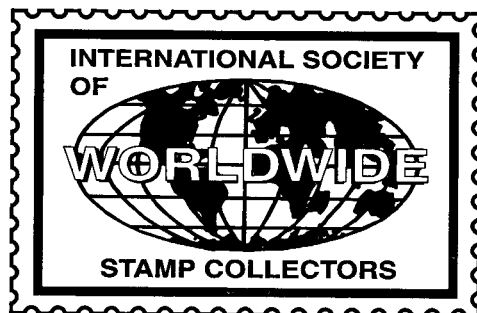


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The Circuit



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

www.iswsc.org

March/April 2004 • Volume 22 No. 2

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

ISWSC Now Offers Online Dues Payments

by Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)
ISWSC Executive Director

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (ISWSC) will now accept payment of dues and other fees online thru PayPal (www.paypal.com).

This new service will allow members and new applicants with Internet access to pay their dues and fees with a PayPal account, or with a credit card. It will also allow non-US members and applicants to pay in their local currency and have the payment converted to US dollars.

ISWSC membership dues are currently \$12 dues per year (for up to 3 years in advance). However, if you renew more than 30 days prior to your expiration date, you will be entitled to a \$2 per year discount and the annual dues will only be \$10 per year.

There will be a surcharge for online payments of \$1.00 for a one-year renewal, \$2 for a two-year

Then use the ISWSC's email address (iswsc@hotmail.com) to make your payments.

In addition to online dues and fees payments, we offer members the following methods:

1. A check/money order drawn in US dollars sent to our address: ISWSC, PO Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA
2. U.S. Cash sent to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

3. U.S. mint stamps (any combination to be used for postage — duplicates okay) with \$10 U.S. face value, to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

4. Mint stamps of their country (all different commemoratives and full sets only — no duplicates so they can be sold to collectors) with face value equivalent to \$12 U.S., to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

5. Check, money order or cash from their country sent to their regional representative (not available in all regions).

To use this service, simply go to PayPal at www.paypal.com and sign up for a free account.

Renewal Period	Renewed > 30 days from expiration date	Renewed within 30 days of expiration date
1 year	\$11 (\$10+\$1)	\$13 (\$12+\$1)
2 year	\$22 (\$10+\$10+\$2)	\$24 (\$12+\$10+\$2)
3 year	\$32.50 (\$10+\$10+\$10+\$2.50)	\$34.50 (\$12+\$10+\$10+\$2.50)

renewal and \$2.50 for a three-year renewal (see box).

To use this service, simply go to PayPal at www.paypal.com and sign up for a free account.

Mike Crump, 4708 Palm Aire Circle, Sarasota, Florida, 34243-4938) or a cash donation sent to me with your dues.

Also, please remember, renewal requires either a Youth Program donation of 250 different large stamps per year of renewal (should be sent to

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Please include a
self-addressed stamped
envelope or IRC for a
reply.*

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**DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT
ISSUE:
MARCH 20,
2004**

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

Come to Sacramento!

Once again the ISWSC will be hosting a membership meeting during Stampshow, the annual meeting of the American Philatelic Society.

This year the show is being held August 12-15 in Sacramento, CA. Typically our hour long meeting has been on Saturday afternoon. Details will appear in the next newsletter.

Sorry, there's no guarantee that Governor "Arnold" will make a guest appearance!



ISWSC Elects New Officers

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors has elected its slate of officers for a two year term from 2004-2005. They include:

- Randy Smith
President, Egan, MN
- Mike Crump
VP Charitable Services, Sarasota, FL
- Joanne Berkowitz
Secretary, Sacramento, CA

They join two Directors at Large on the ISWSC Board:

- Richard Simpson
Romley, WV
- Kenneth Wills
Grapevine, TX

Along with:

- Executive Director Tony Zollo
Lufkin, TX
- Past Secretary Dalene Thomas
Lakewood, CO
- Board Advisor Tom Fortunato
Rochester, NY.

The ISWSC has over 400 members in 16 countries who enjoy collecting "the world."

Membership is \$12 per year and includes a bimonthly newsletter, several sales and swap options, and regular auctions.

For details, write to ISWSC, PO Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 or see the society's web site at <http://www.iswsc.org>.



Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*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, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one 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: \$75.00

Half page: \$40.00

Quarter page: \$20.00

Per column inch: \$5.00

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.

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; "P.O. Box 1234" = 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. All addresses can be found on page 2.

Response to Internet Article

by Dave Nelson (#25)
Past President

The Circuit doesn't have a formal Letters column but I felt a need to present the pro-internet story, in response to the article by Paul Jackson in our latest issue. Perhaps this can be used on an "equal time" basis.

For those who didn't see it, Paul makes the argument that we should all unplug our computers because — despite the advantages he lists — it delivers "complications." He cites internet sellers who change their names and sell forgeries, or advertise lots dishonestly, and he accuses eBay of not being a true auction and not being responsive to people who have gotten lousy lots.

He gives us a useful list of recent philatelic scams and fakes (without telling us why the computer makes them more risky than good old fashioned sales by mail). Lastly, he compares people's addiction to the computer to the over use of credit cards, without explaining the logic of that comparison.

I would like to respond in several dimensions.

To take his last point first; a better analog for the explosive growth in computers would be the telephone, not the computer. Just 100 years ago we had a VERY apt precedent as those new fangled telephones began to proliferate in our towns and cities. Some people indeed felt they were just a fad; finding them to present technological "complications." They held out subscribing, terribly inconveniencing their family and friends who had to hitch up the buggy to go give them the simplest message while most others could be contacted by phone.

Computer fans will accuse me of understating the value of the internet since the telephone analog only addresses one feature, the email. All told, the internet is your telephone & answering machine, the public library and all its reference contents, the greeting cards you used to send, a stereo and VCR, the local shopping mall, all your maps, magazines and newspapers, the friendly neighborhood card game AND your long gone local stamp dealer to name just a few things that it is rapidly supplanting.

True, not all of these changes may be good, and we don't want to replace any of those completely. But to think anyone is going to "unplug" from modern life is very naive.

It is often said that stamp collectors, as a community, have been slow to adopt the internet. It is true that a given collector group may have rather few computer users, while in the general US

population usage exceeds 75%. I spent my career with a statistics company and know a little about "correlation" and it is my opinion that the mind-set of stamp collectors is actually the intellectual, curious sort that loves the internet.

To get a true comparison one has to make an age adjustment. We all know the population of stamp collectors is aging considerably; what was once the most popular hobby in America has given way to many other pursuits (such as the new #1, on-line genealogy). Simultaneously, younger families are adopting the internet much faster than their parents (true of almost all technology innovations in history). Hence, it is quite unfair to judge the popularity of computer usage by polling your local stamp club. But, having statistically adjusted for age differences, I believe you will find us collectors are actually in the forefront. (I am 63 if anyone cares).

As a significant stockholder in eBay, as well as a buyer/seller with over 1150 different satisfied eBay business relationships, I must jump on the comments about that company which is much bigger than all other on-line auction services combined. Paul makes some valid points about a good stamp auction house previewing the material and pulling out the obvious fakes.

But, if it is not their own item, the most they can do if you buy something bad is to attempt to get your money back from the consigner. They do not offer free expertizing or money back guarantees on every item sold and they certainly do not give you any information about the reliability of the consigner. Most large collections are sold "as is."

Paul's comment that eBay is not a true auction house is simply not valid. Meg Wilson did, in fact, invent it to start with as a way to host a big yard sale, but the format does involve competitive bidding which is the essence of the term "auction." When I am buying a one of a kind postal history item with no way to catalogue its value, it makes me feel VERY much more secure in knowing that others also feel it is worth the price I am bidding (as opposed to paying whatever price the dealer felt like putting on the item).

More importantly, eBay posts the positive ratings of it's buyers and sellers and if you buy something you don't like, you are free to put in a Negative rating. Dealers HATE to get a negative, and if they get many they are done for as an eBay seller.

I will admit that there are lots of ways a marginal dealer can take advantage of internet buyers,

Continued on page 6

ARGENTINA

19°	LH	\$3.75
22/6°	H	\$2.45
22°	sm. HR	\$0.50
37°	H	\$0.75
38-9	M/U, H	\$1.20
41°	LH	\$0.40
44-5°	H	\$2.45
44a°	HR	\$1.10
45a°	LH	\$2.20
51°	LH	\$1.65
52-4°	LH	\$0.55
56°	LH	\$0.35
58*	MLH	\$3.00
64A*	MH	\$3.60
64B°	H	\$0.50
65°	HR	\$0.65
66°	MHR, F	\$2.50
67°	HR	\$2.15
81*	MLH	\$1.50
82*	MLH	\$4.50
90-1(*)	M/U, H	\$2.75
98°	H	\$3.00
101*	MH	\$3.75
408**	MNH	\$1.75
414-5*	MLH	\$0.65
416-7*	MLH	\$0.75
436°	NH	\$0.60
C101-4**	MNH	\$2.00

AUSTRALIA

1-2°	VLH	\$1.10
20°	H	\$0.45
36°	VLH, Perfin	\$0.90
72°	VLH	\$3.50
191-5°	VLH	\$0.35
247*	MVLH	\$0.55
261°	VLH	\$0.35
267-9°	HR	\$0.60
288-90*	MH	\$0.50
466-7°	VLH	\$0.90
467*	MLH	\$0.90
468-70°	LH	\$0.30
472-3**	MNH	\$0.45
474-5**	MNH	\$0.90
477-82°		\$1.05
483-6*	MH	\$0.10
491-2*	MHR	\$0.45
493-5*	MHR	\$0.60
500-3**	MNH	\$1.15
504-7°	VLH	\$0.40
508a-g°	LH-H	\$0.80
519/22* *	MNH	\$2.45
520-2°	OP	\$2.10
530°	OP	\$1.20
532-8**	MNH	\$1.70
550-1°	NH	\$0.90
568-71°	NH	\$0.75
574**	MNH	\$1.00
575**	MNH	\$0.90
576**	MNH, Blk. of 2	\$3.50
577-9°	LH-H	\$1.95
582-3*	H	\$0.90
C4°	LH	\$0.90

AUSTRIA

5°	HR	\$3.00
21°	HR, Sm. stain	\$2.50
25°	HR	\$0.75
31°	H, F	\$0.50
51-8°	LH-H	\$1.20

AUSTRIA

62°	LH	\$0.70
65°	LH, faulty	\$2.75
66-8°	HR, faulty	\$0.15
70-7°	LH-H	\$0.60
80°	H	\$0.75
81°	HR	\$1.05
110-24°	LH-HR	\$1.70
181/96°	LH-H	\$2.05
200-18*	MNH-HR	\$1.35
219/48*	MLH-HR	\$0.60
238-47*	MLH-HR	\$0.65
238-47°	LH-HR	\$0.60
250/87°	LH-HR	\$4.00
303/23°	LH-HR	\$1.60
323°	LH	\$0.45
354-70°	LH-H	\$1.30
385-7°	H	\$1.05
481°	LH	\$0.60
497°	NH	\$0.85
521/55°	LH-HR	\$2.25
556°	LH	\$1.50
B268°	NH	\$0.55
M22/41*	MNH-H	\$1.55
NJ8/13*	MHR	\$0.90
NJ11°	HR	\$0.45
P29/46*	MLH-H, Imperf	\$1.60

TURKISH OFFICES

7a°	NH, rip corner	\$9.75
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CANADA

New Brunswick:		
10°	HR, F	\$7.50
Regular Issues:		
604vi**	(Unitrade)	
	MNH	\$24.50
14°	LH	\$15.00
15°	LH-H	\$7.50
25°	LH	\$7.50
35°	LH	\$0.30
36°	NH	\$0.55
37°	NH	\$0.90
38°	H, F	\$2.70
41°	NH	\$0.25
44°	LH	\$1.30
51°	HR	\$2.80
53°	LH	\$0.60
66-8°	H, F	\$1.50
66*	MLH, NG	\$2.30
67°	H	\$0.35
68°	LH	\$0.50
70°	HR	\$1.75
74-9°	LH-HR	\$1.50
74°	LH	\$0.50
79°	NH	\$0.50
91°	LH	\$1.05
93°	HR	\$2.10
97°	H, F	\$0.55
98°	HR	\$0.40
104-22°	LH-HR	\$13.30
110°	H	\$1.05
113°	VLH	\$1.05
114°	H	\$2.65
116°	LH	\$0.45
117°	NH	\$0.55
118°	NH	\$0.55
119°	NH	\$0.45
120°	NH	\$0.80
125°	VLH	\$0.45
131°	H	2.65

CANADA

134*	MLH	\$2.30
135°	LH	\$0.35
138°	VLH	\$2.80
141-5°	LH-H	\$4.45
141°	NH	\$0.35
143*	NH, F	\$0.45
144°	NH	\$0.90
146°	LH	\$0.70
147*	MVLH	\$2.80
148°	LH	\$2.10
155°	LH	\$0.35
156°	LH	\$1.95
157°	LH	\$3.50
162/77**	M/U, LH-HR	\$17.15
168°	HR	\$1.75
169°	LH	\$1.25
172°	H	1.25
173°	NH	\$0.30
174°	H	\$1.60
184*	VLH	\$1.40
192-4°	LH	\$2.20
193°	LH	\$0.70
194°	LH	\$1.75
195-201°	VLH	\$4.20
201°	LH	\$0.75
202*	MVLH	\$2.00
203°	VLH	\$3.50
204°	HR	\$0.95
205-7°	VLH	\$1.20
208°	VLH	\$0.35
210°	HR	0.50
215°	H	0.70
222°	H	\$0.50
223-5°	VLH	\$0.45
241-5°	VLH	\$4.00
244°	LH	\$1.60
245°	VLH	\$2.10
254a°	VLH	\$0.90
255*	MVLH	\$0.65
258-62°	H	\$3.75
258°	HR	1.05
262°	VLH, crease	\$1.20
263-7°	VLH	\$1.00
268-73**	M/U, LH	\$24.35
269*	VLH	\$0.70
288*	VLH	\$0.40
294°	H	\$0.35
296*	LH	\$0.35
298°	VLH	\$0.35
302°	VLH	\$3.50
311-2*	VLH	\$0.70
321*	MHR	\$3.35
405a**	MNH	\$1.95
544a**	MNH	\$0.80

600-1**	MNH	\$2.90
C1°	LH	\$1.25
C3*	MVLH	\$2.45
C5-9°	M/U, NH-LH	\$1.55
C5/9°	LH	\$0.60
CE1°	NH	\$0.60
CO1*	MH	\$3.15
E2°	VLH	\$2.80
E3*	Small HR	\$5.25
E9**	MNH	\$2.30
E10-1°*	M/U, LH	\$1.15
J8*	Small HR	\$5.25
J36a-36**	(J36a)MNH	\$1.20
MR6-7°	VLH	\$3.00

CANADA

O12-15A°	LH	\$0.95
O16/24°*	M/U, H-HR	\$5.00
O33-8°	LH	\$0.70
O38**	MNH	\$1.75
O39**	MNH	\$0.30

ETHIOPIA

1°	HR	\$1.00
4-6*	MLH-HR	\$2.90
4-5°*	M/U, HR	\$1.95
5*	MLH	\$1.00
102°	HR	\$1.40
108/14*	MVLH	\$1.40
108/13°	VLH	\$1.05
118-9°*	M/U, H	\$4.75
120/30*	MLH-HR	\$1.95
120-29*	MLH-HR	\$1.15
131°	LH	\$0.65
140*	MH	\$0.35
151*	MH	\$0.70
155-60**	M/U, LH	\$0.60
168*	MHR	\$0.45
175°	VLH	\$0.50
177*	MHR	\$0.50
180-5°	LH	\$0.55
210-6*	MHR	\$2.05
215°	LH	\$0.55
225°	VLH	\$0.35
230°	VLH	\$0.45
232-7* (236°)	MH	\$0.50
232-6*	MH-HR	\$0.40
244-6*	Small HR	\$2.50
268-72*	HR, Never Issued	\$0.45
292A-4°	LH-HR	\$0.60
297/301**	M/U, LH	\$2.40
369-74°	LH	\$0.70
N17°(N7*)	M/U, H	\$6.15

As all items are unique, please reserve stamps ahead of payment. All Stamps listed as Scott #'s.

Want List's are welcomed.



3334 Long Beach Rd. #149 Oceanside, NY 11572 USA
 For more items, please visit: www.AlbionStamps.com
 Info@AlbionStamps.com

Shipping is as follows:
 \$2.00 for \$5.00 - \$49.99
 \$3.00 for \$50.00 - \$99.99
 \$4.00 for \$100.00 - \$299.99
 \$5.00 for \$300.00+

* = Mint	LH = Lightly Hinged
** = Mint Never Hinged	H = Hinged
° = Used	OP = On paper
F = Faulty	HR = Hinge Remnant
NG = No gum	V = Very

Response to Article

Continued from page 4

especially in the subjective two tier condition rating system that prevails (i.e. condition is one notch higher when they are selling than when they are buying).

But, in general, junk sellers have LESS success on-line than they do in mail sales for reasons I don't have space to list I have in fact made several purchases on line that seemed to me to be not as advertised. This is a higher percentage than I have had with any other types of purchases. BUT, in every single case I was satisfied with the seller's response, refunding or supplementing my purchase until I was pleased with it.

Perhaps someone should offer a fuller article on Buying Stamps on Line but I will offer the briefest check list of do's and don'ts to make your on-line collecting enjoyable and safe.

- DO buy via eBay from sellers with say 25 or more positive ratings and no significant negatives; Do NOT bid if the seller has shady sunglasses (i.e. recently changed their name) or a tiny number of reviews.

- DON'T expect eBay or other seller to respond to your concerns if you are not the final buyer; if you ARE then they have many layers of protection for

you.

- DO buy directly from dealers you have heard of with a professional home page, even if you don't have specific references, as they will be very protective of their reputation in case of a dispute. This is exactly the same as buying from someone with a display ad in Linns.

- DO read the sales ad or auction listing in detail and very carefully. And look for what they DIDN'T say as well. If they don't say the unused item has gum, don't assume it does, etc.

- DON'T be afraid to ask the seller to send you more pictures or details of the item.

- DO pay by credit card if you can, as if the seller does cheat you will be able to get the card company to recover or eat the charge for you.

In postscript: I would not have bothered to even write this comment if it weren't for the fact our editor has email, similarly, there is an advertiser in the latest Circuit selling grandfather's collection and I had an interest in that, but didn't respond because he didn't give an email address.

Once you have weaned yourself from "snail mail" you don't want to go back. Email, it's what's for dinner.



Letters of Century Book Review

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

Other than working on my stamp collection, one of my favorite ways to kill a few hours is to wander through the aisles at a local discount book store. Upon entering, I always start the same way – turn left and proceed directly to the Collectibles section! Each time I decide to drop in, I wonder what those shelves (ok – shelf!) might hold for me.

Over the years, I have picked up several books to add to my stamp reference collection. Many are in pristine condition – some are even brand new, offered at steep discounts from the original sales price. While I'm pleased to find such offerings, I'm really always holding out hope that I'll find some stamps tucked into an outdated catalog or some old dingy book will turn out to be a long forgotten stamp collection. (Finding a set of the high value Graf Zeppelins would be fine with me...)

The closest I've ever come to finding something valuable was the time I visited the store and found a few copies of the US Post Office's commemorative stamp yearbooks sitting on the shelf. Naturally I had

to page through them – and I was awarded by finding one book with the mint stamps still neatly mounted on each page! The face value of the mint stamps alone was more than the purchase price of the book, so naturally I snatched it up.

A few months ago, my mission at the store was to find a reason to use the 50% off any one item coupon I had received in the mail a few days earlier. Once I satisfied myself that the Collectibles section didn't contain any items of interest, I began to wander through the rest of the store, looking for nothing in particular, but always ready for something that might catch my eye. (Yes, I love garage sales and flea markets, too!)

Just when I was about to give up hope of being able to use the coupon, I found Letters of the Century, edited by Lisa Grunwald and Stephen J. Adler. What really caught my eye was the jacket cover – it pictured many different USA stamps. Anything with stamps on the cover just had to be good, right?

Paging through the book, I was immediately

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