

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Where In the World ???

By Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Do you have stamps from such places as Davaar, Enyhalow or Lundy? May of us probably do have at least a couple of these local post "stamps" in our collections, but where are these places?

Several *Stanley Gibbon's Great Britain Catalogues* mention islands off British shores which have or are still operating local post offices as a means of paying for the costs of ferrying mail to the nearest GPO on the mainland.

You will need to consult a very detailed map to find the exact location of some of these islands. However this brief summary will help you at least determine the region where they can be found, denoted by letters on the map here. Also given are the periods of operation.

Argyllshire (A)
Davaar (1864 -)
Sanda (1962 - 70)

Channel Is. (C)
Herm (1946-69)
Jethou (1960-69)
Lihou (1966-69)

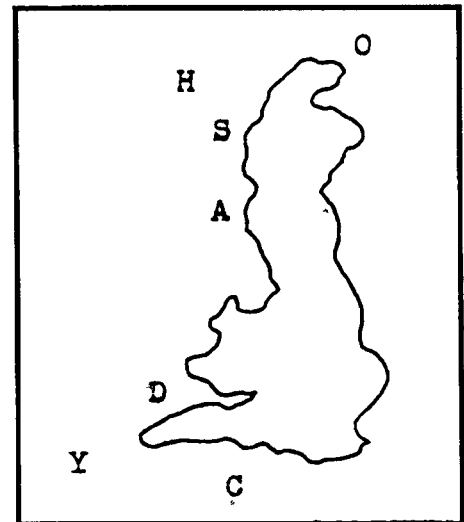
Devon (D)
Drake's Is. (1973-)
Lundy (1929-)

Hebrides (H)
Bernera (1977-)
Calve Is. (1983-)
St. Kilda (1968-71)
Staffa (1969-)
Summer Isles (1970-)

Orkney (O)
Eynhalow (1973-)
Gairsay (1980-)
Grunay (1981-)

Skye (S)
Pabay (1962-)

Isles of Scilly (Y)
Gugh (1972-80)



"Stamps" from these islands are not valid for inland or overseas mail. Additional British stamps must be affixed to allow a letter to continue to its destination. Finding non-philatelic, commercially used covers from these places will be quite a challenge! ••

References for the General Collector

by Joe Foley (# 308)

Collecting the world can pose something of a dilemma when it comes to philatelic literature. After all, if we spend most of our stamp budget on books what's left?

I'm going to share with you some references and an approach to literature that has worked reasonably well for me. Of course one of the key points in collecting the world is that we each do it in a way that brings enjoyment to ourselves. The only "rules" are those we make for ourselves. Before getting started, let me admit to a tendency to over do references a bit, whether the subject is stamps or some other interest. So what I do, may or may not work for you. However, there may be an idea or two that might appeal.

Most of us need a general catalog. If you live in the U.S. then *Scott* is your primary catalog and it's the way we communicate with each other. So, we need a *Scott* catalog, but do we need the US Specialized, and a rather expensive outlay. I mark my catalogs, checking off the stamps that I have. To redo this each year got to be a pain. I could put my inventory on my PC, but that's hardly portable. My worldwide collection is capped at 1949, with British going to 1970 and a few countries later. I

settled for some older catalogs for maintaining my inventory and no longer have the need to transfer my inventory markings from the old catalog to a new one. (I do get a little kidding when I pull out a catalog that's about 20 years old.) I use a newer one when I need up-to-date catalog "values." Sometimes access to, rather than ownership, can fill the bill for a new catalog - your local library or stamp club. Since the information in the catalog such as listings and explanations evolve, getting a new catalog from time to time is still a good idea. You may find you don't need one or a set every year. One idea is to stagger your purchase: Vol. I this year, Vol. II next and so on.

On the subject of catalogs, I keep some real old ones for information on those stamps that used to be listed but no longer are, or where the listing information has changed. Here I try to have one for each decade. These are not very expensive, I don't think I've had to pay more than \$4.00 and that was for a 1912 *Scott* in just about perfect condition. Every so often, I run into trouble in identifying a specific stamp using the *Scott* catalog. So a few other catalogs can be useful. (Sometimes the information is

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the same in is Scott, but presented in a slightly different way that makes it easier for me to understand.) I'm not much of a linguist, so my first choice are other English language catalogs, Minkus and Gibbons. If I'm really having a rough time, I'll take a crack at *Michel* (German) or *Yvert et Tellier* (French). Here again, I'm interested in information, not values, so old catalogs easily fill the bill and do so at quite a reduction in price. (I noticed a recent ad by Subway Stamp Shop offering the 1987 red Gibbons for \$3.50.)

A good general stamp reference book or two is really helpful. *Fundamentals of Philately* by L. N. Williams has just appeared in a revised edition. Published by the APS at \$60.00 (with a 20% discount to APS members) this is a quality book, well illustrated running to over 800 pages and well indexed. It concentrates on the technical side of the hobby such as the manufacture of stamps. If you don't want to spend \$60, consider a used copy of the earlier edition. As often happens, a copy of the 1st edition sold at a premium when it was out of print. Now that a revised edition is available, that's no longer the case. A friend of mine recently bought a used 1st edition for \$5.00 (a great bargain in my opinion). A fairly new basic book being offered by the APS is *Stamp Collecting: The Complete, Easy Guide to the World's Most Popular Hobby* by C. F. Adams. This is a 180 page paperback published by Dell and available from the APS at \$3.75 (\$3 to APS members). Two older general works that you may be able to find second hand at low cost are:

Postage Stamps in the Making by John Easton (early versions by F. J. Melville) and *Stamp Collecting* by Stanley Phillips. An atlas can come in handy. Either a standard one or an atlas geared to stamp collecting. The APS has *The Stamp Atlas* by Wellsted, Rossiter & Flower. This has over 300 pages with 144 maps. Van Dahl Publications has one by Ken Wood, *Stamp Collector* editor emeritus with 230 maps. A hybrid, combining the features of an atlas and general handbook is a three volume set also published by Van Dahl and authored by Ken Wood: *This is Philately*. It is arranged alphabetically and runs to almost 900 pages. An earlier book with a similar approach is *The Stamp Collector's Encyclopedia* by R. J. Sutton. A stamp identifier of some sort is always helpful. I think most worldwide collectors tend to have a couple. My favorite is an oldie put out by H. E. Harris a long time ago. The APS recently came out with the second edition of its *Identifier*, which sells

for \$2.50 (\$2 to APS members).

There may be some parts of the world you collect a little more deeply than others, and for these you may want to have more depth than the general catalogs as reference. A good case in point is U. S., and the *Scott US Specialized* in many ways is as much a handbook as it is a catalog. Again, for information, we probably don't need the latest one. I've always had a particular interest in British stamps and have found Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps* a great source of information. This series began in 1947 and it was initially planned to be complete by the end of '52. The gestation period proved to be a bit longer and volume VI, Leeward Islands only recently appeared. Postal History and Postal Stationary are covered as well as adhesives in a fairly specialized way. Background information, both historical and geographical, is provided. Even in the more recent volumes, nothing issued since 1952 is covered. Now this is an expensive set of books and all but the last two volumes are out of print. But used sets or part sets do appear from time to time, and are worth watching for. Sometimes, you might get a bargain. You can probably find a somewhat similar situation for other collecting areas. On these older books, decide on what you want and, much like seeking that particular stamp to fill in a set, good hunting!

This may be a bit of a stretch, but as I go over my stamps, I often become curious about what may be the story behind the stamp. A general encyclopedia is useful and the family Britannica isn't too far away from the collection.

What about the weekly and monthly stamp magazines and newspapers? I keep those that have a good subject index. Both the American Philatelist and the Collectors Club Philatelist have cumulative subject indexes covering the first 100 years for the former and 75 years for the latter. (Strictly speaking, the *AP* has a geographic and author index.) Others like *Stamp Collector* and *Linn's*, I'll clip and only file the clippings.

Where can you get some of these reference? Let me give you addresses of some that I've mentioned: APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (they have a list of literature available); Van Dahl Publications (Stamp Collector), Box 10, Albany, OR 97321; and Subway Stamp Shop, 111 Nassau Street, New York NY 10083 (they have a price list and usually provide a discount). (Editors note: Check the classified ads in your favorite philatelic journal for firms selling

reference books.)

This is by no means a complete list of references for the general collector. Just some comments about some that I think are helpful. What works for me may not work for you and vice-versa, so give a little thought before making a major purchase and if you're not sure, try to examine a book before you buy it. •••

It's Official

The sales circuit is back in operation! Blank books have been printed and are now in the hands of those members who first requested them.

Here's how it works. If you have stamps to sell, purchase blank sales books for \$3 for \$1.00 plus postage. Each book has spaces for 96 stamps. Follow the directions in the guidelines as to mounting and pricing. Return the completed books to the manager, who will enter them into the program.

Any member may purchase stamps from the sales circuit. Simply make your interests known to the manager, who will do her best to match your needs with available material. Purchase those items you need and send the rest to the next member.

Full details for buyers and sellers can be obtained from the manager, Judy Hungerford (# 513), 219 Stanford Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. Send a SASE (#10 size) and mention if you wish to buy or sell (or both) stamps through the program. Due to mailing restrictions, this service is currently only available to U.S. members. •• Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Beginner's Swap - Join!

The first round of exchange of our new "Beginner's Circuit" has completed successfully. We need more members and look forward to further growth. Though there are complaints about the quality of some stamps, everyone exchanged a good amount and those that returned to me were of better quality and value. Remember that any exchange will only be as good as the stamps you provide. "Give unto others as you would jope they would give to you."

We are hoping for more participants in this swap circuit. There is a lot of enthusiasm and it is a great means of adding to your collection as well as making new friends. If you are a beginner of any age why don't you join us?

Just send 25 used commemoratives and a 29¢ SASE or IRC to: Joan Roderick, 12 Red Oak Road, Asheville, NC 28804. ••

THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN by Dave Nelson (#25)

I'm a pretty lucky guy...I was selected for the U.S. Postal Service Customer Survey! I have no idea how many get selected for this honor but I like to think I was in the top quarter billion. The survey has a few personal questions and a bunch on how I rate the USPS on service. I gave them pretty good marks. Frankly, I get tired of hearing how bad the U.S. postal service is. True, it's not the one-day service our British members enjoy, but it's a far sight better than most modern countries especially as large as the U.S. In Canada they go on strike every other year; in Russia it's a coin toss if they'll deliver at all and many citizens still don't feel comfortable writing in an uncensored manner; in Italy your banker makes liberal allowances for late payment since it often takes a month or more before the postal people deliver your remission.

They asked to be graded on a scale of 1 to 7. I gave them a top on "delivering undamaged" (I can't remember the last mail I received damaged), and a bottom on "consistency of delivery from out of area". It's unfortunate that the questions about promptness and consistency were not segregated by class of service since I think the 1st class service is pretty good, but I have to say there are days and even weeks delay in getting my regular copy of *The Circuit* after I get the 1st class copy sent of ISWSC officers. The only other bottom score I gave them was on "window hours" since here in Petaluma it is hard for a working person to get to a window. I really don't think it would increase costs much to put some window staff on flex hours with the first starting at 07:00 and the last one closing at 19:00 and, alas, Saturday morning hours!

But, I think the postal service gets blamed for all the human failings of all the people who use the service. When the car payment is overdue we past date the check to try to avoid a late charge and blame the mail service, when we forget Mother's Day we ask mom didn't she get that card we (never really) mailed, when we let that stamp circuit sit on the desk beyond deadline we past date that and hope the manager will blame good old USPS. Since most of us use our carriers as convenient excuses how can we expect their reputation not to suffer unfairly? The honest truth is that I cannot think of one single case in over 50 years of using the U.S. postal service that I or anyone in my family actually lost a piece of mail that I know we sent, or that I know for sure was sent to us. "Lost in the mail"?...sure it was!

A month prior to writing this I mailed some postcards to my family and to Carol Cervenka. They still have not arrived. Is this another example of lousy postal service? I really doubt it. I sent them from Liechtenstein and the service there is run with Swiss-watch precision, by the Swiss. My guess is that the Park Hotel Sonnenhof still has them sitting on a file cabinet or something, but once again, the postal services will get the blame. Not to pick on the hotel, it is excellent and I highly recommend it the next time you are in Liechtenstein. I had a really special dinner there one night and my balcony looked right out on Schloss Vaduz, Prince Hans Adam's medieval castle, and the castle views that appear on 90% of their picture postcards must have been shot from that balcony. It turned out to be a great place to spend a long holiday weekend, with rail side trips to St. Moritz and along the Glacier Express. An irresistible side trip for a stamp collector. Naturally I took in the postal museum. This is a one room display with all the Liechtenstein stamps ever issued in 50 pull out frames plus a few glass display cabinets. The stamped envelopes that predated the start of the Liechtenstein post in 1912 consisted of Austrian and Swiss mail postmarked from towns that are now in Liechtenstein. There were stampless covers from the very early 18th century. The Eurail guidebook suggests it will take only 90 minutes to tour Vaduz, but of course a philatelist could spend a lot more than that just looking at this little museum. As to the rest, not a whole lot to do but hike and look at the great scenery, so it is a relaxing place to recharge the batteries. When I arrived by train (they all stop across the Rhine in Switzerland) I took the Postbus for 3 SwFr to Vaduz. The Rhine area is a more or less continuous town so I really had no idea how far I had to go, and the driver wasn't announcing stops in English. But at one stop I realized I was looking out at a post office and the coat of arms over the door was not the Swiss white cross on red shield! I grabbed my huge suitcase and jumped out! I was right, this was Liechtenstein. One of those rare but satisfying occasions in which being a philatelist had some honest to goodness practical value.

It is always a satisfaction to me to see how active our ISWSC members are in the world of philately generally. I rarely pick up an issue of *Linn's* or *The American Philatelist* when I don't see a letter to the editor from one or more of our members. The case that prompted this mention was

the August issue of the latter where I observed a short note from Mike Ercolini congratulating APS for offering a choice of quality competitors for the director-at-large posts. A few letters down was a note from Dave Creson, one of our most active members, and this one was on the subject of ISWSC itself where he managed to get our name in front the APS membership one more time and I'm sure that will lead to yet another spate of new members for whom this will be their first issue of *The Circuit*. These just happen to be two members that I know and have corresponded with, there may well have been others among our 700+ members whose names I didn't recognize. Of course this is not even to mention a number of our loyal worldwidens who are regular philatelic columnists, whose names are very well known in the industry press. Keep it up, all of you. The two ways we grow are through word of mouth referrals and by mention in the press; please each of you make it a point in the next year to do one or both on behalf of our rapidly growing club. Growth is good in many ways, it enables us to keep dues low, it gives us a much larger talent pool to draw on for newsletter articles and for volunteer efforts and officers and it gives us "muscle" in lobbying for change and effecting improvements to the hobby.

My latest travels took me to four continents which should have enabled me to return with a couple of interesting philatelic experiences to relate, or at least some foreign members met, but I covered this ground in just 18 days so you can imagine that I was moving too fast to actually do anything really fun. I was in and out of Peru and Brazil so quickly I didn't even take hotel rooms! I did have a chance in Johannesburg, South Africa, to pop in to a downtown stamp dealer. The proprietor and I had a language gap so all I was able to buy was a large on-paper mixture for about \$7 which was a real bargain. Wait a minute. "A language problem?" I hear you ask. Yes, they speak 11 languages there and many who speak Afrikaans are not at all adept with English, even in the shops and travel industry jobs. In Capetown I stopped at a post office to get stamps for postcards home. I was presented with a strip of pretty stamps from the '92 succulents series which had no denomination printed on them. The clerk saw me holding them up to the light for a careful inspection and must have known what was going through my head so she volunteered that they were valued at 45 cents which was not printed on them. Shucks, I was just about to buy

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Beginner's Column by Al and Mildred Feinberg (#361)

As an old time stamp collector I still have difficulty identifying colors and shades, particularly shades. So Can just imagine how beginners feel when they see the same stamp with different shades.

The best way, of course, is to have the stamps expertised but that can cost a lot of money, especially if you have lots of stamps with different shades.

I find a Stanley Gibbons color gauge very useful but stil not exact. You must take under consideration that most older stamps fade and some colors actually change over time. As an example, a lot of violets and purples turn gray. Some colors just oxidize and look totally different from what they are supposed to be.

Another difficulty is stamps that are classified as red-orange or orange-red. The second color is the primary color. Red-orange would mean the stamp is orange with some red added to it. Orange-red would be a red stamp with some orange added to it and so on.

To determine colors that have special names like lake, magenta, mauve, ultramarine, etc., your color gauge helps quite a bit.

Another thing that helps me quite a bit is to compare the stamp in question with another stamp of that color from the same country. The reasoning here is that each country has their own idea as the name of the color of the stamp. So comparing stamps with same country is essential.

Some shades are just next to impossible to identify. The difficulty lies in trying to distinguish between the many shades of blue named variously as blue, bright blue, cobalt blue, steel blue, gray blue, light blue, powder blue, and so on.

I would say it all boils down to this: If the catalog value of a light blue stamp is \$5.00 and the other variety of the shades is \$100.00 or more, you can rest assured you have the \$5.00 one.

Lots of luck, you'll need it. ••

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Carol Cervenka (#498)

While ISSC membership continues to grow, we want to retain as many current members as possible. If you notice a friend has failed to renew, please remind them how much every member means to the Society. ISWSC is the only organization dedicated to the general worldwide collector and membership is an important way to keep this part of the hobby alive and well.

#702 Biermann has paid dues and is reinstated.

We received the resignation of #766 Henderson. Members #556 Doucette, #699 Dummett, #701 Clanner amd #708 Riedel have been dropped for non-payment of dues. Please delete their names from your Rosters.

The following members dues have expired, and they will be dropped unless dues are received by September 30th: # 723 Harris, 731 Wilson, 732 Propst, 734 Beckett, 761 Tedesco, 762 Mizerack, & 765 Liggett

ISWSC member # 1000, Alain Pautard, was enrolled on July 12, 1993. Alain is from France but was raised in Montreal, Canada. He began collecting stamps at age 10 when his grandmother gave him an album. When he was 15, Alain and his parents moved to Florida where he continued to collect stamps primarily of France, Canada, and the USA.

Alain collects postally used stamps as he feels they are more of a challenge to find. He is currently working on his collection of France, offices abroad and Colonies which is about two-thirds complete. He also collects telephone cards and is eager to trade them with members in countries where these cards are in use.

A Marine Engineer, Alain is 33 years old and single. He is stationed at Anchor Island in the Bahamas where he works as a contractor for AUTECH (Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation), a US Naval Base. He gets all his mail through the Fleet Post Office.

Alain writes that he joined ISWSC to trade stamps with other members, so, if you have used stamps of France, including French Colonies and Offices Abroad, drop him a line to welcome him and initiate some trades.

Last month two member codes were left off the Roster update because of space limitations: they are included with this month's codes. ••

A Big Thank You to Crown Agents



Crown Agents
Stamp Bureau

Crown Agents Stamp Bureau (# 2 Carshalton Rd., Sutton, Surrey SMI 4RN, UK) has donated many mint sets of recent issues to our Youth Program. They were from many different countries and included a lot of pretty topical subjects which appeal to kids. ISWSC wishes to thank the Crown Agents for their very generous donation to the future philatelists. ••

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her whole supply of these stamps with the color missing error when she dashed my hopes.

In closing, my thanks to you Bernard Walker (#842) of Tamworth, Australia. Bernard is ahead of me on Dalene Thomas' international swap circuit and he enclosed a gift for me, a "PEELPEX" exhibition souvenir sheet from the local society's Sept. '92 show. Bernard himself designed it (very well I might add) and since this is #70 of a limited edition of only 500 you can be certain it was not a duplicate in my collection.

October is
National Stamp
Collecting Month
Talk about your hobby
with everyone you meet

Public Relations Report

by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

In a Word - VOTE!

This Circuit issue contains a ballot with the slate of candidates for the 1994-95 term. Although each office is uncontested (despite attempts to the contrary) your vote and support does count! Take a few minutes to fill out the ballot, as well as the brief questionnaire. Your comments are always appreciated on ways to improve the society.

Since the I am running for office, a temporary PRO has been appointed to handle this election. Peter Bylen (# 695) has graciously consented to handle the election returns and count the ballots. He will report on the election results in the upcoming newsletter. (The office will revert back to me after the election until the newly elected officers take over.)

Stamp season has resumed for many of us after the summer hiatus. Stamp meetings and shows are in high gear once again. Use these opportunities to introduce fellow collectors to the ISWSC. ••