



The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

MY STAMP ALBUM IS A FILE CABINET Jan Sheetrum #317

When I returned to stamp collecting two years ago, I began, as everyone does, with sorting, soaking, and mounting stamps. As I sorted through kilo mixtures, I noticed that the cancellation often gave an otherwise common stamp a unique personality of its own.

One of my first auction wins was an accumulation of world-wide covers. I found a tattered letter that crossed the Atlantic four times in pursuit of its intended recipient, gaudy "unofficial" First Day covers, an air letter sheet describing Queen Elizabeth's visit to Nassau...

I discovered that covers have "life"... they intrigue with their diverse hand-writings, the advertising and special-interest messages printed on them, their records of everyday business between common people. Neat little stamps lined up row upon row on an album page suddenly seemed very dull by comparison.

But a cover collection is not easy to manage. They come in odd sizes; their weight pulls pages out of albums. Many must be mounted as opened pieces or foldouts to reveal their character.

A 25-year-old remaindered collection from another auction provided my answer. Everything was mounted with hinges and photo corners on dark manilla card stock. Hand-lettered descriptions and neatly drawn frames in white ink set off the stamps beautifully, giving them a look of quality and value far in excess of their "book" worth. Never have I been so intrigued by a presentation. That collection showed me what philately could be!

I borrowed the idea, adapting it to modern materials. I chose black India ink, and ordered ivory-tone cardstock cut 8½x11" from my local print shop. Before
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POSTAL SERVICE PONDERES ITS 21ST CENTURY PROSPECTS

As facsimile machines sprout in offices like mushrooms on lawns, one can only wonder: What is the future of old-fashioned, lick-'em-and-stamp-'em mail? Will the machines supplant the overnight courier market? And whither the much beleaguered U.S. Postal Service?

"Faxes are putting the fear of God into overnight services," says Michael F. Cavanagh, president of Cavanagh Associates, a postal and telecommunications consulting firm in Washington. "Already they are beginning to erode the growth rate of overnight delivery."

Bill McCue, president of Public Fax Inc., concurs: "Faxes are absolutely cutting into the overnight delivery business. The U.S. Postal Service and Federal Express both acknowledge that facsimile is an immediate threat to their bottom line. Fax is decimating Western Union's telex business. And I'm told that 55 percent of the items handled by Federal Express and the other courier services could be faxed. These are the documents that are not so voluminous or three-dimensional objects, like mechanical parts."

While projections of the effects of fax machines on overnight delivery services vary--the worst-case scenarios find fax and electronic mail systems handling up to 30 percent of the letter traffic--one thing is certain: The volume of all types of mail is growing steadily. And, no doubt, growth will save the day for the entire mail and package delivery industry.

The so-called paperless society, the proclaimed destiny of a computer-saturated futureworld, is nowhere in sight. Every year the number of items handled by the post office increases, and overnight courier services, despite fierce competition, find
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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

As I mentioned in the last issue, we have an election coming up this year. Because of the nature of our group (scattered all over the world) we must by necessity have a long lead time to accomplish functions that other clubs can do at one meeting. Nominations must be in to Dave Nelson in the next 30 days. If you would like to serve actively in ISWSC or would like to nominate a fellow member just write a short paragraph to Dave about yourself and/or friend and why you would like to serve. I know there are many members who are retired and have time on their hands. Here's your chance to help out your fellow members. So far, there have been about a dozen of us that have been attempting to provide direction to a very diverse group, and to paraphrase Herb Holland, "none of us wants to serve for life."

Some of you have commented to me about the new logo on our masthead. Our publisher, Rita Kallal, had to innovate as the officially selected logo would not reduce well photographically and appeared as a black blob in a small size. As a result, we feel that we must now open the matter of an official logo again. If there is anyone who has ideas, draw them up and send them to me. If there are several that are usable, we'll have a vote to select one. Make it simple and of a size that will fit our masthead. The originator of the selected one will get a year's free membership.

We are still seeking a newsletter editor. If you have a few hours a month to spare and are interested, please contact Arlene Futrell or me. This may be your last issue of "The Circuit" if a volunteer is not found, and the ramifications of that can be easily understood.

The annual STaMpsHOW of APS will be held in Anaheim, California, in August of this year. I hope to be able to set up a table and get a meeting room as was done last year at Reno and Detroit. Put it on your schedule now, and if you live in the Los Angeles area and would like to organize and coordinate this activity, please let me know. The high cost of the Southern California area may prevent me from attending so I would like to have someone in the area to coordinate.

The Jan.-Feb. issue contained our first set of auction lots from members who wish to sell some unneeded/unwanted material for their own profit. I hope you have sent in a few bids.

The rules were in the Nov.-Dec. issue. The size of our paper and the treasury preclude re-printing all of the rules each time. These auctions/mail sales will provide a little income for the club treasury and more sales will be scheduled in the future as participation warrants.

One piece of good news before I cease this rambling. There will be a July-Aug. summer issue this year. The treasury is sufficiently healthy to permit it due to auction/mail sales and donations from some very nice, conscientious members.

Ken Jenkins #15
President, ISWSC
P. O. Box 2457, Henderson, NV 89015 USA

PET PEEVE

"I do have a 'pet peeve' - If I ever commit mayhem it will be that I went over the edge when someone said 'Is that stamp valuable' or 'Do you have any valuable stamps in your collection?' So many people believe a person collects stamps to get rich, and maybe some do, but my enjoyment comes from the time I spend looking at them, cataloging them and showing others this joy."

Vice President's Report

The incoming donated stamps portion of annual dues continue to roll in and have kept the supply at a good level. I have been sending out about 3 - 4 pounds of stamps per month, and so far, the demand has not exceeded stamps on hand.

Nothing like a 12 inch snowfall and a three day weekend to make it easy to catch up on the stamp collecting activities. Even had to time to get in some bids for the ISWSC mail sale! Hope everyone else did the same. The next one will be bigger and better, I'm sure.

Trivia - with the addition of Supplements 23A and 23B to my Scott's International album collection, it now consists of 19 volumes, 6 of which are the jumbo size. These albums take up 6 feet, 3 inches of shelf space. I continued to get the supplements in order to keep up with my favorite countries at reasonable cost. As a result, I have a lot of blank pages, but never have a problem finding a place for any unusual or out of the way stamp I happen to run across.

Happy Collecting!!!

Ken Costilow #142

A MIXTURE REPORT Dave Nelson #25

Member #233, William Gerlach, is a dealer in on-paper mixtures. I recently purchased a \$5 sample ounce of his Bank Mixture and audited the contents for this report to ISWSC Members.

The packet contained 139 stamps on single paper, representing 116 different issues from 43 countries. The 23 (16½%) that were duplicated are good, exchangeable stamps cataloguing up to \$3.00 each. Only 12 (8½%) were damaged. Over 90% were large/commem stamps and two-thirds were from the British areas. Ignoring damaged, total catalogue value exceeded \$63.00.

Although I'm hardly an expert on mixtures, I was quite satisfied with the breadth, and low duplication, of this purchase at under 8% of catalogue. Other members are encouraged to share their own findings when buying packets, mixtures and bulk lots.

CLASSIFIED ADS

UNMOUNTED APPROVALS: Small, 2¢ ea.; Medium and large, 4½¢ ea.; Topicals, 8¢ ea. Specify: used, mint, CTO, or mixed. Choice of countries if available. Futrell, Stokes, NC 27884-9714

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT ???

Frequent requests and suggestions are received for more articles in "The Circuit." Here is your chance to see yourself in print! Write a short article about some of your favorite covers or any other area of philately. Just keep it light and general. We are not a group of flyspeck collectors so minute detail and research are not necessary.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 1, 1989!

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF WORLDWIDE STAMP COLLECTORS

Financial Statement
Year ended 31 Dec 1988

Balance fwd from 31 Dec 87		\$ 364.14
Income:		
Dues - new mbrs 298-331(33)	\$169.20	
Renewal dues	829.80	
Donations	339.87	
Interest	54.89	
Advertising in "The Circuit"	99.00	
Miscellaneous	6.50	
Total Income		1,499.26
Expense:		
Postage - Secy-Treas	\$138.42	
Printing & Copying	34.33	
Publishing "The Circuit" 5 issues	501.31	
Office Supplies	28.82	
President's Expense ¹	163.39	
Vice-President's Expense ²	54.23	
Printing Rosters	53.10	
Printing Brochures	74.60	
Total Expense		<u>1,048.20</u>
Balance 31 Dec 88 ³		\$ 815.20

1 Telephone and Postage
2 Postage sending stamps to youth groups
3 On deposit First Fed Savings & Loan of New Braunfels

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S INPUT

(written 24 Feb 89)

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the financial report for 1988. Thanks largely to the very generous donations of many of our members we are on a sound financial footing at this time. If all members on receipt of their dues notice (or earlier, thus saving us postage) would promptly remit we would probably continue in good financial shape. Could that be one of our goals for 1989? One caveat: many members have paid their dues a year or so in advance, for which we are thankful. However, since we operate on a cash basis this does not show in our statement. I mention it only so that we will not become complacent.

I hope officer nominations are rolling in to Dave (Dave Nelson #25) and he's swamped. Honest, being Secy-Treas is fun!

And now to acknowledge with thanks these generous donations:

# 2	\$40.00
# 30	20.00
# 76	1.60
#143	.60
#168	.60
#199	1.60
#209	11.60

Our program to have all dues come due each October is proceeding very satisfactorily. As of this writing 33% has been accomplished and no problems have arise and no complaints have been received.

A little philosophy: as most of you realize, our club has two main purposes (1) Put worldwide collectors in touch eith each other and at the same time serve as a public advocate for this kind of collecting and (2) encourage youngsters to become worldwide (fun) collectors. And so, it seems to me, our newsletter should contain items of info that further those ends. Those who want it to contain detailed articles on such subjects as "Errors on official airmails of Lower Slobbovia prior to 1930" can find them in many other publications and they should not expect to find them in "The Circuit." I say this though comments from some members indicate that this is not a unanimous opinion. Now, what I've said is just the thought of old #31 and I, and not ISWSC, am responsible for it. I would like to know how many of you agree with me.

Maybe I'm out of step. Drop me a line and tell me how you feel and I'll forward the results to Editor Arlene to be published.

Now let's update the membership roster: Krupa #4, change entry to "Yes, Both" Yurko #289 is restored to membership Wickens #267 and Zadorozny #299 have resigned. Edwards #117 and Gelfman #262 are dropped for non-payment of dues.

Address Changes:

Bailey #19 - Laboratory, US Army Health Clinic, Dugway, Utah 84022
Randolph #116 - 347 0 St SW, Washington, DC 20024

Young #210 - zip now 29485
Consenheim #260 - PO Box 3112 Sta D, Toronto, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2R 3G5

Wright #273 - zip now 32976

Roster additions are found elsewhere in in this issue.

Bryant #22 writes that she would love to have more trading partners. Why don't you drop Nancy a line and see what you can set up!

I'll close by thanking all of you who have sent in your dues renewals, with special thanks to those who have paid in advance and personal thanks to all who used good stamps when writing me and those who enclosed personal notes - always a pleasure!

Herb Holland #31, Sec,Treas
825 E. Torrey St., New Braunfels, TX 78130 US

PET PEEVE

I really enjoy exchanging stamps with other collectors worldwide, and have done a lot of it. But it is so disheartening to send off a nice bunch of better U.S. and foreign stamps-- only to get back a bunch of common stuff that I already have lots of.

Advertising Policy: 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	\$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.

MY STAMP ALBUM (from Page 1)

mounting, I sleeve my pieces in sheet acetate as protection from dust, humidity, and possible acid paper. I cut slip-under corners with a craft knife in lieu of photo corners.

Whenever I have enough material on a subject or country to make up a page, I arrange and mount the covers, stamps, postcards, whatever I have, in an arrangement which pleases me. I keep my finished cards in folders in an ordinary file cabinet. This form of collecting is exceptionally satisfying because it's based upon the use and appreciation of what I have, not the pursuit of what I lack. It's a half-full cup instead of a half-empty one.

If any other members wish to write to me with questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you. I do answer letters.

Jan Sheetrum, Box 2304, Batesville, AR 72503

POSTAL SERVICE PONDERERS (from Page 1)

themselves fighting for slices of an expanding postal pie. Federal Express Corp., still the leading contender in terms of market share, reports that its overnight letter service is still growing, although the rate of growth has dropped from 20 percent per year to 14 percent. "But whether that's due to the proliferation of fax, a maturing market or some other factors is difficult to say," says Armand B. Schneider, a spokesman for the company. In response, the 15-year-old Memphis-based corporation is pushing its "box business": shipping packages up to 150 pounds. It expects to transport more than 225 million items this year, up from 178 million in 1987. Federal Express hit an all-time daily high in May: more than 949,000 items in one busy day.

With competition from so many fronts, there is much speculation as to the sort of role the Postal Service will play in the 21st century and how it can best prepare for it. Since paper mail, vs. electronic mail, is clearly here to stay, industry experts are puzzling over ways to move the ever-increasing mass more efficiently. Last year, the service's staff of more than 800,000--the nation's largest civilian work force on one payroll--handled more than 154 billion items, a number that is continuing to climb by roughly 5 percent each year. In 1970, the yearly mountain of mail amounted to only 85 billion items.

"What the Postal Service is, essentially, is an enormous bill collection and financial services agent (To Page 6, please)

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

Write to:

**OMNI Exchange
Tom Allison (#42)**

Box 252

Wilmette, IL 60091

THE EDITOR'S LINE _____

Thank you for the articles that have been sent in. I have appreciated it so much. Do keep them coming, and the Pet Peeves, Whatzit's, collecting ideas, etc. Some articles which were sent in were not put in "The Circuit." (To Page 6, please)

ISWSC*** SALES * CIRCUIT ***

**Clean those closets & turn those
hoards of duplicates into CASH.**

**Enter them in the ISWSC Sales
Circuit so other members can add
them to their albums and add a
little money to your pocket.**

**Write to: ISWSC Sales Circuit
Roger J. Bergeson (#132)
1814 Viking Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007
USA**

**Have lots of Blank spaces to fill in
your albums? Write for a trial
selection from the Sales Circuit.**

ROSTER ADDITIONS

332	Mary Jane Campbell 5316 Powhatan Ave. Norfolk, Va 23508	1/5/89	Yes	Both
333	Michael Gooch 5534 Lincrest Lane Houston, TX 77056	1/6/89	Yes	Both
334	John Critelli 1543 Dorsett Dock Rd Point Pleasant, NJ 08742	1/7/89	Yes	Used
335	Charles E. Esker 30236 Fiddlers Green Farmington Hills, Mich. 48018	1/7/89	Yes	Both
336	Miles G. Beard 230 Palau Mishawaka, Ind. 46545	1/9/89	Yes	Both
337	Wanda Gifford 5871 Nina Way Sacramento, Calif. 95824	1/23/89	Yes	Mint
338	Frances G. Stalling Y 26 Rt 4 Lake Lotowana, Mo 64063	1/24/89	Yes	Both
339	Robert F. Skillings 8120 Hamilton Spring Road Bethesda, Md. 20817	1/26/89	No	Used
340	Claude Marcotte 1417 Fort Montreal, Quebec Canada, H3H 2C2	1/27/89	Yes	Both
341	Marion Frola 2969 Valentine Ave Bronx, NY 10458	1/27/89	Yes	Both
342	Mashaal Abdulaziz Al-Hajry House 8, Block 2, Street 23 Kadesiyah 35702 KUWAIT	2/04/89	Yes	Both
343	Joel Meier 1702 Wentwood Drive Pasadena, Texas 77504	2/8/89	Yes	Both
344	George Graham Seven Lakes Box 981 West End, NC 27376	2/13/89	Yes	Used
345	Alan Wyatt 40 Prince Rupert Ave. Toronto, Ontario Canada M6P 2A7	2/16/89	Yes	Both
346	James Singleton Rt 2 Box 293 H Harlem, Georgia 30814	2/23/89	No	Used

POSTAL SERVICE PONDERERS (from Page 5)

for the American public," says Cavanagh. Contrary to what many people might think, it is not mainly a messaging system. There are indeed a lot of messages transmitted. But in terms of what the postal system carries, that is a very small percentage."

It may be hard to believe that only 8 percent of today's mail is not related to business, yet that is what official figures show. In fact, 40 percent of all mail is what people commonly call junk mail, everything from sweepstakes to solicitations for donations. "Primarily, the postal system is the means by which you are billed for what you bought at the local department store, the electricity you use, your telephone service, etc. You, in turn, use the mails to pay off these bills," adds Cavanagh. "At the turn of the century, people used to do a strange thing: They'd send each other notes called personal letters. But these days most people under the age of 25 haven't the vaguest idea what that means.

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THE EDITOR'S LINE, FROM Pg. 5

The reason for that is usually that by the time our newsletter is published again, the material is irrelevant.

I have received a notice about the publication of a topical postage stamp album on pharmacy authored by George Griffenhagen of Vienna, Virginia. If any of you are interested in the 72-page album with 8 matching blank pages, send \$18 to the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, 425 N. Charter St., Pharmacy Building, Madison, WI 53706-1508.

Noone has come forward as a volunteer to be editor of "The Circuit" yet. If you could do it, write to Ken Jenkins #15 or me. (It IS fun to put the letter together!)

We've had snow/ice storms (one of them gave us about 11 inches of snow--very unusual for this area. After being in snowy W. Pa. for years and years, it is unusual to us that most activities stop here, even with much less snow than 11 in. It comes so seldom here.

Don't forget that the deadline for sending material to me for the next issue is May 1.

Thanks to Laverne Kirby for sending the article "Postal Service Ponders," and thanks to INSIGHT Magazine for permission to put it in our publication.

Give stamps to kids! Arlene Futrell #2
R. D. 1 Box 65, Stokes, NC 27884-9714