

March - April 1991  
Volume 8 No. 2

# The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

*The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors*

## "TURN ON" YOUR STAMPS by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

One of the hottest topics in philately today is stamp luminescence or tagging. Philatelists overseas have had a keener interest in this field of study, but we Americans are catching up.

Tagging is the application of an invisible ink on a stamp which glows when viewed with a shortwave ultraviolet (UV) lamp for United States and Great Britain stamps or a longwave UV lamp for most other foreign stamps. Discounted, these lamps can cost as low as \$25.00 and \$10.00 respectively with combination lamps also available. Longwave UV light is also commonly known as "black light." An inexpensive option would be to buy a "black light" bulb which fits a regular house lamp. While longwave UV light is not harmful, shortwave UV is. Never look directly into a shortwave UV lamp as prolonged exposure can damage eyes and skin.

Postal authorities primarily use tagged stamps to properly orient mail through automatic sorting/cancelling machines. Great Britain started experimenting with phosphor tags in 1959. The later Machin Head definitives have a wealth of one band, two band and all-over tagged varieties. Also commemoratives of the early and mid-60's were tagged in small quantities and today

command premium prices.

The first U.S. tagged stamp issued nationally was the 5¢ City Mail Delivery stamp of 1963. Commemoratives, definitives and airmails (after 1978) glow green under shortwave UV light due to the zinc-orthosilicate coating used. Airmails between 1963 and 1977 used calcium silicate and glow orange-red. Both coatings are phosphorescent, continuing to glow briefly after the UV is turned off.

Other countries use fluorescent substances which react to longwave UV. The Philippines has used at least three different coatings that glow either green, yellow or orange-red. Many Canadian stamps glow bright yellow. Some Australian and New Zealand issues are orange-red. Quite a few stamps exhibit a glow over the entire stamp, but other forms exist. Portugal has put its fluorescent coating only over the country's name or in an "L" shape. Block tagging has been popular in the U.S., placing the tag well clear of the perforations. Canadian stamps are the reverse,

with a glow around one, two or all four sides of the stamp perfs.

Invisible symbols are also printed for security purposes which glow only under UV. Indonesia has printed multiple pentagons on its stamps. Certain 1989-90 Philippines issues spell out PPS. Recent Hong Kong definitives use Chinese characters encircled by multiple "Hong Kong's."

Sometimes the ink used in printing a stamp is itself fluorescent. Italian Socialist Republic - Scott # 24 and Russia - Scott # 3192 are two examples. Colored fluorescent fibers are scattered in the paper of some Swiss issues. Even the stamp paper itself can glow through the addition of phosphor brighteners in the paper making process. This is known as the hi-bright effect and glows a pale purple under longwave UV light.

A small investment in a long and shortwave ultraviolet lamp can yield profitable benefits. With a little knowledge you can find varieties and errors undetected by the average collector or dealer. The Mexican "Exporta" series is a perfect example of this. A good instruction to glowing stamps is the booklet *Stamps That Glow* by Wayne Youngblood, available at your local stamp shop for about \$5.00. Read more about this fascinating subject!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You may have noted in the last issue of *The Circuit* that our treasurer is having problems converting Canadian funds into U.S. Dollars. We know this is a ridiculous situation, but it exists. Therefore, our next step is to get a Canadian Secretary to perform the job of collecting dues from Canadian members, converting the funds, and getting them to the treasurer. Herb Holland can provide details. We already have this system in effect in Australia and so far it has been working quite well and saving the members money and frustration.

I am still getting letters concerning pricing and the new catalog values. I attended two major shows in 1990, ARIPEX in Phoenix, Arizona, and ROMPEX in Denver, Colorado. My observations at these two shows, plus Ed Rosen's dealer bourse here in Las Vegas, Nevada, this year, are as follows:

1. Most dealers are still trying to do business with a 1988 catalog.

2. The ones that are using the new catalogs are pricing individual items at or above catalog values.

In my personal dealings with the

former, I either buy country lots or collections at a great discount from the 1988 values. Usually 10-20% of catalog value is their final price. I never buy individual items from these people unless I have a new catalog handy. Incidentally, I have noticed that many of the dealers at shows do not have catalogs at all. They claim they weigh too much and they travel by air. It would seem that carrying catalogs is part of the cost of doing business and should not be used as an excuse not to use the new catalog prices. I would like to hear from some of our dealer members on this — either in person or thru this forum. I have been told that some dealers on the East coast are selling at discounts from the new net prices. Competition out there may require that, but when Eastern dealers come to our shows out here, it is not the case. I am writing this so that some of our East coast members can realize why some members' circuit book prices are higher than others. I have circuit books in several circuits and get roughly the same results from all of them in percentage of value sold. \*\*\* Ken Jenkins, Pres. (#15)

## ISWSC MEMBERS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

I write to call your attention to honors for two of our members, Dr. Joanne Berkowitz (# 98) and Mrs. Ariel Poling (# 76).

Dr. Berkowitz was prominently mentioned in an article on Sacramento physicians in the national magazine, *MD.*, distributed chiefly to physicians. The article described the trials Dr. Berkowitz and her partner have experienced while starting and operating an emergency medical facility in Sacramento. Her facility has been successful while others have failed and she stressed that personal involvement in the business side has been a key to that success. Her personal attention to such details as follow-up calls to each patient three days after treatment, probably has something to do with her success, too.

Mrs. Ariel Poling is very deserving of the honor bestowed by Indiana's Governor. She is known to me from personal experience. I was already an adult and a stamp collector when I moved to Bedford, Indiana, in 1973. So, I cannot say that she started me collecting stamps. From 1980 to 1985, my medical office was across the

street from the Bedford Public Library, where, along with the elementary schools, she introduced hundreds of Hoosier school children to the fascinations of philately.

Every collector has hoards of stamps that are not in his albums, loose, in a shoebox: too "valuable" to throw away but too time-consuming to fool with, soak off the paper, etc. Most of us would like to give them a good home. I urge you to send them to Ariel Poling, Route 18, Box 119-C, Bedford, IN 47421. They will find a loving home and be the raw material that allows Ariel to turn young minds to the lifelong love of philately.

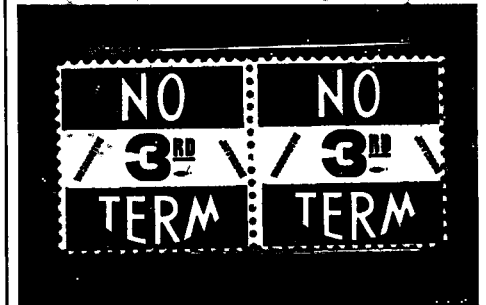
\*\*\* Wallace D. Johnson, MD (# 212)

## HAPPY MEMBER !!

I'm certainly glad I finally was talked into joining ISWSC. I've made several excellent contacts for trading, have put lots in the mail auction and enjoy the newsletter. I would highly recommend membership to worldwide collectors. If you're sitting on the fence, as I did for months, come down on the side of better stamp collecting.

\*\*\* Chad Neighbor (# 510)

## PRESIDENT MAKES IMPORTANT ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT



As most of you are aware, 1991 is an election year for ISWSC. I wish to make it known at this time that I am not a candidate for re-election as president nor for election to any other elective office. I shall continue to serve our club in any needed position as a volunteer. I have served two terms (4 years) as Vice President and two terms (4 years) as President. I have done the best I could in getting ISWSC to being a viable organization with a truly worldwide membership, but I think it is time for new ideas to take over for awhile. Continued leadership by the same persons leads to stagnation and "good old boy" politics.

Anyone of you, anywhere in the world is eligible to run for any elected office so don't be bashful. Drop a note to Dave Nelson (#25), our Public Relations man and head of the Committee to field a slate of candidates. Tell him that office you would like to seek, why, and your background in collecting, business, or administration that qualifies you for the position you seek.

\*\*\* Ken Jenkins, President (# 15)

*The No 3rd Term "stamps" illustrated above are actual political stickers from the days when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was running for his third term as President of the United States. This bit of nostalgia was furnished by Ken Jenkins.*

## TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What country has some stamps inscribed T. Ta. C.?
2. Give the native spelling of Ethiopia.
3. What country's currency includes the lempira?
4. Name a neighbor of Malawi.
5. Spanish Guinea was renamed what?

\*\*\* Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Answers on Page 7

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

First, and most importantly, an acknowledgement of and apology for two errors of mine: In the last issue among the member dropped for non-payment of dues were two who had paid — Luther Smith, Jr. (# 159) and Michael Strawn (# 353). Please note that they are still members in good standing and add them to your new roster.\* My apologies to both these gentlemen.

The club announces with regret the death of Gene McGlasson, Jr. (# 194). Gene died January 2nd, 1991. Our sympathies to his widow.

Clark (# 250) was dropped for non-payment of dues. Word has now been received that he has resigned due to relocation to the Mid East. His donation of \$3.47 is acknowledged with thanks.

Please note on your new roster that Martin (# 39) is no longer President of the Junior Philatelic Association (JPA).

Three members have been restored to full membership: Mike Sivak II (# 123), Bruce Kellogg (# 188) and Donald H. Wright (# 273).\*

And now to the coming election. It is highly doubtful that I will run again for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. I think I have outlived my usefulness. So, out there in stamp land, please some of you write Dave Nelson (# 25), our nominating committee chairman, and offer your services for this "fun" job. It would be helpful if you have a computer, but not essential. The club staff needs new blood. So don't sit back and wait for "someone" to volunteer. YOU are someone!!

Our Australian/New Zealand representatives are working out fine. Not it is time for the same structure to be established for our neighboring country to the north - Canada. This is a requirement of special need at this moment because of the difficulty in money transmission. We need one of our Canadian members to act as a conduit for all our members in Canada. This will save time, postage and hopefully confusion. Write to me if you can help in this regard.

The club acknowledges the following donations:

# 426 - Gervasio \$ 1.60

# 433 - Olson .60

Henson (# 423) is dropped for non-payment of dues.

The following addresses are changed:

- # 62 Hotchner - Change to: PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041
- # 195 Wilhelm - Change to: 1120 Wishing Well Ln, Naperville, IL 60564
- # 428 Cox - Change to: 6027 Cheerra, Houston, TX 77096
- # 430 Conde - Change to: H.R.H. Maj. Gen. The Prince of Conde, 11 Rue Moutek, Roudani, Tangier, MOROCCO
- # 451 Wiskar - Change to: 12/113 - 119 Cook Rd., Centennial Park, NSW 2021, AUSTRALIA
- # 454 Lovell - Change to: 77 Church Rd. Kaitai, Northland, NEW ZEALAND
- # 490 Whynot - Change to: c/o Irving Stamps, PO Box 371, Don Mills, ONT, M3C 2S7 CANADA

In addition, please note the name change on # 515 listed in the last newsletter. The name should be Bernard S. Ulmas. He is listed again correctly in this edition.\*

The annual financial statement for 1990 will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The new membership coding system, so long promised, is here

at last. Sorry it took so long. Read it over; then code yourself and send that code to me on a postal card. Please print it neatly. Some of the stuff I receive is hard to decipher. As received, I will list these in coming issues. Then by the time the next new roster comes out we will be ready to list everyone next to their address. Note that these codes only cover stamp collecting. This is in line with the purpose of our organization, as expressed in the by-laws. Some members wanted other collecting interests included but this was not deemed appropriate.

I will close by stating that we now have 307 paid-up members. Happy Stamping. ••• Herb Holland, Secy-Treas. (# 31)

\* (See Roster Additions & Corrections Elsewhere)

## MEMBER ENJOYS CHALLENGE OF WORLDWIDE COLLECTING

Like most worldwide-collectors, I have sat and listened to "experts" tell me again and again how important it is to specialize after I got some experience in collecting since "no one can collect the entire world." I think the problem they have is that they really mean that no one can *complete* the entire world and in that sense, they are certainly correct. However, if stamp collecting is the quest and not the result, then the worldwide collector will always have something new to keep the hobby alive.

I have been collecting since a hepatitis infection in my high school days. The collection has been set aside at various times due to work pressure but interestingly, even if I wasn't working with the collection, I did keep up my readership of the stamp papers and occasionally buy kiloware which was stored.

I currently separate incoming stamps by country and have window-faced envelopes for each country in two large storage trays. As I run across stamps, they go into the country envelope. If there is a large quantity, they are placed in a separate #3 glassine in front of the country envelope. When the two trays become too stuffed to accept another envelope, it is time for me to do an album search, country-by-country.

Any duplicates of large stamps are packaged in #3 glassines of 103-105 different and stored for swapping. The small issues are traded in quantities of 2000 for high value stamps.

Where do I get the stamps? Some are from mixtures that I buy from a number of sources. Some come from albums that I buy just to get those *grey covered* Harri's binders. Others are from country selections that I buy from dealers such as John Diller. In some ways, I am a sucker for a bulk mixture. I use my travel nights away from home on business trips to do some sorting and drying. Probably raises a lot of questions among those who remove the trash!

Finally, the last way I get stamps is the annual ad that I run in Linn's to swap off the preceding years collection of 100 packs. One of these is going on now.

One last comment, those of us that are involved in swapping of worldwide stamps should use the opportunity to spread the word about ISWSC since the swapper on the other end is probably also one of us.

••• Richard Boosey (# 482)

**Deadline Next Issue ••• May 5th, 1991**

## Classified Ads

**NEW TRADING PARTNERS WANTED.** Let's trade on CV for CV approval basis. I am an advanced BC and Western Europe collector and have plenty of good material to trade. Prefer high value trades. Prompt responses. SASE first trade only. (ISWSC # 434) Please write: Arthur Clarke, Box 133, Whittaker, MI 48190

(3/2)

**MEMBER SEEKS JOINED SE-TENANTS,** postally used only, complete as issued (blocks, full strips, panes, etc.). I offer two better British Isles or worldwide for your one. (Eight stamps for block of four). State interests. All countries wanted, duplication OK. (ISWSC # 510) Chad Neighbor, 28 Relugas Place, Edinburgh EH9 2PY, Scotland UK (2/1)

## Whatzit Answers

**91-1:** Ken Jenkins (#15) indicates this is a Japanese tax or revenue stamp. Michael Strawn (#353) writes: Although the "thingie" at the top center vaguely resembles the Japanese chrysanthemum crest, it was never depicted similarly on Japan's stamps. The character in the center is the numeral 1 in both Japanese and Chinese. The character below it resembles the Japanese sen; sen means cents, so it may also be Chinese. The character in the lower right circle is Chinese for gold (as in gold currency — see Scott's note after China # 827). My guess is that it's Chinese. (Incidentally, that thing in the circle looks a lot like a baseball, doesn't it?)

**91-2:** All three respondents identified this as Algeria # 287, with E A meaning Etat Algerien or Algerian State. Albert Fineberg (#361) also gave the Yvert et Tellier Catalog # 355.

**91-3:** Ken Jenkins and Michael Strawn were in agreement that this is a Turkish Red Crescent (Red Cross) tax stamp.

**91-4:** Everyone agrees that this was from Russia, but no one knows it's purpose. It is not listed in Scott's and Ken suggests it likely was never actually issued. Michael adds that the very high denomination of 10,000 Rubles would indicate the inflationary period of 1921-23.

**91-5:** Ken and Michael agree this one is Japanese, purpose unknown. Ken adds that it probably has a "chop" put in the center blank space to validate. A chop is an official

## OVERSEAS COLLECTORS LOOKING FOR TRADERS

I am a Dutch stamp collector and I am looking for stamps, souvenir sheets, booklets, Airmailletters, topic cancellations on - real used by the Post - covers of cards and other postal material. The topics I am looking for are: Carnival, Fastnacht, Mardi Gras, Cycling (Racing, Cyclist), Europa Cept, Paintings and Painters, Trains & Locomotives, Traditional Costumes, Fire Brigade, Owls, Birds, Windmills, Ceramics, Butterflies, Mushrooms, Orchids, Folklore, Horses and Post coaches, Music, instruments and composers, etc. I do collect worldwide and can offer in exchange, the same. I am looking for partners collecting the same. Hope to hear from you soon. F. G. Brouwer, P.O. Box 79, NL 3960 BB-Wijk bij Duurstede, Holland. \*\*\*

I like very much to collect stamps of the U.S. and topics from other states - Birds, Animals, Trains, Plants, Space, Art and Sport. Mainly in mint condition. Can use cancelled stamps also. In trade I offer as topics of U.S.S.R. and communist block in mint or used. I'm interested in postcards and envelopes also. Hope for your answer soon. (ATA # 46898-3) Alexander Kuzmins, Uzvaras 20-13, 229820 Kandava, Latvia, U.S.S.R. \*\*\*

I am a boy of thirteen, reading in grade seven. My mother tongue is Tamil and could write and speak English, too. I am interested in stamps and have a good collection of local stamps and a few foreign ones. I would like to have pen friends dealing with stamps. I am looking forward for your reply. 'S. Srihar, 133 Arasady Road, Kandarmadam, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. \*\*\*(Editor's Note: These collectors are not ISWSC members. You may contact them or not at your choice. ISWSC has no responsibility for any actions of these collectors.)

signature and is registered. Everyone is different and they are similar to our self-inking address stamps only much smaller.

*Our thanks to those of you who take the extra time to look up and then write with your solutions to these puzzlers. Al Fineberg suggests that any watermarks be indicated as they can be real clues to origin. That is an excellent suggestion. I would add that it would be very helpful if those of you sending photocopies noted colors of stamp, overprints and/or postmarks, paper types, watermarks, postmark dates and any other distinctive features.*

## Officers, Chairpersons, & Managers

**President:** Ken Jenkins (#15), Box 42271, Las Vegas, NV 89116-2271 USA

**Vice President:** Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginus Srive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA (Send Required Stamps for Dues for Youth Stamp Program to the Vice President)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Herb Holland (#31), 825 East Torrey St., New Braunfels, TX 78130 USA  
**ISWSC Archivist:** Hal Erickson (#173), 217 Redstone, Las Vegas, NV

**Editor/Publisher:** Rita Kallal (#26), PO Box 1513, West Monroe, LA 71294-1513 USA

**Membership Chairman:** Herb Holland (#31)  
**Youth Stamp Program:** Ken Costilow (#142)

**Public Relations Chairman:** Dave Nelson (#25), 305 Kennedy Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 USA

**International Foreign Secretary:** Ray Compton (#73), Box 1772, Manassas, VA 22110-1772 USA

**Australian Secretaries:** Karl F. Steinberg & Allen F. Soule, P.O. Box 12017, A 'Beckett St., Melbourne - 3000, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

**Sales Circuit Manager:** W. K. Dow (# 418), 3337 Cesery Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32211 USA

**Auction Manager:** Dr. Wallace D. Johnson (#212), 806 Overlook Drive, Beckley, WV 25801 USA

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**Co-Managers:** Dave Paul (#59), Dr. Isaac Tannenbaum (#163) & Jerry Gross (#429)

**Board of Directors:** Aubrey Dunn, Past President (#1); Dave Nelson (#25); John Hotchner (#62); Hal Erickson (#173) and the Elected Officers.

**Advertising Policy:** 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.

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Per column inch	2.00

**Classified Rates per Insertion:** First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00. State abbreviations are one word. "P.O. Box 12345" is two words. Zip Code is one word.

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