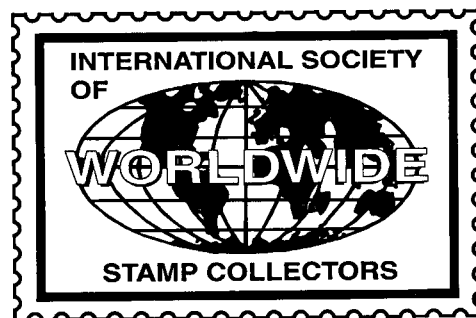


The Circuit

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September/October 2001 • Volume 19 No. 5

Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)

Current Membership: 609 Collectors Worldwide!

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

The Masking Stranger

by Napoleon
Part 1 of 5 in a Series

Several years ago, I borrowed a stamp club's copy of the *Yvert et Tellier French* catalog to check my collection and duplicates.

I was looking for varieties, including plate flaws, those fly specks that result when a printing plate has a defect that marks the stamps produced. On used stamps, the cancellation often covered just the spot where the plate flaw would be. The cancellations didn't come in just one shape or size; they varied as needed to cover all evidence of the flaw. This led to the question of why there were so many different cancellations, what they meant, and if they could be helpful. Thus, à la "The Lone Ranger," the masking stranger on the stamp became useful rather than threatening.

After several months of checking literature, Internet sites, and thousands of stamps in dealer stock and local auction lots, I knew enough to be dangerous. This article shares the knowledge, so you too will be able to endanger your wallet and dealer stock. My thanks go to all who contributed knowledge, material, or images to use in these articles.

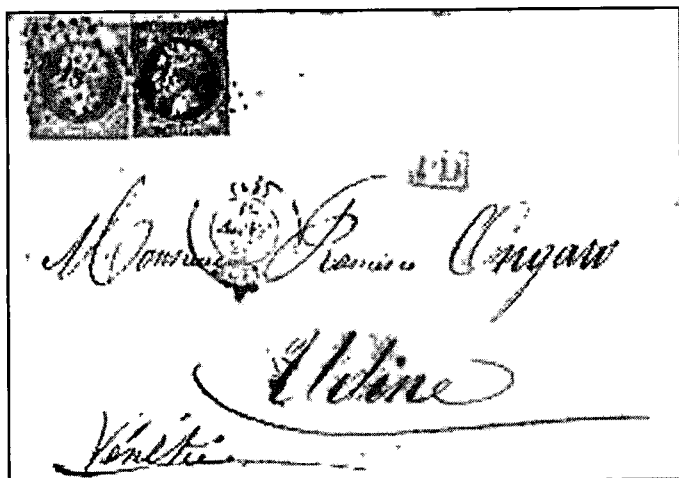


Fig. 1

Postal markings had been applied to stampless covers for many years before France issued its first adhesive stamps. When stamps came into use, the postal service needed to "cancel" the stamps on the cover so they could not be reused. France already used circular date stamps to mark the origin of the mail,

as well as its intermediate and final stops. Post office officials wanted another mark to cancel the stamps.

This gave rise to the typical cover shown in Figure 1. The circular date stamp marked the letter as mailed in Lyon. The PD-in-rectangle denoted payment of postage through to a foreign destination (Udine, Italy). The 1818 in a diamond-of-dots canceled the stamps.

The earliest common cancellation was a diamond-shaped grill of six rows of six smaller diamonds. This grill (Figure 2) came into use with the Ceres issue in 1849. Starting in 1851, if there were multiple stamps to cancel (or even if there were not!) an "endless" grill could be used. This grill was made up of small parallelograms, five rows deep and "endless."

Figure 3 shows an endless grille au rouleau on a cover, canceling a single stamp. Sometimes the difference between six rows of diamonds (normal grill) and five rows of parallelograms (grille au rouleau) is the easiest way to tell which cancellation is on a particular stamp. Figure 4 shows a late-usage example of the normal grill, more than doubling the value of this item.

There was a second imperforate Ceres issue. This



Fig. 2

Continued on page 4

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President's Column

by Tony Zollo (#856) – President and Executive Director, ISWSC

The state of your society needs improvement and it can only come from **YOU!!**

In my last column I announced the call for candidates for all the officers of the ISWSC. This included the President, Secretary, Vice President for Charitable Services and Vice President for Public Relations. As I write this (7/22/01), two of the four officer positions await candidates. This is despite several email messages calling for candidates, my newsletter column and many personal appeals to prominent members.

Our newsletter editor has told me she is running short of articles submitted for publication. Our Regional Secretary positions in Western Europe and Australasia are vacant and our British Isles Regional Secretary is going to step down at the end of the year.

Continued on next page

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Phone or send your questions to the appropriate volunteer.
Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or IRC for a reply.

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Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

Cast Your Ballot!

Don't miss your opportunity to vote in this year's ISWSC elections. As we all learned several months ago, every vote counts!

You will find a list of candidates on pages 6-7 followed by a brief biography of each. Please take a few minutes right now to read through the list and decide who you would like to see as the next set of officers for the ISWSC. Be sure to read through the voting procedures (page 7) for information about how the ISWSC elections work. Then vote!

Remember, you need to have your ballot to the Elections Chairman by November 15, 2001. We look forward to counting your ballot!



President's Column

Continued from page 2

All of this does not bode well for the future of our society. The ISWSC is a society of members. The work of the society, indeed its very survival, depends on volunteers. We have no paid positions. In the past, volunteerism has been very strong amongst a small group of members, but they cannot do it all alone, forever.

The largest single employment category of our members is "retired" so many of you must have a few minutes a week to help the society.

And so, if I may paraphrase, it is time for me to say *ask not what the ISWSC can do for you, ask what you can do for the ISWSC!!* If the ISWSC is to survive and flourish we simply must have more members willing to devote a small amount of their time to conduct its business and plan for its future.

I have served as President and Executive Director for almost four years and it has been a pleasure to serve with the many fine individuals who have contributed their time and efforts on behalf of our society and its programs. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them. I can assure all of you that if you decide to volunteer in some fashion, you will be rewarded by the opportunity just as I have. I strongly urge each of you to consider what you can do on behalf of the ISWSC. You can no longer afford not to step up and help! Please contact me (see the listing of contact information on page 2) as soon as possible.

Till next time...



Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. 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: \$75.00**

Half page: \$40.00**

Quarter page: \$20.00**

Per column inch: \$5.00

Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra.

** Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p. 2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1.

NOTE: State abbreviations = one word; "P.O. Box 1234" = two words; ZIP code = one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor. All addresses can be found on page 2.

The Masking Stranger

Continued from page 1

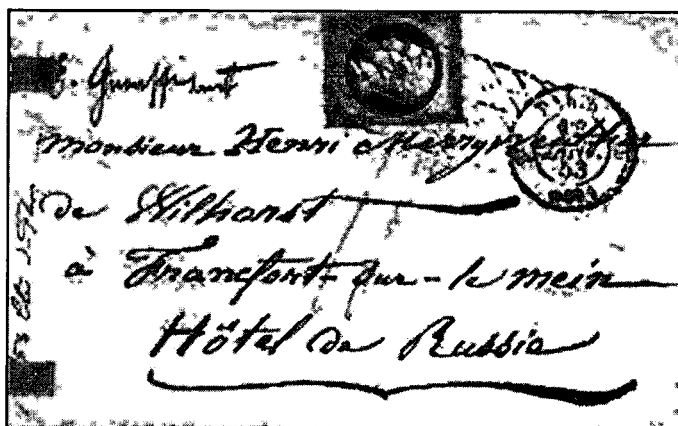


Fig. 3

second set (called the "Bordeaux" issue) was printed during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Both Ceres issues had lines of shading under the eye. On the first issue, the shading lines curve clockwise from the upper left to the lower right. On the second imperforate issue, the lines are horizontal or run from lower left to upper right. By the time the second imperforate Ceres issue was produced, France



Fig. 4

had issued two perforated sets of stamps, so some of the Bordeaux issue stamps were "privately" perforated, mostly 13x13, although some were 15x15 or 16x16.

By the time of the second imperforate Ceres issue, one of the most common cancellations was the numerals-in-diamond-of-dots. The numerals came in two sizes—early small *petits chiffres* and later large *gros chiffres*. Each number represented a unique French post office. In Figure 1, 1818 is the *petits chiffres* cancel for Lyon.

Detective Case

Figure 5 is a perforated Head of Ceres stamp. The stamps of the perforated Ceres issue are perforated 14x13. But this stamp is perforated 16x16. How can the cancel help identify the stamp?

The 15x15 and 16x16 stamps come from the departments (provinces) of le Cher and Lot-et-Garonne, and from the Marseille central post office. The *gros chiffres* 3485 cancellation is from St. Armand-en-Puisaye, which is in the department of Nièvre. Nièvre is adjacent to le Cher!

The stamp probably is a privately perforated copy of the Bordeaux issue. The lines of shading under the eye buttress this conclusion as they run southwest to northeast, as in the Bordeaux issue.



Fig. 5



Losange

by Napoleon

Part 2 of 5 in a Series

In France, from the time of the imperforate Emperor Louis Napoleon stamps (1853) through the perforated Head of Ceres issue (ending in 1875), the most common cancellation was an 8x8 diamond-of-dots (*losange* in French). In the center, it had short numerals or letters called *petits chiffres* (PC), or

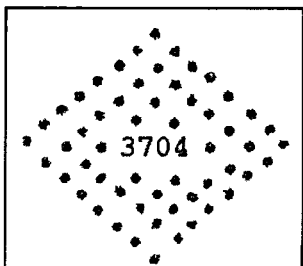


Figure 1, Arrangement of dots in PC cancel

tall numerals called *gros chiffres* (GC). PC numerals were about 4 mm high and GC numerals about 6 mm high. Figure 1 shows the arrangement of dots for the PC cancellation for Alexandria, Egypt. Figure 2 is the GC cancel for the same city.

PC cancels were used from 1852-1863. Thus they

were common on the imperforate and perforated emperor stamps. The initial PC cancels were assigned to individual French cities and towns in alphabetical order; PC 1 was for Abbeville, and PC 3703 for Yvré-l'Évêque. PC 3704 (Alexandria) through PC 3709 (Smyrne) were for foreign cities, and PC 3740 began a sequence for newly created post offices anywhere.

GC cancels came into use at the time of the emperor-with-laurel-wreath issue of 1863. Like PC cancels, GC cancels were assigned alphabetically. GC 1-4361 were original assignments, and GC 4362-4999

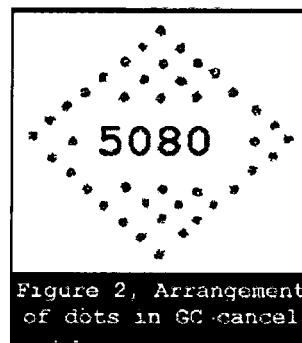


Figure 2, Arrangement of dots in GC cancel

Continued on next page

Losange

Continued from page 4

were later metropolitan post offices. GC cancels 5000-5078 were for Algeria, 5079-5103 for offices abroad, and 5104-5172 were later Algerian and foreign cities and towns. GC 6000-6449 were for even later metropolitan post offices.

Generally one cannot determine the cancel number when it contains only 6s and/or 9s, unless it has an associated date stamp to reveal the city. For example "66" could be "99." But for some of the GC 99 cancels, the "99" is underlined.

While there had been limited movement of PC cancels from one city to another, the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 severely upset the GC numbering system. When France lost the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany as part of the peace treaty, the French postal authorities took the GC cancels from the lost cities and towns and reissued them to new post offices. The only way to determine the origin of a GC number that is known to have been used twice is by an associated circular date stamp with either the town or date legible, or by its presence on one of the perforated Ceres stamps issued after the war.

Both PC and GC cancels exist in red or blue, but not for all locations. With some of the smaller numbers in GC cancels, the space at each end was filled with a horizontal line, a stylistic variation. The GC cancels also exist with smaller capital letters under the number. These represent branch post offices in major cities. For example, GC 2145A was the Les Terreaux branch post office at Lyon (GC 2145). If the smaller letters are "BG" they represent mail from the postal branch at a train station. BG stands for *boîte gare* or station (post)box.

For GC cancels, a sub-category is those remade because the earlier cancel was lost, too worn to use; or damaged. The new cancel was often different enough to be distinguishable from its predecessor. GC 99 is a remade GC cancel.

When GC cancels came into use, the obsolete PC cancels were sent to the city now using the number. Thus PC 1002 for Courtenay was sent to Cherbourg, GC 1002. Occasionally the PC cancel was used again, creating PC of GC usage. It is reported that postal officials in Ain Béida (PC 4116), Nice (PC 2656), and

Sétif (PC 3735) retained their PC cancels and continued to use them. In general, the old PC cancels were used for registered mail, for the GC cancel if it were misplaced, or during periods of high mail volume. Figure 3 shows a PC of GC cancel.

How does one recognize PC of GC usage? If a PC cancel is on any stamp from the emperor-with-laurel-wreath or a later issue, it is PC of GC usage. There are some situations when the PC cancel is more valuable in its original location and others when its value increases in PC of GC usage.

When the *losange* went into use, Paris post offices used letters and numerals with serifs. Later, branch post offices in Paris used letters and numerals without serifs. Near the end of the *losange* period, the star-and-number cancel came into use at the Paris branch post offices. All three of these are shown in Figure 4. Any cancel that appears to be a GC cancel with a one or two digit number usually is a Paris six-pointed star cancel.

France used sans serifs letters in the *losange* for rail route cancels. For example, "TB" in a *losange* was for the Toulouse-to-Bordeaux rail route. Figure 5 shows another rail post *losange*, the "(P)GSO" cancel from a Paris train station, the *Gare du Sud-Ouest*. How does one know the letters in Figure 5 are PGSO? In a *losange*, the characters are centered. "SO" is right of the centerline (from top center dot down), so there also must be two characters to the left of the centerline. The only four-character combination ending in "GSO" is "PGSO" for Paris *Gare du Sud-Ouest*. In Figure 5, the right tip of the loop of the "P" just exists, looking like a missing perforation.

France also used sans serif letters for special post offices. Examples included the *Exposition Universelle* (EU) of 1867 and the 1860 *Corps Expeditionnaires de Chine, Bureau A* (CECA).

The *losange* existed with an anchor in the center for use on ships, as shown in Figure 6. *Losanges* also came with nothing in the center (*losange évidé*), and with dots filling the center (*losange plein*). A *losange plein* on an imperforate copy of the emperor-with-laurel-wreath or last Head of Ceres issue strongly suggests that the stamp is a French Colonies general issue imperforate. Many colonial cancels had dots filling the



Fig. 3. Left: PC of GC cancel; right: form variation, GC --40--



Fig. 4, Paris branch post offices. Left: Roman D; center: sans serif J; right: 6-pointed star 28



Figure 5, rail post
Left: mail car
Right: Paris station

Continued on page 10

ISWSC 2001 Candidates

The following are the candidates that are running in the 2001 ISWSC elections:

President:

Randy Smith

Secretary:

Joanne Berkowitz

Fred J. Kolcz

Vice President for Charitable Services

Mike Crump

Vice President for Public Relations:

Tom Fortunato

Candidate for ISWSC President Randy Smith

Randy Smith, age 36, is a Senior Consultant for Keane, Inc., a large computer consulting firm specializing in application management and development. Randy, along with his wife of 10 years, Mary, lives in a suburb of the Minnesota Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Mary and Randy have two children — Matthew, age 6, and Jenna, age 2. Their 8-year old golden retriever, Cadie, rounds out the family.

Randy has been a worldwide collector since age 6, developing specialized interests in the United States, Scandinavia, and Poland, as well as various topical collections.

Randy has been a member of the ISWSC since 1993, beginning his service to the society in 1999 by volunteering as a manager of the Swap Circuit program. In 2000, Randy agreed to serve as coordinator for the entire program and continues serving in that capacity today. Randy is also a member of the American Philatelic Society, the American Topical Society, and the United States Stamp Society.

Candidate for ISWSC Secretary Joanne Berkowitz

Joanne Berkowitz has been a worldwide collector since her brother gave her his stamp album when she was eight years old (Anyone remember the old *Modern Stamp Album*?). She is 54 now and has been collecting steadily (with a break during college) since. She still collects worldwide, but stopped accumulating anything more recent than 1972, the year she graduated from medical school and resumed her collection.

Joanne's collection has grown to ten volumes in the *Supreme Global Album*. She is slowly (very slowly) transferring the earlier stuff to the *Vintage Reproduction* pages, a project that she is sure will see her through to retirement and beyond.

On a personal note, Joanne is married with a grown son, a practicing physician (emergency medicine) and a lover of travel and gardening.

The position of secretary seems to be fairly limited in scope, but Joanne is willing to take on expanded duties and more than willing to provide suggestions and assistance anywhere needed. She has been a member almost since the beginning, having been delighted that there was an organization devoted to worldwide collecting. She is pleased to have met some fellow ISWSC members at the Stamp Show when it was in Santa Clara and hopes to meet more of at this year's show in Chicago.

Candidate for ISWSC Secretary Fred J. Kolcz

Fred will be 61 on August 27th, 2001. He has spent 41 years working with computers, the last 31 in various consulting positions. His last job was as Regional Services Manager for Real Solutions, a large premier IBM Business Partner and seller of computer and networking hardware and services. Fred had the opportunity for an early retirement and took advantage of it on November 1, 2000.

Fred has collected stamps since age seven, with the usual interruptions for cars and girls. Camille and Fred have been married now for over 38 years, have a 33-year old son, and continue to struggle together with the adjustments that life seems to constantly demand.

They recently had the opportunity to acquire a small mail order stamp business and as of April 1, 2001, are the owner's and operators of Kenneth and Company, Limited. The company sells packets, mixtures and new issues — and are building a want list stock. Their display ad appears weekly in *Linn's* in the packet classified section and a website — KennethCompany.com — is under development. Their inventory is currently on the StampFinder.com site.

Fred's collecting interests are centered on worldwide used stamps currently housed in 55 Scott International binders. He uses the *Vintage Reproduction Brown International* pages for 1840-1940 issues and the regular *Scott International* pages for 1941 to date. He also has fairly significant collections of U.S. precancels, both bureaus and locals. His real passion for the past twenty years has been worldwide cinderella material: revenues, locals, telegraphs, railway & shipping stamps, seals and labels. How

Continued on next page

Candidate: Fred J. Kolcz

Continued from page 6

much of this collecting activity will continue in the future with the new stamp business remains to be seen.

Fred is a member of many national philatelic societies, including the APS, ARA, USS (BIA) and the PSS, to mention a few. He is looking forward to the opportunity of helping the ISWSC in the role of secretary and to be able to repay the stamp community for some of the great pleasures he has derived from the hobby over the years.

Candidate for ISWSC Vice President for Charitable Programs Mike Crump

Mike Crump has been serving as Vice President for Charitable Programs since January 2001, when he was appointed to complete the term of the former VP. He has learned a lot over the past several months about this position and about the ISWSC. He would like to continue this outreach program, distributing stamps to young prospective collectors and helping to ensure the future of the hobby.

A collector since 1994, Mike is also a member of the APS and the Orange County Philatelic Society. He currently is employed as a Supervisor/Inspector for the U.S. government. Mike is also the "Stamp Answer Man" for the ISWSC website.

Candidate for ISWSC Vice President for Public Relations Tom Fortunato

Tom Fortunato is no stranger to the ISWSC. He started collecting stamps at the age of 5 and is still enjoying it at the age of 42. He has written many articles for *The Circuit* in the past. Tom served as ISWSC PR Director for two years, followed by four years as President. The society's web site was created by him four years ago and he continues today as the ISWSC webmaster. He is webmaster for three other stamp groups and runs many non-philatelic sites, as well.

Tom has held several posts in philately on the local, national, and international scene. He has been elected VP and President for the Rochester Philatelic Association several times, additionally serving on the ROPEX stamps show committee as PR Director for ten years and twice as Chairman. He is a representative to the Federation of Central NY Philatelic Societies and former Niagara Federation of Stamp Clubs.

Tom is an active exhibitor and nationally APS and ATA accredited judge. Tom currently chairs the APS Chapter Activities Committee, responsible for 700 U.S. and other stamp clubs around the world, and has just been named Communications Chairman for the next U.S. international show, Washington 2006.

Voting Procedures for 2001 Elections

The following are excerpts directly out of the ISWSC bylaws regarding our election process. Please read through this information so that you are aware of our voting procedures:

Section 1 — All general elections and membership referenda shall be handled by the Elections Chairman, who may not be a candidate for Office or Director.

Section 2 — One tenth of the membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum for any mail election or referendum. Voting shall be by written ballot and reasonable precautions shall be taken to assure that only one ballot per member is counted. A plurality of those members voting shall be sufficient to elect an Officer or carry any measure, excepting revision or amendments to these ISWSC By-laws.

Section 3. Ballots shall be counted by the Elections Chairman and forwarded to the

Secretary for verification of the results which shall be announced in the next newsletter.

Elected Officers commence service on January 1 of even numbered years. Elected Directors-at-Large commence service on January 1 of odd numbered years.

Section 4. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote. The Board of Directors may create specific classes of membership which shall have no right to vote.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 2001, TO BE COUNTED. You will find your ballot enclosed with this issue of *The Circuit*. Please mark your ballot and return it to the Elections Chairman as addressed on your ballot.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the ISWSC elections. We appreciate your commitment to our organization!



Charitable Program Activities

by Mike Crump (#2126)

During the quarter ending June 30, 2001, the Charitable Programs received more than 8,000 stamps from the membership and the OMNI Circuit members. In addition, members donated cash and a small amount of unused U.S. that we can use for postage.

Charitable Programs distributed 128 packets of foreign stamps including:

- 10 packets to the Manitowoc Philatelic Society for their youth program at WISCOPEX (May 4-6)
- 30 packets to the Rockwell Stamp Club, Rockwell Elementary School, Fort Atkinson, Wis.
- 60 packets to Stamp Camp, Knoxville,

Penn., in response to an appeal in the *American Philatelist*.

An unusual event took place when I responded to an email from a young collector in Saransk, Russia, with a couple of packets of stamps. I was subsequently contacted by Olga Victorovna, whose letter appears below, complete as I received it. Charitable Programs responded with 14 packets, a pair of tongs, and a few odds and ends I scraped up.

Letters like the one below make me feel that the Charitable Programs has some real effect on people's lives. Perhaps the word about the ISWSC is spreading. Thanks to you concern and donations the ISWSC is having a "worldwide" impact!



Dear ISWSC,

My name is Olga Victorovna, I'm organizer and "the head" of a small stamp club from Russia. We have no big office, many members or rich sponsor, but we have the main thing: love to stamps. "We" means me, my stamp collector friend and several children. We get together not long ago. Here are our story. Once we start to talk about stamps with my friend's daughter (she is 14), although we wasn't a collectors. Several days later she brings to me a wonderful set of stamps with flowers she have bought in the post-office. And she said: "I decided to become a stamp collector. Do you remember our conversation? Let's collect stamps together!" Well, I was fully captured by her stamps and I really wanted to help the girl — there is a sad situation when someone can't share his joy with another. So we began. The girl (her name is Nastya) decided to collect stamps with flowers and insects (her favorite subject is biology) and I decided to collect with architecture, paintings and other subjects concerning to art. Buy our knowleges was very scantily. I started to search the web, talk to friends and have found one class-mate who collect stamps now. Nastya tempted some girls to collect stamps, and one boy (son of my relatives) came to me when have heard about my new interest. We began to meet, to talk, to exchange stamps and soon desided to organize our small club, we even draw our insignia and call ourself "Friday Star" because the day of our meeting is Friday. I'm founding different books and web pages and tell it to "my" sensible children. Sometimes we have our "spetial quest" — my old class-mate with his stamps.

I'm sure that this wonerful old hobby is extremily nessessary nowadays, in the age of hi technologies, Internet, virtuality and so on. We have no sincerly human comunication and our children like computer games more than old good hobbies. The stamps is the island of quiet and peace in my crazy life like the eyes of "my" children when they see a new stamp.

There is our club (exept me and Nastya):

Irina, 13 y.o. — the same interests as Nastya;

Alyona, 14 y.o. — flora, dogs & cats;

Lena, 13 y.o. — cities and towns on stamps, triangles stamps, flowers;

Anya, 9 y.o. — toys and dolls, Happy New Year and Merry Christmas, flowers;

Misha (a boy), 11 y.o. — birds, nature sights, countries and regions, maps on stamps.

We have only about 15-20 foreign stamps (in whole) because our town isn't big enough to have a big stamp store with the stamps from all over the world and prices in Internet are expensive for us. So when they have heard about your suggestion they started to implore me to write to you. Well, I do now.

The thing is we have no IRC in our post-office, so we suggest to do the following thing: after receiving your stamps we'll send on your address our doubles stamps — not less then 50 or another amount you'll ask about. So you'll be rewarded and you'll be able to send our stamps to others.

Well, it's our story and our suggestions. We all waiting for your answer very much.

Best regards from all of my children.

Sincerely,

Olga Victorovna

McEachern Resigns

Andrew McEachern has given his resignation as the ISWSC Regional Secretary to Australia. In this capacity, Andrew represented the ISWSC in distributing stamps to youth programs throughout Australia. We are sorry to see him go and are currently looking for a replacement.

Any renewals or correspondence that would have gone to Mr. McEachern should be sent to:

Anthony Zollo, MD

P.O. Box 15047

Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 – USA

Please turn to page two for a complete listing of Regional Secretaries.



Find ISWSC.com on the Web

by Tom Fortunato (#379)
ISWSC Board Member

Remember to keep our new domain bookmarked at <http://www.iswsc.org>, as it will always get you to our site. Our pages have been hosted on NBCi.com for several months since the closing of homepage.com. Now NBCi.com is biting the dust. I've transferred all web pages now to a new host on Fortunecity.com. You can still get there by using <http://www.iswsc.org>, but you may want to know the actual host is on <http://members.fortunecity.com/iswsc/index.html>

This change will take effect in a few days — typing in our domain and automatically linking to Fortunecity. You'll know you're at the new main site when you see a Fortunecity banner at the top of each page.

GifBot, through which I send you these emails, is also changing their service. This formerly free service run by Microsoft will now cost \$149 yearly. I'm searching for another free mass-email program to replace it. Keep checking out the mail page for details.

The web is very much evolving from a free to a pay service when it comes to home pages. It is possible to get a site without banner advertising, but these cost around \$250-\$350 per year. We'll continue doing our best to provide content using these free services.



International Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Expo

The International Coin & Stamp Collectors Society presents NEVADAPEX, the first annual International Coin, Stamp, and Collectible Expo in Laughlin, Nevada, October 12-14, 2001. The Expo will feature quality coin, stamp and collectible dealers displaying a wide variety of United States and worldwide investment grade and collector quality merchandise.

Millions of dollars worth of stamps, gold and silver coins, and collectibles will be available for viewing and purchase. The Expo will offer a wide selection of stamps, coins, hobby supplies, memorabilia, postal history and other assorted collectibles in all price categories.

Over 60 dealer from across the United States will be exhibiting, buying and selling. Free appraisals will be available during the entire show. There will be free coins and stamps to all children under 12. Also, free coin and stamp magazines, free advise on how to collect stamps and coins, and door prizes every half hour.

For more information about this show, as well as those listed below, please contact Bick International, Israel I. Bick, Managing Director, P.O. Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408.

Glendale Civic Auditorium

September 21-23, 2001

River Palms – Laughlin, Nevada

October 12-14, 2001

Stamp Expo – St. Nicholas Encino Center

October 26-28, 2001

Pasadena Hilton Hotel (Revised Location)

November 23-25, 2001

Anaheim Brookhurst Center (New Date)

Nov.30-Dec. 1-2, 2001

Glendale Civic Auditorium

December 7-9, 2001

Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

December 14-16, 2001



*NEVADAPEX postmark
available for the show*



A Precarious Beginning

Submitted by John Bunker (#896)

The following is an excerpt taken from a book titled "The Discoverers" by Daniel Bostin.

In 1668 Oldenburg reported that his job as Secretary was to ensure the performance of the experimental tasks recommended, to write all letters abroad, and carry on regular correspondence with at least thirty foreign scientists, taking "much pain in inquiring after and then satisfying forrain demands about philosophicall matters."

By this time letters were already a familiar form of communication among scientists. In Paris, for example, scientists would put their ideas in a letter to a friend, pay to have it printed, and then send out hundreds of copies. To keep posted on new inventions and discoveries, they wanted correspondents in other centers of learning. Few could manage this on their own, and those who could ran heavy risks. In an age of continual warfare a latent ambiguity or a thoughtless phrase could land a natural philosopher in jail fro treason, when all he wanted was further observations of the rings of Saturn, news of experiments in blood transfusion, or the description of an exotic insect. In 1667 Oldenburg himself was suddenly imprisoned in the Tower of London for a few ill-considered words in a scientific communication which the Secretary of State resented as a criticism of his conduct of the Anglo-Dutch War.

A letter had obvious advantages over a book. While works of science were often large tomes easy to stop

for censorship, the novel observations in a letter could slip in unnoticed or be delivered with the "ordinary post." There still was no regular "parcel post," but even in the seventeenth century the "ordinary post" might go once a week between London, Paris, and Amsterdam. Yet it was heavily dependent on weather and on political conditions, it was erratic, costly, and sent only to nearby destinations. The enterprising Oldenburg developed a more extensive and more reliable service. As agents he enrolled young members of the staff of British embassies, who would post their reports through diplomatic channels to a code address concocted from his name, "Grubendol, London." Once there, in the office of the Secretary of State, they would be forwarded to Oldenburg, who in return obliged the Secretary of State by supplying any political news that might happen to be included.

When Oldenburg became Secretary of the Royal Society, the rudimentary British postal service was still very much an organ of national security, serving as an agent of censorship as well as of counterespionage. All unlicensed carriers had been suppressed. An Act of 1711 would describe postal charges as taxes, to help pay for Britain's interminable wars. Not until nearly the end of the eighteenth century were mounted "postboys" supplanted by the famous mail coaches. Meanwhile Oldenburg used all available means to open channels of scientific communication from London to the nation and the world.



Losange

Continued from page 5



Figure 6, color cancels
Left: red; right: blue

losange. It is even more likely that a *losange plein* cancel comes from a colony if the cancel is in color. Color is much more common as a colonial cancel than as a metropolitan one.

There are French Colonies general issue stamps with *losange* numeral cancels. While such cancels are uncommon, the design, color, and denomination of the colonial and metropolitan stamps was the same. The only difference was that the metropolitan stamps were perforated and the colonial stamps were not. This made it was easy to use the colonial stamps on metropolitan mail if they were at hand.

Detective Case

The PC cancellation in Figure 7 looks very strange! The number is not centered in the *losange*. The circular date stamp is for Cherbourg, but the PC cancel looks like 1202, and Cherbourg is PC 842. The date is 1874, but PC use essentially ended in 1862. The diamond-of-dots cancel is 8 dots "wide" and 10 dots "high" but should be 8x8.

Analysis: the clerk canceling the stamp seems to have used the handstamp once, but not been satisfied with the resulting (partial) strike. The clerk canceled the stamp again, a little lower and to the right, producing this "higher-than-normal" diamond and off-center number.

This explains the difficulty in reading the second



Fig. 7, special cancels.
Left: maritime (anchor);
right: exposition

Continued on next page

Some New Varieties from Canada Post

by Jim Wiseman (#1636)

The Petro-Canada issue of Sep 13, 2000, has been found to have two different perforations (or die cut) varieties. Most common is the original stamp issued in booklets of 12. This is the stamp shown on the left in the picture. The other variety is found in the annual collection (Collections Canada 2000) and in the third quarter (July-Sept.) stamp packs.

The common stamp has a single point and two notches on the top (left stamp) and the rarer type has two points and one notch on the top (right stamp). All other sides are opposite to each other as well.

Perforations on the original stamps were die-cut to the level of the booklet cover backing, allowing those being used for mail to be peeled off the paper backing. The album and packet versions were sold still attached to their paper backing, but die cut through the booklet cover — for easy mounting. The variety likely occurred when the machinery was adjusted to cut through the backing paper to clearly

cut through the stamp and backing paper for easy insertion in the packs and annual collection.

It appears that during this adjustment either the

distinctly configured cutting matrix was rotated 180 degrees before the single-stamp processing began, or sheets



of imperforate stamps were put into the cutting machinery inverted in relation to the way the sheets for the booklet stamps had been inserted.

According to Canada Post there are 150,000 single stamps with the inverted die cuts (65,000 in the July-Sept. packs, 5,000 in Stamp Quest fulfillment packs and the remaining 80,000 are in the Annual "Collections Canada 2000" books). This will be a good variety to try and find in used condition.



Losange

Continued from page 10

numeral, which could be a 2, 1, or 0. The appearance of a "1" is caused by the 1 from the first strike. The appearance of a "2" is from the top of the first 0 from the second strike and the 1 from the first strike. Thus it is a 0.

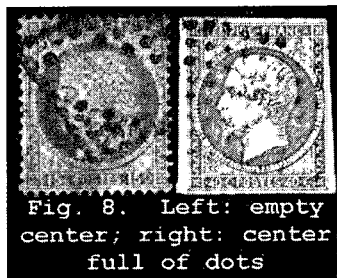


Fig. 8. Left: empty center; right: center full of dots

What leads to belief that the cancellation is 1002? The French postal service moved the PC cancels from their original offices to wherever the same number was to be used for GC cancellations. If the GC cancel were unavailable, the PC cancel would be used. In this case,

Courtenay's PC 1002 was moved to Cherbourg, now GC 1002, for use as needed. Thus 1002 is indeed a *losange* cancel for Cherbourg.

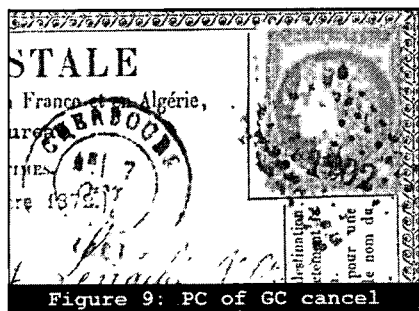


Figure 9: PC of GC cancel

About the Author

Napoleon is 60 years old and started collecting stamps before age ten. He began as a worldwide collector and has remained so, although his interest wanes starting with post-1950 material. As he has been known to comment, "I take anything but currently spend money on early French, German, and Belgian material."

He is a member of his local stamp club, having served as treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and president. He also belongs to the local chapter of the Germany Philatelic Society, to the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (U.K.), and to the APS.

The articles on early French cancellations are an English-language introduction to the topic. The "Varieties" article shares information not easily available in English. A future article on identifying early French stamps is a summary of information given to interested Internet auction sellers who have trouble differentiating between the various Ceres-head issues. As one Internet newsgroup poster proclaims, "Share what you know. Learn what you don't."

You are welcome to contact the author with questions or comments at napoleon@voyager.net.



ISWSC Award Winner

by Ada M. Prill

Sara Henak won the ISWSC Award at the AAPE Youth Champion of Champions competition, which was held in conjunction with the National Topical Stamp Show in Mesa, Arizona, June 22-24, 2001. All of the exhibits in the competition had won Youth Grand Awards at nationally-accredited shows in the US or Canada.

Sara, age 14, was the Youth Grand Award winner at VAPEX with her exhibit "Puma Concolor." Judges Stephen Luster, Peter Iber, and Alan Hanks awarded Sara the ISWSC Award for the best use of worldwide material in an exhibit at the Championship. The Championship is sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. This year's Youth Champion of Champions was Dzintars Grinfelds, age 12, for an exhibit called "The '3-Star' Coat of Arms Issue of Latvia, 1923-1933."

Sara's sister Danielle, age 11, also was a participant in the Championship with an exhibit called "On Wisconsin," which won the Youth Grand Award at MILCOPEX.

Sara also won the NAPEX Title Page Award, a \$50 Award for an outstanding title page or plan page, and Danielle won the Graebner Chapter Reserve Grand Award (also \$50) for the best exhibit by an exhibitor aged less than 12 years old.



Articles Needed

Whether you are a seasoned writer or just a collector with something to share, we would love to hear from you! As an ISWSC member, you are encouraged to contribute to *The Circuit* not only because we need to fill its pages, but because each member has his/her unique perspective to collecting worldwide stamps. Please consider writing an article about your specific area of interest.

Don't worry if you feel that your writing skills are not up to par. That's why we have an editor! Be sure to include your name and member number when submitting material for publication in the newsletter.

Please contact the editor at the address listed on page 2. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!



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Send to Jennifer Arnold (see above) via USPS, fax or email. When emailing graphics for publication, please use a higher resolution (150 dpi). Please contact the Editor if you have any questions about format.