinavia/Baltics:

Martti Vihanto (#830)  
P.O. Box 34  
FIN-20521, Turku – FINLAND

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jennifer Arnold  
310 NW Juniper Lane  
Albany, OR 97321-1430 – USA  
Ph: 541-967-7043  
Fax: 541-967-9515  
pizzazz@cmug.com

*Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!*

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:**

**JULY 20, 2001**

# Farewell to a Friend

It is with a sad heart that we inform you of the passing of one of our members. The tragic death of OMNI Manager Jerry Foster came with no warning, leaving us a bit stunned. He had been packing to leave for a planned vacation. We wish Jerry's family comfort during this difficult time.

Jerry was involved with stamp collecting for most of his life — over 50 years. He had just recently been appointed manager for the OMNI Circuit and was looking forward to working with the ISWSC in that capacity.

Please note that Jim Millette of Montreal, Quebec in Canada has taken over the responsibilities of OMNI Circuit Manager. You can contact him at the address on page 2.



## President's Column

Continued from page 2

The responsibilities of these two positions can be found in our bylaws; you can read them at our website ([www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org)) or I will be happy to send a copy to any potential candidate. If any of you have any questions about the two positions I will be happy to provide answers.

Also, we need someone to step forward and serve as the elections chair. This position simply requires collecting and tabulating the ballots. If you are willing to serve, please contact the current VP for Public Relations, Dave Nelson or myself.

On a sad note, I must announce the sudden, and unexpected death of OMNI manager Jerry Foster. He passed away in late April while packing for a vacation to Hawaii. We are all saddened by his loss and deeply appreciate all he has done for the OMNI Exchange and all participants.

I am happy to be able to announce that Jim Millette, one of the co-managers of the OMNI Exchange has agreed to step forward and take up the overall manager's job. Thanks Jim! That means there should be little interruption of service to participants. However it is critical that all OMNI inquiries and material NO LONGER BE SENT TO JERRY FOSTER'S ADDRESS, but instead be sent to Jim Millette's address as shown on page 2 of this issue of *The Circuit*.

We also are still looking to recruit Regional Representatives for the Western Europe and Australasian regions. Your society needs YOU!!!

Till next time...



# Dues/Advertising Policy

## Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00\*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00\*

**Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00\***

\*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, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

## 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: \$75.00\*\*

Half page: \$40.00\*\*

Quarter page: \$20.00\*\*

Per column inch: \$5.00

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; "P.O. Box 1234" = 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. All addresses can be found on page 2.**

## Ruanda-Urundi

Continued from page 1

2½ Heller brown with almost complete cancel, dated 16/6 05. Figure 2 shows the 20 Heller orange and black on yellow, date out of the picture.

The second post office was opened at Kigali on October 26, 1908, with the cancel bearing the word "Ruanda." Figure 3 shows the 15 Heller ultramarine with a clear cancel, including the date 10/6 12.



Fig. 3

Next was Kissenji (now Giseny on Lake Kivu, Republic of Rwanda) on December 20, 1911. Figure 4 shows the 7½ Heller carmine; it's not tied-to-piece, I just wanted to show the entire cancel. The date is 10/9, the year could be any from 1912 to 1915.

The last post office in the region opened at Kitega on July 1, 1913; again, the cancel doesn't say "Kitega," it says "Urundi." Figure 5 shows the cancel, quite scarce as it was used only for three years.

Which brings us to World War I. By the way, how is it that these post offices in a remote corner of Africa were still operational almost two years after the beginning of hostilities? The fact is, the war in East Africa wasn't going well for the British Empire.

On August 15, 1914, the Germans crossed into British East Africa (*see note*), seized the border town of Taveta southeast of the Kilimanjaro and raided the railway line Mombasa-Nairobi.

On September 20, the light cruiser "Koenigsberg" sank H.M.S. *Pegasus* at Zanzibar, then went on to raid enemy ships in the Indian Ocean.

On November 2nd, an Anglo-Indian expeditionary force 8,000-strong landed near Tanga, the northernmost port of GEA. Although outnumbered by eight to one, German colonial troops inflicted over 1,500 casualties and forced the invaders to re-embark two days later.

*Note: More properly, the "East Africa and Uganda Protectorates"; Taveta is now in Kenya.*



Fig. 2



Fig. 4

After this royal disaster, the British decided to leave the Germans alone, until they were ready to resume operations — but not in the area that we are considering. They asked the Belgians to do the job from their bases in the Congo.

Two Belgian columns invaded Ruanda, one (Col. Molitor) by the north of Lake Kivu, the other (Lt. Col. Olsen) by the north of Lake Tanganyika. The movements started on April 4, 1916. Weather and terrain conditions must have been difficult, or German resistance strong, or both; for it took over two months before the Belgians were in possession of Ruanda. The post office at Kigali closed sometime in June, while we do have a precise date for the closure of Kissenji: June 13.

By June 27, the Belgians had reached Lake Victoria, then they moved south on the respective objectives of Tabora and Kigoma.

The Usumbura post office closed on July 3rd, Kitega on July 6th. On July 28th, Olsen occupied Kigoma, the terminus of the central railway (1,250 Kms. = 777 miles all the way to the coast at Dar-es-Salaam). The Germans had closed the post office exactly a week before.

Here the Belgians used two "overprints" on stamps of Belgian Congo. Actually, they are supposed to be overprints, but some consider them precancels or cancels tout-court. And the *Scott Catalogue* states that Kigoma overprints "were not officially authorized," nor were those of Karema and Tabora — neither mentioned by the *Yvert & Tellier Catalogue*. Be as it may, they were applied to the 1916 set of eight stamps (5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 50 centimes; 1 Franc and 5 Francs), possibly starting in August 1916 or shortly afterwards. Figure 6 shows the 1



Fig. 6

Franc olive-bistre and black, issued in 1915 and canceled in Congo.

The "surcharges" — let's call them that way — come in two sizes: a large one applied diagonally in black

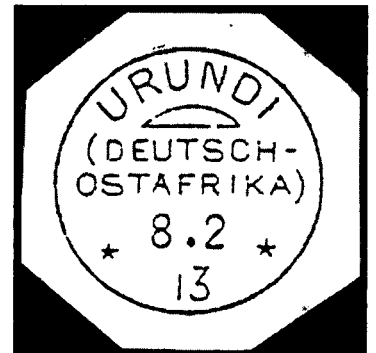


Fig. 5

Continued on next page

# CTO Swap Circuit Offer

by Randy Smith (#1111)

In an effort to increase the number of participants in the Cancelled to Order (CTO) Swap Circuit, a special offer is being made. For this year only, the 100 stamp fee to join the CTO Swap Circuit will be waived.

This means that members who are currently enjoying the other Swap Circuits (Regular, Super, and/or Small) but are not currently receiving CTO circuits may do so simply by dropping a note to me requesting service begin.

For ISWSC members who are not participating in any Swap Circuits, now is the perfect time to join! To start receiving CTO circuits, please send me \$2.00, along with your name, address, and number of circuits you would like to be on. (Limit four for this free offer.)

For new and current members, the free offer is

valid only on the CTO circuits and only for up to four circuits. If you wish to be on more than four circuits at the same time, normal circuit fees apply (i.e. 100 CTO stamps for 5-10 circuits). Normal circuit fees apply for all other circuit types (Regular, Super, or Small).

To take advantage of this offer, please write to me at:

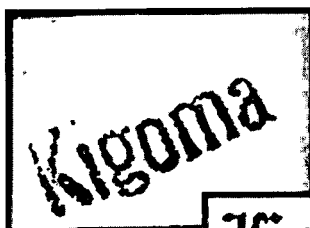
Randy Smith (#1111)  
Swap Circuit Coordinator  
PO Box 21115  
Eagan, MN 55121

Please turn to page two for a complete listing of Swap Circuit Managers. Feel free to contact any of these volunteers for information on this program.



## Ruanda-Urundi

Continued from page 4



Figs. 7 & 8



or violet (Figure 7); and a smaller one applied horizontally in red-lilac. This last one doesn't seem to be a Belgian idea: Kigoma in gothic letters? (Figure 8). All right, I'll stick my neck out.

My guess is that this "cancelling device" was found at the railway station, where it might had been used to mark train tickets, parcels, dispatches, newspapers and the like.

The abovementioned set of Belgian Congo was also overprinted "RUANDA" and "URUNDI" — separately — for use in the respective regions.

Finally, the same set reappeared at the end of 1916 with a dark blue, bilingual, vertical overprint; in French (EST AFRICAINE ALLEMAND/OCCUPATION BELGE) and in Flemish (DUITSCH OOST AFRIKA/BELGISCHE BEZEITING). Figure 9 shows the 15 centimes bottle-green with black center.

In 1918 a surcharged set of Belgian Congo, issued to benefit the Red Cross, was overprinted "A.O." (Afrique Orientale) for use in Ruanda-Urundi; they are the same stamps as above, with the addition of a 10 Francs, blue center instead of black, and red surcharge. They are considered semi-postals.

The territory became a Belgian Mandate in 1924.



Now, what happened to that bird of prey of a century ago?

It is said that some eagles, particularly the Ethiopian species, can live to one hundred years. If our raptorial friend was related to them, it might still be around.

Soaring high above the snow-clad peaks and the rolling hills of Central Africa, lookirig down upon the vestiges of forlorn post offices that have ceased to be.



Fig. 9

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA, London 1929
- A. FRIEDEMANN: *The Stamps and Cancels of the German Colonies and the German Post Offices Abroad/* Section V: Munich 1967
- G. REGAN: *THE GUINNESS BOOK OF MILITARY BLUNDERS*: Guinness Publishing Ltd., Enfield, Middlesex, 1996
- SCOTT CATALOGUE 2001, Volumes 1, 3 and 5
- YVERT & TELLIER CATALOGUE 1972, volume III.

