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Quarterly Newsletter of The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

MEMEL
AND
SURROUNDING
COUNTRIES



Memel: The View From a Northeast Window

By The Rev. James E. Furman

Stamps from "dead countries" can be valuable windows with a view that includes social and political developments. This is particularly true of the various stamp-issuing regions, states, and plebiscite districts that emerged in northeastern Europe immediately after World War I.

Out of this abundance, one entity seems less discussed than it should be. It is Memel (Lithuanian Klaipeda), a Baltic port-city with philatelic history evidencing French opportunism, Lithuanian nationalism, and German revenge.

Memel and it's region form "the Memelland". Throughout the inter-war years, both were the center of "the Memel problem," an issue that well illustrates the strongly transitional quality of the borders and decisions of that era. Largely forgotten today, Memel was "news" enough to generate years of headlines such as "Europe's Perennial Problem"¹ and "Europe's Acute Danger Spot".²

Article 99 of the Treaty of Versailles detached the Memelland from Germany and placed it under Allied administration (France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom). When the German government of Chancellor Friedrich Ebert protested this action, it was told that, "...the region in question has always been Lithuanian; the majority of the people are Lithuanian in origin and language; the fact that the town itself is in great part German would not justify the maintenance of the region under German sovereignty, particularly in view of the fact that the port of Memel is the sole maritime outlet for Lithuania."³

Memel was governed by the Allied Mixed High Commission for Memel (AMHCM). The work of this quadripartite board was soon complicated by French foreign policy considerations.

In 1919 Poland occupied a large territory centering on
(Continued on page 2)

Memel:

the historic Lithuanian city of Vilnius. This aggression went well with French support of a large, strong Poland. At the same time, France was not eager to see Lithuania driven closer to Germany, Lithuania's most probable source of military aid. Memel thus seemed a useful pawn, a territory that could be traded to Lithuania in exchange for its traditional capital. However, to be available for exchange, Memel could be neither independent nor already ceded. This period of French dominance is seen in the stamps listed as Scott # 1 - 99 and C1 - C29.

On July 13, 1922, the Conference of Ambassadors as the coordinating link between the Allied foreign offices proposed recognition of Lithuania and its seating in the League of Nations. This was the Western equivalent of the Treaty of Moscow (July 12, 1920) in which the newly established USSR renounced jurisdiction over Lithuania. Allied recognition was conditional: Lithuania must accept the Treaty of Versailles as it touched on navigation of the Nieman River. Less than a month later (August 4, 1922), Lithuania assented to the proposal with the stipulation that Poland would have to withdraw from Vilnius before Polish trade would be permitted to pass through Memel. The Conference recognized Lithuania (December 20, 1922) without accepting this reservation.

With the diplomatic situation unresolved, Lithuania imitated the Polish procedure of 1919. Troops and guerilla reinforcements were sent into Memel from Lithuania. The French garrison was pushed aside and the Memelland became Lithuanian. The Allies protested but did not attempt to restore their occupation by force.

Lithuania noted its Memelland victory with an exuberant commemorative issue (Scott # 176-188; July 12, 1923). The distinctive rhomboid shapes of the stamp series signal national enthusiasm. Nonetheless, Polish claims were not silenced and Memel continued to require a "legal" settlement.

Memel was referred to the Council of the League of Nations. An investigating committee of neutrals was appointed (the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States). This Special Committee of Memel (SCM) was headed by Norman Davis, a State Department official who had been an aide to President Wilson.

Davis and the SCM persuaded Lithuania to grant Poland use of Memel's port facilities. Further, the SCM established a Harbor Board for Memel to be headed by a neutral appointee of the International Labor Office's Transit Committee. The SCM report was accepted and signed into international law on May 8, 1924. Even so, "no diplomatic relations were maintained with Poland and there was no interstate traffic, not even postal, across 'the demarcation line' which Poland considered to be its frontier".⁴

The SCM-sponsored Memel Statute defined the relationship of Memel to Lithuania. Its method embodies belief that only compromise could produce a workable solution to a multi-faceted puzzle. Memel is defined as "under the sovereignty of Lithuania" but "enjoying legislative, judicial, administrative, and financial autonomy with the limits prescribed by the Statute". The mood of this legislation was anticipated in Lithuanian-designed stamps produced in Memel and Kaunas. The April 12, 1923 issue (# N31 - N43) is striking, balancing local symbols against bilingual inscriptions that emphasize the fact of

Lithuanian conquest.

In effect, Memel was "almost" part of Lithuania. This ambiguity encouraged new disputes. Much of the public controversy centered on the governmental structure provided by the Memel Statute: a Lithuanian-appointed Governor; a legislative Chamber of Representatives elected by the Memellanders; and an executive Directorate of five whose president would be appointed by the Governor.

Article XVII of the Statute provided that "the President shall hold office as long as he holds the confidence of the Chamber. The President shall appoint the other members of the Directorate". But what if the President were to lose the confidence of the Governor? This question was answered during "the Bottcher incident," the climax of years of confrontation between "back to the Reich" Germans and "we are in charge now" Lithuanians.

On December 17, 1931, Otto Bottcher, President of the Directorate, went to Berlin and met with members of the German government. He was accompanied by two members of the Chamber. Bottcher acted without the approval or knowledge of either the Governor of Memel or the Lithuanian government. In fact, his visit was detected by accident: a Lithuanian border guard stopped Bottcher on his return trip and discovered him to be without a passport. However, Bottcher did have a secret *laissez passer* issued by the German Consul General in Memel, a document that stated that the bearer was to negotiate with "the authorities of the Reich" about "an important German interest".

Acting on this evidence, the Governor of Memel (Colonel Merkys) dismissed Bottcher from office on December 27, 1931. Bottcher refused to resign and the Chamber voted fifteen to four in his support. Merkys declared the action of the Chamber invalid and placed Bottcher and his travelling partners under house arrest on February 6, 1932.

Two days later, the German government submitted a memorandum on Memel to the Council of the League of Nations. The Council appointed a Commission headed by the Norwegian delegate (O. Colban) to deal with the German motion.

The Colban Commission reported promptly on February 20, 1932, and asked the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) to resolve the issue. A ten to five ruling of the PCIJ was issued on August 11, 1932. The Lithuanian position was upheld: a territory under national sovereignty does not have the right to conduct independent foreign policy.

Lithuania responded to the ruling by applying for an end to Memel's special status. Strong German opposition followed and the League denied Lithuania's petition.

From 1932 to 1938 Memel was a National Socialist issue. German public opinion was encouraged to see the status of Memel as an example of international injustice. A March 1932 issue of the Nazi *Racial Observer* is typical: "The German people were betrayed to the Jews and the French at Versailles never may we reconcile ourselves to contentment while our fellow Germans suffer unspeakable horrors and barbarities in a Franco-Jewish creation foisted on a world duped by Zionist-Rothschild lies".⁵

The hate campaign was eventually augmented by military threats. On March 6, 1938, Lithuania withdrew from the (Continued on Page 3)

Memel:

Memelland. This departure was celebrated on March 23, 1939, by German overprinting of two Lithuanian stamps listed in the Michel Catalogue under "Memelgebiet: Lokal-Ausgabe" (I - IV). Ironically or spitefully, the stamps used for this purpose honored the twentieth anniversary of Lithuanian independence (Scott # 308 - 309).

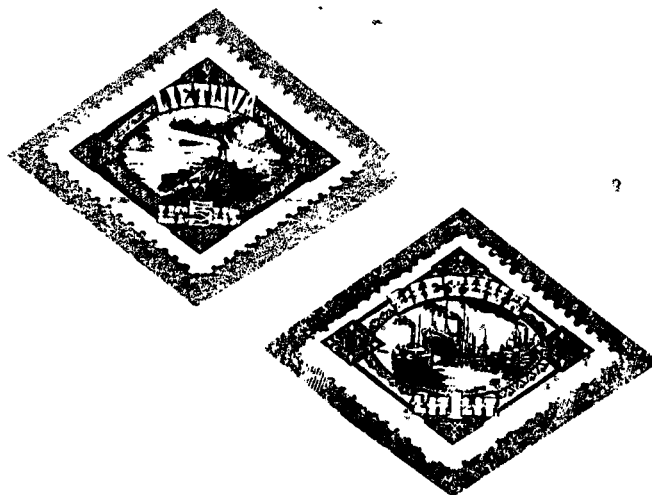
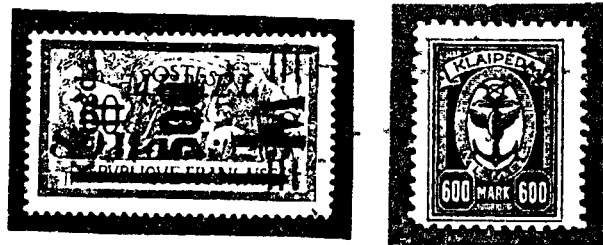
The Nazi slogan "Memelland ist frei!" was not to be the last word on the subject. In 1949 the territory was restored to a Lithuania incorporated into the USSR.



Bibliography:

- 1 Contemporary Review: 142: 628 - 633 (November, 1932).
- 2 Literary Digest: 119: 16 (April 13, 1935).
- 3 George Glasgow, "The Memel Situation: Europe's Perennial Problem," Contemporary Review, November, 1932, p. 628.
- 4 C. R. Jurgela in Postage Stamps of Lithuania (New York: 1978), p. 3.
- 5 quoted in Current History ("Foreign Comment"), April, 1932, p. 122.

Map prepared by C. Shaughnessey (1986)



Memel's Stamps Reflect Various Political Changes:

The overprinted German stamp (#1) illustrates the stamps issued during the period (1920) that Memel was a League of Nations plebiscite. French stamps were overprinted (# 19) when Memel was under French control (1920 - 1922). When Memel was placed under Lithuanian sovereignty, stamps reflecting the Lithuanian nation were issued in 1923 (# N23). The overprinted French stamps were also used during the transition period, being overprinted a second time by Lithuania (# N30). Local symbols were depicted on other stamps issued in 1923 (# N 39). The two examples from the 1923 Lithuanian series commemorating the Lithuanian military victory in Memel depict the Memel Harbor (# 179) and the Memel lighthouse (# 182).

LETTERS: Opinion on Ameripex

Thank you for your letter concerning the mix-up about Ameripex. It's over and fortunately, only one member from one of the northshore clubs called me. What with my age and illness, my memory isn't the best, but I think it was #42, Tom Allison of Wilmette, Illinois. He and another member were going to spend a couple days before the show opened to work on their club exhibit frames. He wanted to know if I was going to the show.

Although I'm still not feeling very well, I did manage to get to the show for an hour or so one day. My brother-in-law drove me there and stayed with me. I was very much disappointed with the layout of the show. To me, it was like walking into a large factory stockroom. The booths were assembled like a stockroom - high, no chairs or stools for customers to sit down and examine their products. It was stand at a booth and ask the person in the booth for what you wanted. It was in no way what I had expected. I expected everything to open so you could see from one end of the hall to the other end.... so you could get an

overview glance of the whole place from any place you would look from. I am writing a letter to *Stamp Collector* letting them know how I feel about the show. And I may write to the person in charge of the exhibit, Les Wesnick.

Also, have you gotten the Presidential Souvenir Sheets yet? There again I was very much disappointed with the design and the color. Can't the United States come up with something better in color and design?

I hope you can read my scribbling. Since I got home from the hospital I have been having a hard time writing a fair hand. Keep up the good work. I like the new club name.

*****Adolph Kubon (#8)

Do you have a collector friend who might enjoy ISWSC and its benefits? Send the name and address to
Herb Holland (#31)
825 E. Torrey
New Braunfels, Texas 78240

President Shares Childhood Pleasures of Stamp Collecting

Well, summer's back again (pardon me, Australia, South America, and all points south of the equator)I spent most of the day in the garden wondering if the blooming agapanthus cared as much for me. Now that the sun has set and some of the weeds have escaped my wrath for another day, my thoughts "wax nostalgic" rather than to organizational things. Perhaps it is just as well.

As a child did you ever receive a "Golden Galleon"? It was a stamp mixture for beginners packaged by, I believe, the MysticStamp Co. As a fifth grader I received one for Christmas and spent most of the day rummaging with delight through the packets to find what was hidden there. This joy was topped only by my "big" gift the following Christmas. Under the tree was a "Penny Black." What a thrill to be the owner of a copy of the world's oldest stamp. The stamp was less expensive back then, but that bore no relationship to my excitement. (No, it didn't cost one penny.) I also vividly remember my first set of Mozambique Company (I pronounced it: Mo zam' billie cue!)the bi-colored set with the giraffe and zebra. Remember? We may not feel quite the same thrill when we see that set now, but I'll bet it still excites young collectors.

One of our organizational aims is to promote general collecting, particularly to the youth. Put a good deed on your list of things to do this summer and help promote our hobby. "How?" you ask. I'm certain you've heard of Johnny-Appleseed, but have you heard of Sam and Susie Stamper? In actuality, they don't existYET! Sam and Susie leave packets of stamps at grocery store counters, skating rinks, McDonald's, and wherever else they go, because no one throws away a packet of stamps especially if they're marked, "FOR THE FINDER." Insane? Perhaps, but they did issue a commemorative stamp for Johnny Appleseed. Surely we have a couple Sam and Susie Stampers in the ISWSC!

If that approach is a bit far out for you, I'm certain that most of you know an elementary school teacher, cub scout leader, or Sunday school teacher who would be more than willing to distribute a stamp packet or two to wide-eyed children. If only 10% of our membership would do this, and half of those were to receive a response, and half of those were to write up their experiences and mail them to me, we just might have some interesting stories for publication. Have a great summer (or winter, in some cases). ***Aubrey Dunne (# 1), President

SPECIAL NOTICE:

There have been several mail "ads" offering stamps, supplies, etc. in pyramid or chain letters from members to members. The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors does not endorse any promotions of this type by individual members. Members should be aware of the fact that chain letters and pyramid-type schemes are illegal. The wisest action, upon receipt of such letters (or ads), is to promptly throw them in the trash.

Vice President Reports on New Society Benefits

Here we are in the summer doldrums again as far as stamp collecting is concerned. Many people just put away their albums for the summer and pursue more outdoor activities. Those of us fortunate enough to live in areas where outdoor activities are popular all year round just sort of slow down a little for the summer. At any rate, I think the summer season started early for the kids and their sponsors at the clubs. I have sent out only one package of stamps since last report. Maybe they gave away so many stamps at Ameripex that the clubs have enough at present. The input of stamps from members is continuing at a very good clip and I have a good supply ready for whenever the young collectors get back in the mood.

Speaking of Ameripex, I hope some member that attended will give us a report on the activities and any meetings of ISWSC members there. We were sorry to hear of Adolph Kubon's (#8) heart attack and inability to coordinate the meetings. I hope he wasn't caused any inconvenience, but the news got to us too late to do anything about it. Adolph, I hope you are feeling better and that you were able to attend the show at least one day!

Tom Ginsberg (#70) several months ago offered to provide computer printouts of the membership rosters at cost for members; they come alphabetical, numerical or geographical. These are quite handy. I use the geographical list when I am traveling to attempt to contact members in the area I am visiting. My wife and I are currently planning a swing through a number of western and middle western states for later this summer, so don't be surprised if you get a phone call. A glass of iced tea or a cold beer with a couple hours of stamp talk or swapping is a welcome diversion anytime, anywhere.

Roger Bergeson (# 132) is our new sales circuit manager and will have some information on it in this issue of the newsletter, so I will not have a lot to say on that except drop him a line and participate. It will help you get rid of those duplicates and will fill spaces in your albums. I think it is fantastic that we have volunteers in our organization that are willing to give of themselves for the benefit of the group. We have had a swap circuit going now for nearly two years and Hal Clarke (# 47) and Tom Allison (# 42) have been doing a fine job with that. If all goes okay, we shall also have an auction a couple times a year. The swap circuit is operated at no expense to the club and the sales circuit and auction are expected to provide some revenue to supplement the club's treasury. In case any of the new members are wondering, all of the services provided to members are done by volunteers, and none of your elected officers receive any compensation for their time or services either. *** Ken Jenkins (# 15), Vice President



Roster Update:

219	Mary Megnin P.O. Box 389230 Cincinnati, Ohio 45238	26 Mar 86	WTB	234	Barry A. Bankes 14 E. Plaza Greenville, South Carolina 29605	11 Jun 86	WTB
220	Jack H. McNee 3648 Marymont Drive NW Huntsville, Alabama 35810	7 Apr 86	WTB	235	Ronald C. Hackler 5803 Beecham Drive Dayton, Ohio 45424	13 Jun 86	WTB
221	Sven E. Svensen 25-60 123rd Street Flushing, New York 11354	10 Apr 86	WTB	236	William J. Fragaszy 75 Park Terrace E., Apt. #D-71 New York, New York 10034	20 Jun 86	WTB
222	Jack Nemeth 1784 Countrywood Court Walnut Creek, California 94598	16 Apr 86	B	237	Ted Oefinger 5930 Windhaven San Antonio, Texas 78239	20 Jun 86	WTB Part-time Dealer
223	James B. Moorman 2495 South High Denver, Colorado 80210	18 Apr 86	WTB	238	Mohamed Mahdoui 14 Rue Sidi Abdallah 3100 Kairouan, TUNISIE	20 Jun 86	WTB
224	Alfred D. Glading 56 Marlton Road Woodstown, New Jersey 08098	19 Apr 86	WTU	239	Ted I. Jones 664 Rozelle Memphis, Tennessee 38104	28 Jun 86	WTB
225	Simon Weiner Brittany 0-692 Delray Beach, Florida 33446	24 Apr 86	WTB	240	Sister Leo Marie, S.C. St. Mary Hall Mount St. Joseph, Ohio 45051	3 Jul 86	WTB
226	Mary Lou Trent 7501 Republic Court, Apt #303 Alexandria, Virginia 22306	22 Apr 86	WTB	241	George Land 4024 Fairlands Drive Pleasanton, California 94566	5 Jul 86	WTB
227	Lloyd Drury 185 Brock Street Brantford, Ontario N3S 5W5, CANADA	3 May 86	WTB	242	John E. Hogan P. O. Box 58700 St. Louis, Missouri 63158	7 Jul 86	B Dealer
228	Monroe G. Schwartz 182 Arrowood Road Englishtown, New Jersey 07726	9 May 86	WTB	243	William H. Rawlings 835 Wildwood Place West Vancouver, B.C. V7S1P2, CANADA	11 July 86	WTB
229	Harry Matasar P. O. Box 3022 Munster, Indiana 46321	12 May 86	Dealer	<hr/>			
230	N. C. Lou 9 Sze Mou Tian Chien Soochow, Kiangsu PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA	22 May 86	WTU	Roster Changes:			
231	Robert S. Brighman 29 Church Street Mystic, Connecticut 06355	3 Jun 86	WTB	16	Jim Streitwiesser: Change to 2727 Austin Court, Los Osos, California 93402		
232	James Prescott P. O. Box 94368 Schaumburg, Illinois 60194	9 Jun 86	Dealer	19	Jim Bailey: Change to 97th General Hospital, Box 22, Dept. of Pathology, APO New York 09757		
233	William Gerlach P. O. Box 6637 Lake Worth, Florida 33466	9 Jun 86	U Dealer	26	Rita Kallal, Editor: Change to 611 Northwood Drive, West Monroe, Louisiana 71291		
				39	Ken Martin: Change to P.O. Box 8028, State College, PA 16803		
				171	Dave Duncan: Change to 12921 Mathews, Carleton, Michigan 48117		
				181	Jim Sandholdt: Change to Takatsuki Baptist Church, 2-37-15 Himuro-cho, Takatsukishi, 569 Japan		

Sec'y-Treasurer Explains Costs

Your club is moving right along. We have just enrolled member # 243. After allowing for those who did not renew or who are deceased, we now have 219 paid up members. However, five of those whose dues expired in the last issue still have not renewed and will be dropped if they haven't sent their dues in by the next issue: # 81, 82, 84, 88, and 89.

Some good news, though. The following members are hereby re-instated: # 12, 35, and 42. And lastly, a correction: # 57 was inadvertently omitted from the dropped list in the April *Circuit*.

Our thanks to Matt Good (#205) whose efforts have resulted in several new members.

If you have an overseas friend who has not been able to join our group due to currency restrictions, here's a happy development. Tell that person to send the dues in the form of mint postage stamps from his/her country equivalent to the current dues according to the exchange rate. Nice commemoratives and unusual values would be appreciated. Ray Compton (#73) has kindly offered to redeem those for U.S. bucks to yours truly. We have done this with one new member already.

Ray (#73) also has a great many exchange requests from Poland - more than he can handle. Want a Polish trading partner? Drop Ray a line.

The club acknowledges with thanks the following donations:

Senesac (# 180)	\$34.45
Petersen (# 83)	4.00

I don't believe I have mentioned before why we ask on the application if you are a member of APS. This is so later we can apply to affiliate with that organization. (Non-APS members - no problem - you won't have to join the APS.)

IMPORTANT it's membership renewal time for those who joined July through September 1984: # 91 - 103, 105, 108 - 113. Please send your \$6.00 renewal to Herb (#31) and your 250 stamp donation to Ken (#15). Don't forget to renew!!

A small suggestion for those not already doing it keep a folder of all club info in one place: the roster, newsletters, by-laws, any correspondence, etc. This will make it a lot easier to get full value from your organization. Make a prominent note of your club number, too, and use it when corresponding with other members.

Lew Scott (# 198) recently started a new worldwide collection and has had a difficult time finding suitable and reasonably priced albums. Many of us have that problem. Those of you who have solved it to your satisfaction, how about dropping Lew a line -- and while you're at it -- one to your editor (#26) so we can all benefit.

For the older members, in club time, that is, the roster situation is a mess, I know. I wish we could send an updated copy to you all but when not enough members voted to raise the dues, we had to shelve that idea temporarily. (As an expedient, send a dollar and I'll get one to you by return mail.)

This brings us to the most important item. There will be a ballot with the October *Circuit* for voting on the dues increase once again and also a number of other necessary by-law changes.

We are including the proposed changes in this newsletter for input from the members. Please contact Herb (# 31) about any ideas you might have for changes, wording, etc. on the by-laws. If no suggestions are forthcoming, these proposals will be on a ballot in the October newsletter please remember to vote then.

Now a word of explanation on finances. To respond to an inquiry about joining, the introduction packet costs 40¢. If that person joins, the initial membership packet costs \$1.64 (including postage.) Eight newsletters, over the two year period @62¢, cost \$4.96. This brings the final cost to a total of \$7.00. So for each \$6.00 we take in, \$7.00 goes out. This does not include the other costs of sending info to those who subsequently do not join, shipping stamp packets to the youth organizations we help, telephone, postage, copying costs to your officers, start-up costs for club sales circuits, auction, and other items too numerous to mention. So, why are we not yet bankrupt? We have been surviving in large part thru paid advertising in the newsletter, generous donations, and the dues of new members. If they should stop, we would be kaput! We need a dues increase!!

Who is going to be the first to get all the "Presidents" used? Happy collecting! *** Herb Holland (#31), Sec'y-Treasurer

New ISWSC Auction Manager Invites Members to Participate

I envision this auction mainly as a service to club members both as sellers and buyers. The purpose, basically, is to offer a convenient place to dispose of duplicates and unwanted collections. It is possible that in the future there may be donations to the club to be auctioned or possibly the club may purchase material for auction, but it is primarily a service for the members.

As such I anticipate most material coming in already lotted and possibly with a reserve. The auctioneer would just review and formalize. I anticipate that the seller would pay postage to the auction. The auctioneer would prepare camera ready copy to be included in a club newsletter. Bids would be sent to the auctioneer and he would notify winners their totals including postage. The main expense to the auction would be record-keeping paper and some postage. I'd like to keep expenses below 10%. A 10% commission to the seller only should cover expenses and add a small income to the club treasury. High bidders would be notified as soon as possible and lots shipped when paid for. Lots to be mailed as first class up to \$20.00. Insurance would be required for lots over \$20.00 and paid for by the bidder. Unsold lots to be returned to seller using 10% of reserve to pay postage. Unsold lots to be charged 10% commission on reserve and excess over postage to be kept by club. Because this is for the club, I'd ignore sales tax for the present.

A number of other clubs have auctions and they use the house organ to publish the auction. That way it gets to all members, cuts costs and, along with the prices realized, becomes a part of club history.

Two areas of remuneration to the auctioneer should be discussed. A fee for handling the action and a lotting fee for

(Continued on Page 7)

New Auction:

collections that require extensive breakdown. I'd suggest 3% of realizations to run the auction and an additional 5% to break down large lots. The 5% being based on sold and unsold lot realizations.

Naturally the books would be open to all officers and two, or possibly three, signatures could have access to the auction account.

Proposed Auction Rules:

Most of the lots in these auctions have been submitted by members of the club and have been cataloged by the seller with a review by the auction manager. We have attempted the highest degree possible in accurate description and cataloging. Standard philatelic abbreviations are used where appropriate.

All bidding is to be done by mail or telephone. Telephone bids will be accepted up to 12 noon (PST) on the day of auction. Phone: (707) 584-0974. In the case of a tie bid, the first bid received takes the lot.

All lots will be sold to the highest bidder at one increment (or 10%) over the next highest bidder. Bid realistically; ridiculous bids will be rejected.

Successful bidders will be notified. Payment, including postage, must be received within ten (10) days. (Optional rule might be: Members of the club may have lots forwarded to them for immediate payment.)

Lots returnable only if not as described. Photocopies of single items available at 25¢ per copy plus a SASE.

All lots are sold as genuine. If authenticity desired, it is the responsibility of the bidder, but the auction manager must be notified within seven (7) days if expertizing is to be instigated.

Mail bids to Ronald W. Thurner, 21 Walnut Cir., Rohnert Park, CA 94928

The above is a very rough outline of the proposed auction rules. Your suggestions are desired; let the club officers and me know how you feel about the auction fees, rules, etc. Thank you. *** Ron Thurner (# 17), Auction Manager

CLASSIFIED ADS

OUNCE MIXTURES: Commemoratives/Large.
Bahamas \$2.10, Barbados \$3.00, Bermuda \$3.35, Botswana \$3.10, B.W.I \$3.35, Costa Rica \$3.50, Swaziland \$3.10.
William Gerlach (#233), Box 6637, Lake Worth, FL 33466 {1/4}

WANTED: Collectors from other countries to exchange stamps. I have several cancelled copies of most commemoratives issued by U.S. since 1960. Desire cancelled stamps issued prior to 1980, especially 1974 - 79. Write to: Aubrey Dunne (#1), 9355 Monona Dr., La Mesa, California 92041 USA

Deadline for next issue 15 September

More Classified Ads

Scott's International Albums, slightly used, for sale.
Volume 5, pages excellent, but jumbo binder has mildew spot.... so \$10.00. Volume 6, pages and jumbo binder, exc. to nearly mint .. \$15.00. Volumes 7A and 7B integrated in jumbo binder, nearly mint \$30.00. Volumes 8A and 8B integrated in jumbo binder, mint, never used ... \$35.00. Harris Citation album to 1970 in good condition ... \$6.00 Postage additional. Rita Kallal (#26), 611 Northwood Dr., West Monroe, LA 71291

HELP WANTED for ISWSC: The ISWSC officers are interested in incorporating this as a Non-Profit Organization and would like some advice (legal) from any member who is an attorney or someone who has previously been involved in such an incorporation. The officers are not asking that someone undertake this job, but rather for someone with whom they can discuss some questions. Thank you. Please contact President Aubrey Dunne (# 1).

EDITOR Needed for 1987 for the ISWSC Circuit.
Please contact President Aubrey Dunne (# 1).

**LETTERS: Report of USPS Gremlins**

I enjoyed the editor's column in the recent newsletter (Apr.-June) on the "gremlins" that have invaded her household. Here's a bunch of gremlins you may have found (or can check out) in your area. I think they are at work at two local post offices in this area (Pennsylvania). The recent Stamp Collecting Booklet is where the gremlins come into being I bought about four of the booklets about five days after the issue date from one of the local post offices. These booklets were sealed right from the the BEP; unfortunately none had the missing black.

The article appeared in *Linn's* about the missing black color and what the stamp company was asking for them. About a week later, my wife stopped at the other local post office and asked for some Stamp Collecting Booklets. The clerk told her they didn't have any. However, yesterday she stopped again for stamps and when she asked for the Stamp Collecting Booklets, they had plenty. She bought three booklets all with the seals broken!!

Now try and convince me that there aren't gremlins in the postal system, at least in this area. Try and think back about when you bought some SC booklets if you got them after the missing color was announced in *Linn's*, were the seals broken on the booklets? If your post office still has any SC booklets, buy one and see if the seals are broken?? Who knows, maybe you'll get a good one!???. ***** Charles Tomala (#202)

BYLAW REVISIONS (Proposed 10 July '86)**ARTICLE III (Delete Former and Replace):**

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the following elected officers: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The most recently retired President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, if willing to serve, shall also be members of the Board. In addition, the currently elected officers may appoint additional members in good standing to the Board of Directors. The total membership of the Board shall not exceed nine members. The terms of office of all appointed members shall be concurrent with the terms of the elected officers.

ARTICLE V (Delete V, D - See proposed Articles VIII and IX)**ARTICLE VI (Delete Former and Replace):**

Membership: Dues shall be \$5.00 and a packet of 250 or more different stamps per member, yearly. (Stamps will be made available to clubs on request.) Members residing outside of Canada, Mexico and the United States may request the newsletter airmailed rather than by surface mail for an additional fee based on current postal rates.

ARTICLE VII (Delete former and Replace):

Bylaw revision: Any bylaw revision or addition shall be approved by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members balloting.

ARTICLE VIII (New):

Board of Directors Responsibilities: The Board of Directors will appoint or confirm members in good standing to fill the positions of Public Relations Officer and Editor of the Newsletter. The Board also may appoint or confirm the Director of the Stamp Exchange, the Sales Circuit and Mail Auction Managers, and other committees as needed. All business of the organization shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Decisions by the Board may be overturned by a simple majority of the full membership upon request to the Public Relations Officer for a vote by a petition of ten percent (10%) of the membership. The issue in question will then be placed in the next issue of the newsletter by the Public Relations Officer.

ARTICLE IX (New):

The Public Relations Officer will supervise all elections and election procedures. He/she shall serve as chairperson of the nominating committee by surveying the membership during November of odd-numbered years to determine a slate of nominees. The list will then be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer to ascertain that all nominees are members in good standing, and will in turn prepare the ballot for the newsletter. The Public Relations Officer will also be responsible for ballot

counting procedures. All election results will be forwarded to the Editor for publication in the newsletter.

LETTERS: Children Are This Member's Concern

I have just read through my (Apr - June) *Circuit* and had to write and say how much I enjoyed reading and even re-reading it. I do have a teeny complaint but I know the why for it and will bear with it. I sure hate not to utilize those good stamps but won't cut up my paper - at least until I photocopy the page concerned. This is also true of the roster pages. It would be nice if they were just printed on one side but I can appreciate the cost is prohibitive. I have written to other members and presently owe some letters that I will get to ASAP.

I have been a worldwide collector from the first foreign stamp and have been collecting for almost as long as I can remember. My first stamp album was red and hard-back. I believe the manufacturer's name was Globe. I was so glad to have the Austrian stamps with gum and promptly stuck them all in. I can remember how ugly I thought the Hungarian stamps (Scott # 174-197) were and I had "zillions" of them. The dime store was the only dealer I knew and I was through college and working before I met any "serious" stamp collectors and learned of stamp periodicals, stamp catalogs and even stamp albums. There were no stamp clubs and the things I learned in the beginning by myself were all wrong!!

I guess that is why I have enjoyed sponsoring Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs in our elementary schools. I am into Beginning Stamp Collecting in the proper way that I never knew. I have just finished my sixth year and have had contact with over 200 fourth, fifth and sixth grade children. I wish I knew how many will be stamp collectors but I do know that I still have contact with some that I had the first year and they are still quite interested so I can only assume that I have helped some of them. I think the Benjamin Franklin material is fabulous and hope it continues. I also think the help from organizations such as ISWSC and individuals such as Norman Holden is also fabulous. The children really appreciate the stamps and continually ask me "why" people want to send them stamps?

There is something that I would like to promote and that is SPONSORS for youth and/or beginning stamp clubs. I know there are more stamp collectors that are really qualified and have the time, but don't know how or where to get started. So my plea is: Contact a school principal if you want to sponsor a Ben Franklin club, contact a children's librarian for a youth club or the senior librarian for an adult club. Ken Jenkins (#15) is collecting a list of members that will exchange programs and it is so easy to do -- I have found that even my children come up with new ideas for soaking stamps and for programs and all it really takes is the time.

A good example is the contest we are doing at our local library for the summer. It is being developed so I don't have a name yet but the prize is going to be the miniature president sheet. The contest is going to be a trivia essay on the presidents on any one sheet -- for instance, if I like Andrew Jackson best, then I would also have to work on the other presidents that are on that sheet. The children's librarian will have a table with books
(Continued on Page 9)

LETTERS: Children

on the various presidents in the the stamp corner. The more material submitted the better — and for the summer months we are going to give away many, many presidents-on-stamps, stamps for them to make their own album pages.

I have worked with three different elementary schools this past school year. I have 15 young collectors in the club in town and 25 at the school five miles outside of town. Located ten miles out in the county, the consolidated school (grades 1 - 8) club has 20 members. The two clubs outside of town I meet with just once a month, but the one in town meets twice and sometimes three times a month. I have a Stamp Workshop at our public library that meets once a month — all ages invited. Sometimes, I get my children to help me sort stamps and that is always a favorite program what is there about a box full of stamps to look through that makes the time pass so fast and so joyfully?

I think I have collected just about everything - I still process my First Day Covers. I collect in Scott's International but make my own pages (when I have time to work on my own collection!) My U.S. commemorative mint singles are in a White Ace album and I have United Nations singles in White Ace up to 1976. I also have a France Scott Specialty Album to 1976. I have precancels, postcards, stamped envelopes, meters, etc. I take both *Linn's* and *Stamp Collector*. I read every issue but I am always behind. I keep saying now I am going to read the new issue plus one each week but that's a laugh! I wind up reading three or four and the first thing I know I am laying them back to read this article or that one. I guess I'll have to find a cave and spend a week just catching up. Anyone have any suggestions???

As I tell anyone who will listen I think that one of the biggest assets to my stamp collecting years (over 50) is the wonderful and interesting people I have met who collect stamps!! And the members of the ISWSC that I have met through correspondence and the *Circuit* are the best!!!! Keep up the good work!!

***** Ariel Poling (#76)

Editor's NoteBook ... Little Bit of Everything

The word for the day is **HELP!!** It had been planned that Dick Edwards (# 117) and I would switch the editorship of the *Circuit* back and forth each year. However, Dick has informed the Board of Directors that he will be unable to assume editorship in January 1987 as planned. Apparently his new job is keeping him too busy. Although I enjoy editing the newsletter and love hearing from so many of you, I am not sure I will be able to continue being editor in 1987. (See below.) So is there a kindly soul out there who would like to help out and take over the newsletter in January 1987? Please contact Aubrey Dunne (# 1) to volunteer to be editor for a year.

There has been some discussion about splitting the job of *The Circuit* editor into two positions: Editor to put the newsletter together and provide camera-ready copy and Publisher to get the newsletter printed and mailed. This would lighten the work load of the editor. It would also allow us to set up a "permanent" mailing station so we could get a bulk-rate mailing permit to save mailing costs within the USA. A considerable

savings!! Your feedback on this idea would be helpful. And don't hesitate to volunteer to be just the editor or just the publisher. We can use all the help we can get!

It has certainly been tough getting this issue of the newsletter done no gremlins so far, but my husband and I are negotiating purchase with two different businesses. When the first business came up for sale, my husband had just departed for two weeks at National Guard summer camp, so I was left to start the initial steps. We were set on purchasing that business when we learned of a second, more desirable business that was about ready to go on the market. So now we are going through the financial and legal hassles of contracts on two businesses. If one deal falls through we'll still be able to buy the other one. But in the meantime, it's meetings with lawyers and bankers, formulating business plans, getting appraisals, etc. Suffice to say, I haven't had much time to devote to the newsletter and am running late again this month. I will be required to work full time in the business once the deal goes through and that's why I'm not sure how much time I'll have to work on the newsletter for awhile.

The ISWSC received a request from the journal *Postcard Collector* for our mailing list, offering to send a complimentary copy of the journal to all our members. It is our policy that we do not "give" our membership list to anyone who is not a member. If you are a post card (view or greeting type) collector, you would enjoy this journal. It is in magazine format with articles, news, and odds of advertisements. It is reasonably priced at \$11.95 per-year. To get a complimentary copy, write and tell them you are a member of the ISWSC and ask for a free copy. *Postcard Collector*, Sales and Promotion Dept., 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990.

The OTHER Side of the Card: Guide to the Markings on the Backs of Postcards is a very nice 32-page booklet produced by *Postcard Collector*, being offered to our members also. It is written by Theodore W. Bozarth. The booklet contains definitions and illustrations of numerous postal markings found on post cards (and other mail, of course), beginning with "advertised" and ending with "T.P.O." It's very well done and is a handy quick reference for many types of foreign and domestic postal markings. It is priced at \$1.00 plus a 39¢ SASE (business size). Allow 6-8 weeks delivery. Order from: *The Other Side of the Card*, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990.

It is a pleasure to see more of our plans coming into existence with this issue of the newsletter. Elsewhere you'll find an article on the new ISWSC Auction and the manager (and Board of Directors) want your input on the auction rules, etc. In another place you'll find the first advertisement for the new Sales Circuit. Be sure to write the managers and become involved in the activities of interest to you.

Speaking of your input, the proposed Bylaw changes are being-listed in this issue for your suggestions. Be sure to contact Aubrey Dunne (# 1) with your suggestions. The final wording will be on the ballot in the October newsletter for your vote.

Seems some of us have been "waxing nostalgic" recently about our youthful days as a stamp collector. Reading these entertaining writings has heightened my worry about the future of stamp collecting. Ariel Poling (# 76) writes that, like

(Continued on Page 10)

Editor's Notebook

me, the local "dime store" was the only stamp dealer she knew. You see, I discovered stamp collecting because I was browsing about the dime store looking for something interesting to spend my first wages on. There are no dime stores any more. All the similar-type stores (TG&Y and Murphy's) have all closed their stores in Monroe and West Monroe just in the last couple of years. Walking through department, variety, toy or discount stores here, I have not found one sign of stamp packets, bags of mixtures or albums. I suspect this is the case all across the country. Since philatelic items don't sell as fast as fad items like Mr. T dolls, Incredible Hulk posters, Rambo guns, etc., stores just aren't carrying them anymore. In the future there won't be many stories like Ariel's and mine.

That means that WE collectors need to get involved in helping promote stamp collecting among the young. Ariel has suggested (see letters section) some great ideas for people to contact ... and I'll add a few more: YMCAs, YWCAs, Boys Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, the youth group leaders at your church, handicapped or retarded organizations. The wonderful people who devote their time to lead the children in such organizations are always looking for ideas and help for programs at their meetings. Volunteer to give a one-time talk on stamp collecting and give away some stamps and hinges to each child. Or offer to hold a weekly or monthly meeting for youths in one of these organizations. And how about your local stamp club... do you have any young members? How about taking the time to talk to them and help them with questions or problems? Donate stamp packets as "door prizes" for each youngster who attends the meeting. Try it.....you'll like it. It is very rewarding; you'll feel so good about yourself.

Ariel, try putting the whole page from your *Circuit* in a pan of water to soak off the stamp. When the stamp has fallen off, remove the sheet of paper and place between several thicknesses of newspaper and weight it down with something heavy. In a few days, the sheet will be dry and nearly good-as-new.

Do you ever get as "peevd" as I do about pouring over a long price list and choosing some nicely priced stamps you need, only to discover that the ordering instructions state: 50¢ (or 75¢ or \$1.00) service or postage charge on orders under \$5.00 (or \$10.00 or \$15.00)? It has gotten to be one of my "pet peeves"!! Since so many dealers are doing this now, I've learned to just read the instructions first and not waste my time going over lists that have these ridiculous charges. Oh, I realize that a dealer has to make a profit and I have no objection to that I wouldn't mind sending my own SASE for orders under \$5. I think this dealer attitude is very short-sighted and I wonder if they realize they are alienating some potential customers. Maybe I can only find stamps that I need on his present list to total \$4.00, but because the dealer has alienated me with his demands, he not only won't get that \$4.00, he won't get the \$25.00 order I found on his next list. Besides, how come approval dealers manage to make a little profit on \$5 - \$10 sales and the "list" dealers can't?

Speaking of dealers, I heard from one dealer that his ad in *The Circuit* didn't generate even one reply. To the collector members, please patronize the dealers who advertise in our newsletter. To the dealer members, please keep in mind that quite

a large number of our members have been collecting for a long time and perhaps, like me, they have dealers they have been dealing with for a long time and cannot presently afford to buy from additional dealers. Should I lose one of my current longtime dealers, I will look to our newsletter advertisers for a replacement. Give the ads in *The Circuit* a chance.

To conserve printing costs, prices of display and classified ads have been omitted. A SASE to the Editor will get you a quick copy of prices. *** Rita Kallal (#26), Editor



ISWSC Sales Circuit

Want to sell your duplicates?

Want to buy someone else's duplicates?

The International Society of
Worldwide Stamp Collectors
(ISWSC) is setting up a
Sales Circuit
so members may buy and sell
amongst themselves.

Blank Books @ 25¢ each

15% commission on stamp sales.

1% Insurance on total value of Book.

For further information contact:

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