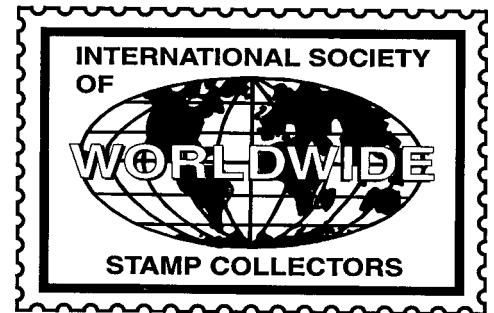


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The Circuit



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March/April 2005 • Volume 23 No. 2

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Randy Smlth (#1111)
ISWSC President

I am pleased to report that at least three individuals have stepped forward and expressed an interest in the Executive Director position. As I write this column, the ISWSC Board is discussing the process they will use to select the next director. As our next issue will be our roster issue, I am hopeful that I'll be able to announce our new director in the July / August edition!

While the Executive Director position is a big one to fill, it is by no means the only one which needs a volunteer. More than a year after being required by term limits to officially step down as the Vice President for Public Relations, Tom Fortunato (#379) continues to oversee the duties of this office while a successor is sought. Responsibilities of this position include promoting the ISWSC, assisting the Regional Representatives in their work to promote the ISWSC around the world, and securing an Election Chair each time an election is held. Anyone interested in serving in this role for the next year should contact me as soon as possible.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll also find more opportunities to serve the ISWSC and your fellow members. New volunteers are needed in a number of positions, as most of the current volunteers have served the maximum number of terms allowed by our bylaws.

Finally, a thank you to all who included a comment or question on the ballot postcard. Your comments have been read and will be discussed by the Board in an upcoming meeting. Comments, questions and/or suggestions are always welcome from any ISWSC member!

Happy Stamping!



Election Results Announced

The results of the ISWSC elections are in! Congratulations to Ken Wills (#2150) and Duncan Koller (#2154) who were elected to serve as directors on the ISWSC Board for the next two years. A total of 141 ISWSC members participated in the election. The final vote totals are as follows:

Duncan Koller	114
Ken Wills	107

David Paul (#59), Louis Lussier (#2439), and Chuck Wilkie (#2236) each received one write-in vote.

Despite an error on the ballot (the words "For President:" inadvertently appeared above the candidates names), the election results will stand. The ISWSC Board discussed the error and decided that since the accompanying article correctly identified the positions being voted on and the race was uncontested, no new election was necessary.

Thank you to all who voted and to Duncan and Ken for their willingness to serve on the Board. Another big thank you to Craig Grothaus (#2344) who served as election chairperson!



ISWSC Roster Issue

The next edition of The Circuit will be our roster issue. If you have recently moved, please contact Executive Director, Tony Zollo (#856) to ensure your correct address is listed. Any member preferring not to be listed in the roster issue should also contact Tony. A regular news-filled issue of The Circuit will appear in July.

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Co-Manager: David Paul (#59)
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Co-Manager: Thomas Pomaski (#410)
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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.*

SWAP CIRCUIT

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CTO Circuit and Super Circuit:

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

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**DEADLINE
FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE:**

MAY 20, 2005

*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!*

Old Friends and Stamp Collecting

Everyone Was a Beginner at One Time

by Joseph Palko (#421)

Recently, on my College Alumni email network, a college classmate put out a notice that he had inherited a small stamp collection from his parents. He had just started to gain an interest in stamp collecting, and, as a beginner, he was looking for other classmates who were collectors and would be willing to talk with him.

Three of us responded. Of course, this resulted in a flurry of email traffic. Dan and I had not seen each other since graduation, 40 years ago. By coincidence, he lived about 40 miles away, but we had not visited each other, either. I was able to tell him about the ISWSC, get him on a few local mailing lists, advise him about the local clubs and the local dealers. Even though our ages are the same, our collecting experience differs by over 50 years. I've been a collector since I was eight years old, and a member of three local clubs for over 25 years.

Another coincidence was that one of the local dealers was having a show in the near future. Via email and phone, Dan and I agreed to meet at the show. On the appointed day, we met, sat down over coffee and talked over old times. We really spent more time talking about college days than we did about stamp collecting! It was a great reunion and we are planning to go to another show in the future. We were both wondering why it took us so long to get together, since we lived so relatively close to each other!

Let's hear your stamp story! Members are encouraged to submit short articles relating interesting encounters, how they got started in stamp collecting, or any other philatelic memory. For more information, contact Randy Smith, President, or Jennifer Arnold, Editor.

Members are encouraged to submit short articles relating interesting encounters, how they got started in stamp collecting, or any other philatelic memory.

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.

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.



Swap Circuit Manager(s) Sought

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

Ken Wills (#2150), after four and a half years of managing the Small/Definitive circuit, and William Silvester (#1058), after three years of managing two circuits, have both decided it is time to hand the tongs, stamps and glassines to other volunteers.

On behalf of all the Swap Circuit participants, thank you to Ken for his years of service and to Bill for managing two circuits for so long (and for agreeing to stay on as manager of the CTO circuit!). During the transition to new managers, Ken will continue to send out Small/Definitive circuits and I will send out Super circuits.

The circuit managers are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the swap circuit. Typical management tasks include:

- Producing circuit routing sheets
- Creating stamp packets
- Maintaining records of circuit participants
- Tracking late/lost circuits

- Responding to miscellaneous correspondence
- Providing feedback and suggestions to the Swap Circuit Coordinator

Access to a computer with word processing is essential and e-mail capability is extremely beneficial. Spreadsheet and/or database software would also be helpful, but is not mandatory. Operating expenses incurred by the manager are reimbursable and circuit managers are exempt from swap circuit fees.

If you would like to be considered for a manager position, or if you have questions about the positions, please contact me via mail at:

PO Box 21115

Eagan, MN 55121-0115

Or via e-mail at: rasmarty4@earthlink.net.

Please include a brief description about yourself, including the number of years you have collected stamps, your collecting interests and why you would like to be considered for the position.



Call for Nominations

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

We may have just wrapped up our 2004 elections, but it is already time to ask for nominations for positions to be elected at the end of this year! Nominees are needed for the following Board positions:

PRESIDENT

This person presides at all meetings of the ISWSC and its Board. He/she performs all duties incident to the office as described by Robert's Rules of Order and recommends such action as he/she believes will increase the effectiveness of the organization.

SECRETARY

This person keeps a permanent record of all society Board of Director proceedings, including Board meetings and votes. The Secretary also attests to all legal documents of the Society and performs other duties as requested by the Board and/or the Executive Director.

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR

PUBLIC RELATIONS

This person performs duties with respect to promoting the ISWSC, monitors and assists the ISWSC Regional Representatives, and is responsible for securing an Elections Chairman.

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR CHARITABLE PROGRAMS

This person serves as Chairperson of the Youth Program and assumes other responsibilities as assigned by the Board. This person also serves in place of the President, should the President be absent or unable to serve.

Elections for these two-year positions will be held in November 2005. To express your interest in a position (or to obtain more information), please contact Randy Smith (#1111), ISWSC President, or Tony Zollo (#856), ISWSC Executive Director (see page 2 for contact information).

Nominations must be received by September 1, 2005.





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3M: Make the Most of Your Membership

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

Yes, 3M may also be that large corporation that had its start in Minnesota, but in this case, it's a reminder to get the most out of your ISWSC membership by participating in all the programs it offers. The ISWSC has a variety of programs designed to help you put more stamps in your collection. In this edition of the newsletter, I'll highlight the Swap Circuit — one of the easiest and cheapest ways to convert your quality duplicates into stamps that you want to place in your collection.

Here's how the program works. Participants are grouped into a 4 or 5 member circuit. The first member of the group is sent a routing sheet (containing the names and addresses of the other members of the circuit and the manager who creates the circuits) and a packet of all different stamps. The first member selects the stamps he/she wants, then replaces them with an equal number of quality all different stamps. The routing sheet and the stamp packet is then mailed to the next member of the circuit.

The process continues until the last member receives the packet and makes his/her swaps. Then

the packet is mailed back to the manager of the circuit, along with mint postage for sending out the next circuit. The manager then changes the order of the members, creates a new packet of stamps, and sends it back out to the participants. Once all members of the circuit have been in each position on the circuit (from first to last), a new circuit is formed with a new grouping of participants.

There are five circuit types to select from: Large, Small/Definitive, CTO, Super, and USA.

- The **Large circuits** consist of 100 stamps that are considered "large" in size — more than 1" x 1½" (approximately) in size. Because the Large circuits are the most popular, participants are broken into three groups, each with its own manager.
- The **Small/Definitive circuits** contains 100-150 stamps that are smaller than 1" x 1½" in size or that are definitives (of any size).
- **CTO, or Cancelled To Order, circuits** contain 100 stamps and are the only circuit where CTO stamps can be traded.
- The **Super circuits** are the same as the Large circuits, however each stamp packet contains 200 stamps instead of 100.
- Finally, the **USA circuit** contains nothing but USA stamps (100 per packet). Stamps in all circuits types must be off paper, but they may be mint or used, hinged or unhinged.

In order for the program to operate, annual fees are charged to Swap Circuit participants. (The term "fee" is used to distinguish them from the separate dues charged annually to be an ISWSC member. ISWSC membership is required to participate in any ISWSC program.) Except for the programs' annual fees, no cash is needed — for each stamp you select, you simply replace it with another stamp, without regard to the catalog value! In order to maintain the quality of the program, members are, however, encouraged to only swap desirable stamps — common and damaged stamps are not allowed.

Now is the perfect time to join the Swap Circuit program! To join, complete the form accompanying this article (page 7) and mail it with your fees to the address on the form. If you would like more information prior to joining the program, please contact Randy Smith (postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2).

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