



The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

ONE WAY TO ORGANIZE A JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

by: ARIEL MEGNIN POLING (#76)

Many factors contribute to the success of a Junior Stamp Club, but two of the most important in my experience of over six years with both Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs and those outside the school are INTEREST of the children and a GOOD MEETING PLACE. I have found that children who are at a place because of another reason will attend stamp meetings, but their participation is not nearly so enthusiastic as those who came specifically to attend a stamp meeting. For example, just this fall I held stamp meetings at our church for children whose parents were attending a Bible study at the same time. There was no comparison of the response of these children to that of the children who give up their recess period at school to attend a Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club. The former group did not participate individually as the latter always do, and I had trouble holding their interest for the length of the meeting. Needless to say, I found that I prefer to work with the latter group!!

I have found that holding my meetings at the school or the public library also contributes to the success of the meeting. Publicity of the meeting needs to be done about two weeks ahead of time -- this allows time for everyone to get the word but prevents forgetting by the children. Posters are best and registration for the first meeting is a must and should be stressed so that ample material will be on hand. One sure way to have a crowd is to give away packets of stamps. And just a word about this -- I have found that 20-25 stamps hinged on a paper inside a glassine envelope with loose hinges for the children to use are the nicest and most preferred by the children. I'll admit that it is easier just to drop the stamps inside the envelope, but they are also easier lost, dropped and ignored. A child will look at the stamps hinged on a paper and study them and

compare them with other children's stamps, and this starts them really looking at stamps. I try to tell them that five stamps that they know and have catalogued makes them more of a collector than 25 stamps loose in an envelope. And I truly believe this. I have had much better response from the children by doing this. Another reason that I have found the school to be a good place is that in our community there are many children living in outlying places that are bussed to school. These children have no way to attend things at the library, but if meetings can be held within the school day, they can attend. Of course, this also means that afterschool activities, as far as stamp collecting clubs are concerned, are also out, because they are bussed home then.

In using the school or the public library, I try to have at least one assistant, and so far have found that both places are willing to help stamp collecting programs. In the public school system my assistance goes clear to the school superintendent, and I have carte blanche use of the school Xerox to prepare any handouts. I prepare pages for the children to hinge their stamps on. At this time I do not wish to get sidetracked into types of stamp albums except to say that I recommend three ring binders, and we use lined three ring binder paper except when I Xerox the pages that I prepare. We started this school year using the Great American and Transportation series in our programs because they are readily available in good quantities.

Another point I would like to make is that I start with a "Workshop" instead of a "club" - in our location, at least, the word "club" turns everyone off, and the prospect of paying dues will keep children away. Only after I have a working nucleus of 6 - 8 children would I even consider a club. Let's face it, many adults are turned off by the idea

of a club. I have had more than one person tell me he or she was interested in stamp collecting but not participating in a club. I'll have to admit that when I have only 45 minutes at school for my meeting, I would resent very much spending time on "new business", "old business", and all the other parliamentary rules. I will probably hear some static on this, but keep in mind that I have the most beginning of beginners, and I have only two years at the most and sometimes only one year to give them a sound basis for stamp collecting for the rest of their lives, so I am very jealous of the time we spend together. And they are like dry sponges -- there is nothing that I can say to tell you of their interest and enthusiasm except that I don't find it anywhere else -- just with the children!

Another point I would like to mention is materials required -- we furnish the children many things, but we make them buy or earn many things. They never cease to be amazed that stamp collectors will send them stamps, and I think it is necessary that they also learn at the same time that they have to obtain stamps on their own. We talk about asking relatives and neighbors for stamps on paper. I have several local businesses that give me their envelopes. And at least once during the school year we have a session of cutting stamps off envelopes - this teaches them that there are things in stamp collecting that are dull work!! And we have soaking sessions at least once. I discovered the hard way not to give each one a little pan with water and turn them loose. We were about 30 minutes late that day, and I wound up cleaning up the mess!!! It is better to have one pan and have each child go thru the process of soaking the stamp and then putting it on dry paper and so on. One of the things we stress is how many things we can find to use that we do not have to buy. Our tongs may look like tweezers

JUNIOR STAMP CLUB (Continued)

and stitch removers (courtesy of the local hospital), but they are tongs to us; and our album pages may have something printed on the reverse side that is totally alien to stamp collecting, and our three ring binders that serve as stamp albums have all sorts of advertising under the colored pictures pasted on their covers, but they are loved and revered as albums with a passion that makes me ashamed of not appreciating my Scott's International as much. Hinges we have to buy, but I stress that even though there are 1,000 in a package they are to be used carefully.

Now that we have a place to meet and have put out the word, a word about the first program. As the attendees arrive, they should register on a sheet with their name, address, telephone number and either their age or grade in school. I usually also at this time give them some sort of literature - either STAMP FUN or a stamp paper or stamp magazine. When I have three or four present, I start even if I have to go back over the material again, because children sitting get restless and sometimes will start arm wrestling or other distracting things. You can talk about any new stamps that are out to see if the children are aware of them being available at the post office. The overall program for this meeting needs to be pretty general and I usually start by asking:

1. know how to hinge a stamp?
 2. know how to use a pair of stamp tongs?
 3. know what perforations are?
 4. know what a commemorative stamp is? a definitive stamp?
 5. have bought stamps at the Post Office?
- And if you want them to talk, ask
6. What kind of stamps do you like best?
 7. Do you have a stamp album - what kind?

Sometimes at the first meeting we will have a Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club Program in the school. In our state, we have representatives covering certain areas, and we can get movies from them. They are employees within the Post Office Department who have other duties but they work with anyone who is interested in furthering stamp collecting. I have also found terrific support from our Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster in addition to the

school and library personnel.

I have not covered everything, but this should give some idea of the steps to take. I have found that each new group is a little different, but the main thing is to have lots of things to do - too many if possible, because they can always be done at the next meeting, and it is terrible to run out of anything to do or say with a group of eager faces looking at you!!!

Good luck with your first meeting!!! ...

PENFRIENDS NEEDED

I am one of the Australian members who joined the ISWSC after your Australian representatives advertised in an Australian stamp magazine called *Stamp News Australasia* in 1990. As I do not belong to any international stamp societies, I thought it would be fun to join as well as gain other exchange partners. I think the proposed coding system for members is a great idea.

I am writing this letter in an effort to find English speaking penfriends for a group of Czechoslovakian people.

Would any of the ISWSC members, or anyone else, be interested in having a Czechoslovakian penfriend to write to, but not to exchange stamps? I exchange stamps with a person from Czechoslovakia, however, he can not read English. He has to ask a friend to translate my letters for him. This friend operates a small language school in the town of Cheb, which is close to the German border. His class consists of about 30 students of all ages and occupations, who are learning English, and would like to have English speaking penfriends to write to.

Is anyone interested? If so, write the teacher at the following address:

Anthony Holoubek
Pension "La Paloma"
Frantiskolanzenska 2
Cheb - 350 02
Czechoslovakia

Thank you and best of luck for the ISWSC in 1991. ... Peter Scannell (#453)

Love's
Greeting to my
Valentine.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year to everyone. I am proud of what "The Circuit" has become. There are more and more members participating in your club and newsletter, and we are rapidly letting the world of philately know that there exists a lot of world wide collectors that still do it for fun. Almost every issue of *Linn's* or *American Philatelist* has letters, with comments from someone berating the catalog makers or the regummers or whatever for belittling the value of their collection. I like to think my collection has some value but I am doing it for the fun of it now and not for what my heirs can get out of it when I am gone.

I see that several members have taken up the challenge of providing swap circuits or other methods of exchanging duplicates. Good Luck to all of you.

It has been brought to my attention that some members would like to buy supplements for only certain smaller countries and these are only available as a part of a larger group of countries. If you have this problem, let me know what countries and how much you are willing to pay to get only the countries you wish. If interest is sufficient I will see if we can find a dealer/individual that would be willing to break up supplements to provide what is wanted. Expect it to cost more; however, as there will always be those countries that no one wants.

Another item that has been suggested is that we find out how many members there are who are active with youth groups; Ben Franklin, Junior High, Scouts, Churches, etc., as long as they are beginning stamp collectors. Drop me a card if this applies to you. The end object is either a youth page in the newsletter or a separate edition that contains information of interest to young beginners and would be available to anyone needing such material. At present we have a four page article by Ariel Poling #76 entitled "One Way To Organize A Stamp Club". This has been available for some time but has not received continued publicity for new members. Send me your ideas on this please.

The spring mail sale/auction is coming up soon. Be sure and get in a few lots and a few bids. ... Ken Jenkins (#15), President

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The bulk of the dues are in so we can go ahead with the new roster and you will find it enclosed with this issue of *The Circuit*. A few dues are trickling in, one every couple days, although they are now three months overdue. Nonetheless, even though for purposes of the roster it is necessary to cut off now, anyone who still pays their dues will be reinstated with the same membership number. So; those of you listed below as dropped, it's not too late. Send in your \$5.00 and stay with us. We want you!

For our great Canadian members I have some awkward and embarrassing news: banks here will only accept checks drawn on Canadian banks if they charge the depositor a \$25.00 fee. Obviously to deposit a \$5.00 Canadian check, the, would be unwise. So, please, good friends in Canada, when remitting money to your club, use a Postal Money Order. The Post Office here will cash those. Sorry 'bout this. I don't understand it and can do nothing about it so.... If any of you recruit any new members in Canada please tell them about this also.

On the coding of member's interests. Within a few days I will send out the final draft to the trustees for their approval or amendment. Hopefully the final approved version will be provided to you all in the next issue. You can then code your own "collecting likes" and drop me a postcard with the code thereon. I will publish 'em in *The Circuit* as received and, of course, next year they will be incorporated into the roster.

The following 31 members are dropped for non-payment of dues:

Julian	43
Donovan	56
Fraats	75
Benedict	80
Howell	85
Steiner	94
Sivak	123
Smith	159
Schumaker	176
Kellogg	188
Zavada	190
McNee	220
Clark	250
Crane	257
Huelsdonk	264
Wing	272
Wright	273
Elliott	287
Cox	301
Ashton	318
Zarub	329
Strawn	353
Kerstetter	354
Murphy	357
Wagenknecht	364
Collazo	366
Newman	391
Jaskulski	395
Zimmerman	398
Stromberg	402

Myhra

419

The club acknowledges, with much thanks, the following donatons:

#121	\$5.00
512	1.80
514	.80

New Address: Bailey (#19) change to: 5th Gen Hosp • Box 342, APO NY 09154, USA. Please note that #19 Bailey is listed at the end of roster because of late receipt of dues.

Address Changes: Williams (#36) change to: PO Box 1112, Olathe, Kans. 66061 and Fromer (#276) change to: 1671 E. 16th St. suite 218, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229.

Resignation: #270 Sentman resigned with regret.

New members are listed elsewhere herein. We now have 294 paid up members. Happy stamping! ••• Herb Holland (#31), Secretary-Treasurer

DDR PHILATELIC ITEMS HOT

I have recently moved back to Germany for a second 3-year tour. Approximately seven weeks after I arrived in Germany, I attended the International Stamp Bourse in Sindelfingen, a suburb of Stuttgart. The show was busy. What surprised me was the number of kids there. There were at least three organized activities for them. Most of them appeared to be interested in stamp collecting, not just dragged there by their parents. In some cases, three generations were in attendance.

The theme of the show was the 500th anniversary of the establishment of a postal system in what is now Germany. The Deutschepost had a nice exhibit. The lines were long at the special cancellation windows and at the philatelic windows. It was also national stamp day in Germany.

I dropped a lot of coin (Deutschmarks- DM) at the Stamp Corner, a kiloware dealer from the Netherlands. His prices were cheaper in DM rather than the prices he advertises in the US philatelic journals.

We chatted. He told me that the hottest item was DDR kiloware. He sold ten 5-kilo bags and all his 1- and 2-kilo packages of DDR. Other dealers were showing sold out signs on their DDR mixtures. Several Germans I met, were there to buy DDR. They expect prices to go up and were getting DDR before the rise. ••• James Bailey (# 19)



HINTS, TIPS & OTHER BRAINSTORMS

Why not frequent your local library? I always look at their discard box. This week I picked up the complete set of 12 Scott Monthly for 1989 for only \$1.20. Check it out - You never know what you might find! ••• Len Attwooll (# 359)

Deadline Next Issue ••• March 5th, 1991

IRISH COMMERATIVE MIXTURE EVALUATED

Mixture: 1 lb. Irish Commeratives
Dealer: J. Ingram, 21 London Road, Belfast BT6 6Y, North Ireland
Source: Ad in Linn's Stamp News

Denomination - pence (followed by # of different per denomination):

50p (2), 46p (2), 39p (6), 36p (1), 32p (1), 30p (7), 28p (37), 26p (21), 24p (28), 22p (20), 21p (3), 18p (6), 17p (1), 15p (4), 12p (7), 11p (2), 10p (11), 9-1/2p (2), 9p (5), 8p (4), 7p (4), 5p (6), 3-1/2p (2), 3p (1), 2-1/2p (2), 2p (1), plus a 21p cut square and about 40 definitives ranging up to 2 lbs. demonination which are not listed seperately here.

Two-thirds of the mixture occurred between 22p to 28p with Christmas stamps well represented. However the variety was high. The yield was about 1400 stamps. I don't remember the exact price, but I think it was somewhere between \$ 30.- 35 US. I am pleased with the variety of good trading material and will certainly order from J. Ingram again. ... S. E. Rutxim I

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISWSC MEETINGS INQUIRY

Has the ISWSC ever held a regional or national meeting? The next BIG US stamp show will be in 1992 at Chicago's Columbian Stamp Exhibition. I would be interested in getting a rough count on how many members might be interested in meeting at the show. Please drop me a note if you plan to attend and would like to have an ISWSC meeting there. Contact: Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022. ... Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Classified Ads

NEW TRADING PARTNERS WANTED. Let's trade on CV for CV approval basis. I am an advanced BC and Western Europe collector and have plenty of good material to trade. Prefer high value trades. Prompt responses. SASE first trade only. (ISWSC # 434) Please write: Arthur Clarke, Box 133, Whittaker, MI 48190

(3/1)

SUGGESTS COVER CLUB AS FUN FOR ISWSC MEMBERS

Worldwide stamp collectors should consider membership in the Cover Collector's Circuit Club (not related to ISWSC or ISWSC newsletter *The Circuit*.) The purpose of the club is to promote stamp and cover exchanges among the 20,000 members around the world.

American and Canadian members become Originating Members (OMs) on joining. Six to ten times a year OM's receive membership lists with 100 or more names and addresses from around the world of collectors interested in exchanges/correspondence. From these new and prior lists, OMs prepare circuits of 4 names each, which pass from member to member until it returns back to the OM. It is the duty of each member to prepare a nice cover with at least three good stamps on it, in which the circuit passes to the next person. Many members use full sets, obtain special cancels or hand drawn cachets to make their covers stand out. Once initial contacts are made, collectors of similar interests can make their own arrangements for exchanging philatelic material.

Lifetime membership of OMs is \$5.00 US. OMs must be over 21 years of age. Foreign members (CMs) must be over 18 years old and currently reside in our 50 countries. Lifetime CM membership is \$4.00 US, which allows their names to be placed on the next membership list. They are not allowed to create circuits, but pass them along as they receive them. After 1-2 years, they may apply for honorary OM status.

This is a great way to make international contacts for exchanges and friendships. For complete rules, an application, and further information, send a SASE to the Membership Director Renate Thompson, 241 Beaches Brook Lane, Cary, NC 27511. Don't forget to mention that you are an ISWSC member!

I am planning to write a similar letter about the ISWSC for inclusion in the Cover Collector's Circuit Club's next publication. I truly believe that both clubs will benefit from knowing about the other. ... Tom Fortunato (# 379)



Officers, Chairpersons, & Managers

President: Ken Jenkins (#15), Box 42271, Las Vegas, NV 89116-2271 USA
Vice President: Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginia Srive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA (Send Required Stamps for Due for Youth Stamp Program to the Vice President)
Secretary-Treasurer: Herb Holland (#31), 825 East Torrey St., New Braunfels, TX 78130 USA
ISWSC Archivist: Hal Erickson (#173), 217 Redstone, Las Vegas, NV
Editor/Publisher: Rita Kallal (#26), PO Box 1513, West Monroe, LA 71294-1513 USA
Membership Chairman: Herb Holland (#31)
Youth Stamp Program: Ken Costilow (#142)
Public Relations Chairman: Dave Nelson (#25), 305 Kennedy Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 USA
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Board of Directors: Aubrey Dunn, Past President (#1); Dave Nelson (#25); John Hotchner (#62); Hal Erickson (#173) and the Elected Officers.

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Full Page	\$25.00
Half Page	10.00
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.