



Quarterly Newsletter of The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

### President's Message •• VOTE!!!

First, I strongly recommend that you vote. Six bylaw changes have been proposed for your consideration. One, in particular is of prime importance: Article VII. A ballot measure in the last election, although favored by 96% of those voting, went down to defeat because it lacked the number of required votes. Under existing bylaws, a minimum 3/5ths vote of the full membership is required for any bylaw modification or addition. While this percentage may be realistic for clubs holding meetings, it is not realistic for an organization whose membership is scattered around the globe. I implore you ••• regardless of how you vote ••• to please vote.

Now to the other issues, all of which, as well as the above, have been unanimously recommended by the officers. Some of the proposals were made to correct faux pas. Others were made to provide greater flexibility for the operation of the organization.

Articles VI and IX: The Public Relations Officer is responsible for overseeing the election procedures and therefore should not be a candidate for office. The proposed change makes his position appointive (to be effective in January 1988, if passed).

Article III, if passed, replaces the present officers with an expanded Board of Directors (including the elected officers) to better serve the members.

I agree as stated in the last issue, under Article V, delete V, D.

Last, and far from least, is the

proposed dues change. We are planning to change our newsletter from a quarterly to a bi-monthly publication. However, this will be impossible unless the dues increase is passed. Much of the present cost to operate the society is currently being shouldered by the officers, chairpersons, editor, etc. This issue fell to defeat in the last election as discussed in my first paragraph, even though 96% of those voting favored a dues increase. (Two of those voting no on the issue last time, did so on the grounds that the increase was not sufficient.)

I wish to welcome Arlene Futrell (# 2) as our editor for 1987 and thank her for volunteering. She will be sharing the present editorial duties with Rita Kallal (# 26) as publisher. Don't wait ••• please vote now. Please be prompt to save the expense (personal) of reminder cards. Many thanks. ••••• Aubrey Dunne (# 1)

### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Hi again! My wife Betty and I just returned from a 4,176 Mile car trip, one of the highlights being a nice visit with your editor, Rita, and her husband, Mel. One of the great pleasures of our club is meeting other members. For me that's about 20 or so, as of now.

As of late October, we have enrolled member # 262. However members # 81, 82, 84 and 89 failed to renew and so, regretfully, are dropped from the rolls. We now have 233 paid up members.

Continued on page 3

### Arlene Futrell Volunteers to Edit the Newsletter in 1987

Charter Member # 2, Arlene Futrell has volunteered to be editor of *The Circuit* in 1987. Arlene's duties will be strictly editorial. She will be responsible for preparing the newsletter and forwarding the copy to the publisher. All material for the upcoming newsletters should be sent to:

Arlene Futrell (# 2), Editor  
Box 65  
Spartanburg, PA 16434  
(U.S.A.)

Duties of publisher will be filled by Rita Kallal (# 26), who will be responsible for printing and mailing the newsletter. Rita and her husband have recently purchased a commercial printing business and have offered to publish the newsletter for ISWSC at cost which will result in considerable savings to the treasury. In the future, address mailing problems and/or address changes to the publisher.

**REMEMBER TO  
VOTE  
BY JANUARY 30,  
1987.**

## US Post Office Ideas to Get-Rich From Collectors Not New

The photocopied article below which appeared in the Chicago newspaper eighty years ago was submitted for publication in *The Circuit* by John Hogan (# 242). One of his customers found it among the papers of a relative. John asks, "Can you imagine such a scheme as it describes?"

CHICAGO EXAMINER AND AMERICAN, DECEMBER 23, 1906.

# NINETY THOUSAND VARIETIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS INVOLVED IN THE LATEST SCHEME

**S**TAMP collectors are discussing what course to pursue if the present plans relating to United States postage stamps are carried out.

It is proposed to place the name of the State and city of issue on all the United States postage stamps sold at the principal postoffices. There are some 6,000 of these postoffices. Twenty-six of them will have the name engraved on, all the different denominations, while the other 5,974 offices will have the name printed across the face of their stamps after they have been engraved.

There are now issued stamps of the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 50 cents and \$1, \$2 and \$5, and a 10-cent special delivery stamp. Multiply these fifteen by 6,000, and there is the total of 90,000 varieties. The proposition that confronts collectors can be understood when 25,000 stamps are supposed to represent all the different varieties previously issued in the whole world.

Collectors are by no means overjoyed at this prospective flood of stamps, to collect which will try not only their patience, but also their pocketbooks.

### FLATTENING OF POCKETBOOK.

While the majority of the specialists will begin with the accumulation of used stamps, bearing the different names, which, being fairly plentiful, will not represent so much of an outlay, the advanced collector will want unused copies in his albums as well, and right here the flattening of the pocketbook will begin.

The face value of the present denominations is just \$9.27. Thus, to get a complete set of unused stamps of all varieties, and that will undoubtedly be the aim of certain collectors, will represent an outlay of \$55,620.

This is a good deal of money to sink in a set of postage stamps, but there will be collectors who will make the expenditure, judging by what they have done in the past. There have been collectors who have gathered nothing but postmarks—that is, original letters with the hand-stamped postmarks of the thousands of different postoffices. Collectors in Germany for a number of years have collected stamps of old Germany and Wurtemberg, which bear the names of the different towns and cities. But the German issues show only about 500 varieties.

If a person carefully thought out a plan to give stamp collectors trouble, it could hardly be more successful than this new scheme of Uncle Sam's. As has been the case not a few times before, the United States Government should make a tremendous profit out of the new stamps.

### DEALERS TO LAY IN STOCK.

Thousands of dealers all over the world will lay in a stock of the new stamps in unused condition to supply their customers. Expert stamp collectors now say that no matter what action is taken in regard to the printed stamps, they will at first certainly take up the engraved stamps of the twenty-six cities. Each collector, in order to get a full set of these stamps, will be forced to turn over to the government \$241.62.

It is estimated that in France, England and Germany there are over 2,000,000 collectors, and there are supposed to be a half million in this country. One can see, therefore, that this plan will be a very profitable one for Uncle Sam, even if the purposes for which the stamps are issued are not fulfilled.

After the collector has completed his first twenty-six series of these stamps, then he will yearn for more varieties, and, naturally enough, will take up the stamps bearing the printed names. And here again he will also want the unused as well as the used issues, which he will proceed to buy to the limit of his resources.

The ordinary postage stamps are supposed to cost the government less than 55 cents a thousand, while the special delivery stamps cost less than 10 cents a thousand. From these figures the profit to the government from the sale of stamps to collectors may be estimated.

### WHAT COLLECTORS WILL DO.

A man who has collected stamps for thirty-three years said, in speaking of the problem before him, that he will undoubtedly get each one of the stamps issued by the twenty-six important postoffices—that is, those with the name engraved upon them—and he thinks this will be the course followed by all the collectors at first. He does not think much interest will be taken in the stamps with the printed names, at least not in the beginning.

In the course of time, however, he would

not be surprised if the gathering of all the varieties were taken up not only in this country, but in others, for it is a matter of record that almost as much interest is taken in American stamps by foreign collectors as by those in this country. One English collector, for example, the Earl of Crawford, possesses the finest set of United States stamps in existence.

Other collectors say that, as in the case of the precanceled stamps, there will be an association composed exclusively of collectors who gather Presidential postoffice varieties. Precanceled stamps, indeed, are similar to the contemplated

issues. These are regular United States postage stamps surcharged with the name of the city in which they are issued.

These stamps are printed in order to save the postoffice double work in sending large quantities of mail from one particular house. Say that a business house wants to send out several thousand circulars. An order is given to the postmaster for 10,000 or more precanceled stamps—an order for less than 10,000 is not accepted.

Then sheets of stamps are placed on the presses at Washington, and the name of the city is printed in black across the face of each stamp.

## Happy Holidays!

### Officers, Chairpersons & Managers

President: Aubrey Dunne (# 1)  
 Vice President: Ken Jenkins (# 15)  
 Sec'y/Treasurer: Herb Holland (# 31)  
 Public Relations: Dave Nelson (# 25)  
 Editor: Rita Kallal (# 26) - 1986  
 Editor: Arlene Futrell (# 2) - 1987  
 Publisher: Rita Kallal (# 26) - 1987  
 Membership: Herb Holland (# 31)  
 Youth Stamp Programs: Ken Jenkins (# 15)  
 Omni Stamp Exchange: Hal Clarke (# 47)  
 and Tom Allison (# 42)  
 Stamp Sales Circuit: Roger Bergeson (# 132)  
 Stamp Auctions: Ronald W. Thurner (# 17)



## After 50 Years Collector/Dealer Still Loves Stamps

Almost as soon as I started collecting stamps while in the fourth grade, I was bitten by the desire to be a stamp dealer. A friend and I started "Junior Stamp Company." We never made a dime out of it, but it was fun. I quit collecting altogether a couple of times, sold my collection, but started again.

In the late 1950s and early 60s, I operated a new issue business by mail. I gave it up when my wife complained, with complete justification, that it left no time for our two young children. Volume-wise I did very well, but all the profits wound up in inventory. That inventory formed the nucleus of several country collections • Ryukyu Islands, New Zealand semi-postals, Finland semi-postals, Korea (including the first Christmas souvenir sheets), Hungary, Philippines, and Indonesia. The latter two are interesting countries

to collect if you want to avoid high-priced rarities. I have quit buying new issues of Hungary, preferring to fill in the few missing items of early material when I have money to spend.

Everything else has been broken up and offered for sale except Canada, U.S.A. and United Nations, New York. I collect those used only, but most of the other collections were mint.

The mint-never-hinged craze never appealed to me. I can hinge a stamp so that it hardly makes a mark but use mounts for better material that I think might later wind up in someone else's hands. All the best collections in the world were hinge-mounted and it's good enough for me. However, I prefer used stamps, where hinges don't matter. They're easier to handle and care for, and less expensive to buy and mount.

On two occasions, 16 years apart, I served as president of the Memphis Stamp Collectors Society, which normally has a membership pushing a hundred. I published the club's first

newsletter and rewrote its constitution and by-laws. We stage an annual exhibition, MEMPHEX, in October. We would be pleased to hear from any of you who would like to exhibit or attend.

I still attend meetings regularly and carry with me the remnants of my discontinued collections, hoping to dispose of them. No one else in the family is interested and it would be silly to leave them to someone who doesn't want them and isn't aware of their value.

Retirement after 40 years as a newspaper printer (and editor of another paper for 17 of those years) leaves me dividing my time between stamps and golf. I play three or more times a week, with scores usually in the high 70s or low 80s. When I'm not on the golf course, I love to make up selections of stamps for collectors to look at. My 50-plus years of collecting and my several attempts at stamp-dealing have left me with a large variety of uncommon stamps.

••• James L. Burt (# 189)

## Sec'y-Treas. Report:

The club acknowledges with thanks the following donations:

Kallal (#26)	\$5.00
Burmeister (#97)	4.00
Berkowitz (#98)	3.00
Thomas (#101)	3.00
Hoover (#109)	4.00
Mazzano (#249)	10.00

## IMPORTANT.....it's

renewal time for members who joined Sept. to Dec. 1984: #115,117 - 125, 127 - 129, 131, 133 - 137 and 139. Please send your \$6.00 renewal to Herb (#31) and your 250 stamp donation to Ken (#15). **Don't forget to renew. Do it NOW!!**

Kathy Peterson (#83) recommends dealer Jim Prescott (#232) who deals as Kap Stamps.

It's sad to me that many of our members are my age (retired) and older because it portends ill for the future of our club and hobby. To put it bluntly, what happens when we are

gone? We all should be working hard to attract young people to our hobby and to recruit them to our club. What's young? Well, once I would have said 15 or younger, but now, older and wiser, I define it as 35 or younger. This is all a lead in to the fact that one of our newer members, Eric Hebert (#247) is 21 years old and a new collector. I'm happy to report that his first two contacts with other ISWSC members were most pleasant ones to him. Way to go!!! Any member who would like to exchange covers, his first love, are encouraged to contact him.

And, lastly, **please vote!!**

••• Herb Holland (#31)

## Letters ••• Probably No Gremlins at USPS

My reason for writing is in response to Charles Tomala's letter (July-Sept, page 7) about purchasing stamp collecting booklets with the seals broken. I occasionally work in the American Philatelic Society contract branch post office and in fact was there for the First Day of the Stamp

Collecting Booklets. I was responsible for servicing 500 First Day Covers for the Junior Philatelists of America and purchased the first 250 booklets sold by the branch station that morning. I opened the carton and then began work on removing the panes from the booklets and applying the stamps to our cacheted envelopes.

As I was doing this I was surprised that roughly half of the booklets were not sealed. Besides having opened the box of booklets myself, at this point no one knew about the missing color errors that appeared later. Thus I believe Mr. Tomala's "gremlins" are merely a result of lack of gum needed to properly seal the booklet covers. Further, it is my belief that even today most postal personnel are not aware that errors exist in this booklet and even those that do certainly would not check every booklet.

••• Ken P. Martin #39

**Old mailmen never die ••••  
they just lose their zip.**

**Deadline for next issue:  
5 February 1987**

## Letters •• Suggests Album Solution

First, may I compliment you on the latest issue of *The Circuit*. It was very readable and interesting. I especially enjoyed the article on Memel. And the other items read like a conversation between collectors. It seems we are a small organization with the typical growing pains of an enterprise filling a need.

For Lew Scott (#198), here is my solution to the album problem. The 'my' is because it may not fit his desires. We all differ. But it works for me.

I use quadrille pages (supplied by Lincoln Stamp & Coin of Buffalo, NY). They are of good paper stock for stamp collections and cost only \$6.50 to \$7.00 per hundred. My albums are stiff cover 3-ring binders, which can be bought in any store carrying school supplies. This works very well for a collection of over 60,000, but would be equally suitable for the beginner. The only difference would be in the number of books (albums).

The advantages are several. First, there is economy. The album cost is under \$10 per unit. The savings can be used to add to your collection. The disadvantage is, of course, appearance.

A second advantage is flexibility. There is no problem in changing your arrangement of either stamps or pages in a 3-ring binder, or adding another binder. Of course, this is true of other loose leaf binders, but it is much easier and more economical under this system.

In other words, I personally prefer blank pages to printed albums and am motivated by economy over appearance. But it is a matter of personal likes and dislikes. It works well for me.

••• Jack Young (#210)

## Letters •• New Member a Cover Lover

I am a new member (#247) and I have just started collecting stamps; January of 1986 to be exact. I am very glad to be a member and hope to

correspond very soon with all of you.

One of the reasons I am writing is to tell you about my interests. I guess you could say that I am a specialist (of sorts). Because I like to collect covers. I find covers exciting because you can arrange them in any fashion you like. (I received one from India, where there was a cancelled stamp on the back of the envelope to seal it.) I also like the cancellations on the covers. Everytime I get a cover, I take out my atlas to see exactly where the cover originated from.

If there is anyone out there who would be interested in exchanging personal covers with me, please drop me a line. I can also put interested members in touch with a cover circuit club. Hope to hear from you soon!

••• Eric Hebert (#247)

## Letters •• Another Album Suggestion

A couple of things. I got my latest copy of *The Circuit* today. I'd like to respond to Lew Scott (#198), re: worldwide albums and I will write to him after I get a new membership list from Herb Holland.

I've solved the problem of an album but I doubt it will work for a lot of newcomers. I use a 1947 edition of Scott's International Junior album and collect to 1940 only.

What I would like is Scott to make a worldwide album similar to their Modern. Now, a year ago I was using the Scott Modern album, copyright 1974. I added my own pages and put all the pages into a Scott International binder. I will suggest to Lew that he consider this and write to companies such as Subway and Potomac supplies to see if they have any Scott Moderns. I don't know when it was last published. This is a plea from me to all our members that we all write to Scott Publishing asking (clamoring!!!!) for a current, single volume world album like the previous Moderns. I personally have never liked the Harris or Minkus line. I would suggest these to other however.

I meant to mention earlier in my letter that I started collecting at age 11 in 1951; so I am very fond of and more

familiar with the stamps to 1940. New collectors probably would not have the preference for the older issues. Along the lines of my collection, I have too many pages/stamps in my Scott International Junior and I'd like to make it two volumes. So I am interested in any used Scott International Junior binders, blue, round post, circa 1947 that anyone has to sell. Drop me a line if you have any you're willing to sell.

••• Jim Hanley (#114)

## Letters •• Suggestions

*The Circuit* is good reading and I appreciate all the work that goes into such an interesting newsletter.

A suggestion: In an early ISWSC newsletter someone suggested each member mail 5 stamp packets to other members, to take out what they need, add good stamps, and send the packet on to another member.

That's such a good idea and it works, for I've received several packets with very good stamps! Perhaps it could be repeated in the newsletter, with instructions. Some of the packets were "old-timers" with the dates and numbers of the persons who had received the stamp circuit.

Also, if there was an application form in a newsletter, we could easily pass that along to interested friends. Best wishes to all.

••• Sue Hoover #109



**SEND \$4.00 for \$24 1987 SCV**

(my choice), 15¢ and up, G.B., Bahamas, Kenya, N.Z., France, Gabon, Jamaica, Switzerland, Greece -- or any country I have. Futrell (#2), Spartanburg, PA 16434-0065

**OUNCE MIXTURES:**

**Commeratives/Large.**

Bahamas \$2.10, Barbados \$3.00, Bermuda \$3.35, Botswana \$3.10, B.W.I. \$3.35, Costa Rica \$3.10, William Gerlach (#233), Box 6637, Lake Worth, FL 33466 {2/4}

### Book on Evolution of Stamps Published by S.F. Collectors Club

The Collectors Club of San Francisco has published a book on the evolution of the stamp from antiquity to modern times entitled "From the Winged Heels of Mercury." It's author, 86 year old Zaven M. Seron, M.D. is a collector who admits that his hobby has evolved into a lifelong love affair with stamps and postal history.

The book begins with the "firsts" of postal history, the cylinder seals of Mesopotamia circa 3500 BC and moves through the many postal developments of seals, early routes, disinfected mail, ship mail, handstamps, stationary, etc., that transpired in Europe prior to the adhesive stamp era. The issuance of postage stamps brought many of the "firsts" of the world that still excite collectors. The ancient postal history of North America is covered, beginning with 1755 revenues of the Massachusetts colony. And finally there's a series of more than 80 worldwide "firsts," from the pony express, balloon and air mails through bicycle and rocket mails including a fair share of back-of-the-book material. Anecdotes from Dr. Seron's personal philatelic experiences are found throughout the book and add to the enjoyment of the book. With worldwide coverage of postal history, this book should be of interest to our members.

The book is hard bound, 7 x 9 inches, over 200 glossy pages and profusely illustrated. It is priced at \$19.50 postpaid bookrate. Contact the Collectors Club of San Francisco, P.O. Box 5518, Redwood City, California 94063

A year ago I ran a small ad in the ISWSC paper. Because of that I was and am successful in a "Lot" sales operation.

How it works: You send me your name and address and I'll send you a flyer about once a month. I usually send 3 times and quit if you don't order. (But very few don't order.) The "Lots" cost from about \$5.00 up to \$80.00. They are collections, counter pages, bulk lots (sold by quantity), and the like. The material is written up and you just order by lot. I must be doing something right because I have not YET had a complaint in 7 months! Material is priced very low; much is 12% to 15%. Several dealers buy from me month after month, so there are some real steals to be had. Of course everything is returnable if you are unhappy.

To see some flyers, just send your name and address to:

DAVID L. CRESON  
230 Dune Crest, Unit # 3  
Monterey, CA 93940

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# SELLING OUT!

DISPOSING OF MY 50 + YEARS ACCUMULATION OF WORLDWIDE FOREIGN STAMPS (AND A FEW NICE U.S.)

## AT LESS THAN 1/2 PRICE

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#189

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