

# The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

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

## Why Not Worldwide Cancels

by John N. Hotcher # 62

Worldwide collecting is alive and well in my stamp den. No, I don't collect everything. Precious few people do. But I do collect "any given stamp" – those with a fun story attached to them because of the circumstances of issuance, the design, or something about the stamp itself – such as odd-shaped perforations.

Also *any given cancellation*, and that's what I want to talk about here. It's a collection that is high in satisfaction and low – very low – in expense.

Over 25 years of collecting, only two rules have developed. First is that the cancel must interest me. Secondly, it must cost me less than 25¢ (up from 10¢ when I began), and I refuse to do the work to look up value of what I buy.

What makes a cancel interesting? Refer to the illustrations in *Figure 1*, and then review this list for *fun stuff*:

- Number cancels – usually associated with a special place of use
- Letter cancels
- Combination of numbers and letters

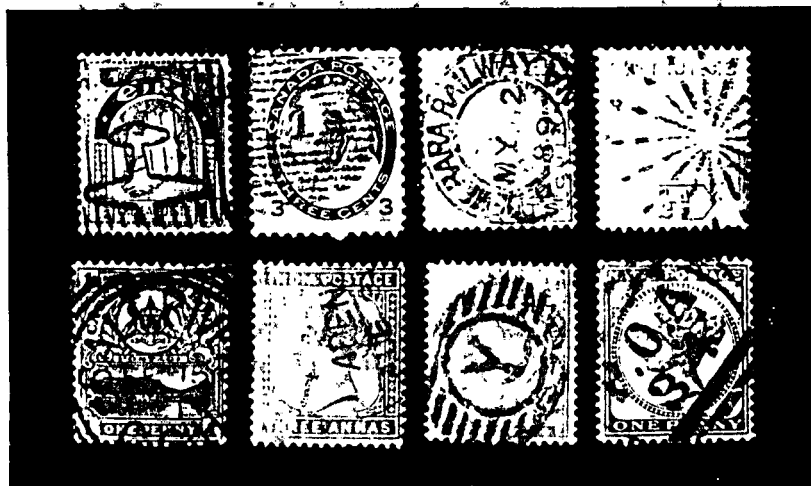


Figure 1: Various types of collectible cancels

- Odd - shaped cancels
- Oddly placed cancels
- Socked-on-the-nose place names
- Socked-on-the-nose dates that have special appeal – like my birthday
- Place names that don't match the stamp (e.g. used abroad)
- Place names that were later renamed
- Place names that subsequently were transferred to other countries
- Dates of use for outside their proper period of use
- Transportation related socked-on-the-nose cancels

Why do I recommend collecting this material? I can only tell you why I enjoy it. First, there is no book (for most) that defines completeness, so there is no pressure to *fill the last space*. Where a book does exist, some of the material is so scarce or so expensive that my collection will not be graced by the material and I don't need to worry about it.

Thus, it's totally for fun. I can make my own pages (*Figure 2*), or leave the material in a stock book.

I can find the cheap material on cheap covers, which makes looking through dealer stocks fun, but expensive.

Material for the collection pops up in APS sales books, my Federation's sales books, the United Stamp Society sales books that my club gets, duplicates of friends, at virtually every dealer table I visit, and in accumulations purchased by mail.

Obviously, I'm after bulk, so the collection serves yet another interesting purpose. When one of my specialist friends looks over my holdings in their area of interest, they often find "something for their collection. I'm delighted to

(Continued on Page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Since this will be my final column as President, I would like to take some of my space to acknowledge the contributions of so many others during the past formative years of ISWSC. I will not attempt to name individuals as there is too big a chance I will miss someone. Suffice it to say that everyone's contribution has been appreciated and I hope it will continue with the new slate of officers. Only good can come from the any contributions made by all of you.

My thanks goes especially to our slate of candidates for volunteering to run for an elected office. I'm sure it was a tough choice for our members to choose between such good candidates for each office. I would like to announce our newly elected officers at this time. They are: President - Dave Nelson (# 25); Vice President - Ken Costilow (# 142); and Secretary/Treasurer - Carol Cervanko (# 493). Congratulations! As your immediate past president and thus a member of the Board of Directors, please feel free to call me at any time for information or assistance. I am sure the ISWSC is in good hands for the next two years. I also hope this election has set the tone for future contests; that there IS a contest. That is something that is missing in most philatelic elections - a choice. Again, my thanks to each one of you for running. ••• Ken Jenkins (# 15)

## One Never Knows What Music Lessons Will Do For a Kid

When I was about nine years old I walked half a mile up a country road to take a piano lesson for 25¢. My teacher rewarded her students who practiced with a foreign stamp to put in a cheap little stamp book that she gave us with our music. I hated the piano but I trudged that mile round trip once a week to get that next stamp. I never learned to play well, but I still enjoy my hobby of collecting stamps.

Today I have several friends in far away places. Some I have visited and some I only know through their letters. Somehow I like to think our mutual interest in stamps have made the international relations a little better. Certainly I look forward to receiving letters from many collector friends.

Good stamping to each of you. This retired teacher says let's do all we can to encourage the youth of our nation to become more interested in the world of philately. ••• Frances G. Stalling (# 338)

## Beginner Next Learns Paper Types

Continuing from the last issue of *The Circuit*.

Trying to distinguish the different papers used in printing stamps can be a little tricky. Most of the time you can tell by holding the stamp up to a light so you can see through it or if you have a Signoscope, that makes it a lot easier. Holding it up to the light is usually sufficient.

The easiest to identify is the **Wove Paper**. It appears to be rows of little dots. I think most stamps are on wove paper.

**Laid paper** can be identified by either horizontal or vertical narrow line as you look thru the stamp.

**Granite paper** is pretty easy to identify. It has the appearance of wove paper but has blue & red silk threads throughout the paper.

**Deluxe paper** is very thin, not much thicker than an onion skin. It is usually hard & brittle.

**Quadrille paper** is similar to laid paper having horizontal & vertical line, looks like little squares. A good example is (France, Scott #103)

**Chalky paper**, used on a lot of British stamps, is easy to identify, also. On the wove stamps you can usually see the watermarks easily; on the chalky paper the watermark is hard to see.

Other types of paper that you will come in contact with are not used too often: such as **native paper**, used in early Asian stamps; **manila paper**, used mostly on envelopes; **India paper**, introduced in China, mostly used for dyeproofs.

I hope this bit of information helps some of the newer collectors to identify paper used in printing stamps.

••• Mildred Feinberg, wife of Albert Feinberg (#361)

Moheli, A French island of the Comoro group, off Madagascar, had its own stamps from 1906 to 1914. Madagascar stamps were used until 1950 when the Comoro Islands issued their own stamps.

## MEMBER'S INTEREST CODES

- # 363 Hargrove A,X (50)DD, 4, 50, 80
- 534 Mihai A, F, X, DD, 50, 83, (Fr., Russ.)
- 628 Verdia A, G, X, (30)DD, 7(Ger) 50,83, (Span., Fr., some Ger.)
- 637 Giles A, F, X, (32)DD, 1,6,7(USSR, Czeck, Br. Com.) 60, 80
- 638 Polito A, E, X (2) CC, 50,60, 83(Ital.)

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**NEW MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO TRADE** used BC, mint & used GB for US and Canada precancels. Colin Caskee (#576), 44 Terrace Road, Camoustie, Argus DD7 7AR, U.K. (1/1)

*Happy Holidays  
and  
Happy New Year*

**FOR SALE: WORLD COLLECTION** of ISWSC member in 29 Harris albums made from base album and supplements through 1988. Mint Br. Comm. and good German States noted. Map page for each country and other extras. Price \$1600.00, shipping included. (NOTE: This sale is being handled by VP K. Costilow for a member who wishes anonymity and will benefit ISWSC for 10% of price.) Contact Ken Costilow, 621 Virginius Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (1/1)

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## ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

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## TRADING WORLDWIDE BEST ISWSC BENEFIT

The prospect of trading with collectors around the world is one of the main reasons for joining the ISWSC. To the long-standing member who is tired of seeing the "same old" stamps in packets of 50, however, the prospect of initiating more trades might seem like ordering dessert after a five-course meal in a bad restaurant.

While I am a relative newcomer to the society, I feel I may have a suggestion to ISWSC veterans who may be disenchanted, and understandably so - one which will help keep recruits to the club happy. To continue the food analogy, my suggestion is to try a foreign cuisine.

Quite simply, the growing number of foreign members provides a wealth of collecting opportunities to even the most advanced collectors and traders. As secretaries and representatives for distant countries are named (as the new UK representative, to be sure, I have a vested interest in good trading) the opportunities also are growing.

Society members may be interested to hear a little about my trading "exploits" of late. To get the ball rolling, I took out a classified ad in *The Circuit* seeking trades for postally used, joined se-tenants, a fairly recent sideline for me to my general collection of nearly 30 years. Running the ad for two months cost just \$8. I only got a few responses, but they were excellent. One member wrote from Romania offering fairly small amounts of se-tenants and a wide variety of other interesting material. From him I have received postally used Romania miniature sheets, strips and blocks and scores of postally used ordinary blocks of four and a good variety of mint stamps from right across Eastern Europe. I told him I was less interested in CTO material, and he only sends me that if it's complete sets, pre-1972 (the cutoff date for my general collection). All the envelopes he mailed to me had at least one block on them.

Pleased by this experience, I wrote to a Latvian collector who had written to *The Circuit* inviting trades (and who has since joined the society). I asked him not only about se-tenants, but about the possibility of obtaining postally used copies of the new issues in neighboring Lithuania. He got to work and now I have seven or eight pre-independence covers and pieces of used postal stationary, plus a good variety of mint issues and se-tenants in mint and CTO. He promises to provide all new Latvian issues. The icing on the cake is the Soviet se-tenants he uses on his envelopes to me, providing me with some of the best items in my collection. One mailing of his carried the U.S.S.R.-USA joint issue of the sea mammals block of four; by happy coincidence I got the USA issue on cover in the same month from an American collector. But the real prize is a FDC with a difference - a first day of coup cover. He happened to write to me on Aug 18, the night before the Russian coup. The envelope was clearly franked the next morning, a few hours after the coup had started.

You may not be surprised to learn that I am in the process of writing to members in countries which issue se-tenant stamps and offering trades. I may not be lucky enough to get anything else as unusual, but then I just might - and so could you. Even if the stamps you receive won't necessarily fit in with your collection, you'll receive trading material which will go down as a treat at your local stamp club or with your stamp friends.

A few suggestions and a word of warning, however:

- Quite understandably, the English of some overseas members is not fluent. Write very simple and clear letters to them, and don't be afraid to admit if you don't understand something they're proposing.

- Clearly state your interests from the beginning. I usually list five or six priorities for trading in the order of interest for me.

- Be flexible. Most overseas collectors don't have access to Scott catalogues, so catalogue value is not always the best basis for trading. I simply send my partners a reasonable amount of the material they want and tell them to send me as much of what I want as they can; I've yet to be disappointed or not receive good value. I certainly don't insist on stamp-for-stamp trading; if someone sends me an elusive se-tenant pair I'll gladly provide a score or more of basic stamps they want. I encourage my correspondents to send a want list; it's a bit more work, but you know you're sending what the collector wants.

- As for the word of caution, my experience has been that Eastern Europeans prefer mint sets. This means that trading with them required a cash outlay, particularly if, like me, you prefer used stamps. On the other hand, now I enjoy going to the General Post Office in Edinburgh to buy the new issues - it reminds me of my youth - and my interest in British new commemoratives has increased.

You can have the hamburgers if you want, but I'll go for the goulash. ••• Chad Neighbor (#510)

## SANCTIONS TOUGH ON PHILATELISTS

The village I come from has only 800 persons and I know of about 20 persons (incl. children) who collect stamps; some seriously, some as a hobby. The local primary school has a small stamp circle which I would like to assist. The problem here is communication (the local language is Afrikaans). Most do not have much material and I did not have enough stock and my finances are very limited. I would like to exchange stamps with others worldwide to further my efforts in this activity. However, we have been badly hit by sanctions and our exchange control regulations are very severe. An ordinary stock book costs R 45 and philatelic stationary is very hard to get. I am looking for a watermark detector as these are not available here and have to be imported at a cost of R 300. Also I need a short wave ultra-violet light - this is in excess of R 500. I need these items to help me with my school project. I would be most grateful if you could put this notice in your newsletter. My postal address is: 21 Queen Victoria St., Darling 7345, Republic of South Africa. Thank You. ••• Peter Wood (#639)

In 1902 the British Post Office devised a method for handling heavy Christmas mail. The sender could post it in advance for delivery on Christmas Day. Begun in Rochdale, it spread to several other Lancashire towns and eventually advanced as far north as Glasgow and to Reading in the South. It was abruptly halted in 1909; although no reason was given, it is suspected it was too successful and the post offices found it too difficult to deliver so much mail on Christmas Day. •••



## S. E. RUTXIM BACK

My apologies for not sending in a column for quite awhile. I've been extremely busy with my work, leaving little time for stamps or working on mixtures.

Another member asked me (S. E. Rutxim) to review a \$1.00 worldwide mixture offer from new dealer & fellow member, Bruce Negrycz. I sent a buck and right back came 100 worldwide stamps. About two-thirds were large stamps and all were used except China (ROC) # C1-3. The first (and best) thing I noticed was a souvenir sheet (Romania C122A). I adore SS, so was very pleased with this find. The most I could use were 50, which is fairly high. There were 25 nice Latin America and others that I will use. Like most collectors, however, I don't need much in used Canada, USA, etc. I started my original collection with those more easily obtained stamps. The cover Bruce sent the stamps in was very nice, too. He used commemoratives including the 1980 15¢ Olympics stamp. The down side was the Irish, England and New Zealand. Nice stamps, but I have them all, so will become good traders. Overall, it was a very nice varied selection of worldwide stamps -- certainly well worth a measly buck.

On another note, some approvals came along with the mixture. I don't approve of approvals being sent without prior permission. The price range of the approvals ranged from 1/4 to 1/3 of 1992 Scott, which seemed very fair. They included some nice older Irish stamps of high value. So if you're interested in reasonable approvals, you might want to give Bruce a try.

As for me, I'm a mixture nut, so I'll stick to what I like best!! MIXTURES!!

... S. E. Rutxim

## YOU CAN STILL ORDER CATALOGS

Nordic stamps makes Scott catalogs available to ISWSC members for \$22.45 east of the Rockies, or \$22.85 west of the Rockies, postpaid.

Volume 1 thru 4 are released. US Specialized - Volume 5 due out in November.

Your orders for any and all catalogs welcome.

Send checks to: Tom Ginsberg (#70), at 1041 Bowen St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. ...

## COMMENTS ON OUR POSTAL SERVICE ???

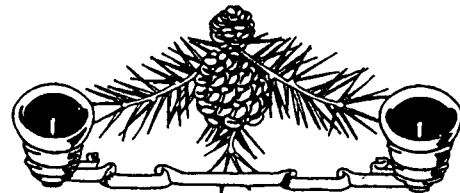
I have read recently the many complaints about mail service. I would like to add a couple of my own. At the time I am writing this (Nov. 1) I still not received my Sept.-Oct. issue to *The Circuit* that was mailed about October first. The last issue (July-Aug.) took six weeks to be delivered, and some copies never reached me in the last year. I have had bank statements take two weeks to get across town and this morning I received a bill that was mailed out nearly a month ago (Oct. 5) and is not overdue and the penalty is now in effect for late payment. Complaints have been made orally and in writing without any response in spite of the USPS policy that states complaints must be answered. I, for one, will be very happy to see private enterprise supersede our present mail service. Only good can come from ridding ourselves of this non-functioning bureaucratic monopoly.

... Ken Jenkins (# 15)

## SCOTT'S CATALOG POLL

Tom Ginsberg (#70) has suggested the following poll. Please send answers to the Editor at: PO Box 1513, West Monroe, LA 71294-1513.

1. Are you in favor of the move realistic pricing?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
2. Are you in favor of the 15¢ minimum?
  - a. Too high
  - b. Agree
  - c. Too low
3. Are you in favor of using auction results to set prices by?
  - a. Winning bids plus commissions
  - b. Winning bids plus commissions times a factor for a profits
  - c. Other, describe.
4. Should Scott Publishing set prices using current policy?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
5. Should Scott Publishing add the following to their pricing panel?
  - a. Dealers
  - b. Collectors
  - c. Trade writers
  - d. All of the above
6. Do you think the change in catalog prices from 1988 to 1989 changed the actual values of your collection?
  - a. Yes
  - b. If yes, by what factor?
  - c. No
  - d. If no, how do you figure values?



## Philatelist's Psalm

*Stamp collecting is my hobby, I shall not be bored.*

*It maketh me to do research on far places.*

*It causeth me to correspond with odd people.*

*It keepeth me alert.*

*It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity's sake.*

*Yea, though I live through a Winter of inclement weather,*

*I will fear no boredom, for my stamps are with me.*

*They provideth me a means of escaping from the tensions of my responsibilities.*

*They filleth my house with books.*

*My cash runneth lower.*

*Surely interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life.*

*And I will be listed in the ranks of the Philatelists forever.*

... Submitted by Neal Clarke (# 313)