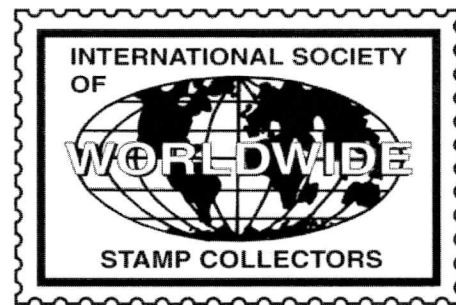


The Circuit



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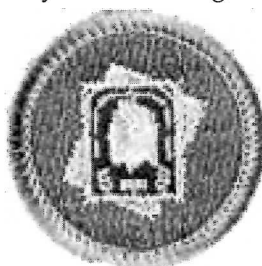
The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Giving Back: Merit Badge Program

by John Seidl (#1646)

Over the course of the last year, I have had the unique pleasure of giving something back to this great hobby of ours in the form of volunteering as the teacher of the Boy Scouts Stamp Collecting Merit Badge program.

I've now had the chance to work with dozens of boys from throughout the southeastern United States.



Boy Scouts Stamp
Collecting Merit
Badge

Scouts aged 12-17 from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Florida have participated in the programs. My son, who is 12 years old, is a Scout and this was a great way to share his interests while introducing him and his peer group to stamp collecting.

I typically teach the program as one of many merit badges being offered at the same time in

a large merit badge "clinic" setting. This draws a MUCH larger crowd than trying to offer the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge program as part of a philatelic event. Go to where the boys are—rather than expecting them to come to a stamp show.

Through the generosity of dozens of stamp collectors from around the United States, I am able to provide each boy with everything they need to complete all the merit badge requirements in a single four hour session. A typical class size is 15 Scouts.

While the requirements are a little dated, they do a good job of introducing each Scout to the fundamentals of stamp collecting. Scouting has a very strict set of guidelines for any merit badge program and you must

cover all the requirements exactly. That is, you cannot add anything or delete anything from the published requirements.

The requirements for the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge are outlined in this article, along with my

Continued on page 6

Printing Errors Impact Newsletter

Two printing errors occurred in the previous edition of *The Circuit*. First, a plating issue resulted in the disappearance of all reverse text (white text printed on a black background), leaving only the solid black background. Fortunately, reverse text was only used in a few places and no critical information was lost.

The second printing error occurred while printing addresses on the envelopes. In some cases, an entire line of an address was not printed on the envelope. Unfortunately, this error wasn't discovered until after the newsletter was mailed and several members had contacted the Executive Director concerning not having received the newsletter. The error appears to mainly impact ISWSC members living outside the United States, however any member who did not receive the last newsletter should contact our Executive Director, Terry Myers, for a free replacement.

The ISWSC regrets these errors and any inconvenience caused to its members.

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
March 20, 2008

President's Message: India

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)
ISWSC President

Q As I write this in early January, I am relaxing and taking advantage of the quiet after the holidays. It was a busy holiday season, compounded by a staffing shortage at work and our trip to India in November.

Sacapex, our annual two day stamp show, was held in November, went off without a hitch and was well attended. I am always impressed by the dedicated core group of volunteers who set up, staff and take down the exhibit frames, dealer tables, youth area and reception desk.

The morning after the show, my husband and I flew to London and, three days later, to India. India is quite a culture shock. The poverty and pollution are staggering. The historic forts, temples and palaces are full of exquisite stone carving and inlays. Many of the Hindu stone carvings were later defaced by invading Muslim conquerors. The food was fabulous and our hotels, mostly heritage sites and prior palaces, were luxurious. Riding in a car on roads clogged with bicycles, cows, camel carts and pedi-cabs was at times pretty scary, although our Indian driver was quite skilled. Although I have been to many third world countries in the past, the magnitude of the problems India faces with basic infrastructure (such as clean water, electricity and health care) were pretty overwhelming for me.

I had the opportunity to visit Jaipex, a philatelic exhibition in Jaipur. I learned about it when I went to the main post office to buy stamps—only to find that the whole stock of philatelic year sets was at the sales desk of the show. I spent a pleasant hour browsing exhibits of various Indian issues and purchased stamps to take home for my friends at the local club. During the time I was there, there was not a single other person visiting the exhibit! But given the number of exhibits, I would say philately is alive and well in India.

By the time this is published, we should be well into our year of transition to new managers for many of our programs. Hopefully, all is going well. We are always in need of volunteers for things as simple as writing a few letters, sitting on our Board of Directors or helping out with programs. Your suggestions and comments are always appreciated.

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Single/Dealer/Club 1 yr. membership: \$15.00*

Single/Dealer/Club 2 yr. membership: \$27.00*

Single/Dealer/Club 3 yr. membership: \$39.00*

Youth 1 yr. membership (under 18): \$12.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equivalent donation in U.S. funds.

Dues include six newsletters per year. You may pay for up to three years at a time. For an application or further information, send a SASE or an IRC to:

Terry Myers
ISWSC Executive Director
9463 Benbrook Blvd. #114
Benbrook, TX 76126-3235—USA
TMyers6497@aol.com

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 advertisement, contact the Editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

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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 also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125.00 per issue.

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

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First 30 words, including name, address and ZIP Code are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00.

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 Circuit* Editor (see page 2).

Ventures in Printing:

Entirely Recess-Printed CMP Stamps

by Sandy Stover (#2325)

Editor's Note: This is the third article in a series, adapted from a book on classic multicolored postage stamps currently being written by the author.

Multicolor Recess Printing and Registration Error

In printing, the term *registration* refers to “the positioning of a part of a design in relation to another part of the same design, when the two parts have been printed on the paper at different operations” (Williams and Williams, 1971, p. 130). This “positioning” problem occurred in classic-era bi-color/multicolor printing because each color of ink required a separate plate (containing only that color’s part of the image) and a separate impression upon the paper (or upon the “blanket”, as in offset lithography). Thus, three colors required three plates and three impressions. It is easy to imagine that sometimes the separate impressions would not be “in register”, i.e., the colors would overlap in some places, or leave unwanted gaps in others.

Multicolor registration error was a problem for all printing methods, because all methods had to “return” the paper (or blanket) for the second impression, precisely relative to the first, and then for the third impression, precisely relative to the first and second, etc. Recess (*intaglio*, line engraved) printing, however, had requirements which exacerbated the problem of registration error. For many years (as a then-necessary step in extracting the recessed ink onto the paper), the paper was dampened prior to first impression and then was allowed to dry prior to dampening again before the second impression, etc. This dampening/drying process had the potential for distorting the paper between impressions and thus causing registration error independently of the mechanics of precision paper-return. Indeed, James Baxter, writing in 1939 about the recess-printing of bi-colored stamps, argued that the paper distortion problem had even greater significance than the imprecise positioning problem:

Although much of the trouble encountered in registering color plates is due to the mechanics of the printing operation, such as the inability of the

operator to properly align the edges of the sheet with the feed line, or the distention of the paper because of the great pressure exerted by the impression cylinder, the principal difficulty is caused by the paper either shrinking or stretching during the interim between the first and the second impressions, making perfect registration of every subject difficult if not impossible (Baxter, 1939, pp. 129-130).

Also, Baxter here identified an *additional* cause of registration error that was peculiar to recess printing, i.e., paper distortion caused by the “great pressure” of the recess cylinders—a factor that is independent of both imprecise positioning and dampening-distortion. Later, even when *dry* replaced *wet* recess technology, this additional factor remained a source of registration difficulties. It is clear, then, that multicolor recess printing presented a significantly greater challenge and risk than other multicolor printing methods.

All of this is consistent with Chart 1 (Nov/Dec 2007 *The Circuit*, page 5), which shows that the twenty entirely recess-printed CMP (classic multicolored postage) stamps are not only a small number in comparison with the numbers of CMP stamps printed by the other major methods, but are also a much smaller proportion (5%) of CMP stamps than the 35% of all classic stamps that were entirely recess-printed. The printing of these twenty stamps—certainly the earlier ones—was an *adventure* indeed.

Because they are so few, and represent the height of venturesome multicolor production, all seven *early* (pre-World War I) recess-printed stamps receive detailed attention in this (and the next) article. In order of printing date, the seven stamps are:

- Iran, Scott 54 (Figure 1), 55, 59: *Shah Nasir al-Din*; 10s, 50c, 10fr; 1882-84; buff, orange, black (54&55), buff, red, black (59).
- Chile, Scott 78: *Columbus*; 1p; 1905; gold, green, gray.
- Barbados, Scott 109: *The “Olive Blossom”*; 1p; 1906; black, green, blue.
- Austria, Scott 127 (Figure 2), 144: *Franz Josef Coronation* (127) and *Birthday* (144) *Jubilees*; 10k, 10k; 1908, 1910; blue, bistre, brown.



Figure 1

Where the Heck is Nagaland?

by William Silvester (#1058)

ISWSC Canadian Regional Representative

Every worldwide stamp collector comes across stamps of dubious origin in the course of their collecting. "Where the heck is that?" they wonder as they flip through their catalogue in search of the name and find no listing. These "stamps" have a



variety of designations, some find them intriguing and include them in their collections, others consider them fit only to line the bottom of their wastebaskets. Cinderellas, fantasy labels, local stamps – call them what you will, they are an interesting sideline to worldwide collecting. Whether or not they will find a place in your album is up to you; this article serves merely to provide more information so you can decide for yourself.

In eastern India, on the border of Myanmar (formerly Burma), lies the tiny state of Nagaland. With an area of 6000 square miles (16.5 kms) in the Naga Hills near Assam, it is one of the smallest states in the Indian union. Four-fifths of the almost 2 million population live in rural areas. It is a stark remote region and virtually unexplored by tourists. From the 1960's until the mid-1970's, a myriad of stamps were issued imprinted with the name Nagaland. Ever since, the postal validity of these stamps has been in question.

Cut off from most of India, little is known about the early history of Nagaland. The name Naga is believed to have referred to believers in Nag, the snake god. The Honourable East India Company explored the area in search of trade routes bringing in Assamese and Bengali traders whose language integrated with the dialect of the Naga. By 1826, the British East India Company took control of neighboring Assam and soon expanded their control over Nagaland. By the end of the century, much of Nagaland was governed by the British and the area was politically a part of Assam. Over time, almost ninety percent of the population converted to Christianity due to the efforts of Christian Baptist missionaries.

When India achieved independence in 1947, Nagaland was still a part of Assam, but nationalist

sentiments amongst many of the Naga tribes led to demands for Nagaland to have its own government and civil infrastructure. Violence flared in many areas as federal officials and Indians from the other states came under attack. In 1955, the Indian army was sent into the region to restore order. This accomplished, the federal government began receiving delegates from the Naga tribes to discuss the issues. The result was the union, in 1957, of the Naga Hills district of Assam and Tuensang into a single entity administered by the federal government and with a large degree of autonomy.

The Naga, however, were not content with that and soon political agitation resumed and violence flared once again. Civil disobedience, attacks on military and

Continued on page 10

OMNI Update

by David Paul (#59)

OMNI Exchange Manager

The last six months brought a lot of turmoil to the OMNI Exchange. Last summer when **Jim Millette** (#1314) retired, we decided to merge the pink and blue sections into one and split the blue book members between the three remaining managers. In August I mailed a group of blue books to **Dale Harris** (#2311) and **Tom Pomaski** (#410). Unfortunately, Tom became ill shortly after and never opened the parcel containing the blue books. He died a few months later, as reported in the previous *The Circuit*, necessitating a search for a replacement. I'm happy to report that **Roger Kraus** (#2462) has agreed to take over Tom's section, so it should be up and running again by the time you read this report.

I invite all members to consider giving the OMNI Exchange a try. It's a great way to use your better duplicates to fill blank spaces in your collection. Members now have the option of submitting five page books which take less time and stamps to make up than the 10 page books from the pink section. There are no cash charges to members, other than for new books and for postage. Anyone wanting more information can contact me at my postal or e-mail address listed on page 2.

Merit Badge

Continued from page 1

comments on how to best present each to the Scouts.

1. Do the following:

- a) Discuss how you can better understand people, places, institutions, history and geography as a result of collecting stamps.
- b) Briefly describe some aspects of the history, growth and development of the United States postal system.

For #1a, we spend a few minutes discussing stamp topics—historic, geographic and cultural—and what we can learn about the issuing country from each topic.

For #1b, I draw on the board a timeline of major dates in US postal system history and let the Scouts guess what is the significance about each date. Events like the first British postal system in the US, the first US postal system, the first US stamp, Pony Express dates, first and last airmail, etc. We end this part with a discussion of the unique aspects of the USPS, including processing volumes and methods.

2. Define topical stamp collecting. Name and describe three other types of stamp collections.

For this, we define topical collecting and discuss other collecting types, such as geographic (one country or region), worldwide, pre-cancels, a single issue, postal history and assorted other types of collecting interests.

3. Show at least ONE example of each of the following:

- a) Perforated and imperforate stamps
- b) Mint and used stamps
- c) Sheet, booklet and coil stamps
- d) Numbers on plate block, booklet, coil or marginal markings
- e) Overprint and surcharge
- f) Metered mail
- g) Definitive, commemorative, semi postal and airmail stamps
- h) Cancellation and postmark
 - i) First Day cover
 - j) Postal stationery (aerogramme, stamped envelope or postal card)

At this point, the boring lecture part of the merit badge program is over and it's time for participation. I have tried to design my approach so that the work gets more and more fun as we move through the

requirements, which keeps the Scouts interested. It works! To do the requirements for #3, I pass out a 1" thick three-ring binder. In each binder is a series of



USA, Scott 2251

Vario stock book pages—1 one-pocket per side, 2 of the two-pockets per side, and 5 of the five-pockets per side. Each Scout also receives a glassine envelope with an example of each of the stamp types (#3a-j above). If you look closely at the list, you will see this is 15 different stamps, a meter and a cover. I briefly describe each item and the Scouts work to find that item in their envelope and add it to their stock page.

The boys are very good about helping each other as one figures out what the appropriate characteristics are for a given item.

4. Do the following:

- a) Demonstrate the use of ONE standard catalog for several different stamp issues. Explain why catalog value can vary from the corresponding purchase price.
- b) Explain the meaning of the term *condition* as used to describe a stamp. Show examples that illustrate the different factors that affect a stamp's value.

For #4a, I provide a couple of sets of Scott catalogs. Each Scout is required to look up several of the stamps they were provided in #3. We have a discussion of the "minimum catalog value," as well as a brief discussion of how stamps are bought and sold.

For #4b, I have a wonderful handout with color illustrations of conditions that is "borrowed" from the Scott catalog introduction. Each boy is asked to show me the best conditioned item they have from #3 and the worst. I also use the example of condition as it relates to collectible cards (baseball, Pokemon, etc.), as this is something they already know.

5. Demonstrate the use of at least THREE of the following stamp collector's tools:

- a) Stamp tongs
- b) Water and tray
- c) Magnifiers
- d) Hinges and stamp mounts
- e) Perforation gauge
- f) Glassine envelopes and cover sleeves
- g) Watermark fluid

For #5, I give each Scout a pair of tongs, a magnifier, some hinges and a paper copy of a perforation gauge. These items are theirs to keep at the end of the session. I describe why you use tongs and a magnifier, then they try it out on their stamps from #3. We discuss the tradeoffs between hinges, mounts and stock books. Each boy is then required to gauge the perforations on a stamp in their book.

6. Do the following:

- a) Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges. Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
- b) Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers and albums in first-class condition.

For #6b, we discuss what might happen if you kept your stamps in a damp place or if you used glue or if you had them in the bottom of a box. They seem to have fun imagining all that could go badly with stamp preservation.

7. Do at least TWO of the following:

- a) Design a stamp, cancellation or cachet.
- b) Visit a post office, stamp club or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
- c) Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book or web site (with your parent's permission).
- d) Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp.
- e) Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp. Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles and how they are gummed.
- f) Prepare a two- to three-page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps and how they relate to history, geography or a favorite topic of yours.

Remember my goal is to get the Scouts through this entire program in four hours. Thus, the two requirements picked from the list above are #7a & #7c.

For #7a, we have a contest. Each Scout is given a blank piece of paper and several crayons or colored pencils. We take 15 minutes to let them design a stamp. Each entry is posted on the wall and the Scouts then vote for their favorites. The winner receives a philatelic

prize to add to their collection. I have been VERY impressed with the quality of the designs, including one so good I debated sending it to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee.

For C, I have a large stack of back issues from *Linn's Stamp News*. Each Scout gets a copy, finds an article and writes a brief review which they then share with the class.

8. Mount and show, in a purchased or homemade album, ONE of the following:

- a) A collection of 250 or more different stamps from at least 15 countries.
- b) A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each.
- c) A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries.
- d) A collection of 75 or more different stamps on a Single topic. (Some interesting topics are Scouting, birds, insects, the Olympics,

Continued on page 12

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Ventures

Continued from page 4

Sporadic Vienna Adventures: Entirely Recess-Printed CMP Stamps of Iran and Austria

Five of the seven issues—those of Iran and Austria—were all printed by the Austrian Government Printing Office in Vienna (Lewis, 1993, p. 13). That would seem to suggest that Austria was in the forefront of multicolor printing. I find it curious, however, that the Vienna printers waited a quarter-century from pursuing such ventures on behalf of a client state (Iran) until making similar attempts for their homeland—and even more curious that Austria, after the two *Franz Josef* issues, never printed another multicolored stamp until



Figure 2

1948 (Austria, Scott B235-B244, mixed recess/relief). For its own part, Iran did go on to further ventures in multicolor printing (for a total of 20 CMP stamps); although none of the remaining Iranian issues were entirely recess-printed.

It should be mentioned also that Austria, in 1904, relief-printed thirteen brightly multicolored (black/red/yellow) postage-due stamps for a country it occupied militarily (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Scott J1-J13, Figure 3). Curiously (again) it had rendered Austria's own similarly designed postage-due stamps in a rather unexciting monochrome brown (Austria, Scott J1-J33, Figure 3).

What factors might explain this sporadic pattern? That is basically unknown; yet Austria was certainly not hesitant to pursue new directions in stamp design—other than multicolor—especially under the influence of artistic innovators like Koloman Moser, who was the designer of the *Franz Josef* stamps. Moser was a major force within the *Vienna Secession*: a group of *avant-garde* artists who bolted from the art establishment's *Kunstlerhaus* in 1897. He was co-founder, with Josef Hoffmann, of the *Wiener Werkstätte*, which represented a then-radical attempt to divest design—in all areas of art and craft—of its “familiar historical and naturalistic motifs” (Ryan brochure). Austria, therefore, was on the “cutting edge” of stamp design, perhaps more than any other stamp producer of that era. Could it be that the adventure of multicolor was underplayed (at least in part) because other design innovations had so captivated the players?

Topical Relationships

The five Iranian/Austrian CMP stamps are connected not only by their having the same printer, but also by interesting *topical* relationships. They are portraits of two of the nineteenth century's longest reigning monarchs: Shah Nasir-al-Din, 65 years (1831-96) and Franz Josef, 68 years (1848-1916), both monarchs having slightly out-distanced their contemporary, Queen Victoria, 64 years (1837-1901).

But in spite of their longevity, both reigns were woven throughout with strands of *tragedy*. The Shah led his country through a well intentioned, but failed, attempt to Westernize—“failed” except to the extent that European powers succeeded in using Iran for their own advantage. It was a failure that embittered both him and his people. In the end, after growing corruption of the government at all levels (due in part to the lucrative sale of Iranian assets to Western interests), Nasir-al-Din was shot to death, in 1896, in a mosque near Tehran (Keddie, 2003).

The Habsburg Emperor Franz Josef, beset by family tragedies and empire strife throughout his reign, was followed in 1916 by Emperor Karl, who abdicated in favor of the Austrian Republic only two years later. Family tragedies included: (1) death of two-year old daughter, Princess Sophie, from measles; (2) execution of brother, Archduke Maximilian, by Mexican republicans; (3) suicide of son, Crown Prince Rudolf, in the Mayerling affair; (4) murder of wife, Empress Elizabeth, by an Italian anarchist; and (5) assassination of nephew and heir presumptive, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo—the spark that ignited World War I. It is noteworthy that Franz Josef's *golden (fiftieth) coronation jubilee* celebration had been planned for 1898, only to be cancelled upon the Empress's death. Austria Scott 127, in celebration of the *diamond (sixtieth) coronation jubilee* one decade later, is a poignant reminder of that earlier tragedy (Palmer, 1994).

Can you sense any of this sorrow and turmoil in the placid, semi-smiling manner of each monarch's portrait?

Electrolytic Recess Plate Production

It is reported that the Austrian *Franz Josef* stamps were “copper recess printed” in sheets of 25 (Giblin, 1969, p. 300) and I will offer a guess that the Iranian stamps were also printed with copper plates, if only because they were produced (although much earlier) by the same governmental printing house. This means that the final printing plates were probably the result of an *electrolytic* reproduction process, as opposed to the

other major method for making recess (usually *steel*) plates: a *mechanical transfer* process favored, at least until the 1920's, by the U. S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (*History of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing: 1862-1962*, pp. 108-9).

Electrolytic recess plate production has had many versions over time. James Baxter labeled one of those versions as "the Hungarian method," having been



Figure 3

utilized by the National Printing Works of Hungary, presumably for a stretch of time during the early twentieth century. While there is no assurance that this exact method was used by the Vienna printers, the process for the five Iranian and Austrian stamps was probably similar and undoubtedly as complicated:

The first step in the procedure . . . is cleaning the original line engraved, or etched, copper or steel die by the usual methods. This is followed by coating the reverse side of the metal block with a resist to prevent the deposition of copper.

. . . [by electrolysis] copper is liberated and is deposited on the face of the die.

When a thin sheet of the copper of the proper thickness has been deposited, the die with the attached metal is removed from the solution and the adhering mass is first reduced to required gauge and then separated from the block of metal. . .

When five or ten such [single-subject] relief plates have been provided, they are trimmed to the desired size and soldered together, care being exercised to prevent the solder from raising above the normal surface of the shell.

After straightening and "touching-up", this [soldered] *alto* is returned to the bath and an [unsoldered] *intaglio* copy [of five or ten subjects] is made by electro-deposition. From this copy, [unsoldered]

relief plates are again made. These are soldered together [into plates of 25 or 100 subjects] and *the operation is repeated* until an [unsoldered] *relief* shell of 100-subjects [or 25 subjects] is obtained. From this *master relief*, the [*intaglio*] plates used in printing are produced, the *relief* [plate] being returned to the bath for each additional [*intaglio*] plate required (emphasis and elaboration added) (Baxter, 1939, pp. 109-110).

Baxter goes on to describe how the *intaglio* plates are cleaned, fused on the back with a layer of tin, followed by a layer of lead, and then finished by "roughing, planing and shaving the back, trimming to the required size, tapping-up low spots, 'touching-up' superficial blemishes, engraving marginal inscriptions, burnishing, etc."

Continued on page 16

Election Results Announced

The results from our election are in! A total of 145 ballots were received by the cutoff date, with each candidate unanimously elected. The proposed bylaw changes were adopted by a wide margin.

The official voting totals were as follows:

President

Joanne Berkowitz (#98) — 145

Secretary

John Luong (#808) — 145

Vice President of Charitable Services

Richard Rizzo (#2215) — 145

Vice President of Public Relations

John Seidl (#1646) — 144

Bylaw Changes

Yes — 137

No — 3

Congratulations to the candidates and thank you for your willingness to serve the ISWSC and its membership! A special thank you also to **Irv Rem** (#389) for serving as the Election Manager, receiving and counting all of the ballots.

Nagaland

Continued from page 5

government institutions, and the refusal to pay taxes further complicated matters.

At the Naga People's Convention in July 1960, a new accord was reached and Nagaland became a self-



governing state within the Indian union. In 1963, statehood was officially granted and the first elections held the next year. The violence that had shattered peace in the state since 1956 finally ended in 1964 with a cease-fire.

Unfortunately, it was not to last. Violence erupted

again with insurgents in the 1980's and rebel group factions sniped at each other well into the 1990's. In 1997, a cease-fire came into effect for three months, was later extended and remains in effect today.

The struggles for independence by Nagaland were not recognized by any legitimate power and so the 'stamps' issued by the rebels are considered propaganda labels at best.

Howard Kaplan, of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI), writes on the society website, "The rebels claimed these stamps were valid for internal postage and frequently used by supporters for independence. It is possible that they were used secretly by supporters. However, during the period of all of these Nagaland issues, the Indian Post Office provided local and international service with stamps from India. Anyone known to support or use the Nagaland stamps would have been severely punished for disloyalty to India."

It is not known how many different stamps were issued, but they include coins, space, paintings, dogs, Christmas, cars, native plants, scouts and wildlife to name a few. They were issued both as commemoratives and air mail stamps. The latest issue I have seen is the 1976 Bicentennial of the United States issue.

SUPPORT THE ISWSC—RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY!!

Auction Action

by Mike Crump (#2126)
ISWSC Auction Manager

My name is Mike Crump. I was recently named to succeed **Everett King** (#1389) as Auction Manager. Everett has done a great job running the auctions for many years. I want to thank him for his help to me in taking over the challenging Auction Manager position.

I have been an ISWSC member for several years. Some of you may know me from my time running the Charitable Services program prior to **Rich Rizzo** (#2215). Since I gave up Charitable Services, I have retired (again) and now find I have time for something new and challenging.

My intentions for the Auctions Program are:

- Complete the transition of material and records from the previous manager;
- Organize my first auction in time for the May/June newsletter;

- Increase the frequency of auctions.

As a member, I have always looked forward to the newsletter, hoping there would be an auction (and delighted when there was one). It will take some time and organization, but my eventual aim will be to have an auction in each newsletter. I will report back to you in a few months with a decision on the practicality of that aim.

In the meantime, I ask you to visit the website (www.iswsc.org) to view how simple it is to submit materials for auction and to see the required forms and tips. I want you to know that I will be available and responsive to your ideas, suggestions and complaints. I can be reached at the address listed on page 2 or by phone at (904) 220-2685 or (904) 210-3788 (cell).

Finally, I believe that the auction should be a fun and profitable event for both buyer and seller. I would like it to be one of the ISWSC's most outstanding activities, a draw for new members and a way of retaining existing members. I look forward to the challenge of serving you.



Whatzit? Judaica Stamps

by Richard Barnes (#2425)
Whatzit? Coordinator

I started collecting Middle East stamps 25 years ago. I originally confined myself to collecting only Arab States that had been part of the Ottoman Empire. Over the years, I expanded collecting to Sand Dune stamps, followed by Iran, then Afghanistan. Two years ago, I finally began to collect the stamps of the whole of the Middle East by taking in trade a small Israeli collection. Almost immediately, I received in a stamp exchange a stamp I could not find in Scott's or the Bale Catalogue of Israel Postage Stamps, Figure 1. I recognized the portrait as that of Brigadier Kisch. Using the Internet, I found

Figure 1

out that this stamp is part of a four stamp set issued by the Jewish National Fund (JNF) in 1943. This was a new name to me. It turns out that I should have been familiar with the JNF. This organization is a powerful tool of the Zionist political ambitions by generating funding to purchase land in Palestine, financing the preparation of this land for agriculture and assisting the immigration of Jews to settle this land. The tremendous importance of this policy is clear after even a cursory look into the history of the Middle East.

The JNF was founded in 1901. The following year, the JNF started issuing stamps. The stamps were intended to raise money for the JNF. The stamps were placed on envelopes – in addition to the required

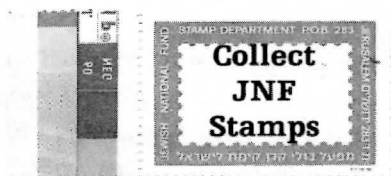


Figure 3

postage stamps. This was very important. The stamps created recognition both in the Jewish community and in the general community for the Zionist ideals (Figure 2).

I am a gentile without the religious or family

knowledge of the JNF. These stamps were completely unknown to me. The JNF is still active and continues to issue stamps (Figure 3), with its headquarters in Jerusalem. So far I have not been able to make a contact by mail or internet, but I am still trying. I have been able to start recognizing and organizing some of the JNF stamps. I obtained an old Stamp Catalogue of the Jewish National Fund, published in 1973. Has anyone a contact where I could purchase a recent JNF stamp catalogue?



Figure 4

The Judaica stamp picture is even more exciting and convoluted than just JNF stamps. Other charitable support organizations use stamps to raise money and publicize their programs, such as the United Charity Institute of Jerusalem (Figure 4), Orphans Home for Girls (Figure 5), and the United Synagogue of America (Figure 6).



Figure 5

I am sending this column into the Editor prior to the mailing of the Jan/Feb issue of *The Circuit*. A member identified the following stamp from the Whatzit column of the Nov/Dec issue of *The Circuit*. Figure 6 is a German fee stamp for use by local governments and organizations. It was probably sold for 2 Pfennig. The date of issue is not known. The subject appears to be Freiherr von Stein, a Prussian reformer from the 1800s. There seems to be an overprint in the upper right area, the main word being "Strassen...". So, perhaps it is a fee or tax stamp connected with streets or frontage, etc.



Figure 6

Continued on page 12

Whatzit? Judaica

Continued from page 11

Found frequently among Middle East collections is this small green stamp/label (Figure 7). This particular stamp has a two line overprint. Has any member an idea who issued this stamp, when or why? Also, the same for the overprint. Figure 8 is a small, close-clipped blue portrait of a woman. The printing in the upper right corner is, first line 0281 and second line E021+(?). It has false perforations printed around the frame of the stamp/label.



Figure 7

This particular stamp has part of a French Sower stamp, Scott A22, stuck on the back of it. Is it a stamp/label, square cut? Again, who, when, where, why was this stamp/label made?

The Whatzit column is only as good as members make it. Your assistance is needed to answer the unknown items. We always need your unknown stamps to ask members to help identify.

Richard Barnes
11715 123rd Street NW
Edmonton AB T5M 0G8—CANADA
barnes@interbaun.com



Figure 8

Helpful Hint

by Mike Horvat (#2545)

I collect worldwide using the Scott International. It didn't take long to run out of two-post binders and to discover that for the early years, the International is quite inadequate. One trick solved both problems for me.

In order to allow International pages (with their round holes) to fit in Scott Specialty binders, one only has to saw the Specialty post (rectangular) in half lengthwise, then file it down to take the burrs off. This opens up another set of binders that can be used for the International pages. It also allows me to keep a Specialty album updated with International pages in the same binder, a great savings when one collects the world!

Merit Badge

Continued from page 7

sports, flowers, animals, ships, holidays, trains, famous people, space and medicine.) Stamps may be from different countries.

- e) A collection of postal items discovered in your mail by monitoring it over a period of 30 days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement #3.

This is the favorite part of the program by far! Thanks to the generosity of many collectors, I have two large tubs filled with worldwide stamps of all types. I also have a large box of covers from all over the world. The Scouts gather around and go for a hunt, picking between #8a-d on the list above. Item #8d (75 topicals) is the most popular selection, but I have had Scouts choose each of the others. They naturally learned to help each other, trading key finds they know the others might need to complete their collections. A Scout is Helpful—and this activity proves it! The typical boy exceeds the minimum number of stamps or covers from the list above as they strive to fill those Vario pages in their binders.

This activity takes up the last 45 minutes or so of the class and I typically have to remind the boys it's time to leave as they have become so engrossed in their new found hobby. Off they go with the binder in hand—their stamp design as the cover insert and the collection really to be built on at the next local show!

Mr. Seidl is an avid worldwide stamp collector and has been for many years. He manages one of the ISWSC Swap Circuits and is the Director of Public Relations. He is a life member of the APS and belongs to dozens of other philatelic organizations.

Mr. Seidl is always seeking donations of topical stamps to support his merit badge clinics. You may send donations directly to him at 4324 Granby Way; Marietta, GA 30062. His group is a qualified 501(c), therefore donations may be tax deductible. All donations will be acknowledged in writing.



Liberia, Scott 567

Premium Circuit Openings

The new Premium Circuit, managed by **Ken Wills** (#2150), is well underway with 20 participants currently enjoying the program, some of whom are already on their third exchange!

The Premium Circuit, started at the end of 2007, is designed to appeal to members who already have extensive worldwide collections with many duplicates and who work with relatively recent Scott catalogues.

The Premium Circuit has three main differences to traditional swap circuits. First, the stamps in the circuit do not pass from one member to another, so is there isn't a way anyone can anonymously "milk" the packets by substituting junk for desirable items. Second, only stamps cataloging at least the Scott 50¢ minimum value are allowed, helping maintain a higher quality of the contents. (It is expected that many of the stamps traded will have considerably higher value than 50¢.) Finally, the third difference is you will never see the same stamp twice—no matter how long you continue—because a cumulative spreadsheet will be kept for each member.

Due to the Premium Circuit being labor intensive for the manager, participation is limited to 40 members. However, as of the time this article was written, there still is room for another 20 members to join the program!

For more details concerning the program, refer to the article in the November/December 2007 issue of *The Circuit* (page 3), or contact program manager, Ken Wills (see page 2 for contact information).

Membership Update

New Members

- 2557 **Jim Bailey, Jr.** (exp. 12/31/10)
PO Box 937
Brownwood, TX 76804-0937—USA
jbailey238@earthlink.net; B(1846-1970), E, Int(57), EE, 1, 3(Great Britain and USA)
- 2558F **Heidi & Alissa Wasielewski** (exp. 12/31/08)
33700 SW 192 Ave
Homestead, FL 33034-2904—USA
mookeys@mami@aol.com; A, C, Int(19), CC, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
- 2559 **James McCraven** (exp. 12/31/08)
PO Box 56
Calumet City, IL 60409-0056—USA
A, EE
- 2560 **Maurice Roth** (exp. 01/31/09)
9416 Kostner
Skokie, IL 60076-1328—USA
mauriceroth@sbcglobal.net; A, G, Int(60), EE, Israel, national parks, nature reserves
- 2561G **Fr. Duncan Johnston** (exp. 01/31/09)
515 E. Pine St.
Fremont, MI 49412-1739—USA
- 2562 **William Miller** (exp. 01/31/10)
12133 Havelock Ave.
Culver City, CA 90230-5931—USA
wsmiller@aol.com; B(to 1970), C, Beg(2), DD, 4, math
- 2563U **Joe Tetelman** (exp. 01/31/09)

Address Changes/Corrections

- 2548 **Kuijster**
Lange Wagenstraat 6
Gilze—NETHERLANDS

The Destroyer Reuben James

by **Frederick Meder** (#2493)

One of the more interesting stories to come out of the stamp world is the story of the Reuben James stamp (USA, Scott 2559f). The stamp shows the destroyer being sunk in daylight, having been torpedoed. The destroyer broke in half and went down. But, the Reuben James was actually sunk at night. Also, it was not torpedoed, but sunk by cannon fire.

The destroyer was the first U.S. Navy vessel lost at

war. The only problem—the United States wasn't at war at the time. It was sunk October 31, 1941.

The U-Boat commander responsible for the sinking was Lt. Cmdr. Erich Topp. Herr Topp shows up on a 1944 issue (Germany, Scott B260) looking through a periscope. The United States stamp also shows the cross hairs of a periscope. The Germans didn't use periscopes.

If you are interested in the story, there is a book of Admiral Topp's memoirs, *U-Boat Commander: Recollection of a Modern Odyssey*.

Swap Circuit Seeks Members

by Randy Smith (#1111)
Swap Circuit Coordinator

There are several benefits to being an ISWSC member, one of which is the ability to participate in the Swap Circuit program. No matter where you live, the Swap Circuit program is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to convert your quality duplicates into stamps that you want to place in your collection. Here's how the program works:

Participants are grouped into a 4 or 5 member circuit. The first member of the group is sent a routing sheet (containing the names and addresses of the other members of the circuit and the manager who creates the circuits) and a packet of all different stamps. The first member selects the stamps he/she wants, then replaces them with an equal number of quality all different stamps. The routing sheet and the stamp packet is then mailed to the next member of the circuit. The process continues until the last member receives the packet and makes his/her swaps. Then the packet is mailed back to the manager of the circuit, along with mint postage for sending out the next circuit. The manager then changes the order of the members, creates a new packet of stamps, and sends it back out to the participants. Once all members of the circuit have been in each position on the circuit (from first to last), a new circuit is formed with a new group of participants.

Currently, there are five circuit types from which to select: Large, Small/Definitive, CTO, Super, and USA. The Large circuits consist of 100 stamps that are considered "large" in size – more than 1" x 1 1/4" (approximately) in size. Because the Large circuits are the most popular, participants are broken into two groups, each with its own manager. The Small/Definitive circuits contain 100-150 stamps that are smaller than 1" x 1 1/4" in size or that are definitives (of any size). CTO, or Cancelled To Order, circuits contain 100 CTO stamps and are the only circuit where CTO stamps can be traded. The Super circuits are the same

as the Large circuits, however each stamp packet contains 200 stamps instead of 100. Finally, the USA circuit contains nothing but USA stamps (100 per packet). Stamps in all circuits must be off paper, but the stamps can be mint or used, hinged or unhinged.

In order for the program to operate, annual fees are charged to Swap Circuit participants. (The term "fee" is used to distinguish them from the separate dues charged annually to be an ISWSC member. ISWSC membership is required to participate in any ISWSC program.) Except for the program's annual fees, no cash is needed – for each stamp you select, simply replace it with another stamp, without regard to the catalog value! In order to maintain the quality of the program, members are, however, required to only swap desirable stamps – common and damaged stamps are not allowed.

There are two parts to the annual fees—a monetary fee and a stamp fee. The monetary fee is \$2.00. The amount of stamp fees charged is based on the type and number of circuits the participant wants to be on at one time. Except for the Super circuit, stamp fees, for up to 4 circuits, are 100 stamps of the circuit type wanted and 200 stamps for 5-9 circuits. Because Super circuits contain twice the normal number of stamps, stamp fees, for up to 4 Super circuits, are 200 stamps and 400 stamps for 5-9 Super circuits. Instead of stamps, participants can substitute \$5.00 for every 100 stamps. Due to the number of participants, CTO and USA circuits are limited to a maximum of 4 circuits per participant.

An example may be helpful: Phil A. Telic wants to be on 9 Large circuits, 2 CTO circuits, and 4 Small/Definitive circuits. Phil's fees would be as follows:

- \$2.00 (monetary fee)
- 200 large stamps (or \$10.00)
- 100 CTO stamps (or \$5.00)
- 100 Small/Definitive stamps (or \$5.00)

Later, if Phil decides he wants more CTO circuits, he could request to be put on an additional 2 circuits at no extra charge.

Now is the perfect time to join the Swap Circuit program and get the most out of your ISWSC membership! To join, complete the form accompanying this article and mail it with your fees to the address on the form. (All fees are sent to the Swap Circuit Coordinator, not to the individual circuit managers.) If you would like more information prior to joining the program, please contact Randy Smith.

Candidates Sought

Candidates are needed for the newly created Vice President position and for two At Large Board of Director positions. Elections will be held at the end of the year. It's not too early to contact a current Board member for more information!

ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join the ISWSC Swap Circuit program, please complete this form and return it with your fees to:

Randy Smith
PO Box 2085
Minneapolis, MN 55402
USA

Member #:		PLEASE PRINT	Minneapolis, MN 55402 USA
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
	If this is a new address, please check here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
E-Mail:			
Collecting Interests:			

	# CIRCUITS REQUESTED ¹		AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
	USA /CANADA MEMBERSHIP	INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP	STAMPS	MONEY ²
1) MONETARY FEE <i>US \$2.00 (or equivalent in mint stamps)</i>	→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→			
2) STAMP FEE	<i>Please specify quantity of circuits requested:</i>			
LARGE CIRCUITS <i>The fee for up to 4 Large Circuits is 100 large stamps or \$5.00. The fee for up to 9 Large Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00.</i>				
SMALL/DEFINITIVE CIRCUITS <i>The fee for up to 4 Small/Def. Circuits is 100 small stamps or \$5.00. The fee for up to 9 Small Circuits is 200 small stamps or \$10.00.</i>				
CANCELLED TO ORDER (CTO) CIRCUITS <i>The fee for up to 4 CTO Circuits is 100 CTO stamps or \$5.00. (4 circuit maximum.)</i>				
SUPER CIRCUITS <i>The fee for up to 4 Super Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00. The fee for up to 9 Super Circuits is 400 large stamps or \$20.00.</i>				
USA CIRCUITS (USA stamps only) <i>The fee for up to 4 USA Circuits is 100 USA stamps or \$5.00. (4 circuit maximum.)</i>				
Totals:				

¹ This is the number of circuits (per type) you want to be on at the same time. USA/Canada circuits take approximately 1 month to circulate, International circuits take approximately 1½ months to circulate.

² Checks must be in US funds and should be made payable to ISWSC. Cash is sent at your own risk.

Overpayment of fees, if any, should be (check one): ☐ Donated to ISWSC ☐ Returned

Questions? Write to the address above or send an e-mail to rasmay4@frontiernet.net. THANK YOU!!

Ventures

Continued from page 9

Thus, pre-1940 electrolytic plate production was an intricate technological procedure—a hurdle to be cleared *before* initiation of the error-prone multicolor printing process itself (as discussed earlier in this article). Moreover, it was a method *bound* to be significantly labor- and risk-compounded by *any* classic multicolor venture, simply because multicolor meant an equivalent multiplication of plate production effort. Sporadic or not, these Viennese multicolor efforts were adventurous indeed.

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Help Wanted

QArticles of any size are needed for the newsletter. Whether you've dreamed of being a columnist, want to occasionally review a mixture or just like to tell a good story, please contact the Editor. The pay is low (ok, there isn't any!), but the rewards (sharing with fellow collectors) are many!

Dracula (1431—1476)

by Frederick Meder (#2493)

Vlad Tepes, or Vlad III the Impaler, ruled on and off from 1448 to 1476. He gained control of the throne when his father and older brother were blinded by hot pokers, then buried alive. Vlad was exceedingly cruel and his punishment led to legends.

Vlad's main enemy at the time was Mehmed II, the Sultan of Turkey. During this period, the Turks were invading the area from the Black Sea to the Adriatic Sea. In one engagement with the Turks, Vlad blinded 5,000 men with hot pokers and had one man lead them back to Turkey. In another, he impaled thousands on stakes for Mehmed to see.

The name Dracula means "The Devil" or "Demon". The name Tepes means impaler. He is known by both names. The Turkish name means essentially the same.

Vlad was murdered by the Boyars. His head was taken by the Turks to Constantinople, packed in honey. His body was buried elsewhere. No part of his body has ever been found.

Bram Stoker wrote the story of Dracula the Vampire after he visited Transylvania, but it is mostly fiction. There are many Vampire covens around the world. These are mostly for fun, but occasionally they become deadly. James Patterson has written a book on the subject (*Violets are Blue*) - mystery fiction, of course. There is also a book called *The Historian*, detailing Dracula as a mystery novel. The book is based on historical fact, similar to *The DaVinci Code*.

Dracula has become more popular through the movies. The earliest I could find was *Nosferatu* (*Phanton Der Nacht*), a German silent film which is quite good. There have been many others, some very good, but mostly what were termed B pictures years ago.

CHECK YOUR LABEL—RENEW EARLY!!