

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

A Stamp Collecting Spy?

Carl Sherwood (# 58)

Back in the thirties, I was in the office equipment business.

A gentleman came in to Twin Falls, Idaho, and set up his office as an accountant.

I had not been there but a short while. I was a stamp collector for a short while also.

As accountants use office equipment, I called on him. I made him one of my customers. As time ran on, his account got about \$50.00 and I did not get a check the first of the month. When I called, he had a sad story.

He had a Scott Album on his desk. He said "Here, take this until I can pay you." I had not been collecting long enough to know anything about values. But I took it thinking it would be better than nothing.

The office was closed and no one knew what became of him. I went home and then looked over the album. It was heavy with Germany. I put the stamps in my "meager" collection.

On investigating, trying to find out about the gentleman, I found out he was a Foreign Agent and disappeared after dark one night. Nobody had heard anything more about him.

However, a couple of years later, I wished I had kept his album intact as a souvenir of my acquired stamp collection.

Definitives are Special to Aussie Member

Ronald H. Wickens (# 267)

Here in Brisbane, Australia, EXPO '88 will end in a few days time. As a world collector, it was almost like renewing old friendships as I visited the various pavilions. Of course, some of my countries were unable to be present, having long ago disappeared off the map.

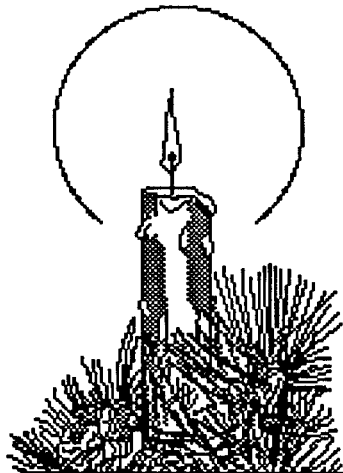
What in reality, constitutes a "world collector"? It is my contention that in these days when it is impossible to keep up with new issues from all over the world, one must apply certain limits. I don't think anybody can seriously collect stamps from all over the world without some kind of system and organisation. For example, one of my friends collects the entire world but applies 1960 as the limit for his interest. Because he has been at it for around 50 years he has amassed a sizeable collection.

My interests are confined mainly to definitive (some call them regular) issues, but I still have some remnants which I have continued since deciding to collect only these. After many years, one becomes attached to a collection of New Zealand, South Africa, USA, etc., and as I am kept up to date by correspondents in those countries, I would lose those pen-friends if I gave up collecting their country's stamps.

Perhaps the most fascinating part of my collection is that covering Europe and by concentrating on definitive issues, it becomes a possibility to collect all of that continent's stamps. No other continent has changed so much due to wars and other conflicts, so it is like an iceberg with the current and obvious part open to view, while the remainder is buried as "dead" countries and states.

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*Happy
Holidays
to One &
All !!*



Definitives (Cont'd)

During recent months I have used my Europe collection as the subject when asked to be a guest speaker. I purchased an excellent map of Europe, so I take this along and spread it on the table. Where the membership is not too large, I invite everybody to sit around the table while I take them on a tour covering all of Europe from Scandinavia to the Balkan Peninsula.

By introducing historical comments showing for example, why early stamps from Finland resemble those of Russia, and philatelic comment such as the multiplicity of perforations on some early Austrian stamps, the talk usually goes down very well. Somebody is already asking how I store this huge amount of stamps which are generally of low value.

This is where I preach one of my firm convictions about our hobby. Everybody should feel free to implement their own ideas and I have done exactly that. I use ordinary foolscap size notepaper which I purchase by the ream (500 sheets) at the local chain-store for about \$6. Then I house the sheets, so many at a time in ring-binders from the same store at about \$2 each. The holes need "ring re-inforcements" to prevent tearing. Then we are ready to mount, normally used stamps using hinges.

I can write introductory notes at the beginning of each country, such as the currency, date of first issue and anything that seems worth recording for use at a later date. (In a talk for instance.) Pages can be changed, substituted or added at any time. I have divided Europe into sections, such as Scandinavia, Austria-Hungary, Balkan Peninsula, etc. The collection now covers seven sections.

Currently, I am concentrating on Yugoslavia, which came into existence at the end of World War I. This can be divided into several sections and I start with the stamps of the countries which went to make up Yugoslavia, such as Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia etc. Austrian and Hungarian stamps postmarked at appropriate places can be added. During World War II there were various changes made with stamps issued by independent Croatia, Serbia, etc. Then there are occupied by German, Italian and Yugoslav forces, all of which I include as being part of a geographical area. Finally, it all settled down and a return can be made to the more recent stamps.

There are the numerous tiny areas such as Schleswig and Carinthia where stamps were issued only over the period of a few months, as well as the major countries, all of which add up to a very interesting study. Of course, you will need to have a slight yearn to study the history of Europe to give you a better understanding of the subject.

The great thing about collecting in this manner is not having to be concerned about new issues. Definitive stamps are more common and usually turn up sooner or later, with the added bonus to somebody like myself of being available at little or no cost. Then, when I visit a stamp club, I can nearly always pick up something to add to my collection.

I don't meet too many world collectors in Australia; there could be a lot more when you stop to realise it is as large in area as the USA. However, most people learning of my addiction to collecting the world, usually ask "How on earth do you get the time for it?" My reply usually follows the same theme--The purpose of having a hobby is so that all one's spare time can be devoted to it.

ISWSC

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From the Desk of the President

I have just finished reading the October issue of "The Circuit." Isn't it super? It was really interesting to find out about worldwide collecting in Switzerland, Australia, and Canada as well as here in the U.S.A. A lot of people came through with articles after I wrote my last column. As you probably noticed, I was singing the blues about the lack of material for the newsletter and meanwhile Arlene was being well supplied. One must take into consideration, though, that we must write these words nearly two months before the postman delivers your copy to your mailbox. It is just part of the joys of a worldwide society. Anyway, my thanks to all of you who sent in items of interest, and thanks in advance to all who will in the future.

I hope many of you sent in a bid to Dalene Thomas for our donation auction. We have a reasonable start, and proceeds will go to the club treasury. Also, I hope you will note the upcoming auction being held for your benefit. Dr. Johnson lists all of the dates for deadlines of getting your lots in to him. A typo did show up in his address, however. He lives in Beckley, W. Va. We will have this type of auction as often as participation warrants. I will appreciate your comments on the four questions posed as soon as possible.

Ray Compton #73 has agreed to be our "International Foreign Secretary." Any and all members and prospective members outside of the continental U.S. are urged to contact him if they have any questions concerning currency restrictions, dues payments, auction proceeds, or other problems of that type. Ray will help smooth out your difficulties in becoming an active member if ISWSC.

I have received inquiries concerning forming chapters within ISWSC of various groups. Some interests expressed have been from disabled vets, youth organizations, and a revival of the 1840-1940 collectors as I was the editor of their newsletter. The former president is also a member of ISWSC now.

So long for now and a happy holiday season to all of you, whether it is a traditional western Christian Christmas, a Happy Hannukah, or a New Year festival!

Ken Jenkins #15

P. O. Box 91298, Henderson, NV 89009 USA

If any member would like some brochures to distribute, contact Dave Nelson #25, 309 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952 USA.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

I have received my copies of the last issue three days ago so not much time between that output and this input. I'm sending my column to Arlene about ten days early this time because Betty and I are off to an Elderhostel in Mississippi and as we will be away about two weeks it was either be early or be late and the former is better. I mention this because membership info needs to be timely and if any of you who are dropped send in your renewal dues after this, I wanted you to know why and to assure you that you will be promptly reinstated. Obviously many who do not send in their dues really do wish to drop their membership but it is equally obvious that many want to stay members but for one reason or another just don't get "a round tuit" as the old joke goes. This brings me to the bad news. The following members are dropped for non-payment of dues:

#37 Watford	#206 Bodtker
#67 Graham	#208 Thomas
#86 Swonger	#211 Ehrlich
#88 Baker	#214 Hall
#90 Morrill	#216 Mass
#99 Antonsen	#221 Svensson
#102 Schloss	#225 Weiner
#104 Lee	#229 Matasar
#148 Clement	#232 Prescott
#152 Twining	#236 Fragaszy
#178 Stork	#237 Definger
#179 Ellwood	#238 Mahdoui
#182 Gesell	#239 Jones
#183 Norris	#240 Marie
#185 Cox	#247 Hebert
#187 Howell	#251 Elston
#191 Davis	#253 Stewart
#200 Bernsteil	#255 Corkran
#201 Hallead	#289 Yurko
#205 Good	#292 Laning

This really hurts. It's like losing old friends. How about, those of you listed above, in what way didn't our club suit you?

Additionally, the following members are dropped for lack of a mailing address (their dues are also in arrears):

#246 Warner
#256 Shirey

If any member is in correspondence with either of these, please let them know.

And lastly, the following members have resigned:

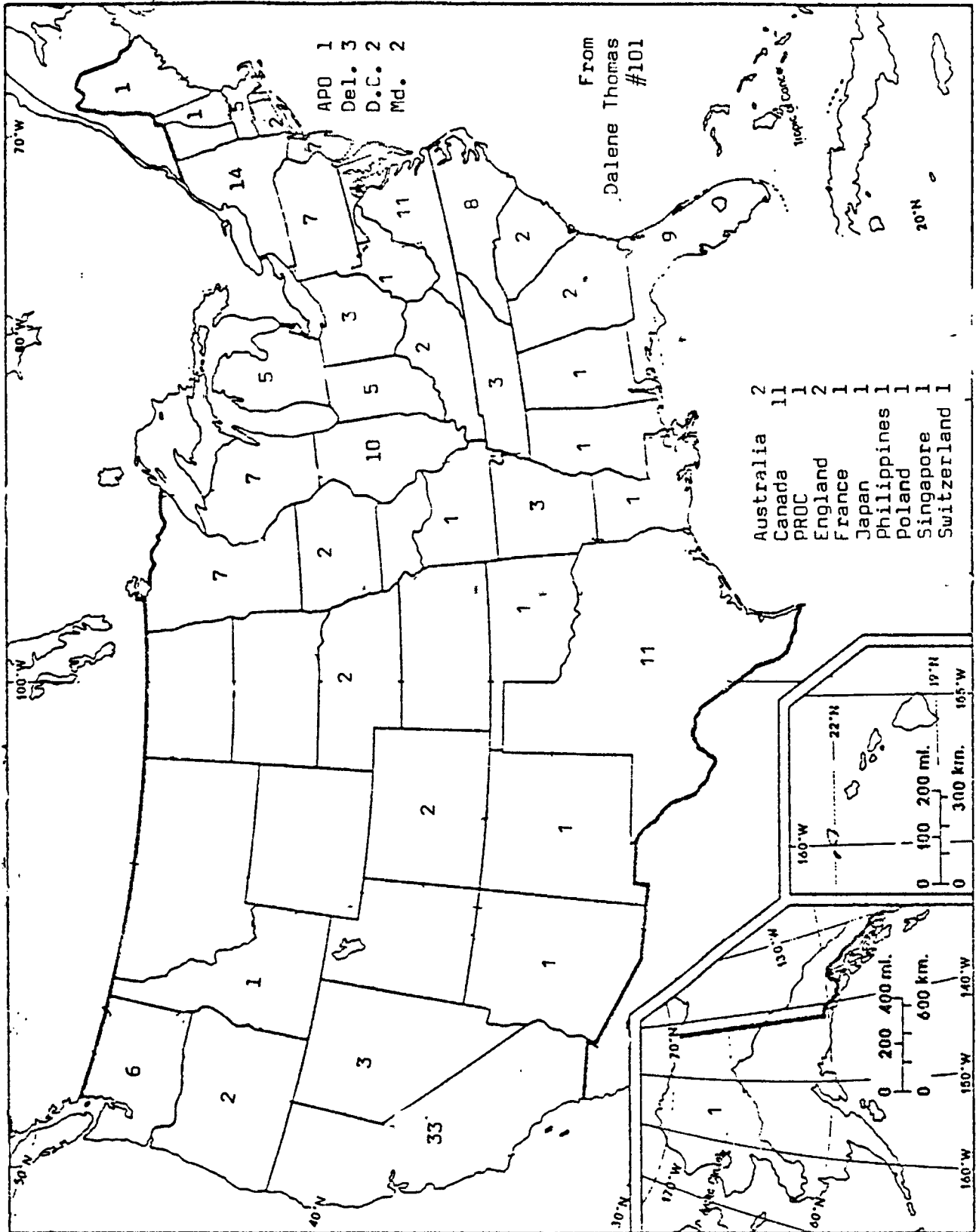
#106 Deslauriers #245 Wyckoff

Finally, some good news: #56 Donovan, is reinstated.

Before I forget I want to thank all the members who use nice stamps when they write to

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Where Do ISWSC Members Live?



Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Cont'd)

and those who inclose personal notes. Always appreciated and makes being secretary-treasurer a lot more fun.

Last issue I said I would put the new dues schedule in this time. So here it is:

Dues: Our membership year is Oct-Sept - \$5.00.

Join in: October \$5.00;
 November, December \$4.20;
 January, February \$3.40;
 March, April \$7.80 (to Oct + 1 year)
 May, June \$7.00;
 July, August \$6.20;
 September \$5.40.

This new schedule has been incorporated in the application blanks that I send out but it has not been put in our brochures and will not until the present supply is exhausted and we reprint. So please pass the word to any one to whom you give a brochure. I'm sure there will be lots who don't get the word but no problem. I'll take care of each on a case by case basis and try and keep it as simple as I can. (Do you ever notice, life is getting more complicated all the time?)

Please note the new address for Creson #170: PO Box 1455, Seaside, Calif. 93955.

The postal card dues notices that I send out only tell you about the money portion of the dues (to save writing and keep the notice simple) but please don't forget that stamps are always part of the dues and send your 250 or more to VP Ken Costilow #142.

Some time ago our publisher Rita #26 said she would donate to the club for each member buying blank album sheets from her. So, thanks, Rita, for the donation of \$8.75.

We now have 211 members and our treasury balance is \$957.18. (We have not yet paid for publishing the last issue or for this one and we have some other small expenses still to pay amounting to about \$15.)

Please send in those dues as soon as you receive your postal notice - or even sooner and save the club some postage. If you correspond with any of the above dropped members ask them to rejoin. We sure hate to lose them.

So, for now - HAPPY STAMPING !

Herb Holland #31
 Sec-Treas

825 East Torey, New Braunfels, TX 78130 USA

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Send an article or
 letter to the editor by Jan. 1, 1989

JOIN the OFFICIAL
 ISWSC Exchange
 Trade your duplicates
 for stamps you need.

Write to:

OMNI Exchange
 Tom Allison (#42)
 Box 252
 Wilmette, IL 60091

Editor's Line (Cont'd from page 7)

that pen and paper and putting into words that thought you have had for so long. If you enjoy reading what others have written, just think--we will enjoy what you write, too!

Copy for the January, February issue must reach me by January 1, 1989. Copy for the March, April Issue must reach me by March 1, 1989.

Arlene Futrell #2
 Route 1 Box 65, Stokes, NC 27884 USA

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



8-18
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"If you put 22c on it 'stead of
 25c, will the mailman only take
 it part of the way?"

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Display Rates (Camera Ready) per insertion:

Full Page	\$25.00
Half Page	13.00
Quarter Page	7.00
Per column inch	2.00

Classified Rates per insertion: First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00. State abbreviations are one word. "P.O. Box 12345" is two words. Zip Code is one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC.

ISWSC AUCTION: DEADLINE to enter lots Dec. 1, '88.
Send lots to: Wallace D. Johnson, MD (#212)
302 Stanaford Drive
Beckley, WV 25801

Roster Additions •• Please Post

#321	Maj L. Manzevich (Mrs) 17904 94th St Edmonton, Alberta T5Z 2J4 Canada	14 Sep 88	Yes	Used
#322	Dan J. Lewis 2351 N. Mill #13 Lewisville, Texas 75057 U.S.A.	17 Sep 88	Yes	Both
#323	Tim Williams 3405 Wismer St Ann, Missouri 63074 U.S.A.	20 Sep 88	Yes	Both
#324	Warren E. Gayle 8350 Kimball Ave Skokie, Illinois 60076 U.S.A.	1 Oct 88	Yes	Both
#325	Fenelon Junior Stamp Club c/o Belinda Wilson Box 1081 Fenelon Falls, Ontario KOM INO Canada	15 Oct 88	No	Both

Deadline for copy to reach the editor for the next issue is January 1, 1989. Send your ideas, collecting tips, articles -anything of possible interest to our members! (And we have a very diverse membership! So your idea is appropriate.)