

The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

USPS Automation: Barcoding

by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Back in 1983 the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) began experimenting with new automation equipment which would sort mail faster and more accurately than current methods. The result is known as barcoding.

As a letter begins the sorting process, it first goes through a facer/canceller machine that orients it face front and rightside up, then cancels the stamp. If the address is typed, it can go through an optical character reader (OCR) which reads the zip code and imprints a series of lines at the bottom of the envelope. The basic element of this barcode is a series of five long and short lines. The lines correspond to a single digit of the zip code. Five or nine digit zip codes are simply a grouping of these elements.

To read any barcode, disregard the first long bar on the left and the six bars on the right. Separate the remaining bars into groups of five lines each and refer to the chart (Fig. 1 - Page 2) to determine its value.

In one hour a barcoding sorter (BCS) can sort 30,000 letters. The alternate sorting method uses automated letter sorting machines (LSM). An operator views each envelope, locates the zip code, then types it into the LSM which sends it to the proper bin. More than fifteen operators would be needed to equal one BCS. On a cost per 1,000 letters basis, costs are \$3.39 for BCS versus \$15.00 for an LSM. This new technology has saved the USPS nearly a billion dollars in processing costs since its introduction, with more savings ahead.

A major effort is underway allowing mass-mailers to print barcodes on their outgoing mail before it's delivered to the post office. This further reduces handling by the USPS. As an incentive discounts from 2 to 5.7 cents per letter are given to the mailers, depending on the five or nine digit zip code used and the way it is sorted. Seven national companies are selling the barcoding equipment directly to mass mailers. However minimum quantities per mailing could be in the tens of thousands to receive full USPS discounts.

Smaller mailers can take advantage of a partial discount by going through a second party coder. These go-betweens collect smaller amounts of mail from a number of sources to meet the minimum quantity and receive a full discount. Half of the discount is passed along to the mailer and half retained by the coder who franks, barcodes and delivers the mail directly to the post office.

One Kansas company is also dealing with the general public with as few as a couple letters to mail. Postal Presort at 820 West Second in Wichita, Kansas 67203, offers individuals or mass mailers a two cent discount on first class mailings handled through them. They sell stamped labels at their headquarters which are applied to the lower left on the reverse of the envelope to be mailed. No postal franking is applied to the front of the envelope. After being dropped in a specially marked drop box, Postal Presort imprints a meter (at the fully discounted rate) to the front along with a barcode and also cancels their label on the reverse. Letters are sorted, bundled and delivered to the post office. Labels have been produced in both sheet and booklet format along with a newer "prestamped" envelope. They make interesting modern postal history collectables.

The postal service prefers to have mail barcoded and presorted before it reaches them. That's possible for typed items, but handwritten items present a more difficult problem for postal efficiency. A newer idea in processing them is remote video encoding. USPS computers digitize the front of the envelope and the data passes through phone lines to a contractor, whose employees determine the correct nine

(Continued Page 2)

Wow - What an Issue !!

We think that will be your first impression when you look through this combined November-December 1992 and January-February 1993 *Circuit* issue. A bit of explanation is in order.

Sorry for the delay in receiving your September-October issue. It was ready to be printed the end of Sept., but failure to have made an extra back-up copy of the computer file resulted in a disaster. The computer crashed and lost all files on the hard disk and on the one back-up floppy which was in the disk drive. The whole process had to be redone, typing, laying out, etc. By the time that was done, the printing and mailing accomplished, *The Circuit* was quite late.

Rather than rush an abbreviated November-December issue to you, it was decided to make a combined "super issue," scheduled to be in the mail in early January. This will allow us to re-adjust the schedule for future issues. For example, instead of receiving your March-April *Circuit* in mid-to-late April, it will be in the mail in early March. We think you will appreciate a more timely *Circuit*. It shouldn't be difficult to understand all the work that goes into each issue!!

Here is a brief summary of what you will find inside of this issue. The new by-laws are here with a ballot to vote on their adoption and a short questionnaire. Take the time to review them and mail your ballot. Every vote is important. Also included is our Code of Ethics/Trading Standards which every member should uphold.

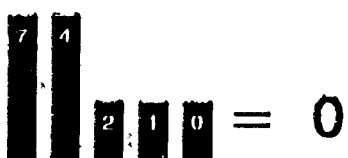
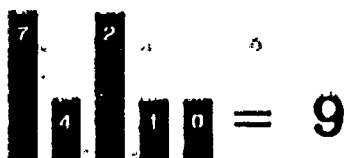
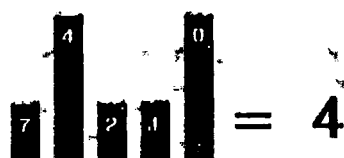
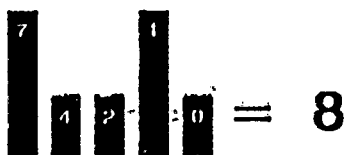
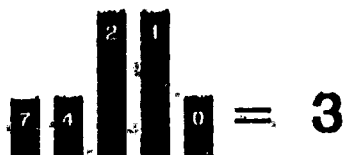
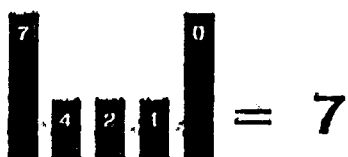
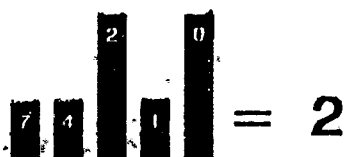
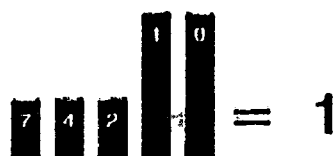
This issue debuts our Kid's Page, a joint co-operative effort between the ISWSC and the Junior Philatelists of America (JPA), the largest philatelic society for children and teenagers in the US. JPA member John Luong of Hawthorne, California, will edit one page each *Circuit* devoted to assisting adult collectors with youth philately from their point of view. We are also happy to

(Continued Page 2)

Figure 1.

BARCODE CHART

1. Ignore the single left-most and six right-most bars
2. Separate the remaining 25 or 45 bars into groups of 5
3. Use this chart to compare like patterns and decode

**Barcoding (Continued)**

digit zip code and send that information back to the sorting post office, which applies the barcode. The entire process can be done at the contractor's leisure - within guidelines - while the letters themselves are stored awaiting the barcode data.

Bar coding is an integral part of the USPS's further automation plans. In the future all mail will be barcoded. In the mean time, test your new skills and decode the barcodes shown in Fig. 2. ...

ISWSC Club Sales Circuit

Although the sales circuit is not presently operational, the ISWSC does own club circuit books with stamp approvals from commissions out of the Omni Exchange. Additional sales books are being created out of the many stamps overseas members are sending in to pay their dues instead of cash. Most are mint topicals in full sets.

If you would like to purchase some of these stamps and reside in the USA, send your name and address to President Dave Nelson (# 25). Specify if you are interested in the regular or topical books. To help defray postage expenses, include \$1.00 with your request and your name will be placed on the list to receive them. Every penny of your purchase will go into the ISWSC treasury. ...

Wow - (Continued)

include a JPA membership application for your consideration in becoming a supporting member. (Mention ISWSC when applying.) The ISWSC has and will continue to make some stamps/supplies shipments to JPA groups from our own members donations.

Would you like to become more active in ISWSC programs and policies? Consider running as a society officer for the 1994-95 term. Details can be found in the Call for Nominations article.

If space allows, we will try to make the new membership lists a pull-out section of future issues, allowing these pages to be added to the back of your current roster.

A sizeable auction/mail sale is in this issue, also. So get your bids in. And, of course, our regular columns, articles, news and special features round out this jumbo issue. Remember, we are always seeking your input to make each Circuit even better than the last. ...

Figure 2.

Decode These Barcodes

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Answers Page 7

Canada Honors a Traitor — 100 Years After His Hanging

by Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

When does a traitor become recognized as a founder of his country? In the case of Louis Riel, more than one hundred years after he was hanged, and twenty years after he appeared on a stamp.

The Canadian House of Commons took the unusual step recently of recognizing Riel's role in bringing the province of Manitoba into Confederation in 1870. The cabinet minister who introduced the motion said it was of "tremendous symbolic significance for Canada's Metis people." (The Metis are descendants of Indian women who married whites.) The motion also recognized Riel's "unique and historic role" as a founder of the province of Manitoba.

The Metis and Indians began to protest as increasing numbers of pioneer settlers moved into the western provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. They wanted compensation for the land, which they said was theirs.

Riel was a leader of the natives and established his own "government" in Manitoba in 1869. The federal government sent troops and the rebellion was quickly crushed.

Riel was elected to Parliament three times in the years that followed the rebellion but never took his seat. He tried a second rebellion in Saskatchewan in 1885, failed and was arrested. Reviled as a madman and traitor, he was tried, convicted and hanged later that year, despite the jury's recommendation for mercy.

A stamp honoring Riel was issued in June, 1970 (Scott Canada # 515), marking the 100th anniversary of Manitoba's joining Confederation. •••



Canada's First Diamond Stamps Mark Country's 125th Birthday

By Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

It was a special 125th birthday for Canada in 1992 and the milestone didn't pass without special attention - including a multiple stamp issue.

The celebration came at a time of intense debate over the future form of Confederation, including the possibility that the majority francophone province of Quebec will opt for separation, perhaps with some loose association with the rest of the country.

Still others see the United States. Society predicts Confederation before that the other by 2010. A public than one in three country will join the years.

The birthday issue of March 25th consisted of twelve stamps, each depicting a scene from one of the ten provinces and two territories. They were in diamond format, a first for Canada. Canada Day stamps have been issued for more than a decade, but there were country's birth in

The Dominion of July 1 of 1867. The with a three-cent (Scott Canada # 135) Confederation" at more ambitious issue not been that the involved in the First

A five-cent set was issued in June, 1927 for the 60th birthday and it again includes one (Scott # 142) showing the fathers of Confederation - only there are more of them! Someone had noticed that the 1917 stamp had too few "fathers." It appears the photo had been cropped a bit too much in the 1917 issue! •••



Canada eventually joining The U.S. World Future Quebec will leave the end of this decade and provinces will join the U.S. opinion poll found more Canadians believing their U.S. within the next fifty



Canada came into being 50th birthday was marked stamp in September, 1917 picturing the "fathers of their talks. No doubt a would have resulted had it country was heavily World War.

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Canada's 1993 Stamps Will Cover Wide Range of Topics

Canada Post's 1993 stamp program will cover everything from prominent women and art to motor vehicles and dinosaurs.

The prominent women set of four will coincide with centennials of two national women's organizations and the 50th anniversary of the first federally appointed Canadian woman judge.

A five-stamp booklet will show handcrafted textiles and twelve Canada Day stamps will show provincial and territorial parks. Six stamps will begin a four year series of historic Canadian motor vehicles and a single issue will mark the centennial of the Stanley Cup, awarded the winner of the National Hockey League.

There will also be a sixth stamp in the Masterpieces of Canadian Art series; one on the bi-centennial of Toronto; a third set in the rivers series; a set of folk songs completing the folklore series; continuation of the Second World War series; and the usual Christmas issue.

A third in the Prehistoric Life in Canada series depicts dinosaurs and will be issued to mark Stamp Month 1993. Details on issue dates, denominations and so on are to be announced later.

••• Irving C. Whynot (# 490), Canadian Secretary

TORNESE: A currency unit in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (q.v.). Two hundred tornesi equalled one ducat.

President's Column

by Dave Nelson (# 25)

A couple of columns ago I promised you some tidbits from the *Pitcairn Island Cookbook* by Irma Christian. Since a fair percentage of our members are new since then, I will simply add that I read about this mail order item in the local newspaper some time ago and couldn't resist. I have always been fascinated by the story of this fantasy island founded over 200 years ago by "Mr. Christian" and the rest of the mutineers from *The Bounty*. I sent off my check at Christmas 1988 and the cookbook finally arrived this summer. In case you want to gamble on the same service, send \$12 to Mrs. Ben Christian, Box 2, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean. You should get some nice postally used commemoratives in the bargain, and if you're as lucky as I was, a copy of "*The Pitcairn Miscellany*".

My copy is Volume 33, Number 11, November, 1991. The editors, Tony and Chris Washington, talk about the coming Christmas season and how the holiday spirit seems to vary from year to year depending upon ship arrivals. 1991 saw a supply ship in October which made that a good holiday with imitation Christmas trees in many houses (think about that...how could they get fresh pine in such a remote tropical place?). The November shipping report lists 11 ships, 6 of which just passed by, 4 are said to have "stopped" but if you have seen pictures of Adamstown harbor you know that means they anchored some ways off shore. One of the ships "dropped mail". None of them dropped or took on cargo.

The November weather is summarized by *Misty Fairweather* (honest). It rained on nine days, totalling 38.1 mm with ave. humidity of 78%, a high temp of 23.0 C and a low of 18.6. There were 203.6 hours of sunshine (I guess with no cable tv or concert halls there people have time to put a stop watch on old sol). The monthly fishing catch consisted of 649 rock, 741 boat, 1 cuta, 1 tuna and 3 sharks.

The hard news for this issue was the public referendum over building an airstrip. A developer proposed building one that would handle 8 passenger aircraft and bring more tourists, supplies, etc. to the island and give them medical evacuation capacity and many other benefits of bringing civilization a little closer. On the down-side were two little problems. It would cost money and there was only one flat place on the island where an airstrip could be built...smack in the middle of their gardens. Voting was mandatory and the outcome was a tie. Yes, all this drama and we end up tabling the motion due to lack of a majority.

Oh, the recipes? O.K. just one. **Humpus Bumpus** is made with 1 cup mashed ripe bananas (they grow year around on Pitcairn), 1 egg, 1 tbs. arrowroot flour and spices as desired. Mix this mess up and drop spoonfuls of it into hot oil in a pan. Brown on both sides. Fresh strawberries go especially good on Humpus Bumpus.

I finally managed to finish an audit of our Sales Circuit and all books have been returned to their owners. The circuit was running in the red so paying off the book owners has depleted our treasury for awhile. The main reason for this insolvency was simply a structure that was inappropriate to a world-widers group I think. Judging from my poll at **STaMpsHOW '92** and via other contacts with members, there just are not many worlders that fill their blanks one at a time for "cash American". I almost never do myself unless I am within a few stamps of completing a country when I might actually dig up some of the green. The rest of the time I buy box lots, country collections and old accumulations and then trade away the good duplicates and give the common to kids. Having

good material at attractive non-dealer prices was most certainly not the problem; we had \$20,000 worth of clean, sound, uncommon stamps for 30 - 40% of Scott which is a pretty good deal under the current "retail" price structure, but we simply had too few buyers. The Circuit was sending out books with ISWSC paying the postage when the average cost of mailing was well above the average club comission so we lost money on every transaction. We have not yet decided at the Board level to discontinue the circuit and we do have a couple of qualified volunteers to take it over, but unless there is a strong showing of support from potential buyers we will not be able to do so. If you want to pay cash for nicely priced stamps and you are able to buy an average of \$25 or \$30 per exchange then please let us know via the survey in the current By-laws ballot. If we get enough interested parties we will feel a lot better about the effort and the risk to the club of a restart. Even the big APS itself doesn't seem to have much luck with worldwide sales booklets. One example of our good sellers is **Jack Sackett** to whom I just returned over 100 books of nice, reasonably priced material. Jack is out a lot of time in mounting his stamps (although we did sell quite a bit for him). He is now willing to send these direct to you if you want to write to him and request something on an approval basis. I've seen his books and recommend them if you buy stamps this way. His address: 301 Static Road, No. Middletown, KY. 40357.

Jerry Gross, one of our **Omni Exchange** managers reports that one of his most active exchangers is **Chas. Holman** (#369), age 91. He is a very active trader who makes up great books and does personal trading on the side. A tip of the hat to "Chas". I am pretty sure despite his respectable age that he is not our most senior ISWSC member. How about you, or someone you know? Let's do a search for the first born ISWSC member. If you have Chas beat please send me a card. Since he was probably born in 1901, this amounts to a search for any remaining Victorians

(Continued Page 6)



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SOAKERS, I PAY 20% TO 30% For used stamps, per my Scott numbered list. Example's below. French Andorra (Pay 30%) #291 to date; Austria (pay 20%) 1366-92, 1397-99, 1410-11, 1420 to date, B339 to date. Some countries I need only a few of, others like Morocco (pay 30%) & I need 90% of the country. Send me a list of countries, that you have to sell, I will send you a numbered list of that country and what % I will pay. (ISWSC #644) Dennis Parker, 5008 Buffalo S., Ft. Worth, TX 76119-7809 (1/1)

WORLDWIDE CLIPPING MIX- tures contain commemoratives, large pictorials, medium and higher values galore from amny desirable countries including Bahamas, Barbados, Papua, Britich Africa, other BWI, Europe, Asia, etc. Have been offering these popular mixtures to worldwide collectors for 8 years. Many regular customers. Special offer now one pound single paper for \$40.00 postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed or refund. James Paton, Box 766, Berkeley, CA 94701 (1/4)

DEADLINE

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**FEBRUARY 15th,
1993**

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President (Continued)

among our group. Were you born in the 19th Century? Please let me hear from you if you were. If you were personal friends with Victoria so much the better, but I hope for too much...

Some of you may have seen my exchange in *The American Philatelist* having to do with when mail came out of Honolulu after Pearl Harbor Day. I found a Christmas card in an auction trunk that was postmarked on the 15th of Dec. 1941, 8 days after the attack. I asked readers when regular mail resumed. One APS reader sent me a xerox of a cover that was postmarked on the 10th, considerably eclipsing any claim on a record I aspired to. Do any of you have any mail from Hawaii within a few days either side of the attack?

Oh yes, how was my trip to Russia? Well, space would not permit a full exposition, but a few highlights: No. 1 surprise? The beautiful women! I am convinced that American camera people slog thru the snow for 4 hours to find one dumpy old lady in a moth-eaten babushka and wool coat and then say "Ah ha, here is a 'typical' Russian woman, film her". Meanwhile they have ignored a thousand young, well dressed women who make Shannon Dogherty look like the Pillsbury dough boy. If you don't know who Shannon is you don't need to know about pretty Russian girls either. I was impressed!!! No. 2 impression was the hyperinflation they are experiencing right now. Two economies; one night at the (German run) Kempinski is \$400 and no need to offer Rubles, thank you very much; dinner is \$150. At the same time, I was able to buy genuine Red Army watches for \$10.00, hire a nice taxi for a full afternoon of sightseeing for \$4.50 or get my hair cut for 11 cents. An original *Fedoshkino* enamel box set me back \$100 but if I thought I had overspent I was clarified when I saw lesser boxes in the hotel lobby in Frankfurt for DM 599 (\$400). If you are going, pay NO attention to all that advice to take along gum, cigarettes or *Levis*. I brought 3 cartons of Petaluma-bought cigs at \$19 the carton and it is true the people liked getting these as tips. But a carton of Marlboro's in the hotel lobby was the Ruble equivalent of \$6. Made me feel like a less than successful importer. My advice: take along one American product they all love....dollar bills. Do NOT make the mistake of taking huge denominations like \$20 bills as that is 2 or 3 months pay for the average Russian and not a very useful monetary unit.

I didn't get to meet Yelsin; he was supposed to be on the same agenda as I was, but instead he was in London whooping it up with John Major and I got to listen to some deputy read his speech. Boy did we learn how boring "Plenary Sessions" are!! Of course I did do a little Philately. I was only able to find some very boring 28 and 52 Ruble definitives in the P.O. until my eye caught a stash of commems of the 15 kopeck size; clerk couldn't sell those since it would take 500 of them to mail one postcard to U.S.A. I did send off a few cards to some of you back home. I also bought a couple of small collections being peddled in the streets but nothing large because they can't take travellers checks. ***

Thank-you !!!!

My add of last issue (Pg. 13 & 14) and I had a LOT OF FUN!!! I posted wonderful lots to some people.

If you missed it ANOTHER FLYER is about ready and will be posted to you FREE. If you send me your NAME & ADDRESS. This flyer has collections, UNPICKED ESTATES, HIGH catalogue material, Old Scott Catalogues, and just lots of old time material, (The kind we all like) priced very VERY low. To receive your copy of my lastest flyer write or call (Leave Name and Number and Message if I am gone *I WILL* call back).

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MEMBER
ISWSC(170);APS;RPS

Public Relations Officer's Report

As expected, a few minor problems have developed from the recent growth in ISWSC membership.

Word about the ISWSC has literally reached the four corners of the world. Some of our newer members from the former Eastern Bloc have offered their stamps in exchange for US dollars (banknotes) which are highly sought after on the foreign exchange black market. Some members receiving such requests were quite offended by them. We are primarily a stamp exchange/information organization for the benefit of collectors. Other offers, including those for large quantity exchanges, should be placed through ads in *The Circuit*, which also gain the broadest exposure to the membership.

There have been several reports of unsolicited stamps being mailed by members to other ISWSCers in hopes of starting an exchange. Before any philatelic items are sent, both parties should agree on terms. Other guidelines are in the Trading Standards printed in this issue. All ISWSC members should abide by these common-courtesy rules. Problems between members can be brought to my attention for arbitration. By the way, always use your membership number in correspondences.

The bulk of this issue deals with a new set of By-Laws. A lot of time and effort went into these. Much of the "legal-ese" has a purpose; to conform with state and federal regulations. Our goal is to incorporate and file for 501(c)3 status, ensuring the maximum tax benefits for the Society and its members. Adopting these By-Laws is the first step in this process.

Mail in your vote on the By-Laws. Also take a few minutes to answer the optional questions. Your responses will guide the future of ISWSC. ••• Tom Fortunato (# 379), Public Relations Officer

Answers to Barcode Quiz

1. Cleveland, OH 44197-8032
2. New York, NY 10160-0291
3. Niles, IL 60648-9847
4. Harlan, IA 51593-2344
5. Red Oak, IA 51591-2188
6. West Monroe, LA 71291

Vice Pres. Report

ISWSC received some publicity in the Junior Philatelic Society (JPA) newsletter and as a result a number of requests for donations of stamps and supplies were received. Parcels were sent out to groups in Tennessee, Maine, Pennsylvania, Indiana and New York. One request for stamps to support a program in Oregon was received via Prodigy public bulletin board. Some nice, innovative and touching thank you notes were received in return. With renewals in full swing, a good supply of stamps is still on hand.

Happy collecting! ••• Ken Costilow (# 142), Vice President

Missing Circuits

Missing the latest issue of *The Circuit*? Contact the ISWSC Secretary/Treasurer Carol Cervenka (#498), Rt. 1 Box 69-A, Caddo Mills, TX 75135

If you're missing older issues of *The Circuit* from May-June 1989 (Vol 6, # 3) to date, write to Public Relations Officer Tom Fortunato (# 379), 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022.

Members who have older issues are encouraged to forward copies or unwanted originals to Tom. He's a trying to compile a complete series of *The Circuit* from Vol 1 #1 to make sure ISWSC has a complete set. •••

Youth Program Valued By New Member

I believe very strongly in the ISWSC youth program. When I was eleven, I saw an ad in the local paper for some 1958 stamp catalogs. I went over to buy them, I think for \$5.00, and the young man who was selling them, sold me his duplicates for another \$5.00. He had sold his collection to help finance his college, and pretty much unloaded what he had left on me. There must have been 5000 stamps and I bet it was three years before I worked through them all. I know that I was influenced by the leftovers he had, and as the years have gone by I have come to appreciate his kindness. The interest that I retain in worldwide collecting, stems from the variety of issues and countries that I obtained.

••• Phillip Fleming (# 860)

Call For Nominations

In accordance with the current By-Laws, the ISWSC hereby calls for Nominations for Society Officers for the 1994-95 term. Any member in good standing may express an interest in filling the following positions:

President: *Coordinate all activities and officers/managers of the Society. Call and preside over all Board of Directors meetings as necessary. Represent the Society at philatelic functions whenever possible. Uphold the By-Laws.*

Vice President: *Fulfill the duties of the President should he/she be unable to continue in that office. Receive and equitably distribute donated stamps and supplies to worthy philatelic groups. Keep complete and accurate donation records and obtain approximate valuations of such donations.*

Secretary/Treasurer: *Handle all financial dealings of the Society, including dues collection, expenses, oversee accounting records of all services, updating tax records, etc. Answer all inquiries from prospective members, assign new membership numbers, prepare and mail new member info packets, maintain accurate membership roster. This position requires a considerable amount of time. Computer/software ownership is highly recommended.*

Public Relations Officer: *Prepare and mail press releases and other documents to promote the Society and its actions. Mediate problems among fellow members. Assist the Secretary/Treasurer with assorted duties. Act as liaison for the overseas secretaries.*

These are brief summaries of each position. Nominees are encouraged to contact the current officer holders for further details. Potential candidates are requested to send a SASE (when possible) to Tom Fortunato (P.R.O.) for a nomination form. Completed forms must reach the P.R.O. Before June 30, 1993. Candidates profiles and a ballot will appear in the September-October 1993 issue of *The Circuit*. ••• Tom Fortunato (# 379), PRO

KID'S PAGE

Editor's Corner

By John Luong (#808)

Greetings, fellow ISWSC members! As you can see this is our debut of *The Circuit's Kid's Page*. Future issues of this page will contain articles and many activities that adult ISWSC members will use to interest youngsters in the wonderful hobby of stamp collecting.

I apologize for the poor appearance of this page. There was a bit of confusion on the intent of this page and I had been waiting for a response for quite awhile. I then received a letter instructing me that the deadline of this page was two weeks from when I received the letter and nothing had been done to create the page. I had to rush everything to meet the deadline. The next issue will be ten times better than this.

Help! Help! I am in desperate need of it. I currently have only three writers for this page. Like myself, they are all junior collectors. I need several adult members to regularly contribute articles, puzzles, and other activities to the Kid's Page. If you are interested, please write to me at: 4877 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250. A self-addressed envelope will be greatly appreciated.

In this issue you will find some information about the Junior Philatelists of America. This is a very fine organization and I urge everybody to join. If you know any junior collector, please tell them about the JPA.

I'd like to thank Karen Veigt, Carol Cervenka, Tom Fortunato, and my advisor, Arlene Furell for their help to make this possible. ☐

FREE HELP FOR BEGINNERS

Packets of worldwide stamps will be given to any beginner who sends a long self-addressed stamped envelope. Members of groups must each send a separate request. Must use a commemorative stamp on requests and include a note. Please, no correspondence from anybody wishing to trade, sell, or buy. Send requests to: Mr. Norman Holden, P.O. Box 1314, Sumas, WA 98295.

The Junior Philatelists of America

The Junior Philatelists of America is a non-profit organization made up of over 700 junior members and 100 adult-supporting members. Founded in 1963 by four junior philatelists, the JPA is committed to the promotion of stamp collecting to young collectors. As a member, you will receive many benefits offered by the JPA.

The Awards Committee provides awards to stamps shows to encourage young exhibitors.

As an APS affiliate, JPA members can use the facilities of the American Philatelic Research Library through the JPA's Library Service.

Would you like to correspond with a foreign penpal? The JPA can match you with young collectors around the world

through our Penpals Service.

JPA Study Groups are formed to give members with similar collecting interests a chance to share their knowledge with each other and with the entire membership through our bi-monthly society journal, *Philatelic Observer*. Currently, there are five study groups: Asia, Europe, First Day Covers, Topical, and United States.

If you collect worldwide or US stamps and would like to exchange your duplicates, you'll want to enter in the JPA Exchange Service.

The Stamp Identification Service will help you identify that stamp you been puzzled with. The Stamp Identification Service Director will tell you the country, catalog number, color, etc. about your stamp.

In the Auction Department, you can bid on lots and add them to your collection. Or, you can sell your unwanted stamps and make a profit from them.

Every two months, you will receive society news, stamp announcements, study group reports, articles, special offers and much more in our award-winning journal, the *Philatelic Observer*. You can buy, trade, or sell stamps through the classified ads. Writers for the *Philatelic Observer* are mostly junior members. You can help contribute to the journal by becoming a writer.

Now that you read about what JPA has to offer, won't you please come join us in these exciting adventures?? To become a member of the JPA, all you have to do is write to the JPA Central Office and request for an application. The address is: JPA Central Office, Box 557, Boalsburg, PA 16827. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.



GAYLAND BIRD
P.O. BOX 8073
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28814
(704) 645-6949
APS# 153336, ISWSC# 537

**WORLDWIDE COUNTRY COLLECTIONS ON ALBUM PAGES,
 MISCELLANEOUS PHILATELIC ITEMS, ODD LOTS, ACCUMULATIONS**

All lots are one of a kind and are guaranteed to your satisfaction. You are encouraged to phone in your order and charge to either your Visa, Master Card or American Express card. Symbols: 25/35 = 25 stamps, catalog value \$35.00: Range 1/225 = includes catalog no.1 thru 225 inclusive. Range 1//225 = includes catalog no.1 to 225 but not inclusive. Please add \$2.50 for postage and/or insurance on all orders.

LOT

- 263-FOREIGN 53 Covers and postcards: Canada, Jamaica, South Africa, Philippines, Panama, India, more. 1940's into 1960's. poor to VF \$12.50
- 264-FOREIGN 55 First day cachet covers unaddressed: Egypt, Papua new Guinea, Canada, Indonesia, Jersey, Hong Kong, Japan, etc. VF.....\$38.75
- 406-CANADA 74/114 Used collection in glassines. 15//679, C5 dups to 4 each. Best is 203 2ea. (10.50)..F-VF.....\$25.00
- 505-URUGUAY 1,080/381 All mint lot. 29//393, E1, J1-12, Q90,. Many multiples including 142-7 in full sheets. 138a 12 ea., 139a 24 ea., 140a 24 ea.(multiples, invert overprint) F-XF..in stock pages..Very nice.....\$80.00
- 507-WORLDWIDE Music topical collection. includes large stockbook W/stamps, Souvenir Sheets, singles, sets, sheetlets. extra stamps in glassines. many dozen covers. first day and others. postcards. maxima cards. includes better like: Romania B330-1 SS (cat \$28.00)..almost everything is MNH...even includes some soft cover check list books. plus a Mother of Pearl cameo of Beethoven.....\$235.00
- 508-WORLDWIDE Europa (1977) cachet covers by Fleetwood. unaddressed 20 diff. XF.....\$8.50
- 513-RYUKYUS 28/113.05 MH coll. 19//96, C4-13 (includes 19-26) VF.....\$42.75
- 517-BRITISH COLONIES 229/224 mint hinged singles, sets. some short sets. includes better like: Cayman Is. 6 & 7 (52), Pitcairn Is. 39-50 (14), Malta 275-80 (7)..Vf-XF.....\$69.50
- 522-MOZAMBIQUE & M. CO. 20/23.75 mint cat.15.25, used cat.8.50.VF-EF...\$8.75
- 535-RYUKYUS 10/10 MNH #54 in sheet of 10..VF.....\$5.60
- 543-SWEDEN 64/177 all used coll. 19//700, J13, 05//55...hi-lites: 20, 24, 31, 34a, 05, 021.V-VF,VF.....\$45.50
- 556-ANTIGUA W/ BARBUDA & REDONDA overprints. MNH SS's, sheetlets, and stamps. valued for use in Antigua..cat. \$63.55...VF+.....\$22.50
- 564-FOREIGN 643/985 (cat.1990) Ten retired NMPA bks. Includes better: Transvall, Trucial States, Belgium, Greece, Russia, G.B. Canada. others .F-VF.....\$130.00
- 572 BUSHIRE 3/1275 unused: N15 NG F-VF., N22 G., N23 VF., all W/ PNB (pencil)..sold as possible forgeries.....\$15.50
- 574-UNITED NATIONS 38 mint NH inscription blocks of 6.. (1 block of 4) years 1952//1958 includes no. 29 in block of 6. total cat. \$204.00.VF+.\$49.75
- 585-GERMANY (proper) 849/300 (cat.1992) mostly used coll. in stock pages. all w/Scott nos. & values. 38//1527 plus over 170 BOB. including used: 9N13, 9N67, and 9N98.....\$85.00
- 587-ROMANIA 1,469/438 nice well rounded coll. mtd. on blank pages w/Scott nos. & values. fewer CTO's, then normal. lots of good BOB. even includes a page of non-Scott items.....\$125.00

.....CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.....

...CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE. **GAYLAND BIRD**

LOT

- 590-BRITISH COLONIES 47.1st. day covers. some W/cachet's. some unaddressed:
 Royal tour, QE2 Coronation, University issues etc. mainly BWI..VF.\$20.00
- 610-FRANCE 97/194 coll. of used. 15//1,787, B205, C5//C46 contains no. 28
 W/perfs cut off at top. O/W F-VF,VF.....\$35.00
- 617-GAYANA 124/75.70 (cat.1992) 1//203 all MNH sets except no.1-6 (LH)\$28.75
- 623-GREAT BRITAIN 45/202.5 (CAT.1992) 45 EA. no. 311 W/lite to medium
 cancels. offered @ 6% of cat.VF..\$12.25
- 627-UNITED STATES souvenir cards 32/443 (Brookman 1990 cat.) years 1981-9
 (cpl. list available). all pristine mint condition.....\$199.00
- 630-CANADA 597/191 (cat.1992) all used coll. in stock pages. identified
 W/nos. & values. 35//936, C1//C9, E7//E11, plus officials. F-VF+\$49.00
- 642-FRANCE & few colonies. 103/175 coll. of used W/dups. to 9 ea. in one
 case. France contains: 77 VF, 26//838, C6//C13, J20 (30) VF, plus 6
 ea. colonies...G-VF.....\$35.50
- 644-SWITZERLAND 42/69.44 small used coll. 45//684 plus BOB..VF.....\$15.50
- 653-BRITISH COLONIES 546/? All used collection in stock pages: Antigua,
 Barbados, Cayman, Dominica, Grenada, Papau & New Guinea, others. 19th
 century to about 1976. Cat. to \$1.25 ea..... F-VF..\$36.50
- 654-IRAN 55/184 coll. of MH to MNH W/minor dups. 50//361, C54/C60..VF.\$45.00
- 656-BRITISH COLONIES 381/1,015 (cat.1992) 27 diff. LH & MNH comp. sets.
 pre 1967. hi lites: Bermuda 143-62, Solomon Is. 89-105, Cayman Is. 135-
 49, Gilbert & Ellice Is. 61-72, Nyasaland 97-111, St. Helena 140-52,
 Southern Rhodesia 81-94, Tristan Da Cuncha 14-27.. (could find only 2
 faults (creases) on one set. (K-U-T 120-35) on the 5 & 10
 shillings..O/W VF.....\$325.00
- 660-BARBADOS 76/96.40 coll. of MNH & MLH singles & sets. 65//674 sets like:
 193-201A NH., 216-27 LH., 235-47 NH..VF.....\$33.75
- 664-ANTIGUA-167/155 (cat.1992) coll. of almost all MNH sets. 77/880 also
 includes 77-9 blocks., 528-31 hoz. gutter pairs. & couple of
 SS's..VF.....\$55.00
- 665-ASCENSION 33/111 (cat.1992) coll. of MLH & MNH 41//339 includes 41 LH.,
 61 NH., 62-74 Hinged..balance NH sets..VF.....38.50
- 666-BAHAMAS 174/299 coll. of MNH & MLH 55/539 includes long sets like: 85-9
 LH., 100-13 NH w/no. 105 LH., 158-73 NH., 204-18 NH., 230-44 NH., 252-6
 LH..plus few blks. & plate blks..VF.....\$105.00
- 668-GREAT BRITAIN 166/50 Victory & Prace issues 1945-6..MH cpl. set.VF\$22.00
- 669-GREAT BRITAIN 106/97.70 Coronation of QE2 issues.cpl. set..MH....\$39.75
- 671-GREAT BRITAIN 328/390.50 U.P.U. 1949 issues..cpl. set..90% MNH,balance
 MLH..VF.....\$165.50
- 673-GREAT BRITAIN 62/32.58 Coronation QEII, CD set..MNH..VF.....\$14.75
- 676-UNITED STATES \$10.75 EXPRESS no. 2122 one \$4.00, three \$10.75.....F-VF
- 677-UNITED STATES \$9.35 EXPRESS no.1909 9ea. ea.all w/ pen pancel.s.VF.\$30.00
- 681-CANADA 80/230 (cat 1992) MLH & MNH coll. 51//530, C1//C9a, plus few
 other BOB..minor dups..F-VF.....\$80.00
- 683-IRELAND 137/276 used coll.in glassines. 16b//665,C1//C7,J2. some sets.
 most all are VF.....\$79.50
- 685-RYUKYUS 32/127 coll. MNH 8//56, C4//13,.includes 19/26, 31/3, 36/8,
 C4/8,C9/13..VF.....\$57.50
- 691-MALAYA FED. & STATES 58/94 * & used singles & sets. includes Malaya
 Fed. no.74 & 78 used..V-VF-VF.....\$42.50
- 693-BERMUDA 57/115 coll. MLH & MNH singles & sets. 105//174 better: 105/14
 LH, 143/62 LH,.includes 1 block & 2 inscrip. blocks..VF.....\$50.50
- 694-BRITISH GUIANA 39/64.35 coll. MLH & MNH 223//298 includes 244/5 LH,
 253/67 LH, & 280/7 MNH..VF.....\$25.50
- 696-BRITISH SOLOMAN IS. 31/132.85 coll. of MLH & MNH 89/105 LH, 174/5
 MNH,176/9 MNH & J1/8 MLH..VF.....\$57.50

MENTION THE ISWSC CIRCUIT AND RECEIVE A PHILATELIC GIFT.

What a Pleasure to Collect!

It is a pleasure to be "worldwideing" again. I have learned some things about stamp collecting I'd like to share.

First the untruth that to have a really good or valuable collection one *must* specialize. That is just not true but how many times we hear "to have anything complete you have to focus on a small area (specialize)"? My philatelic travel took me to an indepth specialization of Portugal. Portugal is a lovely area to collect, with few forgeries, watermarks, perforation varieties, and rather modest cost to acquire as well. However, after several years of intense work, I found that I had a good collection but not a great collection and all the great items, covers and the like were just not available. I was frustrated and found myself not enjoying collecting as many times I went to a stamp show and left with nothing. So I sold my "specialized" collection with little regret but some what smarter in that area of collecting.

I then sat down and carefully looked at the dollar end of stamp collecting. Some years prior I had acquired and later sold my worldwide collection but I knew (roughly) what I paid for both collections and what they sold for. A little math told me that I received about forty percent of what I paid for *both* types of collections. This, of course, included special pieces such as proofs, covers, etc., as well as the regular collection. Specialized collections or general worldwide collections made *no* difference at the selling block. I might add that what I received was a fair price to someone who must sell at a profit to stay in business.

I have started another worldwide collection a lot wiser in my approach and am having a good time seeing stamps, which are to me know old philatelic friends the second (or is it the third?) time around. I do *not* grieve over past collections as we all are only caretakers of philatelic material anyway. Yes, I lost money but who has not? I have also made money in stamps through the years.

So don't let them bad mouth your general collection. It is just as interesting and as valuable as a comparable specialized collection and believe me, a whole lot more fun. At least I now can find something for my collection at a stamp show or bourse. ••• Davis Creson (# 170)

Steven Rod Book Available at Discount to ISWSC Members

Now Available!! While supplies last, the ISWSC is offering copies of Steven Rod's *An Introduction to Stamp Collecting*, a \$2.95 value, for \$2.00 postpaid to the US, Canada and Mexico. (\$4.00 postpaid elsewhere).

This informative 186 page soft covered book written in 1989 contains a wealth of philatelic information covering all aspects of stamp and cover collecting, fakes and forgeries, errors and more. Even seasoned collectors will find this reference book useful. This would make a great gift for beginning collectors, child or adult. Order one as a gift for a friend. Send checks, money orders, etc., (made payable to ISWSC in US funds) to Secretary - Treasurer Carol Cervenka (# 398)

How Do I Get Mixed Up In These Things?

"Philatelic Piano Concert" at 1:00 PM Sunday! That's what the Capital District Stamp Show advertising poster said. I thought "Great! It must be music about stamps and stamp collecting!" Then I started to think and tried to remember songs about stamps, mail, post office, postman, etc. The list was very small and the most obvious are listed below.

I'm Going to Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter
Return to Sender
Love Letters in the Sand
P.S. I Love You

Anyhow, the challenge to all you trivia buffs in the reading audience is to send me song titles or lyrics within a song that have to do with our mutual hobby. The reason is that the pianist on that Sunday played a wonderful two hours of Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, etc. with a wide selection of music from the turn of the century to the 1980s.

He was not prepared and not challenged to play music about postal matters. But, I spoke with him, and if he returns next year, he will be willing to play requests. Better yet, if I give him a list well in advance, he will get the music!

This is a contest! I will personally acknowledge all responses that I receive. Further, a list will be published in *The Circuit* newsletter and I will also give a gift to the person that sends the most information (maybe even the top two or three - you can guess what the gift will be!). Let's put a deadline of Valentine's Day (February 14, 1993) for me to hear from you, either by mail or telephone. We'll try to publish in the next newsletter.

••• Joe Palko (# 421)

Beginner's (Continued from Pg 12)

sure helps you be able to identify stamps that look alike and yet are different. Sometimes you get lucky and find a sleeper. It's happened to me lots of times. I haven't been fortunate enough to find anything extremely rare but one never knows. That's the fun of the hobby.

So until the next time, collect stamps for fun and enjoyment.

••• Mildred Feinberg, wife of Albert H. (# 361)

Mail Sale # 7 Report

Mail Sale # 7 is now history. 136 of 178 lots sold, for 76%. Total of sale prices was \$1,041.20. There were 49 bidders from the USA, Canada, Scotland and Korea. The average lot sold for \$7.66. Showing surprising strength was the former Soviet Union, and some of its former area such as the Baltics. Doing less well were the USA, Canada and Malaya. One encouraging point was a growing tendency among bidders to bid high on especially desirable lots, despite some with low minimum bids. It bodes well for the hobby when the minimum bid is 10% of catalog, and someone bids 50% and loses it to someone who bids 60-70% of catalog. 32 of 49 bidders won lots.

••• Dr. Wallace Johnson (# 212), Outgoing Auction Manager

APPROVALS

**WORLDWIDE
MINT
COMPLETE SETS (No US)**

Beginners, Intermediates,
Advanced Welcome

FOR VALUE AND SERVICE
PLEASE TRY ME!

**Alan Stamp Company
Dept. CIR
P. O. Box 16965
Encino, CA 91416-6965**

(4/6)

Raech's Ruminations

For those of you who may remember, I said, when I joined the ISWSC, that I would try to write a column for *The Circuit* every issue. Well, a year has passed and I haven't submitted anything. Unfortunately, I developed a severe eye problem early in 1992 which has kept me from writing a column and forced me to cut way back on trading and other stamp activities. While the situation has improved slightly, it is still a problem. With my wife and daughter's help, I manage to continue stamping. So much for that!

I mentioned trading. Many of you indicate that you are willing to trade. It would be interesting to find out how many of you actually do trade, and with how many trading partners. I, for example, am presently trading with six others and continue to operate a Round Robin trading circuit with five other participants. Frankly, I never traded before joining ISWSC. I was involved with a couple of "formal" exchange circuits, but not on an individual basis. I can honestly say that I've really enjoyed it. Not only do I find stamps I need, but my trading partners manage to find a few for their collections as well. I've also managed to develop a particular kind of friendship which I hope will last a long time. I like to think that they will.

Some questions concerning trading: Why do I seldom, if ever, see any stamps from South & Central America? Or Algeria, Egypt, or Japan? Doesn't anyone collect them? I'm talking about recent stuff, say 1970 to the present. I'm partial to the Philippines, and seldom see any of these. It seems most of us collect Brit. Colonies and Western Europe. Is that where the money is? Maybe we need to broaden our horizons a bit. It wouldn't hurt, would it? Think about it. ••• RH (# 363)

Beginner's Column

Today I would like to talk about the importance of having a *Scott Catalog*. To start out, I would like to tell you about an incident that happened when I purchased my last catalogs. I was at my favorite stamp shop and told the clerk I wanted to buy the latest set of *Scott Catalogs*. Another customer standing close to me was in the process of buying some earlier U.S. classic stamps. He looked at me and said that I was wasting my money buying catalogs, that I would be much better off if I spent my money buying stamps instead. I didn't say anything to him but in my mind I was thinking, since it is evident he doesn't own a catalog, how was he going to check his purchase, to be sure he got the catalog numbers of the stamps he was buying. There are so many varieties of the same stamp and such a difference in price for these varieties. There is no way he can check his purchase. He has to take the dealers word that the stamps he is buying are properly cataloged.

My own experiences tell me that dealers make lots of mistakes, perhaps not intentionally, but they do make lots of mistakes. Usually on stamps of Great Britain and British Colonies where the watermark or plate number makes quite a difference in value. I found that when I order stamps from a price list, usually through the mail, almost one in five is mis-cataloged. Either the watermark, perforation count, or types are incorrect. By coincidence they are cataloged as the higher priced stamp. I'm not saying that the dealer is trying to cheat me but probably took someone else's word that the stamps he is selling were properly cataloged when he purchased them. I would imagine the dealers don't catalog lower priced stamps too carefully because of the time it takes to do it. Well, let's put it this way. You order a stamp for \$10.00 and when you get it, you check it out and find that it catalogs for 25¢. That's quite a difference!

If you multiply your losses from my last sentence, many times through the year, that could come to a considerable amount of money, according to how often you buy stamps. In any case, I check every price list that's sent to me. I have a budget that allows me to spend X number of dollars per month. So I buy accordingly. I rarely return extremely low priced stamps that are mis-cataloged but when the difference is in dollars I return them immediately. In a way, I felt sorry for the man that said I was wasting my money on catalogs. From what I could see, he spent as much as I did for my catalogs. For his sake I hope he always gets what he orders. My own experience proves otherwise.

I don't say that it's necessary to buy new catalogs every year. If you are collecting older stamps like myself, you can buy catalogs that are five or ten years old. I have even bought them from libraries that are getting rid of old books for as low as 25¢. I have purchased lots of specialized catalogs that are several years old for just a few bucks.

If, however, you are a member of a local stamp club, they usually have a catalog you can use to check your stamps there and it will not cost you anything, or some libraries have catalogs.

If you buy stamps in assortments such as, by the ounce or pounds, which is sometimes called kiloware, a catalog

(Continued on Page 11)

ISWSC MAIL SALE # 8

Bids Due February 28, 1993

Mail Bids to: **George Land**
4024 Fairlands Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566 USA

RULES FOR MAIL SALE # 8

1. High bidder wins a lot at one advance over second bidder. Bidding increments: \$1-\$5=\$0.25; \$5-\$10=\$0.50; \$10-\$30=\$1.00; over \$30=\$2.50.
2. Single bidder, lot goes to bidder at minimum bid.
3. In case of tie, earliest postmark wins.
4. Remittance in US funds.
5. Lots are sold as genuine. Misidentified or misdescribed lots may be returned. Large lots, packets, etc., are not returnable.
6. 93 SCV means 1993 Scott catalog value. SCV means owner's catalog value, year not stated.

ABBREVIATIONS USED: NH or MNH = Mint, Never Hinged; MH = Mint, Hinged; LH = Lightly Hinged; HH = Heavy Hinged; HR = Hinge Remnant; XF = Extra Fine - wide equal margins; VF = Very Fine - wide ample margins; F = Fine - perf touch design; Avg = Average - perfs cut design; FDC = First Day Cover; HBO = Held By Owner; DON = Donation - all proceeds go to ISWSC; S/ S = Souvenir Sheet; S.S. = Short set; SCV = Scott Catalog Value - 1991 unless stated otherwise; M.B. = Minimum Bid; U = Used; CTO = Cancelled To Order; LC = Light Cancel; HC = Heavy Cancel; GD = Gum Disturbance; HV = High Values; MRGNS = Margins (Imperforate stamps); NG = No Gum; NGAI = No Gum As Issued; S.G. = Stanley Gibbons; btw = between; P.B. = Plate Block; M + U = Mint and Used; SE = Straight Edge; PM = Pen or Pencil Mark; PNC = Plate Number Coil

CATEGORY A — COVERS, POSTAL HISTORY, POSTCARDS

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. FDC-AUSTRALIA TO ENGLAND, 10/05/37, with C1 & C4 Melbourne Airmail Exhibition Cachet and Reg. Label | MB \$ | 15.00 |
| 2. 24 FDC's, Germany, 1979, Cacheted Unaddressed Scott 1287-1305, B 558-69 | MB \$ | 5.00 |
| 3. FDC, MICRONESIA, #42, Unaddressed 92 CV \$15.00 | MB \$ | 10.00 |
| 4. NEW ZEALAND COVER, Special Airmail Flight, Dec., 1922, Auckland to Invercargill with Cachet, Stamps #184, C1 | MB \$ | 18.00 |
| 5. NEW ZEALAND COVER, #196, 218 (Blk/6), C8 12/18/36. To France by air (back stamp Paris) to address in Belgian convent. | MB \$ | 12.00 |
| 6. FDC, 1953 FROM S.W. Africa to Buffalo, NY, with #244-8, with cachet | MB \$ | 3.75 |
| 7. 67 FOREIGN FDC'S, 92 SCV of used stamps, 70.44, HBO | MB \$ | 25.00 |
| 8. AUSTRALIA —Boxed set of 42 pre-stamped picture postcards, Series III, all 22¢ stamps, issued March, 1981 | MB \$ | 15.00 |
| 9. AUSTRALIA -- Boxed set of 42 pre-stamped picture postcards Series IV, 27¢ stamps, issued Sept., 1982 | MB \$ | 18.00 |

CATEGORY B — USA

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 10. USA, 397-8, 400A, 403, u, F-VF, 398 SE, 93 SCV \$22.63 | MB \$ | 10.00 |
| 11. USA, 1686-9, 4 sheets of 5, MNH, 93 SCV \$19.00 | MB \$ | 12.00 |
| 12. Same as Lot 11. | | |
| 13. Same as Lot 11. | | |
| 14. Same as Lot 11. | | |

CATEGORY C — BRIT. COMM., SETS AND SINGLES

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 15. AUSTRALIA, 111 & C2 NG, 112 & C3 MNH, toned, 93 SCV \$24.85 | MB \$ | 12.50 |
| 16. AUSTRALIA, 170, MNH, F/VF, 93 SCV \$12.00 | MB \$ | 2.00 |
| 17. AUSTRALIA, 184-7, u, cpl., 93 SCV \$13.30 | MB \$ | 6.00 |

18. AUSTRALIA — SG, 042 & 075 — perfins; O.S.; Scott unlisted. 92 SG CV 77.	MB \$	27.00
19. AUSTRALIAN ANTARC. TERR., L37-54, L56-8, 4 cpl. sets, MNH, 93 SCV \$11.22	MB \$	6.00
20. BAHAMAS, 83, MH, F, 93 SCV \$25.00	MB \$	5.00
21. BAHAMAS, 150-3, 157, 178-9, 181-2, MNH, 93 SCV \$7.95	MB \$	4.00
22. BAHAMAS, 158-73, u, cpl., 93 SCV \$24.47	MB \$	13.00
23. BAHAMAS, 204-18, u, cpl., 93 SCV \$15.81	MB \$	8.50
24. BAHAMAS, 393a, 402-5, 405a, MNH, 93 SCV \$17.50	MB \$	8.25
25. BAHAMAS, MR 5-13, MH, 93 SCV \$10.79	MB \$	6.00
26. BARBADOS, 279-80, u, F/VF, 93 SCV \$14.00	MB \$	7.50
27. BARBADOS, 376-9, MNH, 415a, 427a, 537a, Mint, 494 used, 93 SCV \$9.85	MB \$	5.25
28. BELIZE, 392a, MNH, 500, 523, CTO, 93 SCV \$18.50	MB \$	9.50
29. BELIZE, Scott 668-71, sheetlets of 4, CTO, unpriced in Scott, 1991 Stanly Gibbons, CV \$16.40 (SG #731-4)	MB \$	9.00
30. BERMUDA, 5, u, F, 93 SCV \$15.00	MB \$	2.00
31. BERMUDA, 6, u, Avg., with 1 jumbo margins, 93 SCV \$27.50	MB \$	3.00
32. BERMUDA, 23-5; 28; 23-5, MNH, 24 NG, 28 HK, 93 SCV \$47.00	MB \$	9.00
33. BERMUDA, 88, u, F, 93 SCV \$17.00	MB \$	2.00
34. BERMUDA, 138-41 MNH, 175-7, 181-6 MH/MNH, 93 SCV \$11.27	MB \$	6.00
35. BERMUDA, 214-37 MNH, 6 cpl. sets, 93 SCV \$14.89	MB \$	8.00
36. BERMUDA, 401 MNH — Sheetlet/9 with tabs — 80th birthday Queen mother, 93 SCV 4.14 +	MB \$	3.00
37. CANADA, 492, 756, 791-2, 931, 1122-5, 1132-3 MNH, 93 SCV \$10.65		
38. FALKLAND IS., 236a (Churchill S/S) MNH, 93 SCV 6.00		
39. GILBERT & ELLIS ISLAND, 33-6 MNH, 93 SCV 16.35	MB \$	9.00
40. GREAT BRITAIN, 98, M, HR, F, cnr thin, 93 SCV 8.00	MB \$	1.50
41. GREAT BRITAIN, 179, u, VF, LC, rough perfs, 93 SCV \$10.00	MB \$	1.50
42. GREAT BRITAIN, 356c, MNH, toning 93 SCV 7.75	MB \$	3.00
43. HONG KONG, 196 MNH, F, 93 SCV 5.25	MB \$	1.00
44. JAMAICA, 109-12 MH, 159-71 MNH, 93 SCV 11.38	MB \$	6.25
45. MALAYSIA — JOHORE 101, 103, 106, 110-1A, used, 93 SCV 10.62	MB \$	5.00
46. SOUTH AFRICA 443-6. 446a MNH, 93 SCV 9.68	MB \$	3.00
47. S. W. AFRICA 383a, 383b MNH, 93 SCV \$14.75	MB \$	5.00
48. S. W. AFRICA 384-7, 387a MNH, 93 SCV \$9.82	MB \$	3.00

CATEGORY D — FOREIGN SETS AND SINGLES

49. BAVARIA 6, u, HC, numeral cancel, 2 MRGNS, 93 SCV \$7.25	MB \$	3.50
50. BAVARIA 8, u, HC, numeral cancel, 2 MRGNS, 93 SCV \$125.00	MB \$	50.00
51. BERLIN 9N10, pair, on cut square, used, with CDS. Right stamp has piece missing at lower left. 93 SCV \$60.00	MB \$	25.00
52. LOT WITHDRAWN		
53. FRANCE 2099a, B59a, Booklets, mint, 92 CV \$14.25	MB \$	8.50
54. FRANCE 2099a, Booklet of 12 MNH, 93 SCV \$9.75		
55. FRANCE — Book of 6 musicians plus 2 other 1992 stamps, Face \$25.50 FFR	MB \$	4.80
56. FR. GUIANA 46, LH, F, 93 SCV \$13.00	MB \$	6.00
57. IRAN 50-2, MNH, 93 SCV \$125.00	MB \$	50.00
58. LOT WITHDRAWN		
59. IRAN 605 MNH, F/VF, 93 SCV \$70.00	MB \$	35.00
60. ISRAEL 724 — Sheet of 15 MNH, 92 SCV \$6.75	MB \$	4.00
61. Same as Lot 60.		
62. ISRAEL 749a, 756, 963, 988a MNH, 4 S/S, 93 SCV \$8.45	MB \$	6.00

63. ISRAEL 798-800, Min., SE-Tenant sheet with tabs and 1025 (Strip/4 with tabs) MNH, 93 SCV \$6.82	MB \$	3.00
64. JAPAN 542-5, LH, cpl, 93 SCV \$19.40	MB \$	7.00
65. PRUSSIA, 13, u, faded, 2 MRGNS, 93 SCV \$9.00	MB \$	3.00
66. PRUSSIA 27, u, 93 SCV \$20.00	MB \$	10.00
67. SWEDEN 1501a & 1513a (2 booklets), 93 SCV \$8.25 DON	MB \$	3.50
68. SWEDEN 1505a & 1622a (2 booklets), 93 SCV \$7.00, DON	MB \$	3.00
69. SWEDEN--1588a & 1708a (2 booklets), 93 SCV \$6.85. 1st booklet companion issue to USA 2198-2201, DON	MB \$	3.00
70. SWEDEN 1610a--booklet, 93 SCV \$25.00, DON	MB \$	25.00
71. SWEDEN 1699a & 1836a (2 booklets), 93 SCV \$9.45, DON	MB \$	4.00
72. SWEDEN 1702a--booklet, 93 SCV \$6.00, DON	MB \$	2.50
73. SWEDEN 1754a--booklet pane, 93 SCV \$5.90, DON	MB \$	2.75
74. SWEDEN 1866a (Maps-booklet), 93 SCV \$10.80, DON	MB \$	5.00
75. SWITZERLAND 29, u, 2 MRGNS, Clipped Edge in UR, 93 SCV \$35.00	MB \$	4.00
76. SWITZERLAND C34, u, 93 SCV \$4.75	MB \$	1.50
77. UN 310-1, UN-Geneva 84-5--4 sheets of 20 stamps each, 92 CV \$59.00	MB \$	25.00
78. UN 325-40 Flags, 4 sheets of 16 MNH, 93 SCV \$12.80	MB \$	6.00
79. Same as Lot 78.		
80. UN 350-65 Flags, 4 sheets of 16 MNH, 93 SCV \$19.20	MB \$	12.00
81. UN 374-89 Flags, 4 sheets of 16 MNH, 93 SCV \$25.60	MB \$	17.00
82. UN 415-6, UN-Geneva 119-20, UN Vienna 37, 6 sheets of 16 stamps, MNH, 92 SCV \$88.80	MB \$	40.00
83. UN 425-40 Flags, 4 sheets of 16 MNH, 93 SCV \$44.80	MB \$	14.80
84. Same as Lot 83.		
85. UN 493, UN-GENEVA 150, UN Vienna 66, 3 S/S MNH, 92 SCV \$13.50	MB \$	8.00

CATEGORY E — LARGE LOTS

86. AUSTRALIA -- 18 u, Stamps btw 71 and 817 plus C5, 92 SCV \$7.52	MB \$	2.00
87. BERMUDA -- APS Circuit Book, 65 stamps btw 272 and 439 M+U 93 SCV \$34.81	MB \$	10.00
88. CANADA -- APS Circuit Book, 10 MNH stamps btw 196 & 384, plus 26 plate blocks, 91 SCV (Canadian Spec.) \$294.75	MB \$	60.00
89. CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP. -- 18 stamps, M+U, includes 1915 (Blk/4), 1357-9, 1361, 1997, 2295-9, 2320, 2145	MB \$	1.25
90. CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- 450 stamps in stockbook, some dup., owners est CV \$60.75	MB \$	9.00
91. HUNGARY, ITALY, TURKEY -- About 600 stamps in stockbook, some dup., 80% Hungary -- M, CTO, S/S, owners est CV \$90.00 +	MB \$	15.00
92. USSR AND MOLDOVA -- Lot of 88 stamps, 86 from USSR, 2 from Moldova, plus 4 S/S from USSR. Mainly 1991 stamps, Blk/4 some pairs and dups. Includes USSR Bl60-4, 5941-5 (Blk/4) 5961a. 5963a (3). Items in 1992 catalog \$20.56 plus estimated CV of \$29.00 for others	MB \$	20.00

Bid on Any Paper -- Due February 28, 1993

HELP FOR TOUGHIES: If you've wondered about how to distinguish between postally used and cancelled-to-order cancellations on the 1921 - 1923 inflation issues of Germany, you are not alone. Pichard Pynzar, a well-known dealer who specializes in German philately, says that it is so complicated that only an expert can tell the difference.

If you are willing to pay a fee for having these stamps expertized, you may write to the chairman of the German Philatelic Expertizing Committee, Dr. Werner Bohne, P.O. Box 915678, Longwood, FL 32791. He will send you forms to fill out to accompany your stamps. ••• Harold J. Humm (# 678)

Mail Sale # 7 — Prices Realized

<u>LOT #</u>	<u>HIGH BID</u>	<u>SALE PRICE</u>	<u>LOT #</u>	<u>HIGH BID</u>	<u>SALE PRICE</u>
1	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.00	57-59	NB	
2	\$10.00	\$ 4.00	60	\$ 7.00	\$ 6.50
3	6.00	6.00	61-62	NB	
4	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00	63	\$ 7.00	\$ 6.50
5	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00	64	NB	
6	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.50	65	\$ 5.50	\$ 4.75
7	NB		66	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00
8	\$ 3.00 (T)	\$ 3.00	67	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
9	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	68	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.75
10	\$11.00	\$ 9.50	69	NB	
11	\$21.00	\$20.00	70	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.50
12-13	NB		71	NB	
14	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.00	72	\$ 5.00 (T)	\$ 5.00
15-16	NB		73	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75
17	\$14.50	\$13.00	74	NB	
18	NB		75	\$30.00	\$30.00
19	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50	76	\$ 4.50 (T)	\$ 4.50
20	\$ 9.00	\$ 6.00	77	\$11.00	\$10.00
21	\$18.00	\$13.00	78	NB	
22	\$ 5.00 (T)	\$ 5.00	79	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.00
23	\$11.00 (T)	\$11.00	80-90	NB	
24	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	91	\$ 7.00	\$ 6.00
25	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	92	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.50
26	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50	93	\$ 5.00 (T)	\$ 5.00
27	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.25	94	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.00
28	\$12.00	\$12.00	95	NB	
29	\$21.00	\$19.00	96	\$ 9.00	\$ 7.00
30	8.50	8.00	97-98	NB	
31	\$19.00	\$18.00	99	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.50
32	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.50	100	NB	
33	NB		101	\$23.75	\$23.00
34	\$11.00	\$ 9.50	102	\$12.00	\$11.00
35	\$10.25	\$10.00	103	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.50
36	\$ 7.00	\$ 2.50	104	\$12.00	\$12.00
37	\$ 7.00	\$ 1.75	105	\$11.00	\$10.00
38	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.25	106-7	NB	
39	\$31.00	\$28.00	108	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.00
40	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.50	109	\$12.00	\$ 9.00
41	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.00	110	NB	
42	\$14.00	\$12.50	111	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.00
43	\$11.00	\$10.50	112	\$ 6.50	\$ 6.00
44	\$13.50	\$13.50	113-4	NB	
45	\$12.00	\$11.00	115	\$10.00	\$ 9.00
46	NB		116	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.50
47	4.25	4.00	117	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.00
48	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	118	NB	
49	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.00	119	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.25
50	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	120	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
51	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	121	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.00
52	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.50	122	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.50
53	\$12.00	\$ 9.00	123	\$ 4.25	\$ 3.50
54	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.50	124	\$14.00	\$ 8.00
55	NB		125	\$16.50	\$16.00
56	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.00	126	NB	

<u>LOT #</u>	<u>HIGH BID</u>	<u>SALE PRICE</u>
127	6.00	4.00
128	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.50
129	\$ 2.50 (T)	\$ 2.50
130	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75
131	\$10.00	\$10.00
132	\$ 6.00 (T)	\$ 6.00
133	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
134	\$ 3.00 (T)	\$ 3.00
135	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
136	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.90
137	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.80
138	\$ 4.75	\$ 4.75
139	\$ 8.50	\$ 5.50
140	\$ 7.25	\$ 7.25
141	\$12.00	\$ 9.00
142	\$ 7.00 (T)	\$ 7.00
143	\$ 8.00	\$ 4.75
144	\$ 8.50	\$ 6.50
145	\$14.00	\$12.00
146	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
147	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.50
148	\$ 7.50	\$ 4.50
149	\$10.00 (T)	\$10.00
150	\$12.00 (T)	\$12.00
151	\$15.00	\$13.00
152	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
153	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
154	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.50
155	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.50
156	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
157	6.50	6.25
158	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
159	\$17.00	\$17.00
160	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00
161	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.50
162	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.00
163	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.00
164	\$32.00	\$28.50
165	\$13.00	\$13.00
166	\$ 6.00	\$ 4.00
167	\$32.00	\$28.00
168	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.50
169	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.75
170	\$17.00	\$16.00
171	\$25.00	\$20.00
172	\$15.00	\$15.00
173	\$47.00	\$35.50
174	2.75	2.75
175	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
176	\$30.00	\$23.50
177	\$27.00	\$12.00
178	\$26.00	\$25.00

Caveat Emptor — Buyer Beware

Any time you receive a questionable stamp offer, inform Tom Fortunato, Public Relations Officer, so that we can warn other collectors.

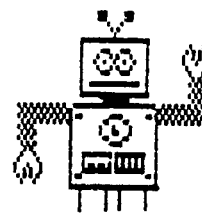
A couple months ago I received a phone call from a member who was contemplating the purchase of a set of Sierra Leone "Man on Mars" stamps. An investment broker was selling sets for \$5,000.00 - yes, five thousand dollars, claiming that they had the potential to reach \$50,000 in just a few years. Any claim like that is simply bogus and fraudulent. It took a bit of convincing, but he finally decided not to spend the five grand. When these stamps were first issued, the dealer who "cornered the market" on them, sold sets for under \$200.00. A recent ad offered them for \$29.95!!

Also be warned about the various "gold foil" stamp issues, mostly from the French influenced African nations. Their actual gold value is minimal, maybe \$1.00 - \$3.00 at the most. They are purely speculative and their high dealer prices will never hold up. That includes the only stamp ever made of precious gems: the ruby-encrusted gold foil stamp from Guinea, made of worthless ruby flakes.

When all else fails, go to your worldwide catalog and check its prices. If it is not listed -- buyer beware!!

••• Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Excess Inventory?
Cash Tight?



SELL NOW!

BUYING DEALER INVENTORY
COLLECTIONS, JUNK BOXES
ACCUMULATIONS!

Consignments Needed Too!

Robert Gesell 313 662-5460

Box 8248, Ann Arbor 48107

APS Dealer #63428

Stamp Show with Unique Ideas

The Capital District Stamp Dealers Association Show was held October 17 and 18, 1992 in Albany, New York. It was the first local show in many years and many ideas were implemented to try to make a success.

One of these ideas was an art show on Saturday. And, it was exactly what you would guess. First, there was a children's poster contest, with all entries displayed on the wall. Then there were displays of stamps and postal history materials, including the largest collection of beetles on stamps that I had ever seen, -plus frames of World War II postal items and, of course, local historical items. One of the local clubs (there are five that I know of) had a display frame of all the covers they had made through the years and many were still available for sale.

The Philatelic Piano Concert on Sunday afternoon may have been a first in the history of stamp shows. None of the dealers nor many of the volunteer workers could ever remember a concert at a show. Please tell me if you know otherwise. The Holiday Inn had a grand piano in the upstairs lobby outside the show room. There were comfortable chairs and tables available to read newspapers. You could also hear the music in the dealers' room. Several of the dealers took a short break and came nearer the piano to hear the music better.

The publicity was widespread. It was advertised in the various stamp publications and free sample issues were available for attendees. There were gifts for young collectors and also for adult collectors. Since this was planned months in advance, all the local clubs advertised it heavily and tried to recruit new members. I made a pitch to each dealer about ISWSC and handed them a membership application form. In addition, about 200 membership applications were picked up at the "freebie" table during the two day event.

The weather was pleasant, cool, cloudy, but not rainy. But, with a local population of about 300,000 we counted about 500 attendees in seven hours on Saturday and about 250 attendees in five hours on Sunday. Of the 24 dealers, some thought the show was a success and some thought it was not. Sounds about average for the first in many years. I hope it becomes an annual event!

••• Joe Palko (# 421)

Need Roster Info Immediately

Work has begun on the new ISWSC 1993 membership roster. It is planned to be ready to mail with the March-April 1993 Circuit.

Several improvements have been discussed to provide additional details on the Society and its many programs. Current members who do not want their addresses published in the upcoming roster must inform Secretary/Treasurer Carol Cervenka not later than February 10th.

The society is also soliciting member and dealer advertising to offset some of the roster's expenses. In reality the roster is a membership handbook, referred to many times by members interested finding addresses of others. Camera-ready ad rates for the special printing of the roster will be \$15, \$30 and \$60 for a quarter, half, or full page. Individual ads for up to 30 words will be accepted for \$5.00.

Ads and payment (made payable to ISWSC in US funds) should reach the editor no later than February 15th. *Clearly state your ad is for the roster.* •••

Mail Sale Has New Managers

The ISWSC is pleased to announce the appointment of George Land (# 241) and Jim Watkins (# 372) as co-managers of the auction/mail sale. Their duties begin with Sale # 8, which will be found elsewhere in this issue.

George will accept and prepare auction/sale lots, receive bids and then join with Jim to determine the highest bidder. Jim will handle the shipping and billing of successful bidders.

All lots for future auctions/sales are being accepted on a continuous basis by George Land at 4024 Fairlands, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA. Members submitting lots are requested to include a brief description of each item along with the current Scott's catalog value or estimate. Minimum bids may be specified. Donated items are also accepted, with all proceeds going to the ISWSC. When enough lots are received, a new auction/sale will be called. Consignors will be sent the value of the winning bid minus 20% commission which is retained by the society.

Rules for consignors and buyers remain unchanged. For complete information, send a SASE to George Land at the abovementioned address.

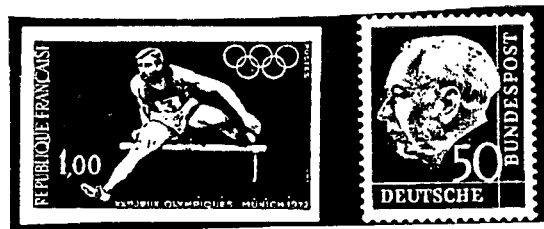
The ISWSC is indebted to Dr. Wallace Johnson (#212) who originated and managed all the Society's auction/mail sales to date. Through his efforts, lots valued at over \$4,000 in total have been sold, adding more than \$800 to the ISWSC treasury. We commend Dr. Johnson for a job very well done and offer our many thanks for all his hard work for ISWSC these past few years. We wish him great success in his medical practice, but not so successful that he'll be too busy for stamp collecting. Thanks, Dr. Johnson. •••

Album Page Layout For IBMs

It seems that everything is going high tech.... even stamp collecting what with want list programs and Scott publishers are talking about going computerised with their publications. I have found one jewel in the computer world that I would like to share.

How many times have we found our Scott's Internationals or other albums, lacking some spaces for stamps? If we are using blank pages how we wish we could just copy Scott catalog or whatever we use to make a page or two or perhaps twenty pages.

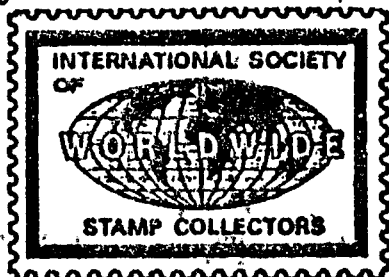
Well, if you have an IBM compatible computer and printer (or access to them) you can. There is a product called PAGE, which you install on your hard drive and then follow the program. My only problem was in frame block size but I solved that with a ruler in millimeters. It will take all the data you wish, install borders (or not, as you choose), develop stamp frames and print the page. Of course, after the page is to your liking, just remove the computer paper and run your pages. There is a bit more to it than that, but not much. ••• David Creson (# 170)



Now available - a rubber stamp featuring the ISWSC logo.

The rubber stamp is 2" x 1" and can be used with any colored stamp ink pad. The basic cost is US\$ 4.50. Add US\$ 1.00 to customize it with your name & membership number (optional). Also include return postage of 80¢ at US addresses and US\$ 3.00 elsewhere. You must mention that you want the ISWSC Club Logo when you order to receive this discounted price. Expect delivery within 2-4 weeks. Mail your order made payable in US dollars to:

Herb Harrington • P. O. Box 585 • Vienna, OH 44473 USA



FORTUNATO #379

New Ad Rates Take Effect Next Issue of *The Circuit*

Starting with the March-April issue of *The Circuit*, new display advertising rates will be in effect for camera ready ad copy. The quarter, half, and full page rates will rise to \$10, \$20 and \$40 respectively. *The Circuit* is now reaching more collectors than ever. Over 200+ new members have joined us in 1992 alone. These rates reflect a similar per-capita charge as before. All consecutive ad contracts under the old rates will be honored through their completion. Special yearly rates and reduced rates for 3 or more insertions are available. Contact the editor for those. Classified ads remain at the basic rate of \$3.00 for the first twenty words, but the extra words have been raised to \$1.50 for each additional 20 words.

Advertisements help pay the costs of printing and mailing *The Circuit*. As the cost of both have continued to rise, the dues for ISWSC have been kept artificially low thanks to the dealers and members who have advertised in *The Circuit* these many years. It is a good deal for the advertisers and a good deal for ISWSC members. We hope you will continue to advertise in *The Circuit* and especially hope members will patronize the dealers who advertise with us.

Just a word about camera ready copy: Camera ready means that it is ready to print. In the past, the editor has done typesetting, lay-out, and paste-up work for display ads for free. That is no longer the case because advertisers have taken advantage requesting 5-6 pages of handwritten material be placed on one page, which required a lot of work. The editor simply does not have the time to do this anymore. Reductions, typesetting, lay-out work, etc. will be charged at the rate of \$3.00 per reduction; typesetting at \$35.00 per hour; paste-up and lay-out work at \$25.00 per hour. (This work will be done for you by the print shop where *The Circuit* is printed and added to ISWSC's bill.)

Ad copy may be sent directly to the editor (Rita Kallal #26) with payment in US funds to ISWSC. Mention which issue the ad is to appear. •••

Fun of Collecting Most Important Aspect

The article written by Albert Finberg (#361) in the Jan-Feb 1992 issue of *The Circuit* is one of the finest I have seen in recent philatelic publications, as far as I am concerned. It addresses the concerns of many average collectors and also reflects the feeling amongst collectors, that for the hobby to survive, we must continue to promote the fun aspect of stamp collecting and buying of stamps to please ourselves.

There is one thing all stamp collectors have in common: They all look at stamps, whether they specialize or not. But *how* they look at stamps is a different matter. Some of them are *reverse* stamp collectors; that is they look at the back of each stamp, not only to detect thin spots and flaws, but also to determine gum and paper varieties, watermarks or perfins. Others concentrate on perforations, while still others are interested in the way a stamp has traveled (postal history), cancellations, errors, forgeries and fakes. While none of these are my primary reason for stamp collecting, I recognize that each collector has his or her own special reason for interest in a particular facet of stamp collecting. Maybe they have become tired of looking at their completed collections, built over a lifetime and want to do something else, or maybe they like to play around with perforation gauges, watermark detectors, black lights, etc. As long as they do it for fun, that is what our hobby is all about.

As for me, after many years of stamp collecting, I am still the old-fashioned type, trying to fill in the blank spots, to obtain stamps I don't have and I look at each acquisition as if it is the priceless one, which has always eluded me before. I am not concerned how other collectors like the stamps I prefer and therefore I am not less interested in *sand dunes*, *CTOs*, or *wallpaper* stamps, as some have described them, than any others. I often find them more beautiful and interesting than the ones which are priced much higher in the catalogs. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

Of course, I expect *investors* to disagree with these remarks. They obtain stamps only to turn them into profit later. Once they have purchased their high-priced and rare items, they hide them in bank safety deposit boxes, safe from theft and damage. The prices that these rare items realize will probably always be out of reach of the average collector and they turn from one investor to the other. Investors do not attend stamp shows or auctions; they have dealers or agents do that for them. They don't belong to stamp clubs and I am sure do not sit up all night, as I have done many times, working on my average stamp collection. Investors are missing all the fun and I would not swap my collection for any of the stamps they have so carefully hidden in their bank vaults. On occasion, people ask me what my collection is worth. I always respond, "If you offer me one penny for it and I accept your offer, that is what my collection is worth. But if you offer me one hundred thousand dollars now, I would not sell it to you, because to me, it is worth a great deal more than that." Of course I know full well, that if something would happen and I could not continue my stamp collecting activities, my wife would have a hard time convincing dealers that the collection is worth

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Tax Stamps Unusual Field

State tax stamps are a sideline into which few collectors have ventured for a variety of reasons, one of which is the obscurity of sources (other than "ducks"). Every collector encounters examples of state tax stamps, at least occasionally, and he who finds a good quantity should consider this relatively unknown branch of philately. It is an easy matter to make contacts with collectors (and dealers) of state tax stamps and to trade and buy.

Every state in the union and many cities and counties issue state tax stamps, and the variety of items or services taxed in this manner is amazing. Since collecting these stamps is not a new pursuit, large numbers of old issues are available, some of them antedating U.S. number one. There are tax stamps issued by some, or perhaps all, of the thirteen colonies.

Yes, there is a catalogue: *State and City Revenue and Tax Stamps of the United States* by George D. Cabot, and there are a number of specialized compendia or catalogues for specific states, some of them dealing with certain types of issues such as *Pennsylvania Local Real Estate Transfer Stamps* by F. L. Applegate, *Kansas State Revenue Catalogue* by C. J. Bellinghausen. The rather abundant literature available gives prices that provide a basis for trading even though you may not consider these prices as realistic cash value (as with Scott).

There is an active society you can join that will provide contact with other collectors, current issues at face, and other sources. The organization issues an informative newsletter with the same frequency as *The Circuit*. For information write to Harold A. Effner, Jr., 27 Pine Street, Lincroft, NJ 07388. Eric Jackson, P.O. Box 728, Leesport, PA 19533, is a well-known dealer. ••• Harold J. Humm (# 678)

Fun (Continued)

more than \$100.00.

You see, there is a buying price and a selling price; but more important, a hobby price, which exceeds both the previous ones. It is not included in any of Scott's catalogs, because as valuable as they are, there is not way for any philatelic expert to evaluate the many hours of pleasure stamp collecting has brought to each collector. The time and money I have spent on my hobby I have never regretted and I believe, many average collectors can say the same.

As a belated comment on the changes which have been implemented by the Scott catalog publishers, I believe that in addition to the commercial interest that they have in their publication, they have shown over the lifetime of a several stamp collecting generations, that they too are interested in the hobby of stamp collecting, by providing timely and up-to-date information to all philatelists, whether they are individual collectors or dealers and they should be commended for making changes, which I believe benefit the average collector. There are too many philatelists in the world to please them all, and whether we like everything in these references or not, it can never be denied, that they remain valuable and also a bargain, if you compare them with the price of many similar references in other fields.

••• Mark O. Bakker (# 507)

UK Secretary Report

All British members of the society who joined last year's recruiting effort have renewed their memberships, so that effort obviously was not a flash in the pan. While I hate to bring up a sore subject, the sole complaint from any member about ISWSC was the lack of response on trading inquiries. One member was pleased to start 10 active trading relationships, but was disappointed that 9 people had not bothered to answer his letter. Each letter from the UK to beyond Europe, by the way, costs about 70¢, so this mounts up rapidly. If you receive a trading request and are not interested, for whatever reason, please keep overseas (and other) members happy by dropping them a postcard (40¢ from the USA) to that effect.

As the UK secretary I try to contact the UK clubs occasionally to trade membership information. When the Raflet Stamp Club in Britain printed information about ISWSC, we got four new members, so it is well worth doing. I recently contacted the Invalid and Lone Collectors Society of Britain, which will be giving us a plug. In turn I would like to give a few details of this interesting organization, which dates from 1921 and was started to help invalid and war-disabled collectors get in touch with each other, foster their interest in collecting and start pen friendships. Its scope was widened eventually to include "lone" collectors unable to meet with other collectors. All of the society's activities take place by mail and it issues a magazine and conducts exchange packets. Because of the society's very small dues (About \$1.60 per year), reports the honorary secretary, Mrs. M. I. Hicks, "It is regretted that neither the magazine or stamp packets can be sent abroad but we do welcome correspondence from overseas." The society can be contacted through: Mrs. M. I. Hicks, 48 Hazelhurst Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 6AB England.

Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but lately I have been told by quite a few parents that one or more of their children are interested in collecting stamps. I am not shy about letting it be known that I am a collector, and this comment from parents is often the result. Of course I make up a packet of stamps for the junior collector and pass it on with instructions to contact me if the collector has any questions or needs advice.

I am wondering if the video age might already be past its peak and interest in more traditional pursuits, such as reading and stamp collecting, may be on the way back. If so, collectors should make a special effort to keep their ears open for chances to encourage budding collectors.

••• Chad Neighbor (# 510), UK Secretary

In Memoriam....

The deaths of APS & ISWSC members, Bunny Kaplan (# 134) and H.R.H. Bruce Conde (# 430) have been reported in various philatelic journals. Both were very well known collectors. Bunny belonged to many philatelic organizations and had collected for over 60 years. She was an avid collector of rabbit topicals, for which she had won many awards. Prince Conde was a war correspondent in Yemen and helped establish the Yemeni postal service. He wrote for various philatelic journals over the years.

We've received notice that Donald Wright (# 273) has passed away. These ISWSC members will be sorely missed.. •••

Secretary - Treasurer's Report

Beginning with this issue, all roster changes, additions and deletions will be grouped at the back of each edition of *The Circuit*. Many of you already 3-hole punch the newsletter and keep it in binders for easy reference. Now it will be possible to keep the roster updates with the annual ISWSC roster. We hope this change in format will be helpful.

Renewals have begun to slow down, and I must assume that some of the postcard notices didn't arrive at their intended destination. There are quite a few names on the "endangered" list who fully intend to renew, but haven't gotten around to sending in a check yet.

Ken Costilow has reported the death of Bunny Kaplan (#134). Bunny passed away November 9, 1992. She was a long time member and was much loved.

APS reported the death of H.R.H. Bruce Conde (#430), in the December 1992 issue of *The American Philatelist*. Many of you knew of the Prince's work as war correspondent in Yemen.

We've received notice that Donald Wright (#273) has also passed away. These members will be sorely missed and we send condolences to their families.

The following members have resigned: #87-Hoefeyzers (unable to keep up with hobby presently); #168-Jacinto; #222-Nemeth (eye problems); #416-Steinberg; #417-Soule; #438 Dickinson (pressing family matters).

These members have been dropped: #17; #36; #129; #163; #226; #277; #308; #326; #343; #352; #362; #366; #369; #370; #373; #375; #418; #450; #458; #491; #527; #540; #544; #550; #631; #642; #655; #670; #684.

#551-Wolf has been dropped for failure to respond to official correspondence.

The mail to these members has been returned as undeliverable: #295; #303; #382; #555. Any member knowing the new/correct address for these members,

please contact me.

Sixty-five new members have joined since my last column, and I hope you will all take the time to make these new ISWSC'ers feel welcome. Most of the names are accompanied by codes which indicate whether they are willing to trade or not. Where there are no codes, trading wishes are unknown. If you don't see a "50" within the codes, do not contact about trading stamps.

I thank all of the renewing members for including their codes with renewals. They will be published in the new roster in the next issue of *The Circuit*. We thought there were too many to do this time, since the roster will be out so soon.

Elsewhere you'll find the new By-Laws as approved by a majority of the ISWSC Board of Directors. Please read through them and respond with your vote as quickly as possible. It is urgent that we apply for corporate non-profit designation in the very near future. You will notice that two new Directors have been added. We hope this will be an added encouragement to members to become involved in the running of ISWSC. This is, after all, YOUR organization!

I appreciate all the kind words, advice and suggestions offered by members, both old and new, which came in with renewals. One of the major benefits of this volunteer office has been the warm words of thanks I've received. This past year has also given me a keen understanding of the enormity of the job done by the previous secretary-treasurer, Herb Holland. Without his help and able assistance, this office would have been vastly more difficult to manage.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year filled with hours and hours of the fun and fascination found in stamp collecting.

••• Carol Cervenka (#498)

Wee Deliver Program Gets Writing Skills There On Time

Ken Jenkins (#15) sent the following Las Vegas Sun article (dtd 3/26/1992) about a USPS elementary school program that is teaching writing skills by using a mini-postal system.

Rain, sleet and snow don't stop the U.S. mail, nor do they deter student mail carriers in the Wee Deliver program at James Gibson Elementary School.

The program, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, teaches students the importance of mail and how the delivery system works. It also promotes writing, reading, punctuation skills, thinking skills and understanding styles.

Assistant principal Dave Spitler said seven students are "employed" as postmaster, carriers and sorters, among other jobs. Three-foot-tall red and blue mailboxes are placed throughout the school, which is divided into four zip codes. Every student has an individual address that is posted in his or her classroom, and post office centers for all teachers and their students are located in the school's library.

Throughout the year, students are encouraged to write letters to their friends in other classrooms. Spitler said fifth-graders are also asked to write welcome letters to new students who enroll at Gibson.

The seven students employed in postal jobs do their work before or after school. Students ensure that stamps are cancelled, or, if stamps are missing, the letters are returned "postage due." Addresses are also checked for punctuation and accuracy, and incorrect ones are marked: return to sender." Two students sort mail into the four zip codes for easier delivery, with letters being delivered daily.

Spitler said the project is working well.

"We have special promotions occasionally to emphasize writing. For instance, this week letters have been sent to all the students asking them to write to the postmaster and describe their science project," he said. "Letters should be written in a business style, using science terminology that best describes the project." •••

MEDIA ONZA:

Spain's 1854-63 Official stamps bear this inscription. It is Spanish for "half ounce" and indicates the weight of mail the stamp would frank. Other stamps were intended to frank mail up to four ounces (onzas) and one pound (libra).