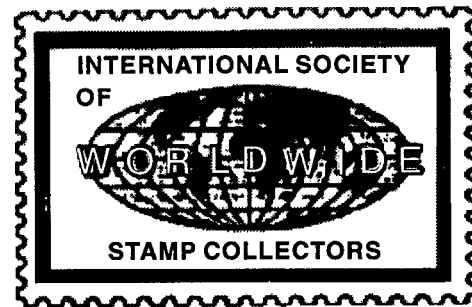


The Circuit



January-February 1999 • Volume 17 No. 1

Affiliate of: APS (#151) & ATA (#89)

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Special for the New Year (possibly with tongue in cheek)

Out With the Old, In With the New— By William Cappa (#1514)

OLD

NEW

STAMP SHOP

Musty, up 4 stories of cracked marble steps, or, in a rickety, brass-barred elevator. Meshed glass door lit by dusty sun's rays through old venetian blinds.

In convenient suburban shopping center on ground floor, with convenient parking, lit by modern neon. Walnut door. Alarm system.

DISPLAYS

Crusty, disheveled albums, rotting on old, neglected shelves. A few curling \$5 Columbians barely visible through grimy counter glass.

Bright plastic dealer display books with Grenadines SS, Diana sheetlets, Elvis FDCs
+imperf Bugs Bunny sheets. Expensive albums.

PROPRIETOR

Old, white-haired gentleman with pince-nez bifocals. A bit absent-minded, with a disorganized business sense. Inclined to long lectures on postal history. An unusual love of children, and an unhealthy tendency toward generosity.

Young college business grad. Aggressive, no-nonsense, and computer savvy. No haggling, but offers lots of "bargain" packets (CTOs) and loads of NH British.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please send all orders for ISWSC publications to our acting
VP for Publications:
John Rose
6901 Yorkshire Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 5208

*Ed. Note: There are still several articles that were submitted to The Circuit many months ago, and have not yet been printed due to lack of space. You will see in this issue some excellent articles and letters that are not as CURRENT as they should be! They are included because they are valuable contributions from ISWSC members.
I beg your indulgence.
Soon this situation will no longer exist!*

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President's Column**By Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)**

The ISWSC is back on track! Thanks to the hard work of the officers and managers, the business of the society is now up to date. We have processed the backlog of work and correspondence. We are now ready to not only keep up with renewals, new members and other business as it comes in, but to move the ISWSC forward and make some progress! I want to stress that even though the business functions of the society have suffered with the worsening health of Carol Cervenka, the benefits of membership (especially the Omni Exchange, Sales Program, Swap Circuit and Auctions) have continued to operate at their usual level of efficiency. We are all indebted to the managers and co-managers of those programs for their hard work and efforts on our behalf.

During the past months, with services being slow and uncertain, we have kept all memberships active, even as they expired. We cannot afford to continue to do this. I am asking each of you to check your membership expiration date (found on your membership card and on the address label by which this issue of *The Circuit* was mailed) and send a renewal check immediately if your membership has either already expired or will expire in the next 3 months. By the time this issue reaches you we will begin to terminate memberships that have expired.

Recently, a letter appeared in *Linn's Stamp News* from a collector who stated that one can only enjoy stamp collecting today by narrowly focusing collecting interests. Well, as ISWSC President, I just had to reply. My reply was published in a November issue and has resulted in many requests for applications from worldwide stamp collectors who were not even aware of the existence of the ISWSC. This tells me that there are many others out there who would probably like to join, and that we are not doing a good enough job at advertising our existence to them. This is one of my goals for the future.

We also need to rebuild our Youth program and publication program. The death of Al Feinberg, has left a void which must be filled. One of the ISWSC's proudest contributions to philately has been our efforts to encourage and support the hobby to young people. I am calling on all members to consider volunteering to play a role in supporting these two

Continued on page twelve:**NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHER**

Marian MacLeod, 302 Armory Place, Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783-2006.
906•632-9663; Fax 906•632-9663; mmacleod@sault.com

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

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: FEB. 15, 1998

QUIZ: France

By Robert C. Toole (#696)

France has issued stamps since 1849. Stamps were issued for five occupations of France. And two international organizations have issued official stamps in France.

- A. Allied Military Government
- B. Alsace
- C. Alsace-Lorraine (2)
- D. Council of Europe
- E. France
- F. Lorraine
- G. UNESCO

1. ___ Stamps since 1849. The nation is in western Europe.
2. ___ Stamps in 1870. During the Franco-Prussian War Germany issued occupation stamps for the region in northeast France.
3. ___ 1916. During World War I Germany again issued occupation stamps for the region in northeast France.
4. ___ 1940. During World War II Germany issued occupation stamps for a French province between the Rhine River and the Vosges Mountains.
5. ___ 1940. At the same time Germany issued occupation stamps for the French province west of number 4.
6. ___ 1944-45. Late in the war the United States and Great Britain jointly issued occupation stamps for civilian use.
7. ___ Since 1958. The international organization has issued stamps for official use only on mail posted in the post office in its building in Strasbourg.
8. ___ Since 1961. The international organization has issued official stamps for use only on mail posted in the post office in its building in Paris.



Note: — Bob says that if members find his quizzes too difficult, they should look up the countries. We have several more quizzes in our files to share with you; stay tuned!

Editor's Notes:

If you have sent an article to *The Circuit* and have not yet seen it in print, the reason may be that there were two missed issues between editors, and there is a small backlog of articles yet to be printed. Please be patient and I will try to get them all in. I usually send *The Circuit* to the printer one month before it comes out, as I have been requested to do

If you are sending an article to *The Circuit*, the very best method is to send it by email to me as regular text (preferred over attachment) at mmacleod@sault.com and, if there are pictures/graphics to be included, scan them and attach them to your email article. If that method is not available, please send article in printed form and/or on disk with legible name and member number.

Thank you!



Dues Information:

- Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$10*
- Youth membership (under 18), \$8*
- Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$17*

*=plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US \$

Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA.

Advertising Policy: All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready)* per insertion:
 Full page, \$40**; Half page, \$20**;
 Quarter page, \$10**; Per column inch, \$2.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra. **Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunata (see p.2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion: First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1. NOTE: State abbreviations are one word. "PO Box 12345" is two words. Zip code is one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in US funds. Send copy to the Editor and payment to Tom Fortunata. Addresses are on page 2.

Grade	Correct	E	1
A	7 - 8	C	2
B	5 - 6	C	3
C	4	B	4
D	3	F	5
E	2	A	6
F	1 - 0	D	7
G		C	8
QUIZ ANSWERS			

Placing an Ad? Read information!

How Many Countries Are There?

by John Rose (#1011)

In 1996, the Pittsburgh Folk Festival asked me to design an album for Worldwide Stamp Collecting.

When I finished, it listed 216 countries, but some of them actually weren't. What is a country, anyhow? For the children I said that a country is the same thing as a nation, and my definition was "it issues stamps." Of course there are exceptions; I think that more than 240 issue stamps at present.

This spring I took a course on Nationalism at the University of Pittsburgh's College for Over Sixty. In the course we considered such esoteric questions as "when does a country become a nation?" and "is the new phenomenon of nationalism about to be replaced by globalism?" and decided to find the answer to a simpler question: "How many nation-states are there?" Our text stated that there are 8,000 identifiable different groups in the world that could be nations!

Forget "it issues stamps." Now my definition of country/nation is that it is a member of either the UPU or the UN. I still use the terms country and nation interchangeably, because we hear about "countries" on the news, but call the collection of them "the United Nations."

Linn's Stamp News printed a list of the 188 countries in the Universal Postal Union. And the United Nations sent me a list of its 185 members, also available on the Worldwide Web at www.un.org/news. It seemed easy enough—just compare the two lists. Once I found the true number of countries I would revise my album so that it could be used to teach children the countries of the world—hard enough today, without adding all the non-countries that issue stamps.

Alphabetically, the first discrepancy on the list was Andorra.

As a boy I collected stamps from this valley country between France and Spain, and noticed in the newspaper when it became the 184th member of the UN (Palau is 185th). But Andorra (1993) does not belong to the UPU; neither do Palau (1994), Micronesia (1991) or the Marshall Islands (1991). Dates are the years admitted to the UN.

I also found four members of the UPU that are not members of the UN, namely Nauru (1969), Netherlands Antilles (1954), Tonga (1972) and Tuvalu (1981). Shown are dates of current UPU membership.

Two others were in the UPU but not the UN. We know from two wars that Switzerland doesn't join things it doesn't have to. Although it's not in the UN it is in the UPU, maybe because the UPU was formed in Switzerland in 1874. Neither did the Vatican join the UN. But they are both in my album and get their mail delivered.

Comparing the two lists was interesting and had the added advantage of getting correct spelling and country names. But there were mysteries. Samoa joined the UN in 1976. Western Samoa joined the UPU in 1996. Only the latter is in my album.

The UPU listed Great Britain. I had been telling the children that since it doesn't issue stamps, "Great Britain" is not a country. I was glad to see that the UN listed it as "the United Kingdom. It has been difficult to determine the correct name of that country, and to make it harder it's the only nation that doesn't put its name on its stamps. I suppose that is because it issued the first stamp.

The back of my album has a stamp identifier and it includes how to distinguish the stamps of North and South Korea and the stamps of

China and Taiwan. But neither the UN nor the UPU includes Taiwan. And although the UPU includes both North (1974) and South Korea (1949), the UN lists only "the Republic of Korea" (1991). My album has both of both.

Finally, my album has two entries that the two lists do not, for special reasons. I had thousands of Canal Zone stamps that my aunt saved when she worked for the International Correspondence School. And I want the children to be aware of the canal turnover in 1999. So the Canal Zone is in the album.

And last, but not least, the UN is in the album. It's not a nation, but I think a most important organization of nations. And its membership list helped me to determine the answer to the question.

There are 192 nations in the world (UN or UPU members), 193 if you add Taiwan. The Canal Zone and UN bring the total listed in my album to 195. And as I write this things are happening around the world that might make that change!

In late April 150 children from six different schools used my album at the Intergenerational Arts Festival; 5,000 stamps were given to collectors. At the end of May 460 collectors used the album at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival; 17,000 stamps were given out.

The album calls for one stamp from each country and has them clearly marked on maps. Now that it includes only countries, I have changed the name of my album from *Worldwide Stamp Collecting* to *Postage Stamps from the Countries of the World*.

If you want a copy of the pages so you can make your own albums, please send at least 100 stamps from South America, Africa or Asia. Having given out 22,000 stamps at two festivals, I need to replenish them before April 1999.



Introduction to Indian Philately

by Joseph Kairmady—#1761

In India, during the administration of Warren Hastings (1774-1785), the postal system maintained by the East India Company was made available for transmission of private communications. Before the introduction of postage stamps, prepayment of postage was indicated by hand struck stamps known as *Bishopmark*, named after Henry Bishop, Postmaster General of Great Britain. In India, it was in all probability first introduced in Calcutta Post Office in January 1774, when Warren Hastings allowed carriage of mail of private individuals on payment of fee through the East India Company's postal network. Small copper tickets or tokens valued at Annas 2 ($\frac{1}{4}$ th of a Rupee) were generally the medium for payment of postage. Single letters up to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tolas (29 gms) weight were charged at the rate of Annas 2 for every 100 miles (160 kms). These copper tickets were reported to have been withdrawn by the Government on 14 September, 1784.

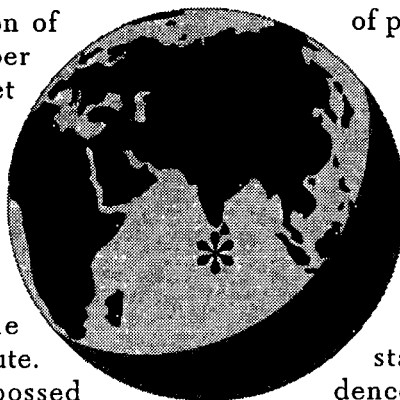
Sir Rowland Hill (1798-1879) introduced the Penny Postage stamps in England on 6 May, 1840. First postage stamps issued in India were in 1852 in the Province of Sind under the Bombay Presidency. Sir Bartle Frere, then Chief Commissioner of Sind, was asked by the Bombay Government to undertake the upkeep of the postal services of the province and also to popularize it among the public. He was a great admirer of Sir Rowland Hill and his Penny Postage Scheme. With the help of Edward Lees Coffrey, then Postmaster of Karachi, Sir Bartle issued the first postage stamps on 1 July 1852. They were embossed pieces of paper with a circular design in red, white, or blue. 'Scinde Dawks,' as they were known, were

of the denomination of $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna. The number of stamps per sheet was probably 64, 8 rows of 8 stamps. The exact number is not known. They were used in the Province of Sind, as well as on the Karachi-Bombay route. Though these embossed stamps were recalled in September 1854, but the order was not apparently carried out till June 1866.

After 13 years of the use of postage stamps in England, the Government decided to extend their use in India. In 1853, the first design was prepared in the Mint at Calcutta and the stamps were struck under the guidance and supervision of Captain (later on General) Sir Henry Thuillier, then Deputy Surveyor General of India at Calcutta. The stamps were issued in July 1854. The printing of stamps in the Calcutta Mint ceased in November 1852

Thereafter they were printed at London by Thomas De La Rue & Company. The India Security Press was set up at Nasik in Maharashtra State in 1925 and the postage stamps have been printed at Nasik since. Today they are printed by photogravure process.

The stamps of the British period generally carry the effigy of the regnant King or Queen. India was the first country in the Commonwealth to issue airmail stamps. In 1929, a set of six airmail stamps was issued showing a De Havilland aircraft along with the King's portrait. The inauguration of the new capital city of New Delhi, Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V, victory in the Second World War were commemorated with the issue



of pictorial stamps.

India attained independence on 15 August, 1947. Thereafter Indian P&T Department embarked on a broad based policy relating to the issue of stamps. The first stamp after Independence, was issued on 15

December, 1947 in the denomination of $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas, gray-green in colour depicting the lion capital of Ashoka Pillar and carrying the inscription "Jai Hind" in Hindi. Since then, India has been issuing definitive as well as commemorative stamps. Five definitive series on themes relevant to the country's heritage and progress in various fields have been brought out. The Sixth Definitive Series on the theme of "Agriculture & Rural Development" commences from 1979.

Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru occupy place of pride on Indian stamps. The first set of 4 stamps paying homage to the Mahatma was issued on 15 August, 1948 and were printed by the Swiss firm, Heliss Courvoisier S.A. The commemorative stamps have been issued in honour of the Presidents of India, Prime Ministers, eminent Indians from the annals of India's struggle for freedom as well as from the fields of literature, art, culture, education, etc. Many foreigners of international eminence have also been honoured on Indian stamps.

Special stamps highlighting India's cultural heritage, fauna and flora and various other aspects of national life have been issued from time to time.

India postage stamps, during more than a century-old history, have carved a secure niche for themselves in the world of philately.



The Bank of America

by Adolf J. Koolhaas (#758)

Note: the following letter was written one year ago and is finally being printed! It is as timely and interesting as it was when it was sent to ISWSC:

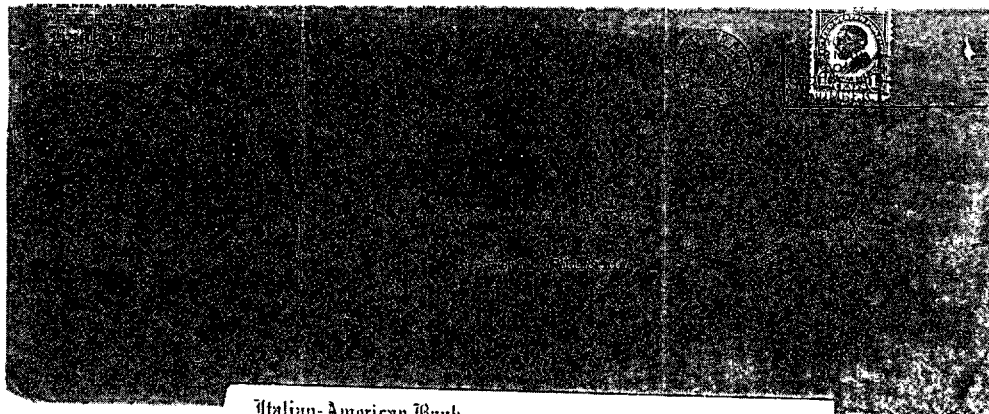
Dear Friends, WWS Collectors:

In a response to a question about the Bank of Italy you wrote that this became the Bank of America. Recently I found two envelopes for sale in our local coin and stamp store which I believe give us some more history about the Bank of America.

They were addressed to the same customer 21 years apart. The older one was from the Italian-American Bank, mailed Mar. 8, 1909 (two years before I was born). The second one was from the Bank of Italy, mailed May 18, 1930. (The 8 is not very clear.)

The two statements, however, are from April 1930. The letter in the first is interesting, too. (What is "outside property"?) Best regards, Adolf J. Koolhaas (#758), Redlands, CA

Editor's Note: The following is a scan of the photocopies sent by Mr. Koolhaas, and are the best we could do with them. I would love to have had the originals to scan!



Italian-American Bank,
San Francisco

PAID 10c

U.S. POSTAGE

MAR 10 1909

Guscetti Bros
Loyalton
Calif

*Wm. A. Hartman, President
M. J. Crocker, Vice-President*

*A. C. Weston, Cashier
R. L. Weston, Asst. Cashier*

Italian-American Bank

PAID UP CAPITAL, \$ 750,000.00

San Francisco, California March 8, 1909

Guscetti Bros,
Loyalton, Calif.

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your application for a loan of \$2000.-
we are sorry to state that our bank does not loan on outside property.

Very truly yours,
Italian American Bank
A. C. Weston
Cashier