

ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP INCLUDES PHILATELIC ADVENTURES

During January this year I took a once in a lifetime "Ski and See" trip to Innsbruck, Austria. Due to the "Great Snow Drought," there was more seeing than skiing.

A day trip took us to Venice, Italy, where we fed the pigeons in Saint Mark's Square and rode in gondolas on the canals. I had time to take in a stamp store on the Square that was fabulous. I was able to purchase some additions to my collection. The dealer spoke limited English and I speak no Italian, but stamps are stamps in any language and a Visa Card is international money any place.

January 12th was the 500th anniversary of the postal service in Austria. In 1490 (two years before Columbus discovered America) the Counts of Thurn and Taxis established a private mail service in Innsbruck which later provided mail delivery to the old Holy Roman Empire. This lasted until after the defeat of Napoleon and the unification of the small German states. This became the foundation of the Austrian postal service.

Austria, West Germany, and Belgium held a joint celebration and First Day Ceremony at Innsbruck. The event took place in an exhibition hall and conference center adjoining the Hofburg, the Habsburg Imperial palace. The royal family used the palace when they were in Innsbruck. Innsbruck is the capital of the Austrian state of Tirol. The Chief of State of Austria still makes use of the Hofburg when he is on state visits. The modern exhibition center is as modern as the palace is opulent.

-- Unluckily for me, the after effects of a small drink of water in Venice the day before, made it impossible for me stand in the long lines to get stamps and cancellations, but I was able to view all the frames of the stamp show. I enjoyed this very much.

At the main entrance to the exhibit hall, there was a restored mail coach from the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. The old yellow mail coach makes frequent appearances in national events.

Before we left Innsbruck I was able to visit four stamp and coin shops. I did buy some nice postally used stamps, but mostly talked stamps.

I had hopes of getting some stamps on a one day stopover in Copenhagen, Denmark, on the return trip. However, stores close early on Saturday afternoon and remain closed until Monday A.M.

As wonderful as the trip was, the best part was coming through customs at O'Hara Airport in Chicago and heading for the regional bus back to Wisconsin and home. ... Della L. Burmeister (# 97)

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For the Funnybone

There was this fellow having his stamp collection appraised by a dealer. Unfortunately, about the same time, he was caught robbing a store and was sentenced to five years. Upon release from prison, he returned to the dealer to see what his stamp collection was worth. The dealer said, "Come back next week!" ... Len Attwool - # 359

RUMINATIONS (Continued from page 5)

participate? If not, let me know why. I'd be interested in knowing.

I'll get down off my soapbox for now and promise to hold off on what may be construed as preaching. It's just that I believe that our group is a good one. If you feel it's not for you, so be it. But don't be one who turns another person off by your actions or lack of action. It doesn't help the rest of us. ... R. H. (# 363)

EDITOR (Continued from page 8)

against the USPS by electing NOT to collect mint US stamps past 1989. I'll buy stamps for mailing, but I will no longer support the USPS by saving US mint stamps. At the rate the USPS is going, there won't be many younger people to collect the mint stamps in the future. Nearly every child collector I've known started with used stamps, so I feel there will be a lot fewer in the future. The USPS and the philatelic community will pay in the future for the USPS tunnel vision of today.

DONATION • Bunny Kaplan (#134) donated funds to print the enclosed geographical listing of members (as of 20 Feb., 1990). Thanks, Bunny. It will be very helpful to traveling members.

... Rita Kallal (# 26), Editor

ISWSC FINANCIAL STATEMENT Year ended 31 December 1989

Balance forward from 31 December 1988	\$ 815.20
Income:	
Dues - New members 332-425 (93)	\$ 650.70
Renewal dues	1051.40
Donations	231.49
Interest	79.75
Advertising in "The Circuit"	83.00
Miscellaneous *(1)	<u>59.72</u>
Total Income	2156.06
Expense:	
Postage - Secretary/Treasurer	\$ 209.95
Printing & Copying	47.10
Publishing "The Circuit: (5 issues)	471.56
Office Supplies	32.79
President's Expense *(2)	89.31
Vice-President's Expense *(3)	19.06
Editor's Expense	<u>48.70</u>
Total Expense	918.47
Balance 31 December 1989 *(4)	\$ 2052.79

*(1) Auction & Sales Profits, etc.

*(2) Telephone and Postage

*(3) Postage sending Stamps to youth groups

*(4) On Deposit at First Federal Savings & Loan of New Braunfels, TX

COLLECTING BRINGS MANY SPECIAL REWARDS

I want to thank you all for remembering a fallen comrade, the obituary of Glenn Mitchell (#291), was a tribute not only to a veteran stamp collector, he also was a disabled war veteran. I traded stamps with him for years and he was a booster of hand drawn "entires," as any of you who ever traded with him knew. I salute him for his contribution to the "art" of stamp collecting. Since I worked in a print shop, I was able to send him boxes of paper, salvaged from the paper-cutter. Instead of throwing away good "cut-offs" I could send him fifty pounds of paper for the UPS charge of five dollars. If any of you ever saw his original art work using stamps, you can see how much good was achieved by a humble effort. It doesn't take a lot of money or time to share your love of stamps with your friends and fellow man. Thank you, and keep up the good work.

I would like to propose a topic for conversation: I collect and trade worldwide postage stamps, for which there is no lack of interest, but I also stretch that definition to include Revenues, my favorite being Mexican Revenues. I would like to turn you on to this little appreciated area of collecting. Many of the old issues list in the Steven's Catalogue for a few pennies each. They are beautiful and many are 100 years old. Mexico did not have an income tax, so they sold revenue stamps for just about every kind of business transaction, which paid for the government services, so there were a lot of them issued. Also they had to be saved for 5 years to prove the taxes were paid. I think that if more collectors knew about them, then we might see some lots at auction: I would like to communicate with anyone interested in more information or trades of this fine, fun material. I also know a new catalogue is in the making, as my mother (who has been collecting them for 50 years) has been collaborating with the author. Since no dealers I know of handle this item, it is up to us "civilians" to dig this stuff up. This not a big ticket item, so I do it for the pleasure alone. Try it, your might like it!

... Lonnie Cox (#301)

**Deadline Next Issue
May 7th**

RAECH'S RUMINATIONS

I've been bothered by recent comments in *The Circuit* regarding members who write to other members and get no response. I think it's only courteous to answer another member, even if it's only to tell him to "get lost," in a nice way, of course. At least he knows where he stands.

When we join up, we're asked to indicate whether we collect used/mint or both. Some may interpret that to mean we're willing to trade. If a member does write and ask if you'd like to trade, give the guy an answer. I doubt whether we're so overwhelmed with inquiries that we can't find time to drop the guy a short note or postcard.

I've been trading steadily with two members since joining the group. I like to feel that we've got a good thing going. At least there have been no complaints up to now. I asked my two trading partners what their experiences have been. One indicated that he'd written to four members and received two responses.....I guess I'm one of them. What about the other two?

The second indicated that he is presently trading with four others (including myself). He tells me that he has no trouble finding trading partners among the members. In fact, he says members have contacted him and that he never refuses to trade unless their collecting interests are incompatible. I realize that this is a very small sampling taken from guys who enjoy trading but I think we're using the ISWSC as it was meant to be used and having fun and adding to our collections at the same time. So, people, if a member gets in touch with you, get back to him. If you can work something out, so much the better. If not, at least you gave it a shot and, maybe, you gave someone a lift by caring enough to respond.

A while back the group attempted to sponsor a contest to determine "The Most Beautiful Stamp." That went down the drain due to lack of response. It was recently announced that the Donation Auction was being discontinued for lack of participation. I assume this means that there was a lack of entries and a lack of participation. I'm sorry about this because I'm an auction freak. I would have enjoyed taking part in it.

Now we have the "Regular Auction" to consider. By the time you read this, the deadline for bids will have past. I know I entered a few bids. How about you? Did you

(Continued Page 4)

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SALVAGING A MISSPENT CHILDHOOD

At present, I consider myself to be a very inactive collector. I started as a kid, about eight years old, as the result of a birthday present, and was avid for about eight more years. Then, through high school, college, the army, graduate school, jobs, travel, vacations, etc., I always accumulated items "for my retirement" and I am still doing that at age forty-seven.

Early on, I learned a lot about countries, currencies, geography, flags, historical figures, etc., and it is very interesting and educational. My local friend is the best local Trivia player and I am usually second or third, so there is some reward for a misspent childhood. But, I still accumulated everything while realizing that I could not try to collect "everything." I spent a lot of time thinking about what to collect and how to "specialize." I also realized that an album to please me would be difficult, if not impossible, to find.

Just about two years ago, I decided a few things. First, my album will probably be composed of blank, crosshatched pages, organized any way that I wish (maybe even in file folders, by country). Second, my first love is aviation and my main theme could be aviation and/or airmail from anywhere! I am moderately active in a local model airplane club. However, then I remember that I also love art, engineering, and stamps on stamps, so there is some topical branching out here. In addition, from an investment standpoint, I am interested in older items. I have given some thought to limit my "fun" worldwide collecting to the "first 100 years of stamps — approximately" and my newer items to topical subjects. It seems like a compromise that I can now live with. So, in reality, I am not as much a specialist as I desire to. While I do want to "exchange" some of my duplicates for other items, I have to do something to better organize what I have in order to find out which are duplicates! Sort of a "Catch 22."

I have a few similarly inactive friends: a man to is interested in trains; a female minister who is interested in Bible themes; a brother interested in sports; and decided independently that they were accumulating for retirement. I have two retired friends who are very active worldwide collectors (I've sent them into about ISWSC). I have two pen-pals with whom I correspond in English: one in Poland and one in Czecho-

ROSTER CHANGES

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- # 26 Kallal - Change to:
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- # 29 Nielsen - Change to:
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- # 158 Chapin - Change to:
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- # 188 Kellogg - Change to:
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- # 260 Consenheim - Change to:
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M2R3N1 CANADA
- # 276 Fromer - Change to:
c/o Kaloshi
915 Coney Island Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11230
- #340 Marcotte - Change to:
410 Notre Dame N.
Thetford Mines, Que
G6G2S4 CANADA
- # 341 Frola - Change to:
300 - 51st 1st Floor
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- # 387 Shew - Change to:
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slovakia. I have relatives in Canada and distant relatives in Czechoslovakia. Since the latter know only Slovak, it is very difficult to correspond with them, and a lot of my free time is spent learning their language. Several neighbors have sponsored high school foreign exchange students and I have a few college classmates in the diplomatic corps. I just learned at a college reunion that one of my classmates is a stamp and coin dealer in Florida. So, on occasion, I have access to stamps from England, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Taiwan and France.

Occasionally I like to buy a mixture, look through it and then give the rest to someone less fortunate. Locally I helped out a Girl

READ MY LIPS



The Publisher/Editor maintains only one file copy of each newsletter. All extra copies of *The Circuit* are sent to the Secretary. So I have no extra copies to send to anyone.

While the Publisher does maintain the mailing list, it becomes very troublesome and costly to have to forward address changes & requests for lost *Circuits* back to the Secretary several times a month, so he can get everything organized for his reports. Being a very busy person with an antiques business and a printing shop to manage, I am fearful that I will forget to mail something or something will get lost in my possession. It is much easier and less costly for us all, if you mail these directly to our Secretary. (I recently received an address change that was sent from former editor Arlene Futrell, to just past editor James Burt, to me (the new editor) and finally I mailed it on to the secretary.) I thank you very much for your cooperation on this. *** Your Editor

Please send all address changes and all requests for lost *Circuits* to the Secretary:
Herb Holland (#31)
825 East Torrey Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130 USA

If you need publicity brochures contact the Public Relations Chairman:
Dave Nelson (#25)
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Petaluma, CA 94952 USA

Scout Brownie troop that had just started collecting stamps, but it turned out they were mostly interested in space and science related stamps, to tie in with earning badges. I hear now that only one girl will continue with stamp collecting. I answered an in *Linn's* about an Oregon school group, but it now appears that they have stopped. At the time, I did not know about Ben Franklin Clubs and I have not found a local one. Recently I have been contacting disabled veterans' groups, but haven't heard from anyone yet.

After all of the above, let me admit that I do not have a huge or extremely valuable collection, but it is valuable to me. It is also unwieldy and I have always wanted to sit down and organize it. But alas, I always seem to have more important things to do. Maybe when I retire? ** Joe Palko (#421)