

THE CIRCUIT

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

HAM RADIO MAIL

John Hotchner (# 62)

The Turkish cover shown below has a bit of trivia attached to it that might interest "worldwidiers". Note the markings in the upper left corner •• "TA1A".

"TA" is the Turkish ham radio call sign prefix. "TA1A" was the first officially licensed ham radio in Turkey.

These number and letter combinations can be found on

acknowledgement of transmission cards and letters from all over the world. Each country has its own prefix(es). "W", "K", and "N" (i.e. N4LR) are the call sign prefixes for the U.S.A.

Watch for them as you look through miscellaneous cover boxes. ••••

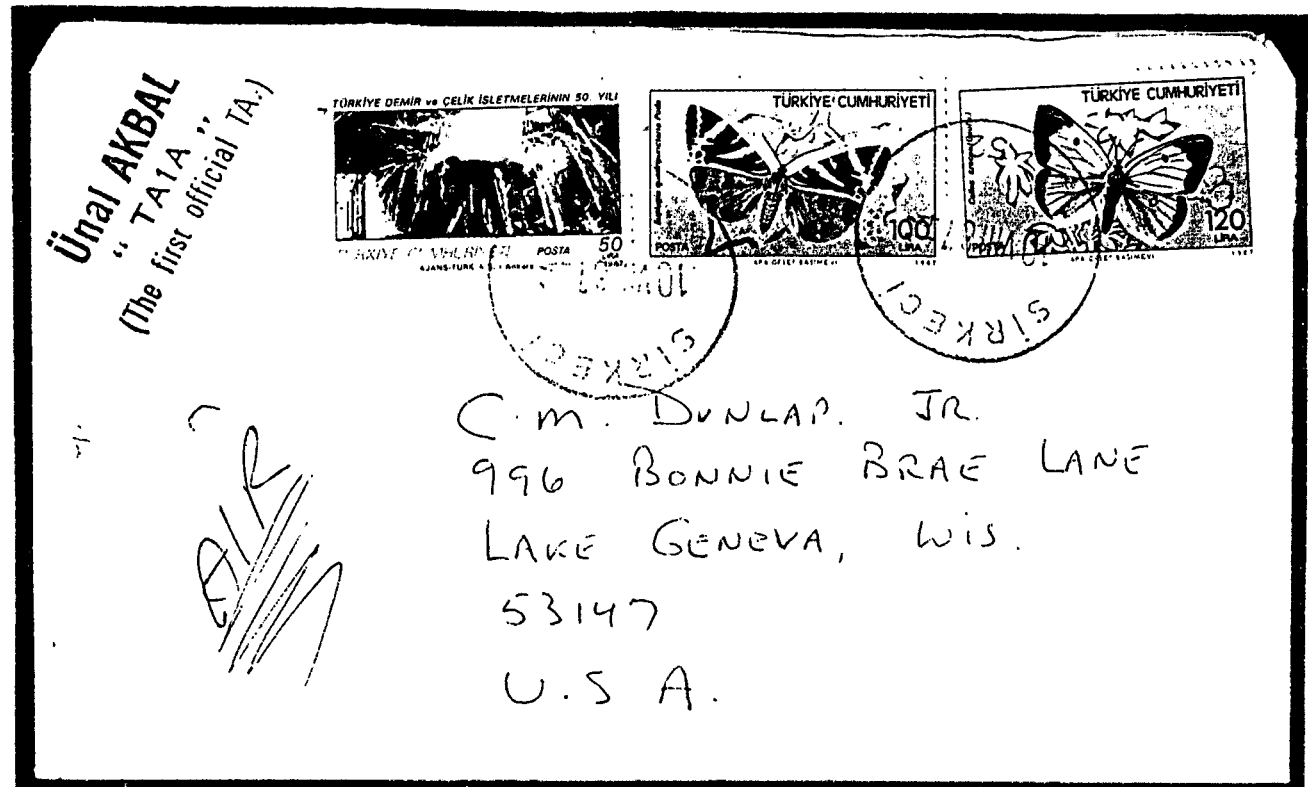
••Thanks to Barbara R. Hagen of Winter Haven, Florida, who provided the cover and information in this "short".

APS STaMpsHOW 88

Tom Bejma (# 108)

First let me say I am sorry that each and every member could not attend this fabulous show held in Detroit this year. While I only attended one day of this four day event, there was so much going on that you would not have been bored each day. There were meetings of various APS affiliated, seminars on various aspects of the hobby, an auction each day, plus exhibits and 125 dealers hawking their wares. If you just attended the seminars you would never get to the show, there were that

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APS SHOW (cont'd)

many!

One of my purposes in attending the show was an informal meeting of members of our club who wanted to get together and to introduce any prospective new members. I made arrangements with APS for a meeting room on Saturday between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. I sent out postcards to all members within a reasonable radius of Detroit and invited each of them to attend. Well, a total of five people showed up; disappointing at best - with this show supposedly breaking attendance records. But I've always felt that worldwide stamp collectors are loners for the most part and shun the organized factions of the hobby. This just serves to add to my beliefs. However the five of us did discuss our interests and had a respite from the rigors of spending all our money at the dealers' bourse. Oh, by the way, four of us were members and one was a prospective member. One of the members came from Virginia, so even the local members failed to show up.

All in all the show was very interesting but the recruiting efforts were rather dismal. Maybe the '89 show in California will prove a better forum for our club.

ROSTER CHANGES:

- # 15 Jenkins - Change to:
PO Box 91298
Henderson, Nevada 89009
- # 64 Rosow - Change to:
PO Box 876
- # 72 Guethlein Change to:
4516 Randolph Road # 64
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
- # 79 Graham - Deceased
- # 159 Smith - Change to:
13 E. Stephen Drive
Newark, Delaware 19711
- # 192 Marcus - Change to:
32 Deichman Lane
- # 197 Ward - Resigned
- # 212 Johnson - Change to:
302 Stanaford Drive
Beckle, West Virgina 25801
- # 288 Long - Change to:
1322 Linden Street
Rogers, Arkansas 72756

Please Post Changes on Your Roster

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Ken Jenkins (# 15)

It has been a long hot summer most everywhere, perhaps worse for some of us by missing the summer issue of *The Circuit*. Hopefully, by next summer we can resume our bi-monthly schedule. Our ability to provide a better, more frequent newsletter depends upon you, the membeship. We still are not receiving any feature articles we can use on the front page.

We have initiated several programs to increase revenues to the ISWSC treasury. Here is really your chance to help. The donation auction lots are listed elsewhere in this issue; make a bid or two. All income above expenses goes to the club treasury. Dalene Thomas (# 101) has volunteered her services as auctioneer manager for the donation auction and approximately 20 lots have been donated by members. Another auction is upcoming this winter. Dr. Wallace D. Johnson (#212) will be conducting an auction/mail sale for your profit. Again, Dr. Johnson is serving as a volunteer from his busy practice of internal medicine, in Beckley, West Virginia, to assist the ISWSC and his fellow stamp collectors. The details for this auction will also appear else where in this issue.

Another of our great members, Tom Bejma (#108), volunteered to set up a meeting/get-together for all ISWSC members attending STaMpsHOW 88 in Detroit. I hope that many of stopped by to say "hello" and talk stamps and worldwide collecting.

The brochures are now available and I encourage all of you to participate in your club by requesting some for distribution at any stamp shows in your area or any you plan to attend. Dave Nelson (# 25), our PR man, has the brochures available for distribution. Hal Erickson (# 173), our librarian and archivist, took a number of them to Helsinski, Finland. He reports much interest and many contacts. Hopefully the membership will reflect this interest in the coming months. Ray Compton (# 73) has agreed to be our International Secretary to receive and coordinate all foreign members. There will be more forth coming on this program as it develops. The basic idea is to provide methods for those worldwide collectors from countries that have currency restrictions to

pay their dues and participate in the auctions, etc.

One of the services that was initiated for the members benefit is in trouble. I am speaking of the Sales Circuit. Roger Bergeson (#132), the sales manager, reports that it has not been able to show a profit yet because of low participation and low sales. If you are participating and are not receiving the type of material that you wish to purchase, let Roger know so he can more effectively screen the incoming books. The Sales Circuit will be continued for sometime yet but sooner or later some hard decisions will have to be made.

You will note elsewhere in this issue my change of address. I did not move, the post office did, and in the process forced thousands of patrons to make tens of thousands of address changes at their own expense! Bureacracy in action???

This summer has seen the loss of a good friend, shipmate, neighbor, and fellow member of ISWSC. Joe Graham (#79) passed away in July. Our weekly trading sessions (bull sessions, too) are already missed.

Many of you, including myself, have received letters promoting a pyramid scheme for stamps from a fellow member of ISWSC living in Canada. I would like to remind all members at this time that all such pyramid schemes are illegal in the USA. Anymore of this material brought to my attention will be given to the postal inspectors.

One last item, Dave Nelson reports disappointing results so far for volunteers to participate in the stamp "Beauty Contest". It may be because it was summer and you had not been thinking stamps. We do have a few months yet to get this-off the ground so I hope there will be more responses forthcoming.

OMNI EXCHANGE

TO JOIN
the Official ISWSC
Exchange
Write to: Tom Allison
Box 252
Wilmette, IL 60091

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Herb Holland (# 31)

Quite awhile since we last got together but we should be back on regular schedule now that the summer is past. It sure was a hot one, wasn't it? While there weren't any newsletters for a few months, the club's business has still been moving right along. We have quite a few new members, many of you renewed your memberships, and we have received a lot of donations. So, financially we are in fair shape for the first time in a long time.

The big news here on Secretary-Treasurer front is that I finally bought my computer and busy trying to learn how to use it. Have mastered Microsoft Word enough to be able to use it - at least basically - but am just getting started on dBase III Plus and Lotus 1-2-3. I now have all members on disk.. As soon as I get the bugs out of my print roster program, I will send a new updated roster off to Rita and if all goes well, we should get a new updated roster out by the first of the year.

As many of you know, I have had some problems with my manual dues "system". Frankly, the many changes, combinations and permutations just overwhelmed an inadequate "system" and I'm using the word loosely. So now I'm automating it. Sure hope I'm not resurrecting that old computer problem: GIGO (Garbage in, Garbage Out). Please be patient with me. If I do make a mistake all you have to do is let me know and I'll correct it immediately, if not sooner.

We have some bad news too, unfortunately. The following members are dropped for non-payment of dues:

8 (Kubon) - #12 (Wottreng) - # 40 (Harkcom) - # 69 (Hinkel) - #77 (Holgate).

We also have to drop three members for lack of a mailing address (their dues are also in arrears): #196 (Schmiedel) - # 203 (Miller) - #242 (Hogan). If any member is in correspondence with any of these, please let them know.

New member Sheetrum (#317) sent a real nice lot of stamps which she asked be given to a kid "serious/studious enough to notice cancellations, perforations, coils, overprints, etc. contains several items that catalog \$3 to \$5 each." So do any of you know of a young person that fits that descrip-

tion? If so, drop me a line with his or her name and address and a little pitch. I'll send the stamps off to the one who seems the best qualified and tell you all the results next time. If the winner isn't obvious, I'll draw lots.

Member # 197 (Ward) has resigned from the club as he is now a specialist and no longer a worldwide collector. Darn!!

Our President, Ken Jenkins # 15, didn't move, but his post office did. Be sure to note all the roster changes on another page.

I pass on the sad news of the death of Joe Graham # 79. Joe died in early July and will be mourned by his many friends and all of us in ISWSC.

The club acknowledges with thanks the following generous donations:

Mbr #	Name	Amount
58	Sherwood	\$10.00
64	Rosow	5.00
97	Burmeister	10.00
98	Berkowitz	4.00
130	White	.50
143	Farnum	5.00
157	Hyde	5.00
210	Young	1.00
243	Rawlings	10.00
244	Hirschbach	3.10
252	Treutler	5.00
314	Kirby	5.00

AND NOW FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Effective immediately all dues will be due in October of each year, regardless of the month in which you joined. Once this is accomplished it should simplify things for everyone, including old watoshi. In early September I will print an address label for each member and mail out the dues notices. Additionally, *The Circuit* will carry a prominent notice reminding everyone. Those who don't pay will then be dropped, all at one time. Except for resignations and deaths we will then be all set for a year.

Now, how are we going to get to that point? Well, from now on as each member's dues approach expiration I will send a notice that will tell the amount of dues to get the member on the new schedule. For example: In December I will send notices to those whose dues expire in Jan. and Feb. telling them to send \$3.40. When we pass the midpoint, it will go the other way. In February, I will send notices to those whose dues expire in Mar. and Apr. telling them to send \$7.80. This will pay forward one year from

the coming October and save on checks and mailings. All members will pay the same in the long run (except for a few cents due to rounding) and in a year we will all be on the same schedule. Whew!!

Of course, new members joining will have a similar schedule (which I will publish in the next issue of *The Circuit*). Those of you who are members of APS are already familiar with this system. Oh yes, one other item. When you receive your dues notice, regardless of the amount thereon, you can always add \$5.00 for another year or \$10.00 for another two (you can pay up to three years ahead). That way you don't even have to think about it for a long time. Just trying to be helpful!!

Well, guess that's about it for now. I better quit while I'm ahead. I am ahead, aren't I?

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SALES CIRCUIT

Needs Buyers & Sellers NOW!!!!

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Write to:

ISWSC Sales Circuit
 Roger J. Bergeson
 1814 Viking Avenue
 Albert Lea, MN 56007

.....

DO IT TODAY

NEXT WEEK OR

NEXT MONTH

MAY BE TOO LATE!

.....

Advertising Rates

Due to shortage of space this issue, please contact the Editor, Arlene Futrell (# 2) for Classified & Display rates.



AUSTRALIAN EN- JOYS COLLECTING "HIS WAY"

R. H. Wickens (# 267)

At the age of eleven and living in Brighton, England, I was introduced to the hobby of "collecting foreign stamps". The year was 1933 and such money that my parents had was not for wasting on stamps.

You will notice I wrote "foreign" because it was just not done to collect the stamps of one's own country. The aim of every schoolboy collector was to reach the magic number of 1000 in his collection. If there were girl collectors I did not meet any.

With countries like Germany, Austria and France making up close to 50% I was able to pass the magic figure after about 3 years. The albums of the time were informative and I could rattle off capital cities and populations and many other details of many major countries of the world.

Unfortunately, the albums never seemed to have sufficient pages for Germany, Austria, France, etc. Somehow I accumulated more and more stamps with only the odd coin coming my way, but there was never enough money to buy a larger album. The only alternative seemed to be to create my own albums.

I can't remember how I managed to acquire some school exercise books with the graph-lined pages and these became my albums.

When I left school at the age of 15, I put aside childhood games and hobbies but always kept my stamp collection. Years passed and in time I arrived in Australia.

My son began collecting stamps around 1966 so out came my old collection of Germany, Austria, France, etc. That is when I learned the old order changeth. He wanted Australian stamps and not all that foreign stuff! So we collected Australia until we got to the "hard" one, then switched to New Zealand and Great Britain.

It was about this time that he lost interest, while mine had been well and truly re-awakened. Those who considered themselves "experts" informed people like myself that "You cannot collect the world". But I have always been a bit determined (some call it stubborn) so I collected everything. Hardly a month passed that I didn't branch into a new country.

The wheel turned a full circle, because with three children, I did not have the money for albums. No bother! I bought a couple 2-ring binders and sheets of graph paper and created my own.

But that was about 15 years or more years ago. I still collect the world but I had to modify ideas a little and become more selective. My present collecting interests are still governed by available finance because I am now retired and living on a pension. But I still collect anything that takes my fancy although it was many years ago that I decided not to collect expensive stamps!

Later this year, when I find time to sit down and wonder that to do next, I will write about my "eccentric collecting habits" well, that is how I was introduced as a guest speaker at a club meeting a couple years ago.

COLLECTING IN SWITZERLAND

Jerry Farnum #143

Some months ago Arlene Futrell asked me for some comments on stamp collecting in Switzerland. Collectors here reflect the basic nature of the Swiss. It is very serious business, limited to what one knows well, e.g. usually only Switzerland and perhaps Liechtenstein, and a concern for condition that borders on fanaticism. It is said that Swiss collectors mount their uncanceled stamps backwards so that everyone can see that the gum is perfect.

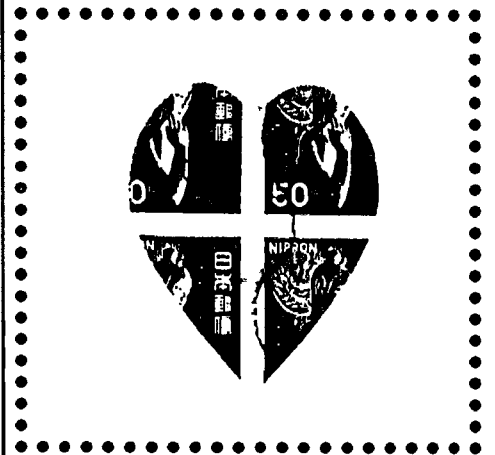
Switzerland a hundred years ago was a very small country of villages where everyone knew everyone and almost nobody ever moved. Consequently, early Swiss stamps are rare and devilishly expensive, unless of course they are in less than perfect condition. There are also many variations of Swiss stamps depending on plate wear, plate re-engravings, paper variations as well as the more known perforation and watermark types. Connoisseurs of Swiss stamps have been known to utilize microscopes to assemble a sheet of stamps where each plate position is slightly different from the others.

When I came to Switzerland more than 20 years ago, I was a worldwide collector who would rather fill 100 modern holes than chase after an expensive moth-eaten item at the very front of the album. Investment quality stamps were not fun and, as I was often told, should be kept in a Swiss bank

vault under constant humidity control. Now that I notice more than a few grey hairs becoming interleaved with the glassene strips, I am reverting to type. A stamp is a stamp and there's no sin in enjoying sticking in a bunch of soakers early Sunday morning.

Question of the day —

Through how many hands does an "unpicked" mixture have to travel before it is "Picked"?



ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR KIDS

'Veterans Chapter Co-ordinator' Glenn Mitchell forwards the illustrated cutout as an example of ideas for kids. A heart, cut out of a block of 4 Japanese stamps, thereby reducing the "value" of said stamps immediately to absolute zero. This is a great suggestion, simply for the reason that the supposed intrinsic value of the stamps IS destroyed! The biggest obstacle to new collectors, the greatest disincentive, is the monetary orientation the hobby has taken, even for us worldwiders.

For those of you that will give of your time to help new kids, or disabled veterans, or others trying to break in to hobby, this serves as a stark reminder that FUN is the objective, NOT investment. Forget those tongs, throw away those mounts, use a 5 year old catalog for its educational value alone and stop trying to plant the seeds of greed in our new collectors. Hinged versus never hinged? well, maybe they should consider glue.

