



The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND PHILATELY

by Allen F. Soule (# 417), Australlan Co-Secretary

Herewith some hints for those who collect Pacific Islands' stamps. Keep handy for future reference.

1. ISLAND PHILATELIC BUREAUS

The majority of Pacific countries do not have the sophisticated philatelic bureaus, computers, etc., one associates with America, Canada, Australia, etc. In most of these Pacific countries, the philatelic bureau is part of the normal postal system and connected with the main post office. Orders are all done manually. See list of island bureaus below.

Delays can occur with mail:

- The isolation of many countries with infrequent shipping or air service.
- Stamps may be printed in other countries and delivery delays occur (see a above).
- Facilities to change currency (especially large sums) are not available.

2. PACIFIC ISLAND STAMP ISSUES

Current issues are available from the each country's philatelic bureau. Older issues (usually over 2 years) are only available from stamp dealers. I have attached a list of dealers for your reference. (I do not get a commission if you write to any of these dealers, but it would be nice if you would use my name and ISWSC on your correspondence to them. Might get us some new members.)

a. Give as much detail of item desired as possible. Most dealers use Gibbons catalog for reference, but some do use Scott. If you know the Scott number, give it and the dealer may be able to cross-reference it to Gibbons. I would advise giving the following information:

Catalog #	Date of Issue	Country	Description
Scott #	Feb 19, 1992	Papua-NG	Bird of Paradise definitives (include denominations, if known)

3. FINE USED COPIES

Often only available pre-1960 for most areas. Post 1960 are usually C.T. O. (Cancelled to order - stamp has original gum but postmarked - frequently on day of issue). Pre-1960 most Pacific island nations were dependencies, colonies, etc., of Britian, France, Australia, New Zealand; most islands had large ex-patriate populations, so the volume of mail to the outside world was reasonably large and used items were collected and passed on to dealers. Post 1960, many areas became totally independent and there was an exodus of ex-patriates.

In all Pacific areas letter writing is not a hobby like in the west due to:

- Many people are not educated.
- Wages in all Pacific areas are very low compared with those in Australia, Canada, USA, etc. One month salary in most countries would be equivalent to a few hours salary in western countries.
- Stamp collecting is virtually non-existent as a hobby, one's salary is utilized in buying food, etc.
- In each Pacific nation only a handful of post offices exist and the services provided are very basic.
- If a used set of stamps is required, it would be easier to purchase a First Day Cover and soak the stamps off.

4. STAMP PACKETS

Most dealers do not carry these countries in packet form. A few many be able to make a packet to suit your requirements.

5. ORDERS

For current issues, write to the philatelic bureau of the country/countries of your choice for information on stamps available. Check with currency requirements - some use their own currency, others use Australian or New Zealand currencies. For older issues, write to the stamp dealer(s) of your choice with queries, want list, etc., method of payment, etc.

The general practice here when one is making an enquiry is to include a stamp, self-addressed envelope, so perhaps a self-addressed envelope and a two International Reply Coupons would assist an earlier reply.

SOUTH PACIFIC STAMP DEALERS

- Pacific Stamps • P. O. Box 111 • Cremorne Junction, N.S.W. - 2090 Australia (*Specialist dealer for Pacific region - old & new issues. Has lists of countries, topicals.*)
- Max Stern and Company • Box 9974 • G.P.O. Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia
- Peter Strich • G.P. O. Box 216D • Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia
- Mr. T. Grimshaw • P. O. Box 291 • Norfolk Island - 2899
- Len Jury Stamps and Coins • P. O. Box 4400 • Auckland, New Zealand (*New Zealand Pacific Specialists*)
- Auckland City Stamps, Ltd. • P. O. Box 3496 • Auckland, New Zealand

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

(continued from page 1)

PACIFIC PHILATELIC BUREAUS

1. Papua New Guinea Philatelic Bureau • P. O. Box 1 • Boroko, Capital District, Papua New Guinea
2. Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. Box 24 • Funafuti, TUVALU • Central Pacific
3. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office (Philatelic Service) • Aitutaki, Cook Islands
4. Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. • Honiara, Solomon Islands
5. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Rarotonga, Cook Islands
6. Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. • Suva, Fiji
7. Philatelic Bureau • Recente Prinicpale • Service Philatelique • Papeete, French Polynesia
8. Philatelic Bureau • Bairki • Tawara, KIRIBATI • Central Pacific
9. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Republic of Nauru
10. Philatelic Bureau • Office des P. T. T. • Service Philatelique • Noumena, New Caledonia
11. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Wanganui, New Zealand (Also stocks Tokelau Islands)
12. Philatelic Bureau • Niue Post Office • Alofi, NIUE • South Pacific
13. Senior Philatelic Officer • Philatelic Bureau • Kingston, Norfolk Island - 2899
14. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Penryhn, Cook Islands
15. Pitcairn Island (Use Fiji Address)
16. Philatelic Officer • Christmas Island • Indian Ocean - 6798
17. Philatelic Bureau • Cocos (Keeling) Island • Indian Ocean - 6799
18. Philatelic Bureau • Stamp Section, Treasury Building • Nuku' Alofa, Tonga
19. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Port Vila, Vanuatu
20. Philatelic Bureau • Bureau des Postes • Service Philatelique • Mata-Utu, Wallis and Fournuna Islands
21. Philatelic Bureau • Chief Post Office • Apia, Western Samoa
22. Philatelic Bureau • Australia Post • G. P. O. Box 9988 • Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia •••

\$449 Catalog Value for Less Than \$23 Cash !

One member of the ISWSC added stamps worth \$449.90 in catalog value to his collection last year, for a total cash outlay of \$22.80! That's less than five percent of Scott value!

How did he do it? He is a member of the OMNI Exchange, the official stamp exchange of the ISWSC. His only cash expense was \$2.00 for six blank exchange books (they cost 3 for \$1.00), plus postage of \$20.80 for sending books back and forth for the whole year.

Totally, the 104 participants in the exchange obtained stamps worth a record \$18,738.80 in catalog value during the year - and average of \$180.00 per member, according to the annual year end audit from Tom Allison (# 42) the OMNI Exchange manager.

October 31, 1991, completed seven years of operation, during which its members have obtained stamps worth over \$70,000.00 in catalog value. Tom Allison reports that 980

books are currently in circulation with a total catalog value of \$52,524.91.

Here's how OMNI Exchange works: members mount their duplicate stamps in the official OMNI exchange books, which are then circulated to other members of the exchange. Owners receive 90% of the catalog value of stamps taken by other members as a credit to their account. The other 10% of catalog value traded is retained by the exchange. There is NO cash fee on stamps traded.

There are two branches of the exchange - the Pink Book division, where minimum value of stamp is 10¢ (20¢ is using 1992 Scott Catalog), and the Blue Book division where minimum is 50¢ per stamp. The Pink division has 67 participants in three sections, handled by Co-Managers Dave Paul (# 59), Dr. Isaac Tannenbaum (#163) and Jerry Gross (# 429). The Blue division has 37 participants and is managed by Tom Allison.

HINTS, TIPS & OTHER BRAINSTORMS

Does anyone have a good procedure for the removal of the adhesive from the plastic stamps (# 2475 & # 2522)? Is the plastic from which these stamps are made soluble in xylol? ••• H. Humm (# 678)

Welcome to ISWSC, Mr. Humm. Have you tried using lighter fluid? I regularly remove adhesive from labels, etc., using Ronson lighter fluid. I have not tried it on these plastic stamps, but do know that it will not damage the plastic. So why not try it? I removed used US dove precancel stamps (#1552) from envelopes in this manner: I trimmed the envelope paper closely, then placed it on a saucer stamp down. I squirted lighter fluid until the envelope paper was soaked. I waited a few seconds then with sharp tweezers, pulled at a corner to see if the stamp was coming loose. If the stamp has not come loose before the fluid evaporates, wet with fluid again and cover saucer with Saran wrap to prevent evaporation and leave it for a couple minutes. Once the stamp is loose, remove it carefully from the envelope paper. Some of the adhesive will be removed with the paper, but usually there is still some gum residue on the backside of the stamp. Again lay the stamp in the saucer and squirt with lighter fluid. Begin immediately to gently rub your finger over the back of the stamp to loosen more adhesive. Squirt again and then begin blotting with paper toweling; repeat this process until the stamp doesn't feel sticky anymore. (Be sure to clean your fingers before the final towel cleaning so you don't transfer gum back to the stamp.) This is a tedious process and might not be as necessary for plastic stamps to be removed from envelope paper as they will not fox and spot from adhesive bleed-through like the dove stamps which were printed on paper. It probably won't be as easy to damage them with your rubbing and toweling, either. Does anyone have a better method? If so, let us know. Thanks ••• The Editor

The OMNI Exchange is open to all ISWSC members whose dues are paid up to date. For more details and an application to join, contact Tom Allison, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091. •••

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recent mail to our house has been directed to a new family member MRS. ISWSC. In fact this person seems to be, possibly, the missing winner of \$10 Million that Ed McMahon's been trying to find. Amy says it isn't hers, so if you are Mrs. ISWSC, you could be a rich person. Let me know. [or is this just be some a mix-up connected to the fact that I ordered some address labels in the name of "ISWCS, Dave Nelson" ?...Nah, Ed would never make a mistake like that!]

The officers (me, Ken Costilow, Carol Cervenka) have elected P.R.O. Tom Fortunato and Canadian Rep., Rima Carver, to join us and Ken Jenkins and Herb Holland on the Board of Directors. Rules call for a Board of up to nine members, but with us so separated geographically a BOD of seven is more practical than a "full" Board.

Many thanks to those of you who wrote to me following last issue's column. Pete Bialick (#476) sent along some very useful ideas about by-law changes (e.g more discretion for elected officers; don't lock things in unnecessarily) and also wanted more Omni options, such as an all-mint circuit....any other takers for that idea might want to send a note to Tom Allison). My old trading partner, Dr. John Pruitt, M.D.(#121) wrote a bit shocked that he had momentarily been listed on our unpaid members list and suggested we send bills to remind members of the annual event. Sounds like a good idea to me as I know we do lose members due to simple oversight, but we will have to see if we can work out something that won't consume too much postage and volunteer labor. In any case, John more than offset any omission on his part by adding a generous \$10 donation to his yearly dues. Len Attwooll (#359), like many who wrote, favors keeping our member fees down if we can and liked the idea of paying for rosters instead of a dues change. Joe Foley (#308), immediate past president of APS also sent a long letter with some good advice about by-laws and foreign memberships. He is mentioning our group in various columns and articles, one of which I hope you will find in this issue.

Who I didn't hear from are any members volunteering to contact the Boy Scouts of America to assist in their merit

badge program, or anyone willing to offer themselves up as *The Circuit* Editor. As to the latter, let us all hope for the continued good health and good will of Rita Kallal who continues to serve the dual role of Editor and Publisher and without whom our only vehicle of society communication would grind to a complete halt.

I received a gratis copy of *Postcard Classics*, the sizeable periodical of the Deltiologists of America. Founded in 1960, they are an association of Postcard Collectors in case you didn't recognize the term. This is a very nicely done bimonthly newsletter and if you are into postcards you may want to join them. Dues are \$12 a year (SEE what a bargain ISWSC still is!), and you get a free 20 word ad in the newsletter, but the rules are a bit complicated so best you just write for an application form Deltiologists of America, Box 8, Norwood, PA. 19074. Tell 'em *The Circuit* sent ya'.

I have been reminded that member Israel Bick (#502), who was pictured with Postmaster General Frank in our latest issue, is doing business as the "International Stamp Collector's Society". Apparently he has at least 10 years head start on ISWSC for claim to the very similar name, so if irreconcilable differences result we may have to rename the Society. Wouldn't it be terrible to have to give up such a slick acronym as ISWSC? Hopefully we can co-exist, just remember that our Society does not sell stamps or endorse stamp dealers (and Mr. Bick, presumably, does not endorse stamp clubs.)

Woe of the Month: Is there such a thing as a good stamp finder on the market these days? I mean one of those little dictionaries that tell you that "AUNUS" printed on Finland stamps are from the Finnish occupation of Russia (yes, it really happened) or that "Baranya" on a Hungarian stamp refers to the Serbian occupation of same. As a Worldwider with uncertain memory skills I have constant need of something to remind me where to open my album for an item inscribed "K.S.A ." or "Nopto Mapka". Incredibly, (bit of nostalgia here) I am still using my dog-eared copy of *The Stamp Finder*, edition of 1954, price 25c, which was given to me by mom and dad when I started collecting at age 14. Can you imagine how many of

today's countries were not even existing when that went to press? Not only are there no Disney stamps indexed, but not even JFK was recognized at that time. Who can refer me to a modern and complete looker-upper? I am desperate. If there is no such thing then perhaps one of our members would like to start the project. I would help a lot, and an ISWSC backed worldwide stamp finder publication might be commercially viable.

I signed us up to participate in the 106th APS convention which happens to be across the bay in Oakland on August 27-30. I will help man an Affiliates table, go to the Affiliates luncheon, hand out some of our literature, and try to get a meeting room for existing and prospective members to gather in. I would have volunteered for a speaker's slot on basic philately but I never know when I may have to be overseas as my calendar is not fixed that far into the future. If I had a volunteer to take over in case I couldn't make it I might still try that. S.F. Bay area members PLEASE drop me a note and let me know if you can help out on this event! For that matter, at a national show, some of you may be planning to travel from well outside the area so don't be shy about helping out. It would be great if we could get a reasonable number of members to show up for our meeting.

... Dave Nelson (# 25), President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It appears that ISWSC is still growing as new member stamp contributions for the Youth Program continue to arrive on a regular basis. Requests for assistance by Ben Franklin groups and other community related youth groups have been filled as requested. One request for stamps for a veteran's group was also filled.

I am happy to report that a home was found for the worldwide collection offered for sale earlier. Although the price desired by the seller was not obtained, the net result was a sizeable increase in the ISWSC bank balance, so I would like to express the appreciation of ISWSC to the seller, and the buyer as well. Happy Collecting!

... Ken Costilow (#142), Vice President & Youth Program Chairman

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S COLUMN

The first two months of my term as Secretary-Treasurer have been busy and very interesting. ISWSC has started the year off with 27 new members enrolled since January 15th, when Herb Holland transferred the books and records to me. Of the 27 new members, 11 have joined as a result of member referrals, 10 heard about us through the mailing to APS members, 2 joined after reading about us in the APS journal, *The American Philatelist*, gift memberships brought in 2 more members and the Australian and Canadian secretaries each sent in one.

A number of inquiries have been answered, and additional members may result from this source. Our best method of getting new members is still through member referrals; now that we offer a free year for every five members enrolled as a result of a member's referral, we hope you will contact all your stamp collecting friends and tell them about ISWSC. Don't forget that gift memberships count toward your recruiting total!

Two of the more interesting inquiries this past month have been from the Campbell-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, Vermont, wanting to set up a worldwide stamp collecting program for children, and a call from *US Magazine*, seeking information on potential sales of the Elvis stamp overseas. In each case, a variety of resources were given to the callers, and where appropriate, materials were also sent.

Each month ISWSC receives several letters from people around the globe. Some seek donations of stamps, some wish to trade or exchange stamps with members, but have not joined the society. If anyone is interested in exchanging stamps with these non-members, you'll find their addresses printed elsewhere in *The Circuit*.

The following members have been dropped from ISWSC rolls. These members have failed to send in their dues as requested in the last issue of *The Circuit*:

4 Krupa
63 Borkman
199 Futrell
210 Young
213 Holtz
293 Urdang
306 Mengert
314 Kirby
407 Jensen

415 Ryle
434 Clarke
440 Carroll
442 Mines
451 Wiskar
454 Lovell
456 Willis
472 Goldman
496 Asselin
497 Wood
500 Knudsen
505 McCann
508 Barclay
512 Peterson
514 Byrkit
515 Umlas

The following member has not paid dues to renew membership, and will be dropped if dues are not received soon:

340 Marcotte

If there has been an error, please contact me at once so I may restore your membership. The time from the printing of issue to the deadline of the next, is not always sufficient to allow me to remove names from the list. The above list contains names of members who had not contacted me prior to March 10th.

The club acknowledges the following donations:

# 26	Kallal	\$ 5.00
58	Sherwood	100.00 *
360	Matous	15.00

* Commission from partial sale of a collection

Many thanks to those members who continue to support ISWSC with your contributions as well as your dues! Please make note of the following address change:

365 Maddock (Everett) change to: 969 Dowling St. # 502, Denver, CO 80218-3021 USA

Member interest codes have been arriving almost daily from the new members. Those of you who have not yet filled in your code page, please do so promptly, and send it on to me. A long list of Interest Codes are elsewhere in this issue.

I do hope you will write to me with your ideas, suggestions, comments and complaints. Currently we need the pro bono services of a lawyer to review the documents and file ISWSC's non-profit incorporation papers. If you can serve the club in this capacity, please contact me or President

ISWSC MEETING AT COLUMBIAN EXPO

Tom Fortunato reports the official ISWSC meeting at the 1992 World Columbian Stamp Expo has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, at 4-5 P.M. All ISWSC members attending the Expo in Chicago, are invited to stop in for the meeting. Tom has made arrangements with Tom Allison to have ISWSC brochures distributed during the show. For more info, contact the Public Relations Officer Tom Fortunato (#379). ...

More Scott Catalog Poll

Two more members have replied to the Scott Catalog Poll (Nov-Dec 91). One is a new member.

1. One favors the more realistic pricing but the other says no and comments that Scott's "realistic pricing" is dealer wishful thinking.

2. Both agree the 15¢ minimum is too high. One thinks this pricing is a ridiculous gimmick offered as a sop to dealers for lowering prices on higher value stamps. Offers the idea that these 15¢ values are useless in stamp trading.

3. One feels auction results should be used, using winning bids only, while the other thinks commissions should be included.

4. Both members asked the question, "What IS current price setting policy? One commented additionally: Scott doesn't set prices, collectors do.

5. Both think Scott should add dealers, collectors, and trade writers to their pricing panel.

6. The two disagreed on whether the catalog price changed the value of their collection. The member who said no, says, "What I pay for items is determined by how bad I want it. One of my principle specialties is Western Ukraine. Genuine, expertized copies are usually above Scott values, and covers are through the roof. The second member feels that it lowered the value of the collection and he/she still buys at one-quarter catalog value. ...

Dave Nelson as soon as possible. Your guidance and advice will be deeply appreciated. ... Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary-Treasurer

Officers, Chairpersons, Managers

President: Davis Nelson (# 25), 309 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952 USA

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

Secretary-Treasurer: Carol Cervenka (# 498), Rt 1 Box 69-A, Caddo Mills, TX 75005 USA

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Canadian Secretary: Rima A. Carver (#493), 80 Wellington St. E., Brampton, Ont., L6W 1Y5 CANADA

U.K. Secretary: Chad Neighbor (#510), 28 Relugas Place, Edinburgh, EH9 2PY, SCOTLAND, U.K.

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

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

OMNI Exchange Manager: Tom Allison (#42), Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091-0252 USA

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

Board of Directors: Ken Jenkins, Past President (#15); Herb Holland (# 31) 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.

Display Rates (Camera Ready) per insertion:

Full Page \$25.00
Half Page 10.00
Quarter Page 7.00
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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

OVER 100.000 STAMPS READY TO SEND at half catalog or less. Majority British Colonials, many US Revenues. Why Pay more? Bill Kiepura, Soledad, Calif. 93960-0333. Selling fine stamps since 1937 (3/3)

LIQUIDATING MY PERSONAL COLLECTIONS and accumulations of Austria, France, Colonies and some worldwide. Fair prices. Free list. Darrell L. George (#635), 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212 (3/3)

FREE CATALOG OF WORLDWIDE PACKETS. Worldwide Collections, Thematics and quality Mixtures. Established 1929. Your business is sincerely appreciated. ISWSC # 484. Angela, 515 N. 7th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048 (2/2)

WANTED EXCHANGERS. TO TRADE worldwide stamps \$1.00 or more. No cash involved. Write for a free sample list and details. Allison, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091 (1/1)

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE

May 15th, 1992

If your copy is not received by the deadline, it goes in NEXT issue.

Join the ISWSC Exchanges

Great Promotional Idea - How About Starting One Where You Live?

A recent letter from Edward S. Wiley of Maryland to *Mekeel's Weekly*, tells of a great promotion idea for philately. A New Mexico collector Bob Hall, who has been collecting stamps since World War II, obtained approval of the New Mexico State Fair Commission to set up a philatelic exhibit at the fair. Three Albuquerque-area collectors served as judges in ten classes ranging from 19th Century US, commemoratives, topicals, Latin America and British Empire.

Thousands of fairgoers saw the exhibit in the fair's Creative Arts Building. In addition, the *Albuquerque Journal* ran a two-column story including a photo of Mr. Hall and his collection, which was read by thousands more.

Similar promotion of philately can be achieved in communities all over the US and in many foreign countries by exhibiting at such public events. Get your local stamp club, local dealers, etc., involved in broadcasting the message that stamp collecting is fun, educational and a great stress reliever.

... Submitted by Harold Humm (# 678)

ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

TO BECOME A PART OF A SWAP CIRCUIT -
Send a SASE to:
Swap Circuit - Dalene Thomas
8612 W. Warren Lane
Lakewood, CO 80227

ISWSC SALES CIRCUIT

**Write
for a sample selection
or info to sell your
duplicates**

Contact:

**ISWSC Sales Circuit • W. K. Dow (#418)
3337 Cesery Blvd • Jacksonville, FL 32211**

JOIN OMNI EXCHANGE

**FILL EMPTY SPACES IN YOUR
COLLECTION WITH A
MINIMUM CASH OUTLAY
TRADE YOUR DUPLICATES**

**FOR INFO WRITE:
TOM ALLISON, OMNI MANAGER
BOX 252
WILMETTE, IL 60091-0252**