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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

HOLOGRAMS AND STAMPS

by Tom Fortunato (# 398)

Are you looking for a new area of philately to collect? Holographic stamps and postal stationary have been around only a few years, are few in number, and are still inexpensive. Their 3-D imagery is fascinating and interesting to collectors and non-collectors alike.

Holograms are rather complex to make. The item to be "pictured" is placed at the end of an array of mirrors. A laser beam is split by the mirrors, which are angled in such a way as to record on a special film the illuminated subject. This master laser transmission hologram is the result of two combined images, one from a direct beam, the other from a reflected beam. By viewing the hologram through another laser set-up, a 3-D image appears. It seems to move when seen at different angles because holograms have a horizontal and vertical parallax.

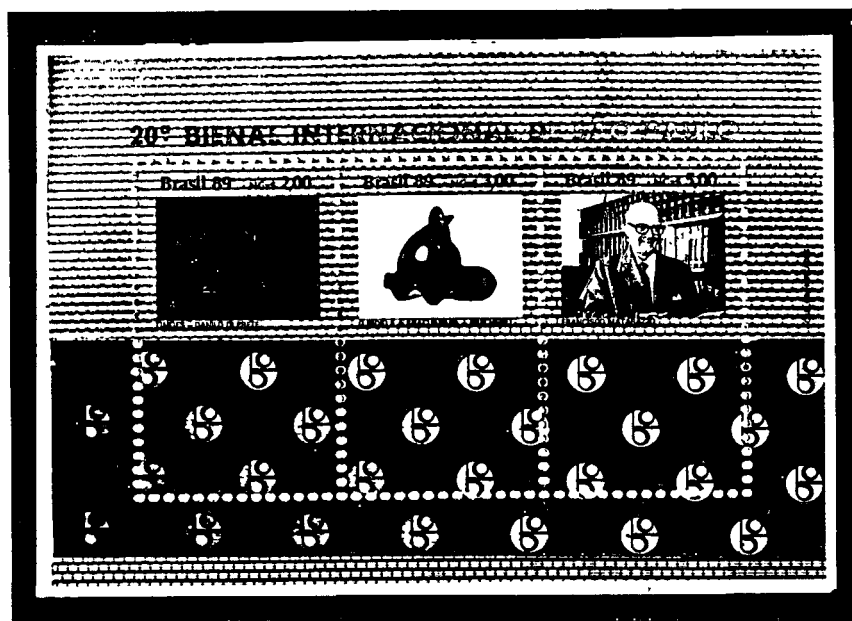
A mold is made from the original. Interference patterns made up of tiny ridges are developed through a photo-resist emulsion. Nickel particles deposit on the ridges by electrolysis. Holograms found on stamps are copies of the mold made on thin sheets of plastic with an aluminum coated background. Light passes through the plastic and reflects off the interference patterns and silvery coating.

Austria was the first country to combine holograms and stamps. Issued on October 8, 1988, in sheetlets of 8, the 8-schilling stamps were an instant success. Reports had them sold out in days. Commemorating Austrian exports, the design features a square holograph with the "Made in Austria" symbol and a cubed box in the background. The box shows the 3-D effect. Complete sheets are now rather scarce, selling for around \$20.00 when available. Scott lists this stamp as Austria # 1441.

Brazil's entry into holographic stamps was a souvenir sheet honoring San Paulo's 20th International Art Biennial. Issued on October 14, 1989, it displays various works of art as the upper half of three stamps. The lower half of the stamps is the holographic part, depicting the show's emblem and alternating 3-D "20's." The holograph extends beyond the stamps into the sheet's salvage on either side. The stamps have values of 2, 3, and 5 cruzeros and the souvenir sheet is listed in Scott as # 2210.

Next came a postal stationary envelope from the U.S.A., Scott # U617. The 25-cent envelope was issued on December 3rd during the 1989 World Stamp Expo. Holographic foiled is glued inside the envelope and is visible through a die-cut window, exposing a space station in lunar orbit with the Earth in the background. Space shuttles and astronauts floating in space are also in the design. Each envelope sold for 30¢ which included 5¢ for the #9 size envelope itself.

Finland issued a pair of holographic stamps a month later

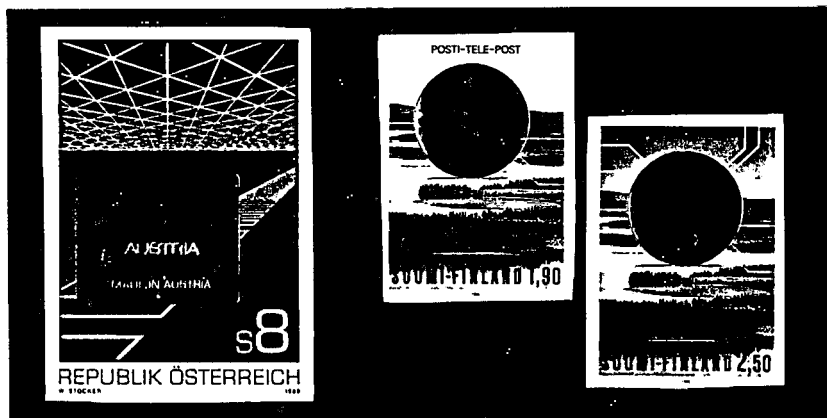


on January 19, 1990. The circular holographs display the symbol of the newly incorporated State Posts and Telecommunications Services. The main design is a scene of Lake Paijanne along with a denomination of 1.90 or 2.50 f/m. One million of each value was produced in sheets of 20. These are Scott # 810 and # 811.

Then another U.S.A. envelope made its debut. Listed as Scott # U618, the 25¢ American Football commemorative depicts three football players, a crowded stadium and the Super Bowl trophy. It was issued on September 9, 1990, at the start of the fall football season. Like the earlier U.S. envelopes, 30¢ was the selling price for a #10 size envelope.

In 1991, Poland issued a philatelic tribute to the Philanippon '91 International Exhibition in the form of a 15,000 zloty souvenir sheet. The stamp portion features a butterfly holograph which "flutters" as you view it. New issue dealers in the U.S. sell it for around \$6.00.

January 22, 1992, was the issue date for another U.S. holographic envelope in the denomination of 29¢. The same space design was used for the holograph as the 2)



General Collector (Continued)

previous 25¢ envelope. However a larger format was used, a larger #10 size envelope, and the color of the indicia indicating the value was changed to green. Finland again issued holographic stamps on May 8, 1992, honoring Finnish technology on a set of three. Designs featured motifs on nature as it relates to the high tech world of today.

Copies of these holographic stamps and stationary in black and white don't do justice to their beauty. They need to be seen first hand to be appreciated. Mint examples of all the holographic issues to date can still be found for a total cost of \$10.00 or so. That's quite a bargain in philately today! And keep your eyes open for more of these beauties from more countries in the next couple years. ...
(These gorgeous philatelic items are an area of philately that may readily excite the interest of young children, the future collectors. ...The Editor)



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I had a great time at the big Oakland STaMpsHOW in August. We had several members there, and a number of prospective joiners, at least 3 of whom are already on board. Fellow members in attendance were Ron Thurner (# 17), George Land (# 241), Joanne Berkowitz (# 98), Kathleen Cesarz (# 729), Michael M. Ercolini (# 662), and myself for a total of six, but a couple others came and went without me finding out who they were.

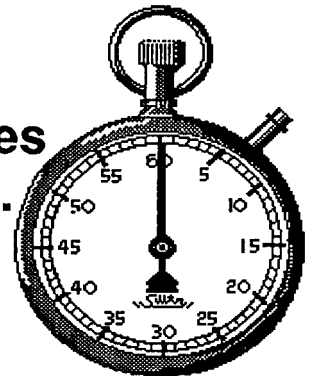
I ran into an old acquaintance, Bob de Violini, Chairman of the APS Affiliate Coordination Committee, who has given ISWSC and *The Circuit* a kind mention in his column on more than one occasion. To return the favor, I'll plug a publication being produced by Bob and his wife Lois, namely *The Computatelist*, which is all to do with computers and software programs for stamp collectors. This is an in-depth look at programs for inventorying your collection, creating your own album pages, graphics, etc. The copy I was given has 24 pages of very detailed coverage on this subject of growing interest. If you are interested, send a #10 SASE to PCSG, Box 5025, Oxnard, CA. U.S. subscriptions are \$10; Canadian \$12.00 and Overseas \$17.00.

Other miscellaneous news: I learned that the USPS has apparently dropped its support of the Ben Franklin clubs and we will be hearing lots more of that issue. Noted the revised APS Stamp Identifier is not available and bought a copy for \$2.00. It is fine - but brief.

I promised you a few glimpses of life in the south central Pacific as described in the Pitcairn Island newsletter titled *The Pitcairn Miscellany*, but I am going to keep this real short this time in order to help the editor make an ambitious publishing schedule. I'll try to include something next time. The November-December issue should be out shortly after this one and contain our proposed new By Laws for your voting.

... Dave Nelson (#25), President

Time to pay your dues for 1993. Don't forget !!



VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISWSC provided philatelic support to library summer programs and for the first time to 4-H Clubs. Among the states represented this time were Vermont, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Florida. With our many new members, there is an adequate supply of stamps on hand. Please remember, with the renewal of your dues to send me your stamp donations. The word is spreading that our Society helps youth programs and we don't want to let anyone down.

I am often asked what type of stamps are appropriate for the Youth Program donations. When a parcel is sent out, it is usually in response to a request just for "stamps." Hopefully, there will be someone in the group who will find something that suits his or her interest. For some new collectors, perhaps a starting point for the basis of a collection is provided. The method used is to place all donated stamps into a box and mix them up as they are removed for a parcel. In that manner, a variety is sent. Stamps on paper are kept separate when possible and U.S. are kept separate from foreign when received that way. Off paper stamps are preferred, rather than on paper, in order to minimize postage costs for

all concerned. Packets of topicals are maintained when received already sorted and are sent that way. Commemorative stamps are preferred over definitives as these capture the interest of children quicker. However, definitives are needed to complete country collections so they are always included in the parcels along with commemoratives, covers, or anything else of a philatelic nature that you have donated. There is no specification for stamps of a certain period, as it is not reasonable to expect that each stamp received gets identified and sorted.

One last word: I try to remove badly damaged stamps (torn or heavily cancelled) when I see them. I know how easy it is for them to slip by, but please try to avoid sending damaged stamps.

I am still not sure what to do with the one baseball card that I received recently.

A special note of appreciation to those members who have made donations in excess of the 250 designated as part of your annual dues. Whether 10 more or 1000's more, everything donated helps the kids and they keep our hobby alive. Happy Collecting!

... Ken Costilow (# 142), Vice President

Australian First Lady Blasts Post's Olympic Stamps

The wife of Australia's Prime Minister, Mrs. Annita Keating, has criticised the Australian Post for not depicting any female athletes on the set of three Olympic stamps recently released. The stamps, one 45¢, and two different \$1.20 values evoke the Olympic motto of "Faster, Higher, Stronger" by depicting cycling, high jumping and weightlifting.

Mrs. Keating has been an outspoken supporter of women in sport since moving into "The Lodge," the Australian equivalent of the White House. She said women had won 11 out of 14 gold medals for track and field events since 1948. A spokeswoman for the Australian Post said the designer, Mr. Garry Emery, was asked to include at least one female, but didn't.

... Kevin Crowe (# 459)

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Early fall has not been as hectic as summer, but still quite busy here at ISWSC offices. Another forty-one members since the last issue of *The Circuit*, and two former members have rejoined. Welcome back Philip Mazzano (# 249) and Mark O. Bakker (# 507). Their addresses and several change of addresses are listed with the new member roster. I hope you'll make them feel welcome, too.

I don't know who the kind person is who wrote to the Postal Administrations of several South American countries to request information in my name, but my mail has certainly contained some gorgeous flyers regarding new issues. I've passed these along to our editor, and you may see some of the information in future issues of *The Circuit*, space permitting.

Once again it is dues renewal time for 291 ISWSC members whose dues expire at the end of October. Sending postcards to each of you will cost ISWSC \$55.29 in postage to say nothing of the time it will take to get all of the notices out. PLEASE check your membership cards NOW, and send your dues in pronto! If you are one of the 26 members whose dues expire in November, sending your dues in now will keep the notice from getting mislaid in all the Holiday mail. We ask you to add a cash contribution to help with postage costs of mailing the Youth Program parcels, if you can. Don't forget to send your 250 different stamp donation to Ken Costilow (# 142).

Please delete the following members from

your Rosters for nonpayment of dues: Bacon (# 473) and Spencer (# 547). The following members will be dropped from the rolls and become ineligible for participation in ISWSC's programs if their dues aren't received by October 31, 1992: Conde (# 430) and Balonescu (# 540).

A rather serious complaint has come from one of our Australian members. He has received stamps from a man in Romania who says he is ISWSC member # 1996: (We ARE growing, but we aren't THAT big!) The trade requested is most unfair and it will cost our member far more than it is worth even to return the stamps. He indicated this is not the first time this has happened. Please do not send stamps to members unless you have first determined that the member is willing to trade with you. If you do not have this assurance, the member should feel no compulsion to return your stamps to you. Many members are on Social Security or pension and the cost of mailing and insuring expensive stamps from one country to another can really dent the budget.

If you know of anyone representing themselves as an ISWSC with a number over 1000 they are flying false colors! I'm not sure what can be done beyond alerting the membership, but I'm open to suggestions as to remedies.

DON'T FORGET TO MAIL YOUR DUES IN NOW !! ...

Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBER CODES:

538 Stamenov	A, C, DD, 2, 3, 50, 83(French)
545 Dorries	A, H(Christmas, Olympics, Transportation), X(40), DD, 1a, 6, 7(Orient, US, Can, Philippines, India), 50, 80
546 Buetler	A, D, H(ducks), X(6), DD, 7(US, UN, Austral, GB, Can, NZ, Channel Is), 50, 60, 80
548 Edmonds	A, X(49), DD
552 Bourgoln	G, DD, 7(Br Comm, Iceland), 50, 80
557 Gibb	D, X(42), DD, 3, 4, 5, 7 (Can, Newfoundland, Scand), 80
630 Jerman	A, G, X(38), EE, 7(Can, Israel, Austria, BrOceania), 50, 80
636 Zdanowitz	A, G, DD, 7(Israel, PNG, Den, Swe, Jap, China, Fin, Bermuda, Bahamas), 50, 60, 83(some French)
729 Cesarz	D, X(20), DD, 4a, 50, 80
733 Starodubtsev	A, G, H(various topicals), X(25), CC, 1, 2, 7(Pacific, PNG, Austral, WEur, US, Jap), 50, 60, 80a
750 Casey	B(to 1940), G H(Netherlands, Dutch E Indies, US Definitives), X(12), DD, 1, 4a, 6, 50, 80
765 Liggett	A, G, H(revenues, Cinderellas), X(34), DD, 2, 50, 60, 83(German, Hebrew)
778 Grimes	A, G, X(58), EE, 1, 2, 4, 6, 50, 70, 80

USPS DOES GOOD: Harold J. Humm (# 678) has written to recognize and applaud the gracious service of the Field Division Office in Jacksonville, Florida. Last spring he sent back to Jacksonville an envelope with a block of four of the 30¢ cardinal that had been cancelled twice there, the second time it was blacked, despite the fact that the first cancel was quite adequate. They replaced the block with a neatly cancelled one and the manager of Consumer Affairs and Claims, Melissa G. Kovalaskas, wrote him a very nice letter apologizing for the double cancel that messed up his original block. (Kudos to Ms. Kovalaskas - the USPS needs more employees like her!) ...

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* Mint US Stamps with full gum or IRCs (at 50¢ each) also accepted.

Public Relations Report

Public relations begins with you! A recent letter clearly illustrates the point.

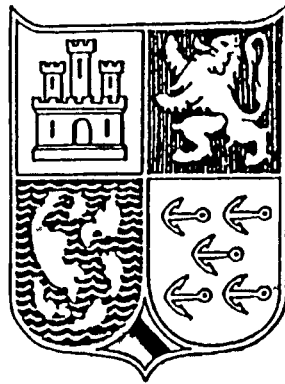
I heard from a non-US member who declined to renew his membership based on some bad experiences he had through correspondence. Other ISWSC members frequently mailed him stamps, unsolicited, insisting on starting up an exchange. One member even asked that he be sent 18 mint sets of every new issue from the now non-member's country. I doubt if any collector is interested in such an offer.

Be considerate with your requests. Never send stamps or other philatelic items until exchange rules have clearly been agreed upon by both members. A stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard (or International Reply Coupon for overseas reply) should be included with your offer to-exchange. A complete code of trading ethics is being adopted by the ISWSC. Hopefully it will appear in *The Circuit* soon.

We are also preparing new By Laws and they will be ready for the next issue of *The Circuit*. It is hoped you will take time to vote. As our Society grows, we need to conform with IRS standards for future consideration as a tax-exempt, not for profit organization. New By Laws is a step in that process, as is our incorporation. We'll also be asking you to answer a few questions to help guide the Society and better serve the membership's needs in the future. ... Tom Fortunato (# 379), Public Relations Officer



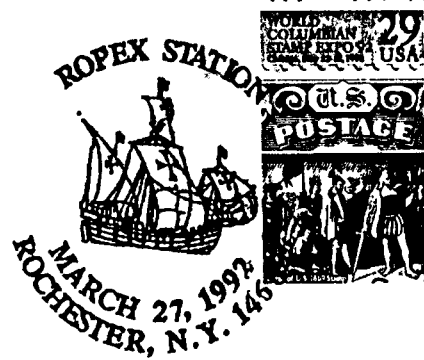
The "Rochester" untagged error



Columbus' coat of arms

He was made a nobleman by the Spanish rulers

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.



OWN A MODERN ERROR !! →→→



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Each cacheted cover bears the World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 untagged error with a ROPEX show cancel. The stamp does not glow under ultraviolet light as normal stamps do. Only a few sheets of the error were discovered, first in the Rochester, New York area. All proceeds will go to the ISWSC. There are 3 different cachets with 3 dated cancels — Only 32 sets were created. Donation: \$10.00 per cover or \$25.00 per set of three postpaid. Send orders to Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary/Treasurer, Rt 1 Box 69A, Caddo Mills, TX 75135 USA. ...

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT THE HOBBY

The article written by Albert Feinberg (#361) in the Jan-Feb 1992 issue of *The Circuit* is one of the finest I have seen in recent philatelic publications, as far as I'm concerned. It addresses the concerns of many average collectors and also reflects the feeling amongst collectors, that for the hobby to survive, we must continue to promote the fun aspect of stamp collecting and buying them to please ourselves.

There is one thing all stamp collectors have in common: they all look at stamps, whether they specialize or not. But *how* they look at stamps is a different matter. Some of them are 'reverse' stamp collectors, that is they look at the back of the stamp, not only to detect thin spots and flaws, but also to determine gum and paper varieties, watermarks and perforation marks. Others concentrate on perforations, while still others are interested in the way a stamp has traveled (postal history), cancellations, flaws, forgeries and fakes. While none of these are my primary reason for stamp collecting, I recognize that each collector has his or her own special reason for that facet of stamp collecting. Maybe they have become tired looking at their completed collections, built over a lifetime and want to do something else, or maybe they like to play around with perforation gauges, watermark detectors, black lights, etc., as long as they do it for fun, that is what our hobby is all about.

As for me, after many years of stamp collecting, I am still the old-fashioned type of trying to fill in the blank spots, to obtain stamps I haven't got and look at each new acquisition as if it is the priceless one,

(Continued on Page 7)

CLASSIFIED ADS

APPROVALS: Get a 25% Discount off my already low prices. ISWSC members only. Worldwide used singles, Mint complete sets, Topicals, Mixtures, Want Lists. Terry Collins, 127 Benkard, Newburgh, NY 12550 (2/6)

FREE PRICE LIST. Over 6,000 worldwide sets and singles every-month at 20% to 50% of Scott. H & I Stamps, Box 720185, San Diego, CA 92172 (2/2)

RETIRED COLLECTOR SELLING collections and accumulations at deep discounts off '92 Scott. Austria, France, Colonies list now ready - free. Darrell L. George, 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212 (1/3)

MANY HIGH VALUES in our collection of singles, sets, souvenir sheets: Over \$50 current Scott for just \$10. Please include long SASE. Wright, 4424 Skyline Drive, Bluff Point, NY 14478 (1/1)

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:
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 Quarter Page 7.00
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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. Send payment along with copy to the Editor.

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**An Alligator
 in Every
 Mailbox?**



by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Which of the following live animals are not allowed to be mailed under U.S. Postal System rules: earthworms, mice, salamanders, scorpions, leeches, alligators, bees, snails. Congratulations if you chose mice as the only animal on the list that is not mailable.

A look at Section 124.63 of the Domestic Mail Manual, listing mailing rules and regulations, is quite revealing. Baby alligators under 20 inches long may be mailed, as can "small, harmless, coldblooded animals (except turtles and snakes) which do not require food or water or attention during handling in the mail and which do not create sanitary problems or obnoxious odors . . .".

Live day old chickens, turkeys, ducks, and other poultry can also be mailed, but only in their original unopened hatchery box. Their hatching date and hour must be on the box, as they cannot be over 24 hours old. I have seen postage meters used by hatcheries which use the slogan area to denote this information.

Adult poultry can only be sent by Express Mail to insure next day delivery. Warm-blooded animals such as cats, dogs, mice, hamsters, rabbits, parakeets, and canaries cannot be mailed.

Packages of live animals which can't delivered or returned to sender within 3 days of mailing may be "disposed of" - treated as a perishable item. A postmaster is allowed to sell them, deduct 10% of the sale as commission, and forward the remaining funds to the sender in a postal money order, with an explanation on Form 3820. ...

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