



The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

They Say They Care About Pen Cancels

Welcome news from the United States Postal Service and Canada Post Corporation. Both have announced that they want to do something about pen cancellations and other undesirable markings on postage stamps. The difference between their solutions is that the USPS suggests ways for the collector to avoid such marks while Canada Post does something about it.

USPS, to a collector: "One way would be to use envelopes that do not contain recycled paper. The other is to have the Post Office hand-cancel the stamps for you."

Canada Post, to its employees: "It is imperative that all material entering the mail-processing system, regardless of the entry point, receive official Canada Post Corp. postmark cancellations. Defacing the postage applied to mailable material through any other means, including pencil, or pen, is not deemed to be an acceptable Canada Post Corp. cancellation."

Foley Identifies 'Whatzit'

Our thanks to Tom Foley, president-elect of the American Philatelic Society, for taking time to write to us about the Danzig stamps illustrated in the last issue. He said:

"I believe the cancels on the Danzig stamps illustrated in the current issue of *The Circuit* are parcel post cancels. These were briefly mentioned and illustrated on pp. 184 & 186 in the December 1959 issue of the *American Philatelist* in the conclusion of a 7-part series on Danzig."

If anyone else needs help with identifications, send the items (or a photo) for our Whatzit? feature.

Membership at New High

The big news is the surge in membership. The not-so-big news is the election of officers for new two-year terms.

The sudden growth in membership resulted mostly from Pres. Ken Jenkins' letter published in the *American Philatelist*. It brought about 75 inquiries and about half became members. An-

other source of new members, a dozen or so, was the exchange of information with the *New Mexico Philatelist*.

The latest membership number given out is #396. However, that does not represent the membership total, as there have been a few dropouts.

A list of new members is on Page 6. A brief resume of the collecting interests of some of these new members will appear in the next issue.

Public Relations Officer Dave Nelson gives highlights of the election on this page. The Ballot is on Page 7. Go ahead, send it in.

It bears repeating: Nobody's feelings will be hurt if you vote for a write-in candidate. There are no contested races but none of the incumbents expected, or wanted, to have a lifetime job! Jenkins, for one, has served notice that this is the last time around for him.

There are two ways to establish oneself as a leader and do-er. One is to volunteer your services in some area of the society's operations. The other is to share your views (in *The Circuit*) as to new directions, new services, and changes in the way things are done. If you have ideas, opinions, let's hear 'em!

A Note on \$10 Stamps

New Zealand has issued a \$10 definitive stamp showing a rare Little Spotted Kiwi, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands has released a new \$10 stamp showing a Blue Jack, a fish belonging to the family Carangidae.

Both are attractive stamps, but we think anyone buying these in other than postally used condition is either a turkey or a sucker; depending on your preference for bird or fish topicals.

Election Notes By P.R. Officer

In this issue you will find a ballot for election of officers to serve the next two years. You will note the same names; i.e., no contested positions. You may, of course, write in a name for any position.

It was *not* the desire of the current officers that this be a "white" ballot. All of them are tired of carrying the load, especially when it seems that only 2% or 3% of the membership is willing to do anything to help with club activities.

No one will be hurt if you write in another name. Of course, in the absence of a major campaign, to be realistic about it no write-in will actually win.

The *next* election will be different! Ken Jenkins assures me he will not stand again. Herb is pretty tired of the time-consuming and often thankless position managing our funds. Others are going to have to emerge as do-ers and prospective leaders, or we won't have an ISWSC.

We have lots of new members and the group is healthy—but lacking in action participants. Hence I have added two unofficial lines to this ballot to allow you to donate your time, or your money, to help make ISWSC all it should be.

—Dave Nelson (#25)

Get Children Interested in Stamps, But Don't Forget the Parents!

(Responding to a suggestion by Arlene Futrell, former editor of The Circuit, Mrs. Doris Schatz, #362, wrote the following.)

Twenty-four years ago I arrived in Southern California with two pre-teen boys. Since I had to work, the hours between 3 p.m. (when the boys got out of school) and 6 p.m. (when I arrived home) were a daily nightmare for me. To top it off, the boys were constantly fighting and picking at one another.

One day I asked them if there was anything, like a hobby or something that they would like to do instead of fighting.

They agreed they would like to have a stamp album like their uncle's. I bought them the 3-volume Minkus Global. With three volumes and over 150 countries to choose from, there wouldn't be much room for fighting. About three years later, as sports and girls became more important, the stamp albums ended up in the garage and stayed there almost 11 years. One day the youngest boy, then in the Navy, wrote that he no longer wanted the stamps he had collected and asked if I wanted them. I unpacked the three volumes and went to a local dealer to see about updating the collection. After several months there were eight volumes.

Every week I attended the dealer's bid sale, a time of real excitement. Almost every stamp I got found a home and no duplicates. Several months later my son came home and gave me two storage albums filled with beautiful mint

stamps from all the countries of the Far East.

Until 3 1/2 years ago I was a very active collector. I belonged to an exchange club until the man who ran it retired and sold it. I also actively traded stamps. However, I became very ill and when it became apparent that the asthma would not improve I retired from my job and moved into a small easy-to-care-for apartment in a seniors building. I have once again picked up my activity in stamp collecting.

When I received a membership application from Mr. Gerlach, I signed up right away because I feel I can really trust him. I hope in time I can become a very active member.

I would like to make a suggestion to those who work with child-

ren: Do all you can to involve the parents in the stamp collecting process. As the children reach their teens other interests become more important and that is natural. If even one parent becomes involved, then the collection can continue, with the child as an adult coming back to the hobby.

My collection now consists of 12 Minkus volumes through 1985 and two Scott Internationals, 1986-87. I may be a dreamer, but I really hope that when the time comes that I can no longer work on my collection one of my boys will pick up where I leave off.

I hope I will be able to become more active in the club, less home-bound.

—Mrs. Doris Schatz (#362)
13000 Doty, Apt. 314
Hawthorne, CA 90250

a suggestion to those who work with children.

On the Agenda

This month: The election. Send in those ballots! New terms begin Jan. 1.

December: Election results will be announced. The deadline for submitting auction lots is Dec. 15,

February: Auction list published. Bids must be received by March 10.

April: Auction lots will be mailed to successful bidders by April 1.

Changes at Harris, Minkus

H. E. Harris & Co., Inc., has come out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, is reorganized and ready for business. The company has streamlined by reducing the work force and the number of products.

Minkus Publications, Inc., has been sold to Noyus Debut, whose first goal is to restore timely delivery of album supplements.

Vice President's Report

Applause for the work of the Society's new editor, James Burt. His first issue was outstanding. It's too bad that he has consented to do only a few issues. Formatting was good and readability easier. Additionally, the issue was chock full of his own articles and editorials as well as other interesting tidbits.

Along the same vein, I would like to echo President Ken Jenkin's sentiments to Arlene Futrell. She gets a resounding "Well Done" and the Society's thanks and appreciation for her contribution of time and talent as editor for many, many informative issues of *The Circuit*.

VAPEX '89 will be held at the Pavilion in Virginia Beach, Va., starting Friday, noon, 10 November. A table for ISWSC members to use for registration and a room for a meeting has been requested, so anyone attending should have the opportunity to meet and get acquainted with other members. Hopefully, there will also be an entertaining slide program.

From the donation packets received, it looks like we have signed up quite a few new members. Many included notes with the stamps, and all were appreciated. Some asked if the material sent was suitable—everything received was okay. There are no real guidelines for type of material, except that off-paper stamps are preferred; that would help keep postage costs down when re-mailing them. Commemoratives, definitives, used, unused—all are needed, and I try to keep what I send out on an even basis by putting everything received into a big box, mixing them up a bit, and scooping out as needed for parcels.

Don't forget the auctions! Dr. Johnson will accept auction lots until the tentative deadline of 1 December.

Happy collecting...
Ken Costilow, #142

Not All the Same

Not all coil stamps have straight edges on two opposing sides. Some (including Vietnam, Germany, Hungary and perhaps Great Britain) are perforated on all four sides. Also, not all stamps with two opposing straight edges are coils (Sweden and U.S. booklet stamps, for example).

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

First, let me offer congratulations to Tom Foley and John Hotchner as president and vice president of the American Philatelic Society. They are both well qualified and popular and they richly deserved the high positions they have won in the world of philately.

It has been summer and we have had the usual run of vacationing house-guests, but by the time you read this it will be time to get the albums out again.

I have had some correspondence concerning the amount of club business that is in *The Circuit*. It seems that some members feel we should have more of a philatelic journal.

Since we have no meetings, the purpose of *The Circuit* as the name implies is to keep the membership around the world informed of the activities of the club, the membership, and provide articles or items of general interest whenever space and the articles are available.

Many members, I have been told, are afraid to volunteer for some of the positions open in the ISWSC because they feel that they are not professionally qualified, especially for editor. What we

need is someone with the interest and desire to help out, plus access to a typewriter and/or a computer, a good general knowledge of philately and a working knowledge of the English language. A telephone where you can be contacted is also a necessity.

If you have the above qualifications, please contact me or James Burt about the editorship. You will get all of the advice and assistance you need to get going.

—Ken Jenkins, #15

**JOIN the OFFICIAL
ISWSC Exchange
Trade your duplicates
for stamps you need.**

Write to:

**OMNI Exchange
Tom Allison (# 42)
Box 252
Wilmette, IL 60091**

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF WORLDWIDE STAMP COLLECTORS 825 E. Torrey • New Braunfels, Texas 78130 • U. S. A.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Country, Zip Code: _____

Telephone number (if applicant resides in the USA or Canada) _____

Do you wish to trade by mail with other members? Yes _____ No _____

Do you collect? Used _____ Mint _____ or Both _____

How long have you been a world wide collector? _____

Are you a member of APS? _____ APS # _____

Member of other philatelic organizations? (list): _____

Philatelic References: Give name and mailing address

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Other References and/or Comments: _____

* DUES are \$5.00 per year and a donation of 250 different stamps* per year. (* All stamps donated by members are given away free to youth groups to encourage stamp collecting among young people.)

Send \$5.00 (USA) DUES for the next 12 months to:

ISWSC
Herbert S. Holland, Sec'y Treas.
825 E. Torrey
New Braunfels, Texas 78130 USA

AND: Send 250 (or more, don't be shy) mint or used STAMPS of any country to:

ISWSC Youth Programs
Kenneth L. Costilow, Vice President
621 Virginius Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA

You will receive by return mail the By-laws, a membership roster with society officers annotated thereon, a membership card with your official number, and a copy of the official society newsletter, *The Circuit*. Membership benefits include society stamp exchange, sales circuits and auction, all available at very low cost.

Name of Sponsor: _____ ISWSC # _____

(To ease the Secretary-Treasurer's burden of paperwork, dues are being prorated as follows: Join in May or June, \$7.00; July or August, \$6.20; September \$5.40.)

Help Wanted!

Perhaps other members have the same problem I have, and perhaps someone has already solved it:

As a subscriber to the USPS new issue service, I receive a sheet of each commemorative stamp shortly after it is issued. Along with it comes, free, a nice 5"x8" or so poster with information relative to the issue and a protective plastic sheet with black backing sheet. Up to now, I have not seen or heard of any type binder being offered by USPS, or anyone else; that these things will fit. One side is nicely punched with holes from top to bottom, but only two of the three prongs of a three-ring binder will accept the holes as punched.

I don't intend to keep the sheets of stamps intact, and I would like to use the protective covers for other philatelic purposes: Does anyone know of a binder or a scheme that could be used to make these things useful?

—Ken Costilow, #142

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

President Ken Jenkins wrote a letter to the editor of the *American Philatelist*, published in the July issue. It generated (as of 28 August) 72 inquiries regarding membership in our club. And of these, so far, 35 new members have joined. (See listing in this issue.) We have also received 13 other inquiries resulting from publicity thru member Hotchner's (#62) column in *Stamp Collector*, from an item in *Linn's*, and from info in the *New Mexico Philatelist*. Several of these have joined. So there are folks out there, real live worldwide collectors, anxious to join with us. All that is needed is to get out the word. Will you help?

Now for some routine: Rovere (#105) has a new zip code, 94028. The following have new addresses: Trent (#226), 7912 Charles Thomson Lane, Apt. 3, Annandale, VA 22003; Wheeler (#217), 150 Maple St., Hornell NY 14843; Skillings (#339), 4720 Chevy Chase Dr. #502, Bethesda, Md. 20817. Mail addressed to Disario (#294) is returned; no address correction yet.

Philatelic mail is causing clutter and confusion (he didn't say that—we did!) at the office of Dr. Wallace Johnson (#212), who is chairman for the auction. Please address all club correspondence to his home, 806 Overlook Dr., Beckley, WV 25801-9234.

My typo in the May-June issue listed the name of #347 erroneously; it is Ouellette, starting with O instead of Q.

Cox (#301), dropped from membership last spring, is restored to full membership, but the following members are dropped for non-payment of dues: Lou (#230), Weigel (#284), Wiedemer (#286), Bruce (#309), Mayer (#310) and Hodges (#311).

Please update your rosters before you forget!

On our application form we ask if the new member would like to trade with other members. It never occurred to me until recently that the word *trade* might be misconstrued because it has more than one meaning. So let me clarify that and I will also correct the application form. In the ISWSC, trade means the same as *exchange* or *swap*. It does not mean "to buy and sell." Sorry 'bout that, as we used to say in 'Nam.

The term *used* has also been misunderstood. It means *postally used*. A used stamp has come off an envelope or package sent through a national postal system. It does not mean "on cover" nor does it mean "CTO." A CTO is a "cancelled to order" stamp, cancelled when in mint condition as part of the printing process and sold to collectors without ever having done anything. Most of us don't want anything to do with 'em. Communist governments are especially guilty of this practice (though not the only ones, by any means). It is done to raise money for the government concerned. Help stamp out CTOs!

The club acknowledges with thanks the following donations:

#313 Clarke — \$3.00; #362 Schatz — \$2.80; #374 Peterson — \$1.60; #377 Bernstein — \$1.00; #381 Collura — \$1.60

I have received one more letter in support of my position that articles in *The Circuit* be of interest to general collectors and not on specialized subjects. This was from Hargrove (#363). To help along this line he is volunteering to write a series of articles himself. I hope more of you will do this. You don't have to be an expert. You don't have to be a great writer (or else I couldn't put in my two cents' worth). All you have to do is be interested in worldwide stamp collecting (which I think covers all of you or you wouldn't be members) and have information or an opinion to communicate.

One subject that I'm often queried about is albums, high cost of, and ideas to avoid same. How about it out there in stamp land? What do you do? How do you mount your collection? Another subject is "completeness." This worries lots of people. How do you keep it from bothering you? Or does it?

I will end with some good news. As of 28 August, 66% of our members are on the October billing cycle for dues renewals. We're closing on our goal of 99% very fast. So, don't wait for the postcard notice. Send in your dues now! Save your club some rasbuckniks! And, incidentally, save yours truly some work. You can also pay dues up to three years in advance. Many have done that.

Happy stamping!

Herb Holland, #31

Help Offered

To the editor of *The Circuit*:

As a new member of ISWSC, I wish to offer my services to any member who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope.

As a worldwide collector for over 50 years, I would gladly help any member with a philatelic problem, to the best of my knowledge. I don't profess to know it all, but over 50 years you learn a lot.

Please enclose a SASE with any requests.

Albert H. Feinberg (#361)

3340 Dale Road

Bensalem, PA 19020

(Mr. Feinberg is also a member of APS and RPSC.)



ISWSC SALES CIRCUIT

Clean those closets & turn those hoards of duplicates into CASH.

Enter them in the ISWSC Sales Circuit so other members can add them to their albums and add a little money to your pocket.

Write to:

ISWSC Sales Circuit
Roger J. Bergeson (#132)
1814 Viking Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007
USA

Have lots of blank spaces to fill in your albums? Write for a trial selection from the Sales Circuit.