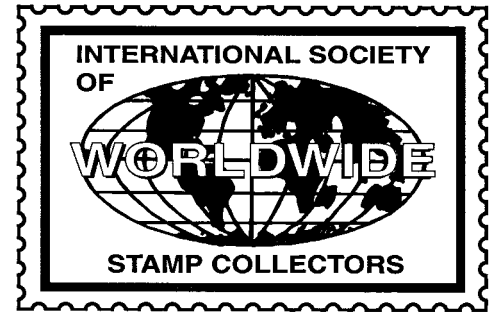


V. 22#4 ✓

The Circuit



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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Charitable Programs 2003 Report

by Mike Crump (#2126)
VP for Charitable Services

Thank you all for your patience and understanding during my recent move to Florida. I have also changed my e-mail address: desoto1947@yahoo.com.

During 2003, you contributed a wide variety of stamps (on and off paper), covers, sets, souvenir sheets, booklets, small stamp albums, supplies, postage and cash. I record each contribution and want to acknowledge and thank each of the members — many who go far and above the annual 250 stamps. There are too many to thank by name. One member contributed 10,000 off-paper worldwide stamps and 500 First Day covers(!). I also received donations amounting to \$74.00 in cash and checks.

Charitable Programs documented the following distributions during 2003:

- 940 individual packets of stamps
- 152 sets or souvenir sheets
- 29 covers
- 12 copies of stamp industry publications
- 2 stamp albums
- 1 Scott Catalogue
- 1 VHS tape on stamps collecting (to a Girl Scout group)
- Hinges, assorted on-paper stamps

While most distributions were made to U.S. groups and individuals, mailings were also sent to:

- Philippines (10)
- India (9)
- Canada (3)
- Nigeria (2)
- RSA (2)
- England (1)

Our current needs:

- 1) Off-paper large commemorative worldwide stamps
- 2) Glassines, tongs, supplies

While I turn nothing down, I have a lot of on-paper U.S., Australia and Great Britain. Large covers are difficult to move to our targeted youthful audience.

Have a great summer!



Letters from ISWSC Charitable Donations Recipients

Hello Mike:

I received your letter of 6/19/03 regarding stamp packets from the ISWSC for our program. We are excited to see how well Stamp Camp USA has been received and I will be able to devote additional time to the program beginning in September.

The packets were fine as you have them prepared. The children enjoy topical stamps in particular, since most of them prepare at least a 4-page exhibit by the end of camp. We also use covers of all types, and stamps both on and off paper.

When we begin our expansion in the fall, we will be working with many groups that have had little or no exposure to the hobby. They begin the process with little or no materials, so we have been expanding our materials so that we may be able to accommodate them until they get up and going.

Thanks again for thinking of us with your extra materials. We will be happy to accept all you feel comfortable providing, and be assured, they will

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Continued on page 4

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

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**DEADLINE
FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE:**

JULY 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!*

Circuit Seller gets \$83

Richard Simpson (1703)

I just got a check today from ISWSC for \$82.95, in payment for two books of Saar stamps I had submitted to the ISWSC Sales Circuit. Were they very valuable stamps? No, the highest catalog value was \$6, and most of the stamps cataloged less than \$2 each. Many were the twenty-cent minimum catalog value.

Were they all mint never-hinged? No, a couple were, but most were ordinary used stamps with decent centering and light cancels.

Did I have to sell them for 15% of catalog value? No, most of them went for half of catalog, the recent MNH for about 60% and the rest for around 40%. The minimum value stamps all went for twenty cents each. I figured that I had to get at least that much to pay for my labor in identifying and mounting them.

Did I have to wait a long time to sell them? Yes, a lot longer than if I had put them on eBay or a club auction. The whole process took about a year, though these sold exceptionally quickly — most books circulate through three circuits totaling about 12 members, but these books were almost empty after two circuits.

Will every sales book go this fast and at such a high percentage of catalog? Perhaps not. I was disappointed to receive back a couple of books of 19th century used U. S. stamps priced at one-third of catalog value — almost nothing sold. Other books I have submitted have been between these two extremes. A couple of books of pre-independence French Colonies stamps did just as well as the Saar books.

What other countries are in demand? According to Jim Gaul, the Sales Circuit Manager, he would like to see books from Great Britain and the Commonwealth, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. My rule of thumb is that the smaller the country and the longer it has been dead, the more the demand is. Look at your own collection — you probably has plenty of Europe and Scandinavia, but not much Hong Kong or Madagascar. Other collectors are in the same boat. Wouldn't you like to see a book of WWII Croatia?

Want to buy or sell through the ISWSC Sales Circuit? Contact Jim at terrynjim@enter.net, or write him at 1920 Fawn Lane, Hellertown PA 18055. He will be happy to send you all the details on buying and selling. Purchase some blank sales books or join a Sales Circuit and get started using one of the ISWSC's most popular services.

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.



Charitable Programs

Continued from page 1

be put to good use!

Sincerely,
*Cheryl Edgcomb, Postmaster
Stamp Camp USA Coordinator*



Dear Mike,

I want to sincerely thank you for sending all those wonderful stamps for our campers to use this summer. The box was sitting outside my door when I arrived at work this morning. I opened some of the packets and observed the beauty of the stamps. We will order individual magnifiers for the children and then they can examine each stamp closely for detail.

You never know, you may have contributed to a budding junior philatelist. I will pass on the booklets to anyone who shows a deep desire to pursue stamps collecting.

I am so excited about our camp because we are showing them a real hands-on experience.

Again, all my appreciation.

Warmly,
*Janis Goldman
Director of Education
The Dr. Samuel D. Harris Nat'l Museum of Dentistry*



Hello Mike & friends at ISWSC:

Do you believe we are already beginning our eighth season of Stamp Camp? I don't know where the time goes, but I am most hopeful that as we continue to introduce youth people to the educational and rewarding hobby of stamp collecting, the hobby will soon be able to see visible results from our effort!

Since the very beginning, Stamp Camp USA has relied upon generous donations and contributions from collectors and groups, such as you, in order to function. Your present donation, consisting of 120 packets of worldwide stamps helps us continue sharing the joys of the hobby with many more children, as Stamp Camp USA continued expansion across the country.

This past January we reached a milestone when we officially rented office space for Stamp Camp USA, located at 149 East main Street, in the

Knoxville Community Center. We now have an ideal location from which local campers, collectors, and volunteers can now assist us with sorting, soaking, and material processing requirements necessary to conduct the Stamp Camp program. Through the collaborative efforts of the American Philatelic Society and the United States Postal Service, Stamp Camp USA will be able to reach more children and families for stamp collecting than ever before. By joining with us, you are an important part of this positive youth philatelic outreach.

Thank you for thinking of us with your kind donation, and know we will work hard to make every contribution count. If you have questions or would like addition information about Stamp Camp US and our expansion efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or number listed below. On behalf of each camper, and the Stamp Camp USA staff, you have our sincere appreciation.

Respectfully yours,
*Cheryl Edgcomb, Postmaster
Stamp Camp USA Coordinator
P.O. Box 377
Knoxville, PA 16928-0377
814-326-4176*

PS: We appreciate the wonderful support from your group. Stamp Camp is going "National" this year. We hope to encourage many more youth — we do appreciate you!



Re: Stamp Club

Hey,
Just wanted to let you know that the BIG stamp packet arrived. The stamps were great and the albums were wonderful. I was so shocked to see such a BIG box. Today is our first stamp club meeting and we are all getting together to have some stamp collecting fun. Without all your help this would not have been possible.

I'll give two stamp packets to each member and the stamps on paper will be where they can soak them. The hinges will work out perfect because they are also bringing their stamp books so they'll be able to put some stamp in their books. I know they'll be so thrilled — I know I was.

The name of our club is "Stamp Nuts."

Thanks,
Jessie

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Letters

Send letters to: Jennifer Arnold, ISWSC Editor, 1035 4th Ave. SE, Albany OR 97321 USA

Letters Column Needed

In regards to Dave Nelson's article ["Response to Internet Article", *Circuit* March-April 2004] in which he mentions a formal "Letters" column, certainly seems like a good idea in waiting.

Seemingly, a "Letters" column should be a splendid opportunity for individual members to communicate with the organization and thereby become more involved with ISWSC.

*Respectfully submitted,
Aubrey Dunne
ISWSC #1*

Where Have All the Members Gone?

I don't know how closely members looked at the latest issue. Our president stated his concerns about our continuing loss of members. If you look at just this month's list of expiring dues [*Circuit* May-June 2004] you will see one past President of ISWSC and one past President of APS....!!!!!! In a single month we lost 3 of our charter members (those with numbers 1 to 75).

How can it get any worse than this?? Something is majorly wrong. I talked with some past members and they are concerned about our drift to the kid stuff when — last I heard — we had less than half a dozen kid members. They are annoyed at the 250 stamp donations which go to WHO? Some showed concern about a sales circuit that had to pass through international boundaries, and slow circuits, etc.

ISWSC Member Passes Away

Long time ISWSC member John Slade, passed away on March 26, 2004, in Longwood, FL.

John sold his collection about two years ago, and then let his membership expire, so he is not on the current list of members. However, a lot of members — those with membership numbers under 1,000 — probably knew John. John never had email, so only corresponded by letter, or phone.

I challenge the current generation of members to get involved, if only a little. Our membership numbers are approaching 3000 and only 15% or less remain active. Why such a huge loss rate? Some of us old folks died or got disabled, of course, but that doesn't account for the loss rate. I am not aware that we survey and act on the opinions of members who leave us, although we tried it some years ago.

Have we lost focus? Or is stamp collecting just become too boring in the internet age? I think we should hear from you members, especially the ones that are thinking they might not renew next time dues come up. Why???

*Dave Nelson
ISWSC Member*

ISWSC Youth Merit Award Certificates

This is to tell you Margot Lange received the ISWSC Youth Merit Award certificate April 24-25, 2004 at WISCOPEX 04 in Iola, Wisconsin, for displaying her "Tropical Fish" stamp exhibit.

There were 10 youth exhibitors under the age of 18. There were 96 pages in competition. They were all members of stamp clubs at their schools (in West Bend, Wisconsin and Waukesha, Wisconsin).

Thank you for the certificate!

*Verna Shackleton
Wiscopex 2004
Awards Chairman*

Many thanks for making available your Youth Merit Certificate for awarding at the Edmonton Spring National, hosted by the Edmonton Stamp Club, March 26-28, 2004.

The jury were pleased to award the certificate to 10-year old Amber O'Reilly for her four frame "In Come the Pigs" exhibit. She also won the AAPE Youth Grand award and an invite to the Youth Champion of Champions competition at INDYPEX in July.

Many thanks to your society for making the certificate available for presentation at our show. Next year our regular Edmonton Spring National Show will be April 1-3, 2005.

*John M. Powell
Edmonton National 2004
Exhibits and Awards Chairman*