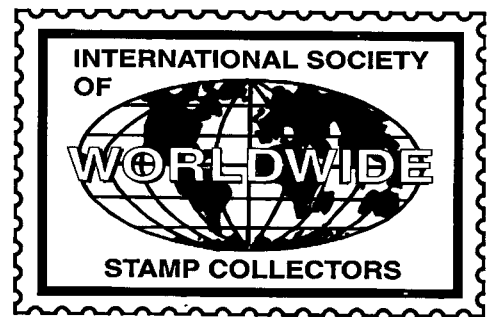


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# The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

## President's Column

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)  
ISWSC President

**B**y the time you read this, Washington 2006 will be over. I hope I had the chance to meet many of you in person and that you enjoyed the show in every way.

I have had fun putting together an exhibit for our booth at the show. I collected a number of pictures of members that will be part of the display, along with a description of the programs we offer.

I've also been busy cleaning up my want lists to avoid buying something I already have. I don't know about you, but I have never left a stamp show where I didn't buy at least one item twice or else find it already in my album when I get home. I also lose at least one pair of tongs but, at the last local show, I

bought a bag of miscellaneous supplies that included at least ten pairs of tongs, so I am good for at least a few shows!

We are winding up the current board meeting. Among the items we need to deal with are a bylaws revision, dues structure, the continuing issues of membership, and many small housekeeping items. We have always accepted mint stamps of equal value to dues instead of cash but we have never had a good way to dispose of the stamps.

We currently have mint stamps from Italy and San Marino. I am going to offer them for their "face" value, in US currency via *The Circuit*. It is a good opportunity to get mint recent issues for less than the dealers would charge. If no one wants them, we

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## May 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by  
Alessandro Artini (#2451)  
ISWSC Secretary

**I**t is not easy being the Secretary! During the month of May, just before Washington 2006, the Board met again online. The minutes of the last Board Meeting were approved.

The board voted to delete the categories of Family Membership and Gift Membership while retaining those for Dealers and for Clubs. The Youth membership will be retained with a \$2.00 increase.

The problem of disposing of stamps paid instead of dues was discussed and it was decided to retain the option as long as we are able to dispose of the stamps to members. If we cannot dispose of them,

we will consider eliminating the option.

The board authorized the expenditure of about \$250.00 to send a marketing piece to stamp clubs, using the American Philatelic Society list and selecting the clubs with more general stamp collecting interests.

The executive director was authorized to put a portion of our funds (\$5,000-10,000) into short term CD's to improve the interest rate on our money. Randy Smith will review the bylaws and make recommendations for revisions.

We also note the resignation of the Regional Representative for the Scandinavian region, Mr. Vihanto. While no reason was given, we wish him well.



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*Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Terry Myers. Thank you!*

**DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
NEXT  
ISSUE:**

**JULY 20, 2006**

# White Powder to Junk Mixtures

by Bill Klepura (#503)

If you find some old stamps with a white powder on them, do not call the hazmat team. If you do, you will be out of your house a for long time — might have to be “debugged” and all for naught.

Back in the old days — mostly before 1930 — collectors who soaked mixtures and had large quantities of stamps would store them in boxes or tins. To save them from the critters that like to eat paper, they would slightly season the mix with sodium fluoride. This is the white powder you will find.

I have been told that if you hear the tiny feet of little critters in your kitchen or bathroom at night and in the dark, there is an easy way to stop the traffic. Spread sodium fluoride on the floor near the baseboard. This gets on the legs of the roaches and when they clean, is ingested. Sodium fluoride absorbs moisture (and their innards) and with no fluids, they die. One caution, keep in a sealed container and well out of the reach of children.

This article has been tested by our staff M.D. The

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## President's Message

Continued from page 1

will need to reconsider offering this as a means of paying for membership. Our non-US members cost us the most for membership, due to the cost of mailing *The Circuit* and we need to be able to recoup some of that expense.

Have you looked at our web site? Thanks to Terry and Rick Simpson, we have cleaned up the site, corrected errors and moved it to a site with less intrusive commercials. Check it out and if you note any discrepancies or errors, let us know.

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to sit at our table at Washington 2006. We were really worried about covering the hours but it looks like it won't be a problem. I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer, with lots of time for stamps.



## Dues/Advertising Policy

### Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club 1 yr. membership: \$15.00\*

Single/Dealer/Club 2 yr. membership: \$27.00\*

Single/Dealer/Club 3 yr. membership: \$39.00\*

Youth 1 yr. membership (under 18): \$12.00\*

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

\*Plus 250 large commemoratives per year for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$.

Dues include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for up to three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, 9463 Benbrook Blvd. #114, Benbrook, TX 76126, 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.**

# The Stamp – The Story

by Roger Boneham, PhD (#436)

## The Stamp

The latest Scott *Standard Postage Stamp Catalog* lists nearly thirty United States stamps showing all or part of the image of the Statue of Liberty. It's official name, "Liberty Enlightening the World," was proposed by its sculptor, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. The statue portrays a woman who has escaped the chains of tyranny (the broken chains lie at her feet). Liberty's right hand holds a flaming torch as a symbol of liberty. Her left hand holds an open Book of Law with the date, July 4, 1776, inscribed in Roman numerals. Many countries have illustrated the statue on various of their stamps. The first U.S. postage stamp to show the statue (Figure 1) was issued in 1922.



Fig. 1: U.S. Scott #566, First American Statue of Liberty stamp.

## Just Broke Up Several Collections

Have huge pile of used hinges. If you collect used hinges, ask for price.

If you want to see the stamps that were attached to the hinges, ask for selection. Pick and choose at 30% of catalog or 15% if you take the entire lot.

Need stamps that catalog 20¢? Have four ounce lots ready to go, priced at 5¢ per stamp.

If your album says go and your checkbook says go slow, try my approvals of seconds at 10¢ of cat.

## Album Service

Box 333 • Soledad, CA 93960-0333

ISWSC #503 • APS #7906 (the lowest no.) • PSS #490 (the lowest no.)

## The Story

The idea of a monument to commemorate the treaty of alliance between France and the United States during the American Revolution (1775-1783) was conceived by a group of Frenchmen after a dinner party at the Paris residence of Edouard Laboulaye in 1865. This idea was expanded over the next few years to also commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's independence and the abolition of slavery in the United States. Such a monument, dedicated to liberty, could never be erected in Emperor Napoleon III's France because although the French government was nominally a constitutional monarchy, in actual practice it was a dictatorship. During the



Fig. 2: France Scott #28, Emperor Napoleon III.

American Civil War, Napoleon III (Figure 2) actively supported the confederate government by allowing weapons and supplies to be shipped on blockade runners from French ports. His government was unfriendly to the democratic government of the United States during and after the Civil War.

Laboulaye convinced Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a noted sculptor (Figure 3), to design the monument. Bartholdi sailed to America in 1871 and chose Bedloe's Island as the site for the monument. As he later said, New York Harbor was the main entry point to the United States and the monument would be the first thing people would see as they came to the new world.

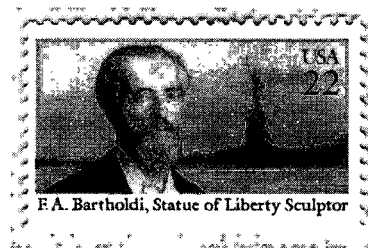


Fig. 3: U.S. Scott #2147, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi

Emperor Napoleon III was forced to abdicate after France was defeated by Germany in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. There was a period of turmoil in French politics for the next few years but a democratic government was eventually established in 1874. Laboulaye and his group decided that the right time had come to propose the building of the statue. They formed the Franco-American Union, a

Continued on next page

group composed of prominent French and American businessmen, to begin collecting donations. The group decided that the statue would be financed by the French and the pedestal on which it stands by the Americans.

Fund raising began in 1875. The committee's overly optimistic goal, which was not met, was to present the statue to the United States on July 4, 1876, in honor of America's centennial. The statue's right arm, holding the torch (Figure 4), was completed and shipped to the United States and was the main attraction of the Philadelphia Exposition in August 1876. The statue's head (Figure 5) was completed in 1878 and displayed at the Paris Universal Exposition. Donations were slow in coming until the committee set up a national lottery which was quite successful and by June, 1880, enough money (over \$400,000) had been raised to complete the statue.

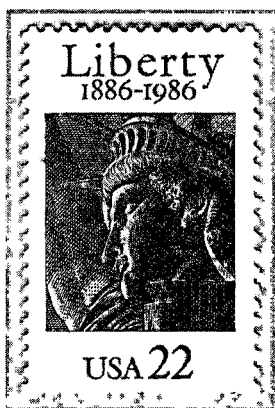


Fig. 5: U.S. Scott #2224, Liberty's Head, a dual issue with France.

project and felt that New York should fund the cost of construction.

In 1883, Joseph Pulitzer (Figure 6) said that he would publish the name of every contributor in his newspaper, the *New York World*, whatever the size of their contribution. He pointed out that the statue was paid for by the masses of French people and he now appealed to the American people to contribute money for the pedestal.

A number of African-American newspapers joined with Pulitzer, encouraging their readers to make donations since the statue, in part,



Fig. 4: U.S. Scott #1594, Liberty's Torch.

In June of 1884, the completed Statue of Liberty was dedicated in Paris by the French Prime Minister at an elaborate ceremony. The statue was open to visitors from then until it was dismantled and shipped to the United States, where it arrived on June 17, 1885.

The Franco-American Union began its American fund-raising drive for construction of the statue's pedestal in 1875. From then until 1883 very little money was donated. The main objection was that people in other parts of the country considered it a New York



Fig. 6: U.S. Scott #946, Joseph Pulitzer.

commemorated the end of slavery. In the next two years, more than 120,000 individual contributors sent in enough money to finish paying for the pedestal and it was finished in April 1886. President Grover Cleveland (Figure 7) gave the keynote address at the dedication on October 28, 1886. An interesting note here is that when Mr. Cleveland was the governor of New York, a few years previously, he vetoed a bill passed by the legislature to pay \$50,000 towards the construction of the pedestal.



Fig. 7: U.S. Scott #827, President Grover Cleveland.

#### Statue Construction

Bartholdi constructed a number of plaster models of the statue, making revisions and enlarging each model. Finally he made a one-quarter size (36 foot tall) plaster model, reinforced by a wooden frame and correct down to the smallest detail. He divided this model into 300 sections by drawing lines on it. Workmen then constructed laminated wooden molds measuring four times the size of each section. As each enlarged section was completed to Bartholdi's satisfaction, the workmen pressed a large sheet of copper into the mold using steam-powered hammers and hand mallets of various sizes. The plates were a little more than the thickness of a copper penny. This technique of hammering a thin metal plate into a mold is an ancient one called *repousse*. Each section of the statue is reinforced inside with an iron strap and the overlapping copper plates are fastened together with copper rivets. The whole structure is hung from and supported by an interior framework of interlocking steel bars.

Gustave Eiffel, builder of the Eiffel Tower, designed the iron and steel interior framework which supports the individual copper sheets of the statue. Four iron posts run from the base of the statue to its top. Smaller iron bars run out from the main pillars and each bar is attached to the iron strap on an individual copper section. When you stand inside the

# Surveying the Classics: Questions of Value

by Sandy R. Stover (#2325)

**L**ike most collectors of worldwide stamps, I have had to put certain general limitations on my collecting habits. I collect only *classic major listings*, and I seldom purchase any stamp with a catalogue value of \$100 or more. This has led me to wonder:

- (1) What percentage of the *total* classic collection consists of stamps valued under \$100?
- (2) Or, in absolute terms, how large would a "complete" collection of such stamps actually be?
- (3) And — more unpredictable — what is the total catalogue value of such a collection?

From their familiarity with the obvious preponderance of less expensive stamps, even among the classics, collectors are already aware that the answer to the percentage question is rather high. But how high? 70...80...90%? Providing a good estimate is more difficult than one might first suppose.

Over the past year I have been doing some philatelic research that involves a scientific sample of classic major listings. There is no need to list the details of the methodology here, except to say that the sampling frame included all categories of major listings found in the Scott classic catalogue, with the exception of post-1940 sets, revenue stamps, envelope and wrapper stamps, postmaster provisionals, and pre-stamp markings.

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**CHART 1 - Estimated Complete Collections of Classic Stamps (Major Listings) at Various Limits on Catalogue Value per Stamp, by Number and Percentage of Stamps and by Collection Type**

