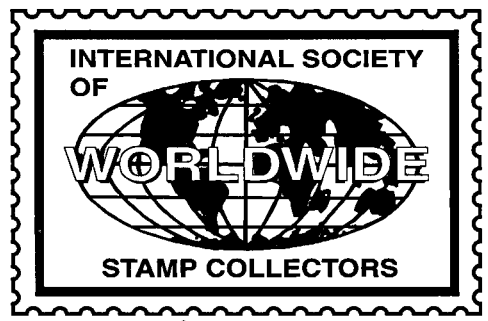


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September/October 2005 • Volume 23 No. 5

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by **Randy Smith (#1111)**
ISWSC President

It is an exciting time at the ISWSC! As announced elsewhere in this newsletter, the ISWSC now has a new Executive Director – Dr. Terry Myers (#736).

Although I am saddened that Tony Zollo (#856) needed to leave that position, I'm extremely thankful for his years of service to the ISWSC. I am especially thankful for all the advice and assistance he gave to my over my past four years as ISWSC President. Without his guidance, my job would have been much, much harder! Thank you, Tony!

And I want to express my thanks to Terry for agreeing to take on the Executive Director role. One of the intriguing aspects of Terry is that he is a world traveler. Although I haven't spoken to him about this, it is my hope that his journeys may help us bolster our membership – especially that of worldwide collectors living outside the United States. (Can you fit a few ISWSC applications in your suitcase, Terry??) As the Board and Terry begin their new relationship, I'm sure we'll see some new ideas surface to help the ISWSC and further its mission. Welcome, Terry!

One of the items the Board discussed before Terry was appointed were various methods for increasing our membership. As with most philatelic organizations, the ISWSC has seen a decrease in its membership over the past few years and the Board is working to reverse the trend. For those who don't know, the average demographics for a stamp collector in the United States is a white male, aged 70 or older. (Age, poor health, and selling off collections are often given as reasons when members don't renew...)

Being a mostly "virtual" organization, the ISWSC relies heavily on its membership to spread the word of the ISWSC and get others to join. To give you an additional incentive, the Board has authorized a special membership drive contest, with a very nice prize donated by Ken Wills (#2150). Details of this contest can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another item that I am excited about concerns a new ISWSC publication. I'm pleased to announce that Richard Rizzo (#2215) has asked the ISWSC Board to adopt his publication *World History and the Postage Stamp* as an official ISWSC publication.

Rizzo's work is the result of his starting a "one stamp per country" collection and researching the political history of each of those nations.

The Board officially adopted his nearly 400 page publication and are working out details concerning how to make his publication available to ISWSC members and also to non-members. Look for more information concerning this in a

future newsletter. My thanks to Richard for thinking of the ISWSC and congratulations on your publication!

Finally, just a reminder of two things. First, the ISWSC needs new volunteers to throw their tongs in the ring and run for one of the Board positions. A final call has been issued for candidates – please consider how you can serve the ISWSC and respond today. Second, please note the new addresses listed for various ISWSC leaders. A complete list of current addresses appears on page 2.

Recruit a new member, run for a Board position, and Happy Stamping!

*Please remember to send all
renewal information to:*
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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.*

*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 Terry Myers. Thank you!*

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**

Executive Director Named

The ISWSC Board recently voted to appoint Dr. Terry Myers (#736) as the new Executive Director, replacing Dr. Anthony (Tony) Zollo (#856) who had previously announced his need to retire from the position. Although you'll probably hear directly from Terry in future newsletters, here's a little background information about our new Executive Director:

Terry first joined the ISWSC in 1992. For years, he dreamed of completely filling a Scott International album - and now has managed to complete over 95% of that goal. He has been a collector since joining a stamp club in the fourth grade.

Terry and his wife, Marian, spent over 30 years on the pediatric faculties at the University of Virginia, Creighton University, East Tennessee State University and Texas Tech University.

Terry is a clinical geneticist (specialist in birth defects) and Marian is a neonatologist. Terry's career developed into one of medical administration and he served as the chairman of several departments and ultimately as an associate dean of clinical affairs. The Myers' have two adult sons and one tiny granddaughter.

In order to keep his collection current, Terry maintains standing order accounts in dozens of philatelic agencies around the world, resulting in a lot of interestingly stamped mail arriving almost daily. His other major avocation is world travel and he has by now visited over 125 countries.

As part of these trips, Terry sends back fancy postcards with unusual stamps to the first grade classroom where his daughter-in-law teaches and where they now cover an entire wall!

The ISWSC Board wishes to thank Terry and the other candidates who expressed interest in the Executive Director position.

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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, PMB 210, 3308 Preston Road, Suite 350, Plano, TX 75903, 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.



Last Call for Nominations!

This is the last opportunity to express interest in an elected position or to nominate your fellow ISWSC member for a position on the ISWSC Board. As many current Board members are unable to serve in the same positions due to bylaw restrictions, new volunteers are needed to keep the ISWSC going. Nominees are needed to fill two year positions (January 2006 – December 2007) 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 will be held in November 2005. (Ballots will be included in our next newsletter.) To express your interest in a position or to obtain more information, please contact **Randy Smith (#1111)**, ISWSC President or the person currently serving in the position in which you are interested. In order to prepare ballots for the next newsletter, nominations must be received ASAP. Your response will determine the future of the ISWSC!!



Buying New Issues Direct

by Terry L. Myers, M.D., Ph.D. (#736)

About 25 years ago I decided that my new issue dealer was simply charging me too much money by marking up many issues way above the face values. So I decided to see if it was possible to get the same stamp sets directly from the issuing philatelic agencies more cheaply. By now I have relationships with a bit over 100 agencies – and still use my new issue dealer for a lot of others where his prices are really lower than I can get by myself.

Collecting new issues can be a lot of fun, a lot of challenges, and sometimes major disappointments. Here are a few of the things I have learned over the years.

The philatelic agencies vary greatly in what services they provide. I initially got most of my information from Linn's Stamp Almanac but by now much of the information is not current. A simple postcard sent to each country's postal department usually gets a prompt response with a description of their services. And now many postal services have web sites, although many of them are not in English.

The easiest bureaus are ones that accept standing orders. In most cases it is necessary to send a deposit and the value of each shipment is subtracted from the deposit which periodically you must top up. Recently several agencies have switched to using credit cards and with proper authorization simply charge each shipment as it is mailed.

It is very important to be quite precise when establishing your order requirements. Do you really want all of their issues, including souvenir sheets, booklets, presentation packs, first day covers, definitives as well as commemoratives, special issues, postage dues, reprints, or postal tax stamps? Always check a recent catalog to become aware of the types of issues normally issued. Making returns of unwanted materials is almost impossible, but supplementary orders for other desired materials are usually simple.

Some bureaus send each issue immediately upon release while others make only periodic or even

*It is the fees
involved
that
determine
whether it is
really
feasible to
buy issues
directly.*

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