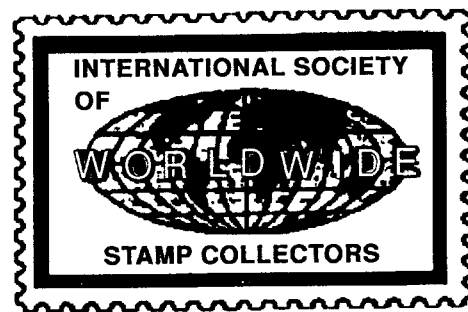


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*Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)
Current Membership: 609 Collectors Worldwide!*

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Historic Perspectives: Indian Philately

by V. Joseph Kainady (#1761)

A Short History of Cochin State (India) and Its Philately

The Kings of Cochin were believed to be the descendants of a Namboodiri (high caste Brahmin) of Perumpadappa in Ponnani Taluk of Malabar, who married the sister of Rama Varma Kulasekhara, the last Perumal of Mahodayapuram.

This kingdom took shape in the 14th century at Cochin, which is situated between Malabar and Travancore, subsequent to the attack of Zamorin of Calicut, which forced the rulers of Perumpadappu to run away from Ponnani to Cochin.

Moreover, Crangannore (near Ponnani) lost its importance as a port due to the great floods of 1341, and Cochin became the most important port of South India. After the conquest of Cochin by the Dutch and the defeat of the Portuguese, Dutch influence was supreme in Cochin.

In 1791 Dutch influence gave way to British influence. From 1805 until 1949, when the State was merged with Travancore, 16 kings ruled this small feudal state sandwiched between Malabar (of the British ruled Madras province) and the princely state of Travancore.

In 1949 Cochin was merged with Travancore to form Travancore-Cochin State. Due to the linguistic reorganization of the States of India in 1956, this T.C. State was amalgamated with the Malayalam-speaking area "Malabar" of Madras State to form Kerala, with Malayalam as the official language.

Philatelic History

The postal system of Cochin, known as Cochin Anchal, was the postal system for communication inside Cochin State only. For communication with outside States, the Indian Postal Department had its offices at various parts of the state, like that of Travancore State.

For Cochin Government use, ONCGS was overprinted on the regular issues. The first postal stamp of Cochin was issued in 1892, and the last in 1949.

Currency

6 Puthans = 5 British Annas

12 Pies = 1 Anna

16 Annas = 1 Rupee

A Brief History of Travancore State (India) and Its Philately

Venad, which subsequently became Travancore, was the southernmost feudal state in Chera Empire of India.

Ayyanadi Thiruvadigal (AD – 849) is believed to be the first ruler of this State, which consisted of the present Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts. Rama Varma Kulasekharan, who fled to Kollam after the destruction of the Chera Empire by the Cholas, became the King of Venad and is believed to have been the first king in the present royal dynasty of Travancore.

In 1729 Marthanda Varma became the king of Venad, and he extended the boundary of Venad to North Parur by subjugating the small principalities of Kayamkulam, Ambalapuzha (Chempakaseril), etc.

In 1741 at Kolachel he defeated the Dutch forces for the first time in the colonial history of India. After the rule of Marthanda Varma (1729–1758) 11 (eleven) kings and queens ruled Travancore until 1949, when it was merged with Cochin to form Travancore-Cochin State.

For internal communication inside the State, the State maintained a postal system known as ANCHAL, and for communication outside the State the British government maintained post offices. Travancore-Cochin State was in

See "Indian Philately," concluded on page 7.

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

Please remember that the Editor does not mail out the Circuits. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 20, 2001

President's Column

by Tony Zollo (#856), President and Executive Director, ISWSC

Several important ISWSC positions have now changed hands. Jim Gaul (#1853) is now firmly entrenched as our new Manager of the Sales Circuit (replacing Bob McKenzie) and Jerry Foster (#965) is now the new OMNI Exchange Manager (replacing Jerry Gross). All correspondence regarding these two programs should be sent to the new managers. Their addresses can be found on this page.

I have received the vote tallies for our two board positions from our Election Chair, Rick Simpson. As I sit here writing, we still do not know who will ultimately win the US Presidency, but at least the ISWSC election is decided. The vote tallies for the four candidates are as follows:

Joan Roderick - 116

Ken Costilow - 96

Joe Foley - 67

Bill Silvester - 42

So, congratulations to Joan and Ken who will begin their terms as members of the ISWSC's Board of Directors as of January 1, 2001.

I want to thank Rick for taking on this job and all four candidates for stepping up and being willing to serve the members of the ISWSC!

We still have no active Western European Regional

See President's Column, page 5.

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(Represent the ISWSC, distribute stamps to youth programs in their region.)

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Scandinavia/Baltics

Martti Vihanto (#830)

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Turku, Finland

Swap Circuit Fees Due

by Randy Smith (#1111)

Continuing a practice started last year, the Swap Circuit fees are due = each January 15. If you have not yet sent in your fees, please do so now, otherwise current members will soon be removed from the Swap Circuit routings. If you haven't joined the program yet, now is a great time to do so! The program is lots of fun and helps you to fill in some of those gaps in your album!

A single \$2.00 fee is charged each year, along with a stamp fee. The stamp fees are as follows:

Regular Circuit (A-F, G-M, N-Z): 100 large stamps or \$4.00 Super Circuit: 200 large stamps or \$8.00 CTO Circuit: 100 CTO stamps or \$4.00 Small Circuit: 100 small stamps or \$4.00

If you request 5 or more circuits (per month) of the same type, an additional 100 stamps (200 for Super Circuits) are due for every multiple of five circuits requested.

Please send all fees (stamps and money) to: Randy Smith; Swap Circuit Coordinator; P.O. Box 21115; Eagan, MN 55121. Please also include your name, membership number, and the number of each type of circuit you wish to receive. In addition, please also indicate if you wish to be placed on circuits with members worldwide or only on circuits with members in the USA and/or Canada. Questions about the program and/or fees can be sent to the above address or via e-mail to rasmarty@compaq.net.



Omni Circuit Head Introduces Himself

by Jerry Foster (#965)

I am a retired chemical/environmental engineer. My collecting interests are general worldwide, but I concentrate mostly on about a dozen counties where I have lived or visited.

I also collect several topics, including mineral specimens on stamps and classical music composers. I was a part-time approval dealer for about 10 years.

Besides ISWSC, I am a member of APS and ATA.

My plans for the OMNI Exchange right now are to continue the fine job Jerry Gross has done. In the future, as I gain experience with the Exchange, I hope to be able to make innovative changes to enhance the value of the Exchange to its participants.



Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$12*

Youth membership (under 18), \$10*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$19*

*=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, PO Box 150407 Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least 1 month prior to the current expiration date.*

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready)* per insertion:

Full page, \$75**; Half page, \$40**; Quarter page, \$20**; Per column inch, \$5. Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue. *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 Fortunato (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 = one word. "PO Box 12345" = two words. Zip code = one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor, Marian MacLeod. All addresses: p. 2.

Country Notes #1: Abu Dhabi

by Ralph Chapin (#158)

Abu Dhabi existed as an independent Persian Gulf Shickdom, also known as one of the Trucial States, until 2 December 1971, at which time it joined the United Arab Emirates. It is located on the southeastern Persian Gulf shore of the Arabian Peninsula. It has a population of about 25,000 and the capital is Abu Dhabi (Abu Zaby). The currency changed from 100 Naye Paise = 1 Rupee to 1,000 Fils = 1 Dinar in 1966.

The Abu Dhabi postal history begins with the stamps of the British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia in use beginning December 1960 (Das Island oil installation) and postmarked at Bahrain. From 30 March 1963 until 30 March 1964 these stamps were postmarked "Das Island" or "Abu Dhabi." From 30 March 1964 until 1 January 1967 Abu Dhabi stamps were issued under the guidance of the British Postal Agencies. From 1 January 1967 until 3 June 1972 the Abu Dhabi Post Department issued its own stamps, even though it joined the United Arab Emirates on 2 December 1971. United Arab Emirate stamps (Scott #1-12 except the 10f and 25f values) were only used in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi is considered a modern "dead country."

The short postage issuing history (eight years) of Abu Dhabi includes 83 listed stamps plus one referenced issue (Scott Catalog). There are three long sets (11 to 12 stamps each) of regular issues plus one long set of revalued regular issues and numerous short commemorative stamp sets. There are no watermark, paper, perforation or phosphor overprint varieties listed.

Key issues: Abu Dhabi has two higher value stamps (over \$50), one from a regular issue set and the other a single value.



a. 1 Oct. 1966 regular issue w/ 1d on 10r overprint (revalued Palace) Scott #25

b. 8 Dec. 1971 regular issue w/ 5f on 50f overprint (revalued Sheik) Scott #80

Referenced issue: In 1969, the 15f regular issue of 1 April 1967 (crossed flags of Abu Dhabi) was manually surcharged "25" in Arabic numerals, using either a hand stamp or a numbering machine. The surcharged stamp was for the airmail postcard rate to Europe, India and other Arab countries. This stamp has been sold at auction during 1999 for over \$100 for a mint single.

Topical issues: Abu Dhabi has some nice topical stamps depicting:

- Animals (gazelle, camel, horse)
- Birds (falcon)
- Oil production
- Gamal Abdel Nasser
- Military
- Jerusalem

Availability: The stamps of Abu Dhabi are generally hard to find in quantity in dealer stocks and at stamp shows. If they have any at all it is usually only a few singles or a set.



Junior Philatelists Become Fifth Associate Group

by Ken Martin (#39)

The Junior Philatelists of America is proud to have become the fifth associate group of ISWSC. Founded in 1963, JPA was founded on the principle that the group should be run by and for youth collectors. While the editor of its bimonthly publication is now an adult, all of its officers still must be less than age 18. Although at its founding the JPA was given virtually no chance of survival, allowing youth to write articles and run services such as a pen pal program and special interest clusters has worked. An IRS recognized non-profit educational organization, the JPA is affiliate 26 of the APS, and has the prime objective of helping young collectors enjoy and learn more about the hobby.

Some of our members do drop out of the hobby, but if you wonder if your support of youth philately makes a difference, I assure you it does. A number of the JPA's 7,500 youth members (cumulative total since founding) have established themselves outside of youth philately. Founder Bob Osterhoff served on the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee. Ed

Roth is now a well known stamp dealer. Bill Donovan is currently an attorney in State College and is past president of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society and past chairman of the local SCOPEX stamp show. Ken Trettin who may be known to some of you as editor of the American Revenuer and an accredited judge, got his start writing for the November/December 1965 issue of The Philatelic Observer as director of the JPA U.S. Study Unit. Mark Winnegrad is current President of the Graphics Philately Association as well as a regular top membership recruiter for the American Topical Association.

"Johnny" Apfelbaum today runs the Apfelbaum firm in Philadelphia. John is also one of at least two former regular JPA members who have gone on to serve on the APS Board. John was APS Treasurer from 1995 to 1999 (and succeeded by former JPA Executive Secretary and JPA supporting member Nancy Zielinski Clark). After organizing JPA activities at INTERPHIL 76, Dan Siegel lost a race for JPA president by three votes. However, his experience was put to

good use as chair of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition and service on the APS Board of Vice Presidents. John Hufnagel apparently did not play as significant a role with the JPA but is a well known exhibitor today. After serving as JPA president, Dane Claussen went on to become Executive Editor of Stamp Collector and Stamp Wholesaler, and today is President of APS Writers Unit 30 and an accredited literature judge.

The JPA certainly appreciates ISWSC leadership in promoting youth philately and welcomes adult supporting members. Regular JPA membership, limited to youth under age 18, is \$9 per year and makes a great birthday or holiday present. Membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly Philatelic Observer and an invitation to join Study Groups and use the Stamp Identification, Penpal and other services. Full member details are available from PO Box 1665, Albany, OR 97321-0481 or the JPA web site at www.jpastamps.org.



President's Column, continued:

Representative, since we lost all contact with Jean-Marc Fruit over a year ago. If you are interested in serving in this position, please contact me via email or regular mail.

And now, I will move on to one topic that is not related to ISWSC business but to the pleasure of our hobby. One supply that worldwide collectors use a great deal of is hinges. Yet it seems almost impossible to find a truly removable/peelable the lowly stamp hinge. In the past, hinges such

as those made by the now defunct "Dennison" company were outstanding, yet the recipe seems to have been lost by all present day manufacturers.

I would like to request that any member who has found a suitable, peelable hinge share that information with me so that I may be able to share it with all members. If you could send me an empty envelope from your favorite brand and maybe a sample of a dozen unused hinges, I will run a "scientific" experiment and report on the results for the benefit of all members.

Till next time...



Quiz Answers

(Quiz on Page 8)

Answers	Correct	Grade
1. A	6	A
2. C	5	B
3. A	4	C
4. B	3	D
5. D	2	E
6. A	0-1	F



ISWSC Member Featured in Rocky Mountain News Article

Editor's Note: Dalene Thomas, long-time member of the ISWSC and its Secretary-Treasurer, was featured this year in the Lifestyles section of the Rocky Mountain News. Member Peter Bialick (#486) sent us the article to share with members

by Mark Wolf

News Staff Writer

Dalene Thomas should never run aground on a rocky shore.

For she has lighthouses.

More than 5,000 stamps in her extensive collection, as well as small figurines of lighthouses, paintings of lighthouses and calendars adorned with lighthouses in nearly every room of her house, should keep her from being lost on life's rough seas.

If anyone on the planet has ever licked a stamp depicting a lighthouse, it's probably in Thomas's collection. She is a "topical" collector, one who collects stamps on a specific theme.

She (was) installed (in June) as president of the American Topical Association, the world's largest organization of topical stamp collectors, with more than 6,000 members. She is only the third woman ever to serve as president.

Topical collectors devote their collections to a specific topic, such as archaeology, chess, Christmas, dogs, cats, performing arts, ships, sports, railroads, rainbows and windmills.

"I started collecting stamps when I was a kid," she said. "A bunch of us girls paid 25 cents for a little book. I



ISWSC member Dalene Thomas of Lakewood, CO is one of only three women to serve as president of the American Topical Association.

had a good collection, had everything except what was really expensive, and then it wasn't really fun anymore."

Her hobby faded into the background while she was raising her family, but she began collecting again about a dozen years ago and decided to specialize in lighthouses.

"The history of them intrigued me. They're all different. The style of life was fascinating. I can't imagine how people lived in them, with the waves crashing down on you all the time," she said.

"We wouldn't have near the shipping industry we have today without the lighthouses."

Dalene has become a well-informed amateur lighthouse expert as well as an advocate for lighthouse preservation.

"The first lighthouse in Alexandria, Egypt, about 300 BC, was one of the original seven wonders of the

world," she said.

"The only remaining manned lighthouse in the United States is in Boston harbor. They're all maintained by the Coast Guard now. They're all automated, run by computers. They even change their own lights automatically.

"The Coast Guard is trying to get rid of them, turning them over to cities and preservation societies. They'd like to just put up lights on a pole. A lot of them are falling apart."

Vacations for her and her husband Blaine have become lighthouse pilgrimages.

"We've visited at least 300, counting the ones in Canada. There are 156 in Michigan alone. There are more lighthouses on the Great Lakes than on the coasts," she said.

"We've been to the Great Lakes three times, to Key West, and we took a month to drive from San Diego to Seattle and saw every lighthouse on the way except one. We spent a month in Newfoundland and hope to go to the west coast of Florida."

About 95 percent of lighthouse stamps are foreign, including those from such locales as the Alderney and the Aland Islands.

Among the more unusual stamps in her collection is a 1916 German stamp for submarine mail that shows a lighthouse in the distance.

She buys stamps at local and national shows and on the Internet.

She declined to discuss the value