

# The Circuit

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

## Freemasonry On Stamps

by John Slade #1218

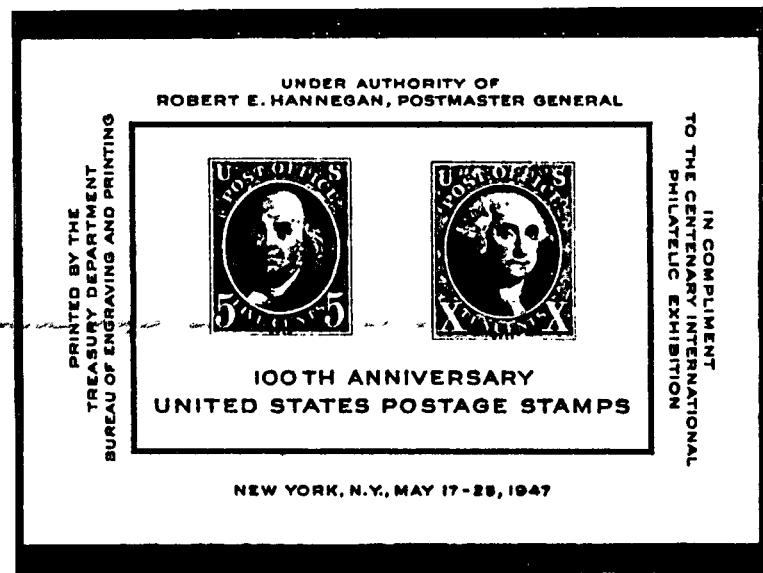
In ancient times a man would put his mark or seal on a message he was sending. With the advent of the postal systems came stamps with a variety of designs. Down through the years a number of stamps and fancy cancels included various Masonic symbols and activities.

Freemasonry (Masonry) is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the world. The recorded history of modern Masonry dates back to the early 17th century. However, it is much older. It has been documented that when King Tut's remains were discovered in his Egyptian tomb, he was wearing what appeared to be a Masonic apron.

Why did Masonic symbols appear in the U.S. postal system? Freemasonry had an active, vital part in the formation of this country, even before the Boston Tea Party. At least sixteen presidents were Masons, starting with George Washington, who was sworn in using a Bible from St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of New York City. Many of the leaders on all levels of government and business were Masons who helped shape our country.

There are many philatelic tie-ins to Masonry. The square and compass are the most recognizable symbol of the fraternity and as early as 1862 U.S. fancy cancels depicted them. Many postmasters who designed the cancels were themselves Masons. There are

### Many American Patriots were Freemasons



*The souvenir sheet (Scott # 948) honoring 100 years of US postage stamps, depicts two statesmen who were Freemasons. Benjamin Franklin was initiated at St. Johns Lodge (New York) and was elected Venerable of Lodge des IX SOUERS while he was a diplomat in Paris. George Washington was initiated at the Lodge at Fredericksburg, VA. He swore the oath of the office of President on the Bible of the St. Johns Lodge No. 1 (New York City). He was buried with full Masonic honors by the Alexandria (VA) Lodge No. 22. That Lodge later changed its name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.*



*Other early Freemasons became Presidents: James Monroe (Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, VA); James Knox Polk (Columbia Lodge No. 1, Columbia, TN); Andrew Jackson (Harmony Lodge No. 1, Nashville, TN.); and James Buchanan (Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, PA).*

(Continued Page 2)

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### Deadline: Next Issue

**October 25, 1994**

Items received after deadline will appear in another issue.

## Freemasonry (Continued from Page 1)

many Masonic stamps which could be discussed from around the world, but for brevity I will only display a few.

Only men may be Masons, however there are several allied or independent bodies for women and our youth; such as Eastern Stars; DeMolay for boys; Rainbow and Job's

Daughters for girls. These groups operate separately from the Masonic Lodges, but normally have Masons involved.

You can find Masons in almost every country of the world except those with a dictatorship or repressive government. One of the first acts of a dictator is to eliminate organizations such as Masonry, as Hitler did. In Hitler's Germany, Masons could identify fellow Masons by the tiny blue forget-me-not flowers they wore.

Masonry's principle aims are charity and the improvement of men. The fraternity and appendant

bodies devote much of their efforts to charitable works, raising about two million dollars a day for many worthy charities around the world. The improvement of men is summarized by the motto, "Freemasonry makes good men better"

Masonry is not a religion, but to become a Mason a man must

believe in one God. During all meetings the Bible is always open on the altar, a Bible just like those in your own homes. We open and close meetings with prayers. However, denominational religion and partisan politics are never discussed in our Lodges. Masonry is not a secret society and much of our ritual may be found in books in most libraries.

Masonry has one strict rule. No Mason may invite another man to become a Mason. To join the fraternity, a man must ask a current Mason.

This is a small sampling of two of my favorite subjects, stamps and



Handcarved cork cancels of the Freemasonry Symbol graced the stamps mailed at some early post offices. This 1875 Jackson definitive (Scott # 178) sports a nice example.



Masonic Symbols have appeared on stamps from many countries. The British stamp depicts the mason's trowel, square, compass and a sprig of acacia. Brazil honored an anniversary of Freemasonry in that country. Switzerland depicted operative masons on a stamp. Lebanon has depicted the Cedar on numerous definitive stamps.

Continued page 4

## The President's Column by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

It's been a busy summer for me and typically September is the start of a new collecting "season" around the world.

As I write this I'm about to leave for the STaMpsHow'94 convention in Pittsburgh, where we will have an ISWSC meeting. This will be followed with a meeting in Toronto, Canada in September for Phil-Ex. I thoroughly enjoy these meetings when I have a chance meet members face to face and talk about stamps and ISWSC. We encourage all members who attend such shows to hold ISWSC meetings. You, too, will have a wonderful time at them! Try to plan them at least 4 months in advance of the show so that we can publicize them in *The Circuit*. I have plenty of support materials to make available at these shows.

Big news here in the US involves the recalled "Legends of the West" sheetlet of 20 stamps. Some 150,000 sheets will be available on a raffle basis. Buy ads have already been seen starting at \$20 for the \$5.80 face value stamps. Only 1 sheetlet per collector may be ordered and stringent safeguards are in place to insure that duplicate orders won't be possible. Winners will get their stamps in December - what a great Christmas gift!

Vote in this our first Director-at-Large election. Follow the directions on the ballot in this issue. We encourage all members to support ISWSC by volunteering their time and talents in whatever capacity possible. YOU make this society a reality! ••

### Join the Sales Circuit

Send for details  
to sell and/or buy  
fellow members' stamps  
at bargain prices

Send a #10 SASE to:  
James Watkins  
2123 Cedar Way  
Stockton, CA 95207

*Currently Available to  
US members only*

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report by Carol Cervenka (# 498)

My apologies for errors appearing on the ISWSC Roster mailed with the last issue of *The Circuit*. Some were the inevitable result of trying to squeeze information into five columns - some are unexplained numerals that cropped up as a result of the transfer of data from one program into another - beginning with the "2" appearing after USA and before "Former President-Club Founder" in #1 Aubrey Dunne's listing, and evident in several other entries. While we corrected and corrected on this end, the same odd glitches kept coming back to haunt us all. Finally, it was deadline time and we had to go with what we had. If your listing is incorrect, please advise and I'll submit a correction with the next up-date page.

Since there was so much discussion about salaries in the last issue, and since I was one of the people mentioned I'm taking this opportunity to express my views. No one knows better than I do what it would take to pay salaries to either an Editor and/or a Secretary-Treasurer. ISWSC membership base stays around 800 (+/-) —  $800 \times \$8.00 = \$6,400$ . Contributions, paid in advance memberships, auction receipts, advertising, etc. boost the figure to around \$8,500. Out of this money, the majority goes to pay for the newsletter and mailing costs. Administrative costs (postage, office supplies, telephone), brochures, membership materials, Regional expenses, etc. take everything that isn't set aside for advance memberships and designated gifts to the Youth Fund. There simply isn't sufficient money to pay ANYONE, no matter how deserving, a salary. ISWSC does pay actual out-of-pocket expenses for those service managers who incur them, but the goal is to have each service self-supporting if possible.

I am pleased and proud to serve as a volunteer for something I believe in and support in the best way I can - by my efforts on behalf of the Society. Yes, it can be a lot of work, but most things worth doing are. I knew going in that the Society had great potential to become one of the leaders in the philatelic world. I have assisted in every way I can to stimulate the growth that has kept me as busy as I am, and would gladly take on more to see the Society thrive. All of us have reason to be proud of ISWSC's volunteers - few organizations can boast of the dedicated service given by so many member volunteers.

Which brings me to the probable need for a dues increase when the next Postal rate hike hits. Before that time, we would like to offer all of you who wish to do so, the opportunity to add to your present membership at the \$8 rate. The offer is for one additional year at the \$8 rate. Thus, if your membership is expiring soon, you may wish to send in two years dues. If your membership is recently paid you may extend your membership for one extra year. Please send your early renewal in BEFORE the dues increase is announced, as the offer is limited.

Many overseas members report a deluge of letters seeking trades - a few members seeking trades enclose an IRC (International Reply Coupon); many do not. **USA members - PLEASE** don't forget this courtesy. Quite a number of countries have been hit hard economically, and sending an IRC may be the only way you will receive a response. **ALL MEMBERS SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE MAIL - EVEN IF ONLY TO DECLINE.** Keep postcards handy if you have all the traders you can handle, or if the person writing seeks material you cannot provide. To those members seeking traders, please be sure "50" appears in the codes of the person you write. If you are a member who wishes to change to "non-trading member" status, please let me know,

*(Continued page 6)*

### JOIN OMNI EXCHANGE

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**(Sorry, Available to U.S. &  
Canadian members only)**

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

## Freemasonry (Continued from Page 2)

Freemasonry. If anyone would like more information, I would be delighted to hear from you. Write to me at 351 Allison Avenue, Longwood, FL 32750 USA. ••

(Editor's note- A self-addressed stamped envelope or IRC would be appreciated for a reply.) ••



Even many national monuments have ties to Freemasonry. The members of Saint Paul's Royal Arch Chapter participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument (Scott # 1034) in 1825. As Grand Master pro tem for the Grand Lodge of Maryland, George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capital (Scott # 992) in 1793. James Polk assisted at the laying of Smithsonian Institute's cornerstone in 1847.

## BURDA APPROVALS



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## Leader to Leader Program

by **Albert H. Feinberg, Coordinator (# 361)**

Since our write-up in *Linn's Stamp News* (May 30, 1994, pg. 20), we received many replies requesting information about this program. The replies come from school teachers, school districts, postmasters, 4-H clubs, former Ben Franklin Clubs, and many others.

The replies from children seeking free stamps were many. Entire stamp clubs had every member write to us. It kept us busy filling these requests at the rate of 20 a day. These requests are still coming in. I have no idea how many more will come but I do expect a lot.

The letters from children are unique. Each one gives us much pleasure. Some draw pictures, some fill in loops and some have difficulty spelling but they get their message through.

A child named Preston from Indiana said, "Please send me free stamps. I want to be smart." We sent him his free stamps. About two weeks later we received another request from Preston asking for free stamps. We sent him more stamps with a note that read, "Dear Preston, In your first letter you said you wanted to be smart. Well, Preston, it looks as if you made it. You are smart, but we are smart, too. We list everyone's name in our computer so we can tell you asks for stamps more than once."

If any members have accumulations of foreign stamps they no longer have use for, please send them to me and I will find a good home for them. My supply is getting dangerously low. My thanks to all members who have already contributed. Children favor large colorful stamps but of course will accept anything they can get.

Our Booklet of all Beginner's Columns to date is now available for one dollar that includes postage. We hope yet hear from leaders of their experiences maintaining the attention of their club members to be added to our booklet. Eventually this booklet should be a valuable asset to new leaders.

No replies as of yet from letters sent to Boy and Girl Scout Organizations. Also no reply from Mr. Jafar in Washington. I asked him to help in distributing our Leader to Leader Program to all post offices in the USA. I explained to him that many post masters that saw our write-up in *Linn's* replied thanking us for our help.

Enjoyed a visit from John Rose who was in town visiting his family. Sent a letter to Dave Park keeping him up to date and explaining the Leader to Leader Program. As you may know he is in charge of Public Relations.

If any members would like a copy of our Leader to Leader Program to hang in their local libraries or for their schools please send me a stamped envelope and I'll see you get it. ••

## Did you know....???

Bhutan raises nearly US\$ 500,000 from stamp sales abroad? Their stamps are designed and produced by the Intergovernmental Philatelic Corp. of New York. Through the years they have created oddities such as stamps on steel, rose scented stamps, playable record stamps, plastic bas-relief portraits and 3-D issues. In July they released their first hologram stamp honoring the 25th moon landing anniversary. The average citizen of Bhutan receives 2.5 letters per year and mails even less, a reflection of the country's adult literacy rate of less than 15%. ••

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**TRULY WORLDWIDE APPROVALS.** All countries including U.S. Complete sets or penny packet approvals. Discount with ISWSC number. Comprehensive New Issue Service info. Dave Becker, Box 3284-H, Portland, OR 97208 (6/6)

**ALWAYS TRADING POT-LUCK.** Send 150 or more large your country (duplicates OK), I return same number Australia/NZ mixed used. Crowe (#459), PO Box 33-724, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand (5/6)

**WORLDWIDE CLIPPING Mixture** Attractive lots strong in recent medium/high value commemoratives, pictorials from Commonwealth/Africa/MidEast. Many popular countries including Papua, Bahamas, Barbados, Caymans, Zambia, Bahrain, etc. Quarter Pound \$20.00. Half Pound \$35.00 Pound \$65.00 postpaid. Guaranteed. (ISWSC #411, APS #134607) James Paton, Box 766, Berkeley, CA 94701 (1/2)

**COLLECTOR MADE PACKETS 100** Different. U.S., Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, French Colonies. \$4.00 each. Darrell L. George, 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212 (4/4)

**QUALITY WORLDWIDE STAMP Service (QWWSS).** Subscribe to our service, receive exciting QWWSS selections of quality stamps from around the world at fair prices on approval. Send right now for subscription details to: QWWSS, P. O. Box 2516, Springfield, VA 22152-2516 (3/4)

**Send your 30 U.S. 29¢ fine used large setenants from sheets with SASE.** Receive 60 different England, Ireland and Switzerland used large commemoratives. T. Cassetty, PO Box 259 Waterford, CT 06385-0259 (1/1)

**Back Issues of Circuit** - For Information send SASE or IRCs to Peter Bylen (#695)

**ISWSC LOGO PINS** - For Information on ordering, send SASE or IRCs to Sec'y Carol Cervenka (#498)

**A SURPRISE IN EVERY package!** 111 different worldwide, used, unused, mostly large. Scott retail \$75.00. Satisfaction guaranteed. \$9.50 plus 50¢ shipping. Burt (#189), 188 N. Holmes St., Memphis, TN 38111 (3/3)

**FOREIGN STAMPS** at 12% of Catalog value. \$100.00 Cat. value for \$12.00, No US, most will catalog at or over 25 cents. Jack Sackett, PO Box 22, No. Middletown, KY 40357 (2/3)

**FOREIGN LOTS FOR DEALERS,** \$10 to \$1,000 lots, at 12% of current catalog value, mint and used, no damaged, Not a bunch of junk, will contain a fair amount of higher catalog value stamps. Call (606) 362-4654 or write Jack Sackett, PO Box 22, No. Middletown, KY 40357 (2/3)

**Returning to stamp collecting** or just expanding your collection? My approvals offer 2-10¢ stamps for new areas, plus 10¢ - \$2 stamps to improve your existing collection. Bonus to new customers - \$10 Scott catalogue value worth of free stamps. Eric Van Bohemen, PO Box 361, Richfield, OH 44286 (1/1)

**WANTED: U.S. Medals and Decorations.** Especially named/numbered awards. Also German and Japanese Military relics. R. J. Zyla, PO Box 399, Utica, NY 13503-0399 Tel. 315-724-1234 Fax: 315-724-5003 (3/1)

**Send 100 or more your country** (duplicates OK), I return same number US/Canada mixed used. Stamps from PRC, ROC, Japan, Korea and Hong Kong will receive bonus. I will match your quality. SASE (IRC) please. Lee (#1267), 821 S. 46th St., Lincoln, NE 68510 USA (1/1)

**Attention Worldwide Collectors!** Ask for a selection of my approvals ad keep \$2.00 worth free. Also get details for two trading plans and services for want lists, topicals and new issue Canada. Overseas customers welcome. Steven Haddock, Dept. D, Box 1139, 4352 Kingston Rd., West Hill, Ontario, Canada M1E 2X9 (6/1)

**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	\$40.00**
Half Page	20.00**
Quarter Page	10.00**
Per column inch	2.00

\* Camera Ready means ready to paste-up and print. reductions and typesetting extra

\*\* Discounts for 3 or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display ad rates available. Write to ISWSC Editor or Fax direct 24-hr. line 1-(318) 325-4539 for special rates.

**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 in US funds.** Send payment along with copy to the Editor.

**100 selected foreign for \$1 to approval applicants \$20 cat value (1988) for \$3.50.** Same lot, \$10 cat value (1995) for \$3.50. Approvals, pick and choose at half cat. Entire lot often at a discount starting at 33% of catalog. Album Service, Box 333, Soledad, CA (1/1)

**Wanted: Germany Third Reich, General Government, Bohemia-Moravia full sheets, partial sheets and quantities of certain mint issues.** R. J. Zyla, PO Box 399, Utica, NY 13503-0399 Tel. 315-724-1234 Fax: 315-724-5003 (3/1)

**GREAT FOREIGN! Sets, lots, small collections, \$3 to \$100.** Free 6-page list. SASE appreciated. New material weekly. U.S. list available, too. Doug Swisher, ISWSC #403, PO Box 52701, Jacksonville, FL 32201-2701 (3/1)

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Membership dues for adults are \$8.00US plus 250 different large stamps. Dues for a youth member are \$6.00US. Contact the Secretary for information and application.

## ISWSC Stamp Club Associate #1 Named

The ISWSC is pleased to announce our first club associate member, the Rochester Philatelic Association. Formed in 1913, the RPA now has some 130 members and annually sponsors ROPEX, a national level stamp exhibition and bourse. It is the largest such group in western New York.

Any existing stamp club with at least 5 current ISWSC members may qualify for associate membership. Benefits include a copy of *The Circuit* for the club's library, ability to order sales circuits on behalf of the club and access to the various ISWSC services. Associate membership is free of charge. For further information, please write to our president, Tom Fortunato. •• T. F. (# 379)

## The Circuit Wins Award

The Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum has recently awarded our publication, *The Circuit*, a silver-bronze at their eighteenth annual literature fair. The museum, headquartered at 235 Wellesley St., Weston, MA 02193 USA, has one of the largest philatelic libraries in the world and is the depository for the renown Cardinal Spellman collection.

Hats off to our editor, Rita Kallal, and you, our members, who make this publication possible. •• T.F. (# 379)

*Editor's Note: Thanks for the kudos, but I couldn't produce this newsletter without so much help from the members who write the articles and columns. My thanks to all of you and this award belongs to you, too.*

•• R. K. (# 26)

## Secretary (Continued from page 3)

and I'll amend your record here.

The search for an Editor is going quite well. We have several highly qualified candidates. It appears current Editor, Rita Kallal, will finally get the rest she has long sought. While no decision has been made at this time, we expect to announce one in the November-December issue. Rita richly deserves our collective thanks for a wonderful newsletter, and for "hanging in there" until we locate a replacement. Elsewhere you will note just how splendida job Rita has done - awards such as the one given by the Cardinal Spellman Museum are not easily won! ••

## Beginner's Column by Al & Millie Feinberg, (# 361)

Have you ever gone through a friend's collection and found it boring? They usually have a thick or expensive printed album with oodles of empty pages or partially filled sets on them, with no chance of getting the expensive stamps needed to fill the set.

In a lot of cases we sometimes find ourselves buying copies of the higher priced stamps not aware that they were probably used as revenues. Most of us are not experienced enough to recognize this. We only find out when we go to sell our stamps that the high values have revenue cancellations and have little value if any at all. It's quite a let down.

There is a way of avoiding this. Instead of buying a printed album, buy a loose leaf binder and blank pages. As you accumulate stamps mount them in your old beginners album. When the set is as complete as you can afford, draw a page for your better album avoiding spaces for the expensive stamps. That way the set will appear to be complete and you have the satisfaction of not spending for the expensive stamps.

Sometimes a set consists of just a few stamps or maybe just one. Again draw your blank page to accommodate them with a little write-up below the stamp. You might list the amount of stamps produced, why they were produced, what they are commemorating, just a little history. That will make the page interesting even though it has only one or a few stamps on it.

Since there is no basic method for collecting stamps each of our collections is unique. It's very difficult to find the perfect printed album to suit our needs. The blank page album solves this problem. We become the publisher, we draw our own pages to suit ourselves. Every page will appear to be complete. This makes an interesting collection. Any friend looking through your album will find it anything but boring. Most will be curious how you managed to fill all the spaces. That, of course, is your secret! ••

## Manager Reports Death

Exchange manager Tom Allison reports that Donald Swahn (# 1064) died in July. He will be missed by traders in the OMNI Exchange where he was an active participant. ••

## Letter to the Editor

Thanks for another fine newsletter and the new membership roster. The ISWSC has made great strides in a short time, and is a recognized organization in the realm of stamp collecting. However as the ISWSC country index included with the roster indicates, we have a long way to go to make this a truly International Society!!!

Many of the popular collecting areas have few or no ISWSC members. Let us all do our best to correct this and put the International firmly in our society's name!!

I believe one way of accomplishing this is to give our foreign membership more input in our governing body by electing foreign representation to the Board of Directors in the upcoming election. •• William R. (Bill) Reynolds (# 683)

## Poem for the Personal Computer Owner

I have a spelling checker  
It came with my PC;  
It plainly marks four my revue  
Mistakes I cannot sea.

I've run this poem threw it,  
I'm sure your please too no.  
It's letter perfect in it's weigh,  
My checker tolled me sew.

Submitted by Glen Robertson (# 307)

## ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

JOIN NOW  
29¢ SASE (or IRC) to:

Joan Roderick  
12 Red Oak Road  
Asheville, NC 28804

# KID'S PAGE

Write the names of the deer that you have in your collection on these lines.

## EUROPE

Alpine Ibex (2)  
Axis Deer  
Chamios (5)  
Eland  
Elk  
European Elk (2)  
European Hart  
Fallow Deer (3)  
Lap Reindeer  
Moose  
Pyrenean Chamios  
Red Deer (14)  
Reindeer (4)  
Roe Deer/Roebuck (10)  
Spanish Ibex  
Stag

**MIDDLE EAST**

Arabian Oryx (2)  
Dorcas Gazelle  
Gazelle  
Mountain Gazelle  
Nubian Ibex  
Stag

American Elk  
Caribou (3)  
Elk (Wapiti) (2)  
Moose (2)  
Mule Deer (2)  
Pronghorn Antelope  
White Tail Deer

# Chamiox

Deer  
Red Deer  
White Tail Deer



## Mail Sale #11 Results

LOT#	Sale Price	High Bid	# of Bids								
1.	25.00	32.00	1	61.	9.25	9.50	1	122.		0	
2.			0	62.	3.00	T	4	123.		0	
3.			0	63.	15.00	15.00	1	124.	3.00	3.00	1
4.	17.00	25.00	2	64.			0	125.			0
5.	3.25	3.25	2	65.			0	126.	2.75	3.00	2
6.	20.00	22.00	1	66.	20.00	T	2	127.	2.25	2.50	2
7.			0	67.	3.00	T	8	128.	4.00	4.00	1
8.	7.00	8.00	1	68.			0	129.	11.00	16.00	6
9.	14.00	15.00	1	69.	4.75	4.75	1	130.	36.00	36.00	6
10.	1.00	1.00	1	70.	5.50	8.00	2	131.	26.00	26.00	6
11.	13.00	18.00	2	71.	14.00	15.00	3	132.	12.00	26.00	4
12.	2.75	3.00	3	72.	6.00	6.50	1	133.	8.00	8.00	1
13.	1.00	1.00	1	73.	8.00	8.00	1	134.	16.00	16.00	1
14.	2.00	2.00	1	74.	15.00	T	2	135.	14.00	16.00	2
15.			0	75.	3.00	3.25	1	136.	25.00	25.00	1
16.			0	76.			0	137.	5.50	8.00	4
				77.			0	138.	15.00	30.00	2
17.	4.25	5.00	4	78.	14.00	14.00	2	139.	10.00	25.00	2
18.			0	79.	6.25	8.00	1	140.	18.50	18.50	1
19.	2.00	2.00	1	80.	4.00	4.00	2	141.	10.00	11.00	1
20.	10.00	12.00	1	81.	6.00	6.00	1	142.	16.50	30.00	1
21.			0	82.	10.50	20.00	1	143.	9.50	21.00	2
22.			0	83.	2.50	2.50	1	144.			0
23.			0	84.	5.00	5.00	1	145.	10.00	21.00	3
24.	2.00	T	2	85.	6.00	6.00	1	146.			0
25.	3.50	5.00	1	86.	10.25	15.00	1	147.	20.00	26.00	1
26.	10.00	12.00	1	87.	3.00	3.25	1	148.		WD	
27.	5.50	6.00	3	88.	15.00	T	3	149.	20.00	20.00	1
28.	6.00	8.00	1	89.	5.00	T	6	150.			0
29.			0	90.	3.00	3.25	1	151.	12.00	13.00	1
30.	4.50	5.00	3	91.			0	152.			0
31.			0	92.	6.50	T	3	153.			0
32.	3.25	4.00	2	93.	6.50	6.50	2	154.			0
33.	4.00	T	3	94.	21.00	21.00	1	155.	5.50	6.00	3
34.	3.50	T	3	95.	12.00	15.00	4	156.	24.00	52.00	2
35.	4.50	T	3	96.	9.00	9.00	2	157.	3.75	4.00	3
36.	8.50	10.00	3	97.	4.75	5.00	2	158.	1.25	1.25	3
37.	4.00	4.00	1	98.	10.00	10.00	1	159.	8.00	12.00	3
38.	8.50	8.50	2	99.			0	160.			0
39.	9.50	10.00	5	100.	6.50	16.00	2	161.			0
40.	8.50	8.50	1	101.	4.00	T	6	162.	1.00	1.00	1
41.			0	102.	6.50	9.00	4	163.	5.00	9.00	1
42.	8.50	9.50	3	103.	3.00	3.00	1	164.	6.50	12.00	2
43.			0	104.	8.00	8.50	3	165.	18.00	20.00	1
44.	4.75	5.00	1	105.	5.50	7.00	4	166.	2.00	2.00	1
45.	1.50	1.50	1	106.	2.50	6.00	2	167.		WD	
46.	3.75	5.00	2	107.	7.00	7.00	3	168.	5.50	23.00	2
47.	1.50	2.00	2	108.	8.00	T	5	169.	2.00	2.00	2
48.			0	109.	6.00	T	4	170.	12.00	12.00	3
49.	6.50	10.00	3	110.	8.50	10.00	1	171.	17.00	20.00	4
50.	8.00	8.00	1	111.	21.00	25.00	2	172.	37.00	40.00	5
51.	6.50	11.00	4	112.	18.00	25.00	2	173.			0
52.	3.75	4.74	2	113.	40.00	45.00	1	174.	8.00	11.00	1
53.			0	114.	5.00	T	3	175.	14.00	25.00	5
54.	8.50	15.00	4	115.	3.75	4.00	1	176.	15.00	32.00	4
55.			0	116.	4.25	6.00	5	177.	6.50	10.00	3
56.			WD	117.	17.00	20.00	4	178.	9.00	10.00	5
57.	7.00	8.00	2	118.	7.75	10.00	1	179.			0
58.	28.00	50.00	2	119.	14.00	18.00	1	180.	16.00	16.00	6
59.	2.50	T	2	120.	40.00	48.00	1	181.	6.50	10.00	4
60.	7.50	11.00	6	121.			0	182.	21.00	37.00	6
								183.	21.00	32.00	7

184.	30.00	50.00	2
185.	16.00	18.00	2
186.			0
187.	35.00	35.00	6
188.	12.00	12.00	14
189.	5.50	12.00	5
190.	13.00	13.00	3
191.	9.00	10.00	2
192.			0
193.			0
194.	2.00	3.00	1
195.	3.00	T	2
196.			0
197.	8.50	10.00	3
198.	9.00	9.00	2
199.	7.50	8.00	8
200.	6.50	8.00	4
201.	14.00	31.00	5
202.			0
203.	6.00	T	3



### Report on Mail Sale # 11

by George Land (# 241)

This sale marked a reversal in the trend of increasing participation and sale figures established by the last two sales. A reversal that I feel responsible for. Only a very short time was allotted to members for submitting their bids. Unfortunately, the timing of the auction was very close to the time when I left for a European trip at the end of June. I was gone all of July, returning the first of August. I hope this will not be my last trip to Europe, but I do hope it will be the last time that members will be so rushed on their bids. I apologize for the problems.

It seems that third-class mail varies in the time it takes to reach its destination. Apparently, some members did not receive their newsletter until the closing date was upon them or past. This is reflected by the decrease in bidders from 71 in Sale #10 to only 57 in this sale, even though this sale had more lots. Of those bidders, 41 bought at least one lot; a success rate of 71%. The most popular lot was # 188. The cigar box lot received 14 bids, showing that large, mixed, omnibus lots of varied nature are attractive to many people. Americans love a mystery!

To be successful, you must bid the absolute maximum you are willing to pay. You can relax with the assurance that your maximum will only be used if necessary to top the second highest bidder by one increment. Of the 160 lots sold, 60% were bought at a price lower than what the bidder was willing to pay. We save you money wherever possible! The largest saving was \$28 on lot \$ 156. A bidder was willing to pay \$52, but got it for \$24. The buyer of lot #58 was able to save \$22 from a high bid of \$50.

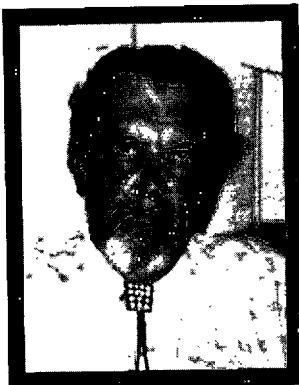
Relying on the (Continued on page 11)



## It's Time to Vote for ISWSC Directors-at-Large

ISWSC has been blessed with more highly qualified candidates for the board of directors than there are spots available. Only two board vacancies will begin a two year term on Jan 1, 1995, and as you can see we have six candidates.

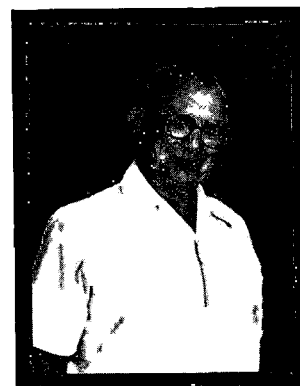
You, as an ISWSC member, are to choose two of the following candidates:



**David Creson (#170)** is currently serving as an ISWSC welcome committee greeter and has recently been named as our retention manager. Now 57, he has collected stamps since the age of 16 and is on his third worldwide collection. Member of the APS and International Society of Portuguese Philately. Applying for the director's job because "I have considerable skills, time, experience and equipment that are not being used...and would like to

pay back something to a hobby that has provided so much to me for over 40 years." Retired US Navy in 1976 as CPO; now managing a ranch. Wife, Anne, is also a worldwide stamp collector, in addition to her topical collection of panda stamps.

**Ken Jenkins (#15)** is running for re-election. He is a charter member of the ISWSC; served the first four years as vice president and the next four as president, currently is a director. "I either originated or was an overseer of nearly all the programs ISWSC offers today...I would like to be re-elected to the Board of Directors so that I can continue to influence the future course of ISWSC- to keep track of 'my baby'."



**Paul Grimes (#778)** has been a collector for 59 years, and is currently corresponding with more than 100 ISWSC members around the world. Now serving his second term as president of the Tacoma Stamp Club of Washington State. A member of APS, chapter 511, and a founding member of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. Serves as counselor for the Boy Scout merit badge for stamp collecting. "Very much interested in helping other people within all phases of the philatelic field".



No  
Photo  
Available

**Kevin Crowe (#459)**, born in New Zealand in 1946, is employed in the printing industry by a multinational company, which transferred him back home after a 20 year stay in Australia. A stamp collector for over 30 years, other interests include country music and classic cars. He has actively written articles for *The Circuit*, enlisted new members and worked closely with Australian secretary Peter Scannell in all ISWSC efforts in that region, which

has undergone enormous growth.

No  
Photo  
Available

**Randy Heimpel (#520)** A stamp collector for 35+ years, and teacher for 21 years, Randy has also been instrumental in forming children's stamp clubs at 3 different elementary schools in Ontario, Canada. He has been a columnist for the *Canadian Stamp News* for almost 4 years and authors a column for the RPSC's *Canadian Philatelist*, called "Future Footprints" about youth philately. He states, "ISWSC has a unique philosophy which I share,

and I believe it will become a major entity in the philatelic world over the next 10 years. I pledge to work toward this goal."

**Dalene Thomas (#101)** is a member of the APS, the ATA, several local stamp clubs and the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Founded the Lighthouse Stamp Society and edits the club journal, *The Beacon*. Started the ISWSC swap circuit and served as its manager for three years. "Well versed in setting up and implementing new programs or reorganizing old ones," believing this talent will be an asset to ISWSC.



**BALLOT on Next Page -- Please VOTE!!**

## A Note from the President....

This election is an important one. The fact that six members have applied as candidates for two director at large positions is a testament to their dedication to the society and puts us in a strong position to continue to grow and expand in the upcoming years. Even more impressive is the fact that two on this ballot are from outside the USA. We encourage all members to take an active role in ISWSC affairs. Voting is probably the easiest, yet most important way your voice can be heard. Consider the fine credentials of each candidate and vote for the two of your choice.

Beyond this election is the one to be held the same time next year, when the two year terms of the President, VP-Youth/Charitable Programs, VP-Public Relations and the all important Secretary/Treasurer expire. It is not too early to consider running for these positions. Write to the current office holder of the post you are interested in for further details.

**Vote! •• Tom Fortunato, President**

## ISWSC Ballot Instruction

1. Mail as early as possible to reach election chairman Dave Park by the deadline, December 15.
2. One ballot per member in good standing.
3. DO NOT write your name or membership number on the ballot itself.
4. Do write your name and membership number on the envelope in which you mail your ballot. *(This information will be checked against the roster of current members.)* Failure to do so will invalidate your vote.
5. You may submit a photocopy of this ballot with your vote to keep your Circuit intact. As in (2), only one ballot or photocopy will be counted per member.
6. Your comments about the ISWSC are welcome, but must be put on a separate paper enclosed with your ballot. These will not be answered, but will be reviewed by the officers to help form policy for the upcoming year.
7. Ballots not conforming to these rules will not be counted.

## OFFICIAL BALLOT — ISWSC DIRECTORS AT LARGE

To serve as ISWSC Directors at Large during the 1995-6 term, I hereby vote for the following TWO candidates whose names I have circled below:

David Creson

Randy Heimpel

Kevin Crowe

Ken Jenkins

Paul Grimes

Dalene Thomas

**DO NOT sign this ballot!** Place your name and membership number on the outer envelope in which you mail the ballot.

This ballot must be received by the election chairman by **December 15** to count. Results will appear in *The Circuit*..

**Mail your ballot before December 15, 1994**

**to:**

**Dave Park, 760 Chelsea, Glendale, MO 63122 USA**

**Mail Sale** (Continued from page 8)

Minimum Bid (MB) can be a real gamble. It should be considered only as a guideline -- 48% of the lots with MBs sold at a higher price.

Some problems have become apparent to the managers. Jim charges the buyer only the amount of postage he uses. There is no "handling charge." But album lots can be expensive to mail. Consider this when you bid on an album or stamps within an album. It hurts to pay more for postage than the lot itself is worth. Also, sellers should remember this fact when establishing a MB on an album lot.

It must be assumed that anyone bidding knows what they are bidding on. When a lot uses 2-3 lines with a full and accurate description, it is not acceptable for a buyer to return it stating, "It is not what I thought it was."

The lot descriptions many abbreviations and are of minimal length to save space. You should not read MORE into it than is actually stated. If it says "500 different of some country," that's all it is --- nothing more! To claim a lot is "picked-over" is to suggest you were expecting something that was never stipulated in the description. Do not expect rarities in such a lot. Ordinarily, most of the

stamps will be common -- unless stated to the contrary. If you find that you already have all 500 of those stamps in your collection -- that is NOT grounds for return.

On large lots, bidders take a chance that we already possess some of the stamps. But that is offset by the fact that these lots are usually sold at a greater discount from catalog value (CV). Please note that large lots or collections are not returnable, unless mis-described.

Of course, mis-described lots are always returnable. The manager does not check catalog values on all lots with multiple stamps. We take the seller's CV and identification as accurate; but if not correct, then certainly a return is in order.

We think these terms are fair to all. It is a delicate path we travel. We try to protect the interest of the seller and also provide accurate descriptions to the buyer whom we realize is unable to view the stamps. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome and treated seriously.

In closing, I want to offer my thanks to Richard McClure (# 1177), of Stockton, CA for his design and creation of a splendid file-box with folders for housing all the auction lots. How rare it is that a person contributes both the idea AND the finished product itself! Thank you. ••

**DO YOU AGREE?** by Dave Park (# 747)

As I type this, I'm admiring my copy of *Scott's Catalogue* for 1941. What's so special about it? Well, so far as I know it's the last time the entire catalogue was in a single volume: 1,543 numbered text pages plus a small amount of advertising, mostly house ads for Scott products. Text in three columns, with all subnotes in teeny-tiny type -- I'd guess about *mignon* or *pearl* as they used to classify type sizes.

Anyhow, it's all there, or at least as much as human frailty could accomplish. For three dollars, mind you -- ah, those were the days when a dollar was real money.

As the house ads tell me, you could collect the world in 32 Specialty Albums. For example: British North America, pages only, \$1.00. That's one American dollar, and if memory serves, a Canadian dollar traded at par with U.S. currency in 1941.

You could also buy any of the five volumes of Scott's International Albums for seven bucks each. (These

provided the templates for the Specialties, but the International pages were printed on both sides.) Or you could buy the International Junior looseleaf, bound in blue Fabrikoid, for six dollars. This was a single volume for 33,000 stamps running from 1840 to 1940. No perf or watermark varieties (except for U.S.), but proclaimed as "THE album for 9 out of 10 collectors."

Now take notice: The International albums were discontinued not too long after this catalogue was published, but that title was retained and used for the International Junior. So the "Junior album" this 1941 catalogue was talking about became Volume 1 of the still-current Scott International album series....

Fast forward to 1994: Scott has announced that this coming October, it will issue *The 1995 Scott Classic Catalogue*. This will include, it says here, "values and information from 1840 to 1940."

It's expected to (Continued page 12)

**Postal Codes of Europe**  
*compiled by Tom Fortunato (#379)*

Most of the nations of Europe and the CIS have adopted a one or two letter country designation which is used as part of their postal code with intra-country mail. With all of the geographical changes over the past few years in this region, it is even more important that mail sent to these countries use the appropriate codes. Most countries use the code before the number, such as SF-20100 Turku, for a city in Finland. These are the same codes found on car bumpers seen abroad and sometimes here in the States. So here are most of them. If you can confirm the codes of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, San Marino, Tajikistan or the Vatican, send them to president Tom Fortunato who compiled this list for *The Circuit*.

Armenia- AM	Latvia- LV
Austria- A	Liechtenstein- FL
Azerbaijan- AZ	Lithuania- LT
Belarus- BY	Luxembourg- L
Belgium- B	Moldova- MD
Bulgaria- BG	Monaco- MC
Croatia- HR	Netherlands- NL
Czech Republic- CS	Norway- N
Denmark- DK	Poland- P
Estonia- EE	Portugal- P
Faroes- FR	Romania- R
Finland- SF	Russia- RU
France- F	Slovakia- SK
Georgia- GE	Slovenia- SI
Germany- G	Spain- E
Greece- GR	Sweden- S
Great Britain- GB	Switzerland- CH
Hungary- H	Turkey- TU
Iceland- IS	Turkmenistan- TM
Ireland- IR	Ukraine- UA
Italy- I	Uzbekistan- UZ
Kazakhstan- KZ	Yugoslavia- YU
Kyrgyzstan- KG	

**Letter to the Editor**

Regarding Harold Humm's suggestion: How about having a Christmas Club and members donate what they want (if they want) with all the proceeds being divided between the Editor and Secretary as a Christmas gift for all the work throughout the year. Because if you have to raise dues you would lose members rather than gaining new members.

Thanks for a job "well done, Rita."  
•• Bev Chapman (# 802)

**Agree?** (Continued from Page 11)

run about 900 pages, Scott says (they must be larger pages than the 1941 "classic" on my desk). Price isn't stated in this news release I'm reading but you can bet it will be a lot more than three bucks -- inflation alone would drive the price up over a ten-spot. Still, it sounds like a great deal for the worldwide collector who specializes in philately's first century. It should make a perfect match for the renamed International Volume One.

And if you collect worldwide up to 1940, and specialize in a single country after that date, you could get along with the "classic" and just one volume of the current Scott catalogues. You might want to replace your current volume every couple of years or so, but the "classic" could last you for a decade or more. Of course inflation might make the pricing obsolete, but other features like the numbering should remain unchanged.

In fact, Scott might be planning to issue mini-catalogues geared to a single country or group of countries (like Netherlands, say) and picking up where the "classic" stops. These could be priced lower than a single volume of the regular catalogue. And since they would be incomplete without the pre-1940 information, acquiring a mini-catalogue would practically guarantee a purchase of the "classic," too.

Is that what Scott has in mind? I dunno. They don't confide in me. ••

**THE FIRST 100 YEARS**

1840-1940 stamps are my main stock, worldwide. Retired collector selling piece by piece. Pricelists for nearly any country. Let me know what countries interest you and a list will be sent to you.

Stock after 1940 is limited, except for US, Canada, Germany, Israel, UN and Vatican, and Philippines. Lists for US cut squares and plate blocks, and some revenues. A very few covers available.

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**UK Secretary's Column**

by Chad Neighbor (# 510)

Several ISWSC members in Scotland met for lunch at the main philatelic event in Scotland each year, the annual Philatelic Congress, in March. Colin Caskie (579) and Irving Bell (1109) of the east coast to the north of Edinburgh treated me to a traditional baked potato as we exchanged notes on society activities. It was most interesting, of course, to put a face to the names. Tom Brown (582) was also at the Congress but he was otherwise engaged-manning his stall on the trading floor.

This means I've now met all our (six) members in Scotland, but so far I've not had the opportunity to meet any of the English or other continental members, apart from Jan Szpyrka, the Eastern European Secretary. I highly recommend taking the chance at stamp shows or other events to organize a meeting or go along to any gatherings that take place.

Personally, and for the other foreign members, I'd like to thank Dalene Thomas for all her efforts on the Swap Circuit. This is one of the few official club activities suited for overseas members, and I've enjoyed receiving stamps (and envelopes) from other members around the world and reading their comments. Joan Roderick has taken over and is continuing the circuit quite well, and I wish her well and offer my appreciation for her efforts.

Most of my family lives in the US and so I often provide them with se-tenant stamps on their mail so I can get used copies. Imagine my mixed feelings the other day when an envelope arrived with a full sheet of the 1993 US World War II series without a scratch. The only trouble was that the postal clerk has "cancelled" the stamps with a thick black marker- despite the fact that I had written "Please cancel lightly- thanks!" on the envelope.

Rather than simply curse this unknown postal vandal, I obtained the address of the relevant assistant postmaster and sent off a polite letter of complaint and pointing out that such an attack on philatelic items can cost the recipient dearly. I enclosed a large photocopy of the defaced sheet.

I haven't received a reply, but the latest envelope came beautifully cancelled with the red hand stamp cancels, so perhaps my letter had some effect. In any case, I believe it is a good idea for all philatelists to try to educate postal employees about the needs of stamp collectors. Some have no idea that they are ruining stamps and will be glad to provide better service.

I would like to issue a blanket apology to all of my stamp correspondents, who may have noticed my tardiness in responding to their letters and trading material. I am hopelessly behind on philatelic matters at the moment because I am preparing two displays of more than 100 pages each for the Edinburgh Philatelic Society. I'm afraid "normal" service may not return until next summer. So if you don't hear from me promptly, it's not because I don't care.

Another apology, this time to Martii Vihanto, the recently named secretary for Scandinavia and the Baltic states, whose name was horribly misspelled in my last column by a rogue spell-checking program after I sent it in. The name of Johann Joergen Holst, the deceased Norwegian diplomat and stamp collector was also mangled. ••

**Don't Forget to Vote**

## Collecting Worldwide Rewarding

by Emil Ciangetti (# 767)

Many times I've been asked by younger collectors, "Why do you collect worldwide?"

I have been collecting stamps somewhat over sixty years, having been introduced to them by my upstairs neighbor. Back then the world was smaller in that there were fewer stamp issuing countries and the number of new issues were a lot less than today. I can remember my first Scott catalog: small and fat, either 1933 or 1934. *(I wish I still had it. My wife threw it away in the late 1950s; she'd have liked to throw my stamps away also, the way my record albums ended up in the incinerator. She said they were warped, having never heard a country and western warble before.)*

I recall collectors, including George Linn (then publisher of Linn's Stamp News), advocating the soaking of gum off mint stamps to prevent the gum from cracking. I collected mostly used then so I didn't worry about it. Today I collect both mint and used and find many higher catalog value stamps that are mint hinged.

There came a time when stamp production grew and collectors started to specialize. I gave it a thought and decided that there were just too many countries I liked to become a specialized collector.

How do you keep up, they ask? I don't. I work on the countries I like best and try to keep current with the material I have on hand. Every now and then, I'll catch up on some I have been neglecting. I have stamps in just about every room in the house, including the garage.

About three years ago I decided to work on Panama and Thailand and started putting material aside as I came across it. I've done Thailand and a few smaller countries, but Panama is still waiting. I started on Mexico and had so much material I bought a Minkus Mexico album. I was disappointed no one publishes a Mexico album using Scott numbering.

I collect strictly for pleasure and donate a lot of stamps to youth programs. A fellow member and myself also work with the Stamps for the Wounded program. I've been a member of ISWSC for a couple years now and try to take advantage of whatever services I have time for. If you've written and haven't received an answer, you are not being ignored. I

just haven't had time to write. (I keep promising I'll get some books filled for OMNI exchange — someday.)

I am a single parent, having adopted my grandson. I've been raising him alone for over eight years. He celebrated his ninth birthday in July. I've also been on the Welfare Board for eleven years, the last seven as Chairman. I also fill in for the Welfare Director when she is unavailable. I run the Food Program in town and that keeps me fairly busy, especially with government food being in short supply. I was an officer in a few other organizations but gave them up because as my son grows older I have to put more time to the things he is doing. He has soccer three times a week, Cub Scouts one night, plus various school activities. I spend one afternoon a week working in the school library. Besides my cooking and cleaning, I have a garden and tend a garden for a friend whose husband passed away. All this keeps me in good shape physically and mentally, so I figure I've got another twenty years before I collapse into a heap.

When do I have time for stamps? I have a friend who does a lot of soaking and sorting for me which helps a lot. I work on them at night if I'm not too tired and first thing in the morning when I get up. Occasionally I'll even sneak in a few minutes in the middle of the day. I have slowed down some, it took me almost two months to use a pack of hinges. I enjoy buying job lots, collections, and recent mixes and always have plenty to work on.

Twenty years ago dealers referred to me as junk man. Today if I refer to my collection as junk that same dealer will take offense. He must have learned something in the past twenty years!

I enjoy corresponding with people in other countries as time permits and I am happy to see ISWSC is growing. I notice the foreign membership has been increasing with the addition of foreign secretaries. I understand we have an election coming up for At-Large-Directors and it my wish that the members will make this a truly international society by voting in a director from a foreign country. ••

**Stamp Collecting Teaches  
while you're having Fun!!**

## Sales Circuit Report

by Jim Watkins (#372), Manager

The Sales Circuit got off the ground in early July, thanks to the direction and guidance of Tom Fortunato, Carol Cervenka and Judy Hungerford. To date, sixteen circuits have been sent out. Each circuit consists of five members. Books will be sent out for further viewing if warranted. Sales have been brisk.

There are two categories: insured and uninsured. An insured circuit consists of one to three books with a value of two hundred to three hundred dollars. An uninsured circuit contains up to five books with a value of \$75 to \$100.

Some great material at very attractive prices has been sent in. While general worldwide stamps make up the majority of the books available, there are also nice Spain, Germany, British Colonies, as well as various topicals. Prices are well below most dealers, and the seven to ten day period to look the stamps over in your home makes this service a real plus to ISWSC members.

For those members wishing to enter or receive ISWSC Sales Circuit material, please send an SASE for details and a participation form to: Jim Watkins, 2123 Cedar Way, Stockton CA 95207. The cost to receive sales circuits is fifty two cents per uninsured circuit and one dollar per insured circuit. Give it a try - you'll find good stamps at bargain prices! ••

## For the Geography Whiz

Have you ever heard of these gems, as reported in a recent issue of Conde Nast Traveller?

1. What is the world's shortest place name?

**Answer:** U, one of the Caroline Islands in the Pacific.

2. What is the world's longest place name?

**Hint:** It's a hill in the Southern Hawke's Bay district on the north island of New Zealand. Translated from the native Maori, it means "the place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees who slid, climbed, and swallowed mountains, known as landeater, played his flute to his loved one." Can you find this one on any map?

**Answer:**

Taumatawhakatangihangakaouauotamateauripukapikimaungahoronn-ukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu. ••

## Another Option for Mounting Your Collection *by Phil Bence (# 926)*

I'd like to offer another suggestion for mounting your world stamp collection. I appreciated Bernard Sigg's universal album page, as described in *The Circuit* (Jul-Aug 94). His system offers a flexible and infinitely expanding means of mounting your collection. Had I known of it several years ago, I might have used it.

But since I returned to stamp collecting seven years ago, I have made three international moves. (I was a doctoral student in Scotland, before spending four years as a Bible college teacher in Melbourne, Australia. I am home in the U.S. for a year before returning to Melbourne in January 1995.) Thus, I needed to find a storage method that occupied less space than notebooks or albums.

What's my suggestion? I mount my stamps on cards. I have found that 98% of my stamps fit easily onto one-third of a three inch by five inch card. (Each 3 x 5 card thus make three one & two-thirds inch by three inch cards.) On the same side of each card, I then mount a stamp (off center in one direction or the other and also record, opposite the stamp, its year of issue and catalog number. I then sequence the cards, first alphabetically by country of issue, then, within each country, by year of issue (which, in most cases, correlates with sequence of catalog number.) I store the cards in boxes cut down to near the height of the cards. I use slightly taller cards as markers, denoting countries or dates within countries for which I have many stamps.

This system shares some of the same advantages with Mr. Sigg's method. It is flexible and infinitely expandable. Other advantages involve space and, thus portability. Mr. Sigg's method has advantages mine does not, but my method does not require lots of blank spaces for rarer stamps I will likely never acquire. Disadvantages of my method include its "unorthodoxy" and difficulty in quickly viewing a large number of stamps -- a dealer trying to look at my collection would shudder in horror. But, my method works for me. It might work for you, too. ••

## Perf Caper *by C. Hewins (# 483)*

Now stamps have varying perforations, and to identify them we need what is called a perforation gauge, which is pronounced (against all the rules) like it was spelled gage. As in N. Gage, the noted philosopher, who made that very obfuscatorily enigmatic statement, which has baffled scientists ever since, wondering just what N. Gage meant. Well, I never said my puns were good.

Moving briskly along, I use a perf gauge (however it's pronounced) quite frequently in identifying precancels, since there are so many on the 1922 (perf 11) and 1926 (perf 10-1/2) U.S. issues. Trouble is, some of these stamps will measure 11 one time, 10-1/2 the next. And that's after morning coffee and before pre-dinner cocktail. Oh, well. I pick the one that pleases me, and will let the poor old soul that gets to appraise my collection after I've shuffled off to Buffalo get buffaloed, bleary-eyed and dizzy from lack of watermark fluid withdrawal symptoms -- precancel collectors tend to ignore watermarks, maybe because they fear the fluid will dissolve the ink, removing the town name. Would this make it a missing post office or a ghost town? I didn't realize stamps could get so complicated.

## A WORLDWIDE COLLECTOR -- (first in a series)

*by Glen Robertson (# 307)*

Several months ago I committed myself to producing a group of articles on worldwide collecting. Who is this guy to tell you about collecting? Here's the answer. I started collecting at age 6, when my father gave me one of his old albums and some envelopes full of stamps. I was lucky. I lived in New York City, could visit various dealers on famed Nassau Street and with Jacques Minkus at his street level facility in one of the city's major department stores.

Some days after school I would strap on my roller skates, tuck my album and box of duplicates under my arm, and go off in search of trades. Stamps went into storage when the family moved to New England in 1942. Then there was a war, and girls.

After the war I found the girl who is still my wife (married in 1946) and I had a little bit of time for collecting. Time, yes; money - NO! My income was only \$57 a month. I came back to collecting, and the years went by. I traded for most items, made the usual mistakes, joined stamp clubs wherever I was, accepted donations of clippings from relatives, and matured in my outlook.

I stayed with United States material and worldwide as a second choice. I even tried my hand at dealing. By 1980 I was in Alaska and found it impossible to obtain at reasonable cost the US items I had been purchasing. At that time I dropped chasing US new issues, and US collecting as a whole.

I became a confirmed worldwide collector. Today, my collection includes about 185,000 different items housed in a total of some 70 albums. As this series moves along you'll learn more about my collection, how it evolved to where it is today, and what I see in the future.

NEXT: What is worldwide collecting? ••

## Whatzit? No 94-5

(See *The Circuit*, May-June 1994, page 10 and July-August 1994, page 8)

•• Ed Dykstra (# 254) adds the following information: ROPIT are initials for Russian Company for Steamshipping and Trade. Dozens of these stamps bearing the PARA and ROPIT overprints were once listed under Ukraine. They were not valuable.

Stamps with ROPIT only were for use in the Levant or Turkish Empire until the end of World War I (about 1919). ••

That's a problem I'll leave to my heirs, none of whom collect stamps (proving there is some common sense in my family). They'll probably use them to light fires. The ungummed ones should be dry enough and the gummed ones might add some needed humidity to the atmosphere. Stamps coming to a sticky end. Good thing gum isn't acidic; we have enough environmental problems now.

Ever try to use a per gauge on a mounted stamp without removing it? The hinge is always so you can't readily get a reading without wee-wahing all around. Talk about double-jointed contortions.

Perf gauge, gas gauge, steel gauge, pressure gauge -- disengage, please. I wish I were back in Peoria, or Oscaloosa, or anywhere this subject won't come up. ••