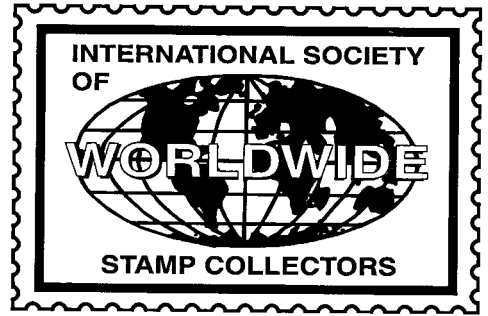


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September/October 2003 • Volume 21 No. 5

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

While summer typically is a time when stamp activities slow down, such isn't the case with the ISWSC! In this issue, you'll find several items of interest:

First, the next ISWSC auction is now open. As usual, there is something in the auction that will suit just about every collector's tastes. Stealing (and bending!) a phrase from politics, bid early – and often!

Second, and speaking of politics, this issue contains candidate information and a ballot for our ISWSC elections. While none of the races are contested, I still encourage you to exercise your right to vote. And I promise the nearest we'll get to "chad" is perhaps mentioning the country in Africa! As indicated elsewhere in this newsletter, no candidate stepped forward to run for the Vice President of Public Relations position, therefore, in accordance with our bylaws, the ISWSC Board will now be responsible for appointing someone to this position. If you are interested – or simply

want more information about the position – please contact me.

Third, the ISWSC Board is currently considering changes to our bylaws. In general, the changes being discussed are designed to eliminate vague wording (and even a few inconsistencies) concerning the Board composition and elected positions. The Board's recommendation, along with a ballot and a complete listing of all proposed changes, will be included in a future newsletter.

Last, but certainly not least, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Tom Fortunato (#379) for his years of service to the ISWSC. Tom has worn many hats for the ISWSC (several of which I'm sure I'm not even aware of!) and is currently finishing his second term as Vice President of Public Relations. Tom has also been responsible for creating and maintaining our website, another duty which he is now passing along to another ISWSC member. Thank you, Tom, for all your hard work on behalf of the ISWSC! We will miss you on the Board.

Happy Stamping!



The Election is Here!

You'll find an election ballot in this issue. Please do take the time to vote and send in your comments! We need to receive your ballots by December 15 to be counted, but don't wait until the last minute to mail it!

Even though the officer positions are uncontested, all incumbents have been asked to write a brief bio and explain a bit about their goals.

*Please do take the time to vote
and send in your comments!*

We did not have any contestants for the VP-Public Relations position. Tom Fortunato, the VP of Public Relations, is ineligible to run having held the position for two consecutive terms, and no candidate came forward for the post. The new Board is empowered to appoint any unfilled office, and will do so in this

Continued on page 3

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

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

Australasia: Noel Routley (#1610)
C/- Post Office
Redesdale, 3444 – AUSTRALIA
routley@netcon.net.au

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

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER 20, 2003**

The Election is Here!

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case.

For President Randy Smith (#1111)

I have enjoyed serving you as President of the ISWSC during the past two years and would be honored to continue to serve in that capacity for another term. Over the past two years, I have learned a great deal about the ISWSC and the fantastic people who run all of its programs.

Despite all of their hard work, the ISWSC suffers the same fate as many other philatelic groups – declining membership. I believe this is the single most important issue facing the ISWSC today and I pledge to continue looking for methods to spread word of the ISWSC and to increase our membership. Beyond membership, I also want to work on expanding the programs we offer, redefining and strengthening the role of regional representatives, and improve communication among all of the many ISWSC volunteers.

On the personal side, I am 39 years old and have been collecting stamps since I was 7. While I don't get a great deal of time to work on my own collection, I enjoy helping my son (age 8) and daughter (age 4) get started in the hobby. When I do carve time for my own stamping pursuits, I collect everything that catches my eye, with specialized collections of USA, Scandinavian countries, and Poland.

For VP- Charitable Programs Mike Crump (#2126)

I have been Vice President for Charitable Programs since I was appointed in the spring of 2001.

I am 55 years old, married and have been a stamp collector for about 10 years. I believe that I have done a good job distributing your generous stamp donations to individuals and groups. I expect to retire shortly and have more time to devote to the Charitable Programs job. It is a rewarding job, but time consuming. I am a member of the American Philatelic Society, the Cartophilatelic Society (recently) and a local club, the Orange County Philatelic society. I have been an ISWSC member for about 4 years.

My goals for the VP job for the next term are to continue and increase the distribution of our stamps in support of promoting the hobby.

For Secretary Joanne Berkowitz (#98)

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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.

Who is this Drowning Man (and why is he clutching a poem)?

Richard Simpson
ISWSC #1703

I don't remember when I first saw a copy of Portugal Scott #320. It was probably in my dad's collection that he had formed in his boyhood. It certainly is an eye-catching scene: a man adrift in a stormy sea with a document clutched in his right hand.

It raises several questions for even the most casual observer: who is the man? Why is he in the water (with a magnifying glass you can see that he is clutching a piece of timber)? What is he doing that is worth celebrating 400 years later?

Using that magnifying glass once more you can just make out the tiny lettering above the man's head. None of the words look familiar to a non-Portuguese-speaker like me, but it contains one word I remember wondering about on another Portuguese stamp - Scott #500. The word is "Lusiadas", and my catalog says that the stamp illustrates "Portugal reading the

Lusiadas." So whatever the man is holding, it is worth reading 400 years later, by all of Portugal!

In the years since I first saw this stamp I have stumbled across it dozens of time because, with suitable overprints, the stamp was issued for all the Portuguese colonies as well as the motherland (I know it is not the fatherland, for the allegory of Portugal is clearly female). Finally, one evening fifty years after I first saw it, I decided to do some research and typed "Lusiadas" into a Web search engine. I got 10,000 hits, most of them in Portuguese! I restricted my next search to English-language sites and that narrowed it to 995 sites. Picking a site mostly at random, I learned that in English, Lusiadas are referred to a "The Lusiads." A final search on "Lusiads" got me a variety of truly useful sites.

According to the online version of the Microsoft Encarta encyclopedia, "Camoës (1524? - 1580), is one

Continued on page 6

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[9-10/03]

The Election is Here!

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I have been a worldwide collector (pre-1972) for nearly 50 years. A few years ago, I bought a set of the Vintage Reproduction pages and have slowly been transferring stamps from my old Minkus albums, a project that should carry me well into retirement.

I jumped at the opportunity to join fellow worldwide collectors, becoming member number

98 after having seen a brief write up in Linn's. In my non-philatelic life, I am a full-time emergency physician, the co-owner of an urgent care center and an avid traveler and gardener.

As ISWSC secretary, I keep minutes for the board meetings, send reminders to dues delinquent members, certify results of elections and collate the member comments that accompany ballots. I enjoy attending stamp shows and hope to meet many ISWSC members at Stampshow 2003 in Columbus.



Whatzit?

by John D. Pruitt (#121)

Our readers came through! The July/August Whatzit? showed an unidentified stamp from Latvia that I guess might be for newspapers carried by mail. Two members, Rick Miller and Joe Palko, were able to help out and confirmed that these stamps were for sending bundles of newspapers by rail. They are listed in Minkus and Yvert & Tellier, but not Gibbons, Michel or Scott. Apparently the reason for not listing them is the uncertainty of whether they were valid for postal as well as railway parcel deliveries. They come with both the wavy line watermark and the swastika. Joe's friend who helped out noted that the swastika was not a political statement but an old Latvian folk design element.

This small stamp has minute words in cursive script along with the word "Doplata". Clearer examples read "Pocsta Litwy Srodkowej". It is a postage due stamp from Central Lithuania.

Lithuania was held by Russia until the Germans occupied it in World War I. After the war, Lithuania regained independence, but the Central Lithuania (around Vilnius) portion was held by Poland. In the Russo-Polish War of 1919-20 Lithuania seized it, but the Polish Army took it back.

They issued the Central Lithuanian stamps until 1922, when the territory was annexed by Poland. In 1939 it was occupied by the Russian army during the



partition of Poland by the USSR and Germans, and again made a part of Lithuania. But the following year the USSR occupied all of Lithuania, making it a constituent republic. The Germans occupied it during World War II and the Soviets got it back afterwards, holding it until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

So, if you lived in Vilnius, you would have been successively under the control of Russia, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Poland, USSR, Germany, USSR, and now again Lithuania! (I hope I've got all that right.)

Here's another challenge to The Circuit's readers: I need help with the unidentified item showing what appears to be earth-moving equipment.



If you have stamps that need identification, please send photos or photocopies to:

John D. Pruitt (#121)

1151 George Road

Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1109

jdpruitt@comcast.net

Fax: 215-947-7305



Drowning Man

Continued from page 4

of the greatest Portuguese poets, whose principal work, *The Lusiads* (1572), is considered Portugal's national epic." So that explains both stamps in a nutshell, except for the thing about nearly drowning.

Reading the rest of the article, I learned that if they ever make a movie out of Camoes life story, it will have to star Sean Connery or Harrison Ford. After attending college, he joined the court of king John III, where he was banished for an affair with one of the queen's ladies-in-waiting. He joined the military and lost a eye while fighting in Morocco, returned to Lisbon and was thrown in jail for a brawl with a public official. Pardoned, he took a ship for India (where the Portuguese had a colony), then moved on to the Portuguese colony at Macau. His activities there gained him considerable wealth, but once again he found himself in hot water, being accused of extortion, and took a ship back to India. It is on this voyage that he suffered the shipwreck that

is illustrated on the stamp.

Apparently he had been writing *The Lusiads* for some time and nearly lost all his work during the wreck. After many other adventures he returned to Lisbon, where his great work was published. Like many great writers, the value of his work was not recognized until after his death, and he died in poverty in 1580.

So now you know "the rest of the story" about Scott 320, except that you might be curious as to what *The Lusiads* is really "about." Like any epic poem, it is difficult to condense its narrative in a few words. On the surface it deals with the voyages of discovery by Vasco da Gama, the great Portuguese navigator, who is the narrator of the poem, but Camoes weaves in the entire history of the people of Portugal.

For more details, do a web search yourself. I especially enjoyed the account at www.newadvent.org/cathen/03218b.htm. It is amazing how easy the internet makes "philatelic research"!



Sales Circuit Update

by James M. Gaul (#1853)
ISWSC Sales Circuit Manager

Hello again fellow members, Hope you all are enjoying this nice weather! As for me, I just finished weeding the tomato and pepper plants in the garden, with a lot of help from my better half! Won't be long now till we'll be eating some fresh garden veggies! YUMMY! Now for the latest updates in the sales circuit.

Not much happening this month. I've received 17 new books so far this month from a couple of the sellers. Here's a list of what came in.

- 1) France and Colonies; Net \$114.00 for Group 4
- 2) Newfoundland, Canada, & Australia; Net \$148.00 for Group 2
- 3) Belgium with BOB and Belgian Congo; Net \$107.00 for Group 4
- 4) Russia and Romania; Net \$72.00 for Group 5
- 5) Japan; Net \$64.00 for Group 6
- 6) Korea, Japan, & Hong Kong; Net \$129.00 for Group 6
- 7) Great Britain; Net \$329.00 for Group 3
- 8) Guernsey; Net \$45.00 for Group 3
- 9) British Commonwealth countries "F to I"; Net \$57.00 for Group 3 & 12
- 10) Great Britain; Net \$56.00 for Group 3

- 11) Germany; Net \$32.00 for Group 4
- 12) W/W mix pre 1940; Net \$48.00 for Group 12 & 13
- 13) W/W mix mostly Europe; Net \$45.00 for Group 12
- 14) W/W mix "A to I" countries with US; Net \$36.00 for Group 12
- 15) US only with some BOB; Net \$60.00 for Group 1
- 16) W/W mix "A to P" countries; Net \$36.00 for Group 12
- 17) British Commonwealth Africa; Net \$25.00 for Group 3 & 7

That's it! Some nice stamps here in these books! I'll be logging them in this week into the inventory. For anyone interested in becoming a participant, you can write, email, or call me to get you started. It's a great way to find, and add, some new stamps for your collection! Hope to hear from some of you, Jimbo.

James M. Gaul
Sales Circuit Manager
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Phone: 1-610-838-8162

