

# The Circuit

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

## THE MOUNTAIN AWAKES

by Ed Jacinto (# 168)

Lahar, ashfall, magma, lava, mudflow, Alert Level 5, pyroclastic materials — the Filipino has acquired a new set of vocabulary as a result of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

Name it, we've had it. All manner of calamities have visited the Philippines in the past few years: the strongest typhoons in years (and they're getting more "super"); the mightiest earthquake in (a hundred?) years; the Gulf War, with the consequent doubling of the prices of petroleum products (and naturally other commodities and services dependent upon them); the series of coup attempts that have discouraged foreign investors and tourists; the perception of graft and corruption that could rival (we don't really know) the experience of the Marcos era, etc., etc., etc. — and now, the wrath of a volcano that has slumbered for 600 years! Some quarters have raised the cry for our president to resign, for the superstitious believe she has brought all of this "bad luck" upon our nation. (It seems not one corner of the country has been spared from trouble.) Cory indirectly acknowledged this dig — and stated that we are just being "tested by God."

So far, more than 300 persons have perished as a result of the volcano's activities. Some have been buried under collapsed buildings, some have been trapped by mudflows, others have died of disease. There are many evacuees (refugees?) now housed in public buildings in Metro-Manila and other places. Buildings, bridges and other structures have crumpled under the weight of sand, ashes, and boulders spewed by the volcano. Entire villages have been buried. So many hectares of

agricultural land may no longer be cultivated for (some say hundreds) of years. One estimate has it that the volcano has disgorged materials equal to its own volume.

A local daily newspaper described the volcanic eruption thus: "Volcanic mudflow is something that has to be seen in order to be believed. It is nature gone amok. Hell let loose. The popular concept of a volcano is that the great damage is done during the eruption. This is not necessarily true. In the case of Pinatubo, the damage was done during and after the eruption. During the eruption, many areas, including Clark Field and Olongapo, were covered with ash. After the eruption, it was the mudflow that is actually a devastation caused by a heavy concentration of lahar plus the rains. The mudflow has already reached as far as Nueva Ecija. Definitely, it will change the topography of the central plain of Luzon."

And the worst may not be over yet. Lahar and mudflows are expected with the coming of rains. The volcano continues to rumble and spew ashes and other materials now and then. Volcanologists have stated that the volcano would quiet down in 3-5 years. By the way, several of the more than twenty "active" volcanoes in other parts of the country are showing signs of "waking up."

Here in Cabanatuan, the leaves of trees and plants, including blades of grass are verdant once again. The colors of painted roofs are recognizable once more. Not so long ago (just a week or two), there was a patina of white over everything, brought about by the ashes

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## The Best In Philatelic Bulletins

by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Various countries around the world issue pamphlets to inform collectors and the press of upcoming new stamps. These range from one page statements to elaborate multi-color booklets. Postal administrations listed below are happy to add interested collectors' names to their mailing rosters free of charge. Where applicable (\*) ask for the English version.

My top pick in slick publications is the "Australian Stamp Bulletin." Issued four times a year, this booklet comes in full color with fine articles on new stamps and postal stationary. Detailed specialist information on pictorial postmarks, frames, booklets, and stamp reprints is included along with a current order form. Sata on issues from Christmas Island, Cocos Island, Fiji, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, and Western Samoa is included. Although these can only be purchased by native Australians through Australia Post, which acts as a sales agent, collectors can choose to write to the individual countries by using the addresses provided. Australia's bulletin may have one of the world's largest distributions with a mailing list claimed to be over 200,000. Write to: Australian Stamp Bulletin, Locked Box 8, South Melbourne, VIC 3205, Australia.

About every two months, Denmark publishes their "PFC - Journalen." (\*) This 12-15 page journal has in-depth articles relating to their new issues. A conservative stamp issuing policy and well designed stamps are hallmarks of the Danish Philatelic Bureau. About 146,000 issues of each

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## Volcano (Continued)

from Mt. Pinatubo which were carried by the winds to our place. The layer of volcanic debris was thin here, unlike in areas where buildings collapsed under the sheer weight of volcanic fall-out. For a few days, there was little mail as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was forced to shut down. Things are back to normal now --- well . . . almost.

I felt a certain sadness as the maid went in to clean the room. She was, unknown to her poor little self, sweeping history into the dustbin.

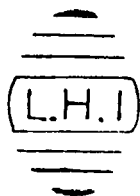
And to end on this note of hope: All along MacArthur highway from San Fernando to Angeles City, one encounters rows and rows of coconut trees, their fronds bent and wilted, weighted down by Mt. Pinatubo's ashfall. But on closer inspection, one spies new leaf growths of shiny, hopeful green sprouting from the trunks, signs of new life in a scenery of devastation. As streamers along the main roads of San Fernando and Angeles proclaim: "Pampanga will rise again!" And true enough, life does go on.

At the Abacan River, between Angeles and Dau, where three concrete bridges have been felled by mudflow, pedestrian traffic flows unabated across two makeshift wooden bridges. A talipapa, a streetside market, has sprouted near the walkways, with stalls selling everything from fish to backpacks, kitchenwares to movie gossip magazines opened to their fleshy centerfolds to entice buyers.

In Dau, the McDonald's outlet does brisk business. A companion suggests we check out the stalls for possible bargains, but this "disaster tourist" said no; there is a limit even to decadent behavior, after all. •••

## Lord Howe Island:

Cancellation used on Lord Howe Island until the 1920's.



## Bulletins (Continued)

journal are produced. Write to: Postens Frimaerkecenter, Vesterbrogade 67, DK-1620 Kobenhavn V, Denmark.

Norway's philatelic bulletin has just undergone some improvements. Named "Frimerkeposten" (\*), it is similar to Denmark's, but adds features on philatelic tips and historical information on older issues. A new feature is an exchange page, where collectors can write brief ads to be published in a future issue. With a circulation of 105,000 many will take advantage of this offer. Write to: Postens Frimerketjeneste, Postboks 3770 Gamlebyen, N-0135 Oslo 1, Norway.

The majority of philatelic bureaus publish leaflets on each new issue and either mail them out one at a time or in bulk 3-4 times a year. Here are some of the better ones based on the detailed information provided in each.

**Belgium (\*)** - Collector's Department, Division 1.1.4.2., 1000 Brussels, Belgium

**China (Taiwan)** - Directorate General of Posts, Taipei, Taiwan 106, Republic of China

**Finland** - Philatelic Center, P. O. Box 654, 00101 Helsinki, Finland

**French Polynesia** - Office des Postes, Center Philatelique, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia

**Iceland** - Postfil, P. O. Box 8445, 128 Reykjavik, Iceland

**Ireland** - The Controller, Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O. Dublin, Ireland

**New Zealand** - Philatelic Bureau, Private Bag, Wanganni, New Zealand

**South Africa (& Homelands)** - Philatelic Services, Private Bag X505, Pretoria 0001, Rep. of South Africa

**United Arab Emirates** - Philatelic Bureau, General Postal Authority, P.O. No. 8888, Dubai, U. A. E.

**United Nations/New York** - U.N. Postal Administration, P. O. Box 5900, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-9992 USA

**Vatican** - Philatelic Office, Main Post Office, Vatican City

Of course, other countries also issue their own bulletins. *Linn's Stamp News* column "World Stamp Almanac" lists current addresses of most philatelic bureaus around the world. If your favorite country is not listed, simply write to "Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office" followed by the capital city and country. It should get through to the right place. •••

## Foreign Collectors Write for Exchange Friends

The following letters from non-members requesting exchanges have been received. Answer or not as you choose.

I am a Soviet philatelist and I wish to have correspond with collectors in USA and worldwide. I can offer USSR's mint stamps for mint thematic: fauna, space aircraft, etc., of USA and worldwide. I can also exchange my stamps for your banknotes of worldwide. I hope to receive help from you.

••• Igor Marunenko, ul. Spiridonova 28-49, Vladivostok 690013, USSR

I would like to ask you, Are you interested in exchange with me? I can offer Czechoslovakia mint complete sets. From you I would like to receive USA mint ones. Let me know your wishes. In case you are not interested in exchange, please pass this letter on to other stamp collectors you might know. Thank you very much. Best regards from Czechoslovakia

••• Frantisek Zouhar, Svermova 11, 682 01 Vyskov, Czechoslovakia

Lord Howe Island is located in the Tasman Sea and was discovered in 1788. It was first settled in 1834 and was administered from New South Wales. It was handed over to the Commonwealth of Australia in 1914. No stamps have been issued, but New South Wales and Australian stamps have been used. A postmaster was appointed in 1878; the receiving office became a post office in 1882 and an obliterator lettered LHI was introduced and used until the 1920's.

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Many of you are doing a great job of recruiting new members. However, an administrative note is required. If you are recruiting a new member in areas where we have a regional secretary, please give them the regional secretary's address, NOT yours truly. It will save the club considerable expense. Areas where we have regional secretaries are: Australia-New Zealand, Great Britain and Canada.

As my tour of duty winds down I want to do everything I can to help my successor. Here are some ways all of our membership can do that:

1. Don't write to the Secretary-Treasurer for brochures. Write to the Public Relations Officer - Tom Fortunato (# 379).

2. If you do not receive *The Circuit*, contact the Secretary-Treasurer. The Editor/Publisher does NOT keep extra copies of the newsletter. All extras are sent to the Secretary for publicity and new member mailouts.

3. Send all change of addresses to the Secretary-Treasurer. These will be forwarded to the Editor when the bi-monthly column is sent. Corrections pertaining only to your mailing label may be sent directly to the Editor.

4. If you have ideas or suggestions for club improvements, write either to the President or Vice President. The Secretary-Treasurer has enough to do with membership and financial matters - and forwarding items to the proper person costs the club in postage!

We have now received member's interest codes from 62 of you. The latest batch will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The death of Bill Rawlings, (# 243) is reported with regret. Bill died in May 1991.

The following members are dropped for non-payment of dues: # 480 (Ludington) & # 486 (Lugo).

The following address are changed:

# 170 - Creson Changed to: PO Box 422, Falls City, OR 97344 USA

# 422 - Mines Changed to: 819 Cedar Knoll Drive, N., Lakeland FL 33809 USA \*\* Please note: he no longer wishes to trade.

# 444 - Overmoe Changed to: 3103 E. Boulder Drive, Layton, UT 84040 USA

# 520 - Heimpel Changed to: 478 Victoria Street, London, Ont. N5V 4B3 CANADA

# 324 - Kerstetter Restored to full membership.

New members can be found elsewhere under Roster Additions. I will close by stating that as of September 6th, we have 335 paid up members from 25 different countries. Happy Stamping.

••• Herb Holland (# 31), Secretary-Treasurer

**Treasury Competition:** In September 1839, the British Treasury offered prizes of 200 pounds and 100 pounds for the best suggestion as to the manner in which the projected new postage stamp might best be brought into use. They received over 2,600 entries and awarded four prizes of 100 pounds, although none of the suggestions was apparently put into actual use. •••

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Requests for Youth Program stamps slowed somewhat during the summer months, but should be picking up again soon as schools open up again. I recently received a nice thank you note from a coordinator in New Hope, Kentucky.

It appears that we will be having a bonafide election this time, for some of the offices, at least. I have agreed to run for another term as Vice President and expect a real "horse race" with my opponent, Mr. Dick Hargrove (# 363).

Our newsletter, *The Circuit*, continues to be a quality product. It is really good to see other members coming forward with articles and informative tidbits. Our editor and the contributing members deserve another "Well Done." Happy Collecting! ••• by Ken Costilow (#142), Vice President

## MEMBER'S INTEREST CODES

# 321 Manzevich	B(1990 & older), E, X(35), DD, 1, 6, 50, 60, 70, 83(Swed.)
# 351 Blanchard	A, E, X(45), DD, 50, 80
# 355 Oswood	A, D, X(5), DD, 1a (AK, Seattle World Fair), 3(Bullseye Cancels for 20th Century Cat. Coll.), 6a(Seattle World Fair), 50(WW mint for WW used), 70, 80
# 372 Watkins	A, DD, 7(Japan), 50, 70, 80a, 83(Japan)
# 400 Chrystie	A, F, X(49), DD, 7(New Zealand), 50, 80
# 549 Clough	D, X(10), DD, 50, 70, 80
# 627 Smith	B(to 1920), X(45), DD, 7(US, Gr. Britian, Canada), 80a

## Former Member's Death Reported

Lydia Cohen (# 290) has written to report the death of a past member, Mr. Charles "Chuck" Tomala. He was an ISWSC member for several years during the late 1980's. Chuck had been on disability from a work accident for years, so was an avid stamp collector. Lydia received word from Jenny, his widow, that Chuck passed away on July 18, 1991, from brain cancer. Lydia reports that Chuck had a very nice collection and since his wife doesn't collect, she will likely want to sell the collection. She has been left with considerable medical bills, so Lydia feels that Mrs. Tomala could use some help and/or advice in disposing of the collection for the best price. If any members are interested in purchasing the collection or those living in or near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, could volunteer their assistance, you may contact her at this address: Mrs. Jenny Tomala, 175 Travis Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 25236-2903. Lydia suggests cards and notes of sympathy would be appreciated, too.

(Speaking for ISWSC, we send our condolences to Jenny Tomala on the loss of her husband. — The Editor)

## Classified Ads

**BEAUTIFUL QUALITY WORLD-WIDE** Commercial Registered/Airmail Clipping Mixtture on Single Paper. Many Exotic Countries including BwI, Papua, Europe, Etc. Commemoratives, Pictorials, High Values Galore. Unconditional Moneyback Guarantee. Lots offered through Linns and Stamp Collector for 5 years with many regular customers. APS Member. Trial lot \$10, Better lot \$25, Half pound \$40, LB. \$75. James Paton, 547 Elm Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530 (4/3)

**WORLDWIDE PERSONALIZED APPROVALS.** Bargain prices. An example you can order now is USA \$5.00 Lamp (#1612), used (worth \$2.25) only \$1.00. ABSP, INC., Box 155, Warminster, PA 18974 ISWSC member # 94) (3/2)

**WORLDWIDE MYSTERY LOTS.** Over the years (Since 1973) I've bought others. There are honestly better. Only \$25.00. ABSP, INC., Box 155, Warminster, PA 18974 (ISWSC member # 94) (3/2)

**WILL TRADE 3 GREAT BRITIAN or US perfins for ONE Japanese perfin:** Robert Urdang (# 293), 414 North Edinburg Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90048 (1/1)

**why not put little packets of stamps in the kids Trick or Treat bags this year?**

## Member Offers Special Event Apple Umpkin Cachet Cover



Member Ralph Chapin will take mail orders for the Special Event Cancellation and Cachet Covers for the 1991 Apple Umpkin Festival to be held October 5-6, in Wyoming, NY. The Official Festival cacheted covers are #6 size, goldenrod color cacheted with the above festival logo.

Plain Cachet Cover (No stamp or cancel) - 70¢. Cachet Cover with Stamp & Cancel - \$1.00. Mail orders, please add 50¢ per envelope.

Send order with payment to: Ralph R. Chapin, A-UF, Finance Comm., P. O. Box 190, Warsaw, NY 14569-0190 •••

## Officers, Chairpersons, & Managers

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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.

**Make all checks payable to ISWSC.**

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