

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & GOPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

"Year of the Railways"

by Terence Lyons (# 820)

To celebrate the Centenary of the opening of the Manx Electric Railway (MER), 1993 has been declared to be, "The Year of the Railways." To commemorate the event, the Isle of Man Post Office issued a set of four stamps, comprising 20p, 24p, 28p and 39p values, together with a booklet.

On the same day that the stamps were issued, a Travelling Post Office (TPO) special train was run from Ramsey, which is in the north of the island, to Port Erin in the south. A special cachet-type postmark, depicting an electric tram, steam locomotive and horse drawn tram, was applied to all mail, which was posted in letter boxes along the route. In earlier days, it was common practice to have letter boxes at specified stations and halts along the track, which were emptied by the train crew as they went past.

The mail on the TPO special was carried on the MER from Ramsey to the terminus which is located at the north end of Douglas promenade. From here it was taken by horse drawn tram to the Sea Terminal, some two miles away, where it was put on a vintage motor bus for the short journey to Douglas station. The mail then completed the final part of its journey by steam train to Port Erin.

The MER is built to a gauge of three feet and is seventeen and three-quarters miles long. It is the largest electric tramway operating in the British Isles and hugs the coastline for much of its route. It offers some spectacular views, as it twists around the tight curves and climbs the steep gradients.

This pioneer inter-urban railway operates much as it did a century ago, using Victorian and Edwardian technology. The original No. 1 and No. 2 tramcars are still operating today. These have been recognized by the *Guinness World Book of Records* as being the oldest operating trams in the world. The newest of the rolling stock on the MER dates back to 1906.

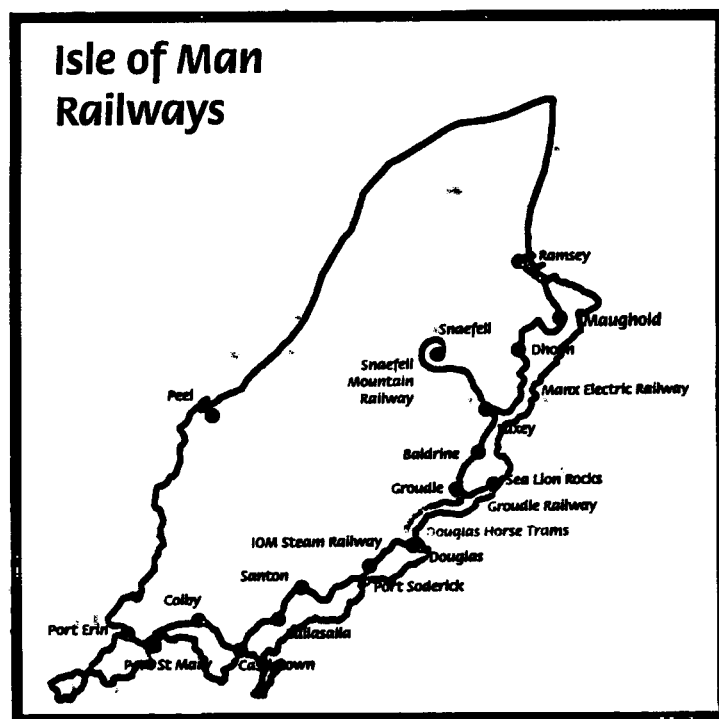
There are five railway systems operating in the Isle of Man, these are:

- (1) The Manx Electric Railway - Douglas to Ramsey (17-3/4 miles)
- (2) Snaefell Mountain Railway - Laxey to summit of Snaefell (4-1/2 miles)
- (3) Isle of Man Steam Railway - Douglas to Port Erin (15-1/2 miles) - Opened 1873

(4) Douglas Horse Trams - MER Terminus to Sea Terminal (2 miles) - Opened 1876

(5) Groudle Glen Railway - Connects Glen to a cliff top zoo (3/4 mile) - Two foot gauge - Opened 1893

The first section of the MER line, between Douglas and Groudle, was opened on September 7, 1893, Laxey being reached on July 27, 1894. The extension from Laxey to the

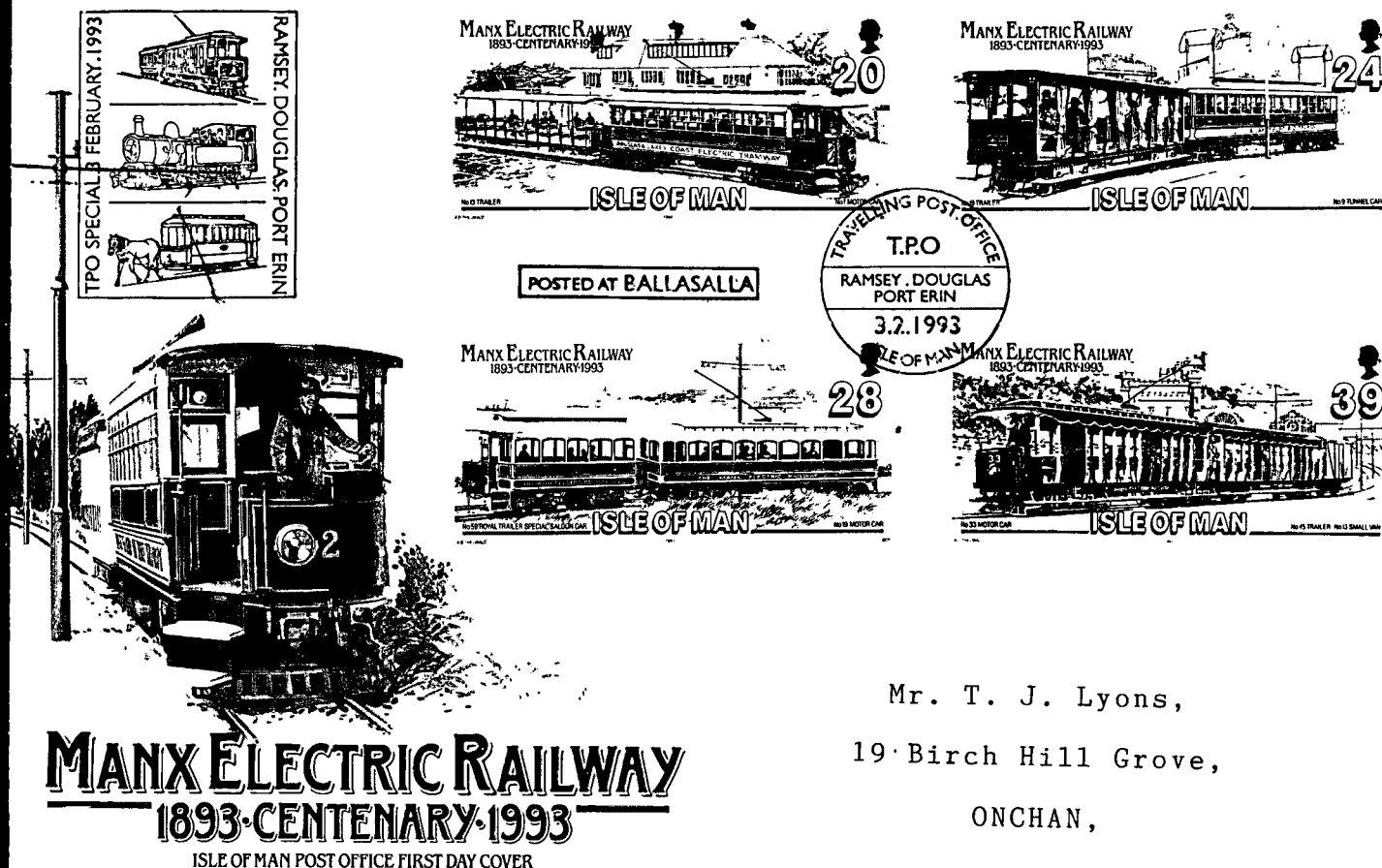


summit of Snaefell, which is built to a gauge of three feet six inches, was completed on August 21, 1895. This is the only electric mountain railway in the British Isles and climbs to a total height of 2,036 feet, the highest point on the Isle of Man.

The line from Ramsey to Laxey was commenced in August, 1897 and officially opened on August 2, 1898. It did not, however, reach the center of Ramsey until July, 1899.

The MER operates all year, with several trains running each day in the summer. During the winter month, the service is reduced to two or three trains per day, with none

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Mr. T. J. Lyons,
19 Birch Hill Grove,
ONCHAN,

Railways (Continued from Page 1)

at weekends.

The official opening of "The Year of the Railways," was made by H. E. the Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshall Sir Laurence Jones, during Easter.

There are many events planned throughout the year, which include open days at the MER and steam railway depots, steam locomotives operating on the MER, a Victorian Sports Day & Fair, a steam engine tug-of-war, plus many more too

numerous to mention.

A full programme of events can be obtained from the Isle of Man Railways, Strathallan Crescent, Douglas, Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man Post Office, Philatelic Bureau, still has available a limited number of First Day Covers, which were carried on the TPO special. The price of these is £2.50 or approximately \$3.50 US at the current exchange rate. ...

ISWSC Plans New Service for Kids Clubs

Plans are in the works on a new service to help young stamp collectors and leaders of youth stamp groups contact similar age penpals in other countries. Members Carol Cervenka and Tom Fortunato are working on putting it together and more details will be forth coming in the next newsletter. If you have any ideas and/or information on clubs or youth groups who would be interested in penpals and exchanging stamps in your country or area, please contact Carol Cervenka (# 498). Be sure to send name of leader, ages of children in the group and address of leader. ...

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

THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN *by Dave Nelson (#25)*

Maybe one or two of you actually noticed that there was no President's Column in the last issue. Reason was partly that I was in Monte Carlo again but mostly the good-news reason; since we produced the combined issue at year end we have stayed right on publication schedule. Many thanks to our overworked and sometimes under-appreciated Editor.

The By-law ballots are in and the new By-Laws were approved. Now the Board and Executive Committee have a lot more work to do to get us a tax status appropriate to our current size and revenue levels. As has been obvious for some time, we will have to announce a hike in dues very soon; we must have just about the lowest annual dues of any club on earth that features a bi-monthly newsletter. We'll certainly keep the increase very modest, probably to \$8 per year, and hope that miscellaneous revenues from ads in *The Circuit*, our Mail Auctions and your kind donations will keep us financially sound.

Our new Auction Co-Managers, **Jim Watkins** and **George Land** got off to a good start with sale # 8 which was largely put together by our outgoing Manager, **Dr. Wallace Johnson**. Our everlasting thanks to **Dr. Johnson** for his generous contribution of time and talent to make this mail sale program into the success it has been. **Harold Humm #678** and others have pointed out the increasing levels of minimum bids appearing in the auction. I have been concerned about that myself and will be working with Jim and George to see if we can define a set of rules that are a nice compromise for all. The objective is to avoid extremes...if we don't allow any minimums at all then submitters will occasionally see the hammer fall on ridiculously small bids and they will stop participating. But if all the items have minimums that are at 50% of Scott or more then our sales will be no more attractive than the average ad in *Linns* and members will lose interest in submitting bids. We have some wonderful dealer members who have been helping to publicize ISWSC and advertising in *The Circuit*, etc. and I want them to be as free as any other member to send offerings to the Auction, but the primary purpose of this forum is to allow members to realize good cash for excess materials while other members get good bargains for desired acquisitions, so high minima are not called for.

From my mail bag: Member #330, **Edward Stockhammer** is interested in Scott Specialty Album pages from 1950 on so look him up in your roster and let him know if you have some available. He also asks if anyone knows where one could buy stamp border stencils, he bought some from a company called Beardcraft about 20 years ago but hasn't seen them since. Have you? Member **Clyde Howard** wrote to say some good things about ISWSC and ask if anyone has a recent copy of volume #2 for sale. **Pete Bialick, #476** along with some other members have passed on some ideas about *The Omni* exchange. One criticism we hear is that people don't want to be forced to buy new Scott catalogues every 2 or 3 years. Good grief, anyone can sympathize with that these days! With Scott moving to *FIVE* volumes this year one could buy an awful lot of stamps for their collection with the money it takes to get a full new set. Furthermore,

most of our members have a cut-off date and are not interested in stamps after 1940 or 1962 or whatever date it was they got tired of paying for those overpriced supplements, so the idea of buying new catalogues just for the new prices when they don't need the new issue descriptions is angrifying to say the least. The problem we have had recently is that the massive price reductions Scott took in 1990 mean that a member who prices contributions with an '89 or earlier volume simply won't sell any. Just about every exchange had to go thru considerable machinations to adjust for this anomaly which one hopes will never be repeated. It is more usual for prices to trend upward, or to drop only a tiny amount, in which case we may not have to be too rigid about the four year old catalogue rule in years to come.

I have my own theory about how Scott could make more money and at the same time provide a much better service to the hobby. What I would like to see them do is to publish the photos and descriptions on three hole punched, durable, glossy stock without any price data (o.k. so they can be TWO hole punched for any of you overseas that have an interest in Scott). These photo quality pages might even be in full color! Then on separate, regular paper pages they should publish only the catalogue numbers and current prices which pages are, of course, republished every year. Assuming they were loose leaf, with no countries overlapping on a given page, Scott could sell the photo pages for any single country, or logical country grouping; and they could sell 'say' "South America" for a premium which those who collect same would be happy to pay since they didn't now have to buy all 5 volumes to get that one continent. Collectors could buy the new price lists for worldwide but not buy the new release photo pages if we don't care about those. I, for example, have been buying full sets every other year and may go to every third year now, but under this plan I would spend what it takes to get the new loose leaf set and then buy just the price pages EVERY year, since I cut off my collecting interests as of 1980 I wouldn't buy the new issue pages. Scott would get as much or more money out of me, I would have more up to date prices, and we all would have better quality photo descriptions of the stamps. More collectors would buy from Scott if they could buy just Scandinavia or just "dead countries" or whatever their interests might be, which would be possible with the loose leaf format. If you think that would be good for collectors why not mail Scott a copy of this column and tell them it's time they started thinking more about what the collector wants.

I'll close with a Scott related trivia question. What is the cheapest stamp in the world? Answer, according to my 1992 edition of Scott: Victoria #165. It is catalogued at a used value of only 10 cents. This is pretty exceptional in the '92 edition which is the year Scott moved to the 15 cent minimum! (another of their moves that didn't make too many collectors happy). ...

"Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there." — Josh Billings

Secretary- Treasurer's Report *by Carol Cervenka (# 498)*

Since its beginning, ISWSC has been devoted to helping young people discover the joys of our hobby. A recent letter from Robert C. Toole gives an accurate picture of the dilemma facing many members who are actively involved with several youth stamp programs:

"I collect for 5 grandchildren, 2 young pen pals and the Youth Booth of the Indiana Stamp Club. I may not have 250 large collectible duplicates now, but I'll do my best."

Other collectors, new to the hobby or resuming after an hiatus of many years, find they struggle to come up with 250 different collectible surplus stamps. Previously, I have suggested that these prospective members (new and renewing) simply purchase a packet of topical stamps and donate them as that portion of their dues. ISWSC now offers a better option.

The Board of Directors has recently voted to allow the donation of an equivalent amount of money in lieu of the 250 stamps. The money will be kept in a special Youth Program fund, and used when available, to purchase stamps, supplies, philatelic books and other resource materials for youth groups as well as to defray program mailing expenses.

If you choose this option, simply send your cash, check or money order to the Secretary-Treasurer as you usually do, specifying the amount to be used in the Youth Program. We leave the amount up to you, but ask that you send sufficient to purchase a packet of 250 all different large collectible stamps. You may, of course, send more.

Stamps should still be sent to the Youth Program Chairman, who forwards a list of stamp contributors to me on a regular basis.

With the expansion of the Youth Program into the various Regions (Australasian, Canadian, E. European and UK) dues, stamps and funds for Youth Program dues are all sent to the Appropriate Regional Secretary. If you have any

questions, please feel free to send them to me; I'll answer them promptly.

#555 J.P. Arnold moved, and has sent in his change of address and renewal dues. Please note this in your Roster. The new address will be found in the Roster up-date page. Also make note that #542 Sibirin has been re-instated.

Dues were not received from #425 Yeong, #552 Bourgoin, #553 Rattray and #665 Newsome. #690 Joseph Farrugia has resigned. They have been dropped from the membership rolls. Please amend your Roster to this effect.

At press-time, we have had no word from #685 James E. Miller regarding his membership renewal, and if his dues are not received by May 31, he will have to be dropped.

I am delighted to report that #746 - Gil Langley, has earned a free year of membership in ISWSC for recruiting 5 new members in (less than) a year. Several other members are within one of having enough for a free year, and we truly appreciate the fine recruiting! If you know of other collectors who may be interested in ISWSC, please contact Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615 for copies of the new brochure. Gift memberships also count.

On the sad side, I received word from his daughter Pat, that #679 John Frierdich, passed away March 2, 1993, during hospitalization for a heart attack. John was a part-time dealer and a friend of many ISWSC members. He will be missed.

A reminder to Canadian members, when paying in Canadian funds for membership renewals, pins, books, etc. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS TO Irving C. Whynot, P.O. Box 371, Don Mills, M3C 2S7, CANADA. Irv will convert to US funds and send payment to me. It adds to ISWSC postage costs when I have to send Canadian checks to Irv for conversion, and he returns them for deposit. Thanks in advance for your help! ...

USPS Has Problem Identifying Stamps!!

Beverly Chapman (#802) sent a letter written to a philatelic publication decrying the voiding of a coil pair of the 5¢ Washington stamp (issued about 20 years ago) by the postal service. He used a 19¢ deer stamp and the coil pair to make up 29¢ postage, but the 5¢ stamps were marked void and it was returned for postage.

She enclosed the cancelled "stamps" that made it through the mail as postage stamps. She mused that perhaps the user of the 80 proof label stamp for Absolut Vodka may have been too drunk to notice the difference. That does not however explain how it got through the postal system!! ...



Correction:

Many months ago, your Editor failed to list a new member (# 832) correctly under his name. Instead member # 833 had his name listed under both numbers. It was a typographical error which was not caught in proof-reading. Both members are listed correctly on the new roster, but I feel it is only fair to mention that member # 832 is Don Brake, 3 Parkhurst Pl., Fairfield, IL 62837. Check the roster for trading information. My apologies and a big welcome to Don. ...

¿Whatzit?

¿Whatzit? No. 93-2:

Costa Rica
Color: Gray Black



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 (5/6)

WORLDWIDE CLIPPING MIXTURES contain commemoratives, large pictorials, medium and higher values galore from many desirable countries including Bahamas, Barbados, Papua, British Africa, other BWI, Europe, Asia, etc. Have been offering these popular mixtures to worldwide collectors for 8 years. Many regular customers. Special offer now one pound single paper for \$40.00 postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed or refund. James Paton, Box 766, Berkeley, CA 94701 (3/4)

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ENJOY PROMPT FRIENDLY Service! Quality worldwide sets and singles. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free Price List for SASE. Please specify country(s). Stamps in the Woods, Box 839, Epping, NH 03042 (2/6)

WANTED: 1935 KGV Silver Jubilee Omnibus used, F-VF, Light Cancels, Full Perfs, no defects, paying 50% 1993 Scott for sets, better singles (CV more than \$1.00), except Basutoland, Br. Honduras, Cypress, NZ. WANTED: ISWSC members who subscribe to PRODIGY. Write to XMRW93A. WANTED: Collectors of Israeli current issues. I have a standing order with the Israel Philatelic Office. Must take at least two of each stamp, therefore, looking for at least one partner to absorb duplicates. No unworkable problems. Tom Ginsberg, (#70 ISWSC, APS), 1041 Bowen Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 (1/1)

**DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE
JUNE 15, 1993**

ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

TO BECOME PART
OF A SWAP CIRCUIT
Send 100 Large
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STAMP COLLECTORS DISNEY
'93 10 - page Catalog: Albums, Supplements, Stamps, Collections, Anguilla - Uganda. Easy Order Form. Send \$1.00 Postage to Angela, 517 North 7th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (1/6)

FOR SALE: 250 Australian fine used for \$10 note (no cheques please). Post Free, All Different decimals with sets, singles and values to \$5.00. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Wanted B.W.I. definitives, give Papua in exchange, Scotts Catalog. L. Cook, 37 Church St., Boonah, Queensland, Australia 4310 (1/1)

TIRED OF GETTING the same old stamps from your trading partners? Longtime collector has thousands of worldwide stamps cataloging \$1.00 or more for trading. No cash involved. Write for sample list and details. Thomas, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091 (1/1)

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OMNI MANAGER
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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	\$40.00**
Half Page	20.00**
Quarter Page	10.00**
Per column inch	2.00

* Camera Ready means ready to paste-up and print. reductions and typesetting extra

** Discounts for 3 or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display ad rates available. Write to ISWSC Editor or Fax direct 24-hr. line 1-(318) 325-4539 for special rates.

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 in US funds. Send payment along with copy to the Editor.

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KIDS' PAGE

Postmark Collecting

Did you ever notice that black marking over the stamps that come in your mail? That circle with the four or five lines to the right of it? The circle is called the postmark, and believe it or not, some people collect them.

I started collecting about two years ago when I saw an odd city name in the postmark. Then I heard about the Postmark Collectors Club and I joined. Since then my collection had grown to about 1500 various cancellations. My favorites are pictorial postmarks, which show a picture on them. My favorite is shown at the right.

You can collect postmarks too. Look for them in your mail. Some people save the whole envelope. Others cut them to 2" x 4" or 3" x 5". It's up to you.

When you start you will probably want to have a general collection, collecting a postmark from every post office that exists. The general collection will allow you to adapt to your own interests and desires.

You can start a topical collection. These cancellations relate to a specific area or topic, for example,

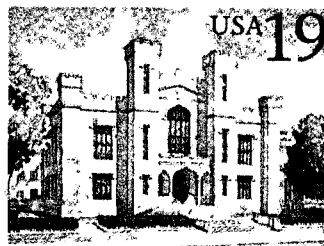
funny city names. There are thousands of topics, ranging from cities with food names (ex. Apple, AL and Orange, NJ) to presidents' names (ex. Grant, OK and Hayes, LA)

Another common postmark collection is the calendar collection. The object of the calendar collection is to obtain a postmark for every day of the year. Holidays and Sundays would obviously be the hardest to find, so this collection requires a bit of patience.

If postmark collecting sounds like fun to you, you can join the Postmark Collector's Club. To obtain more information, write: Larry E. Being, 2351 Grandview Road, Crest Hill, IL 60435-1951. Please include a SASE.

Michelle Gregg (#915)

Another Example:



FIRST DAY OF POST
YALE
ATHENEUM
HARTFORD, CT 06101 JAN. 16, 1992

QEII Tops List

Queen

Elizabeth II has been the subject of more postage stamps than any other person, including her great-grandmother Queen Victoria who was a favorite of designers for half a century. ••
Irving C. Whynot
(#490)



Regional Secretary Reports

... Irving C. Whynot (# 490), Canadian Secretary

Canada Post in recent years has been conducting an informative and effective program to promote philately, with special emphasis on younger collectors and beginners.

As part of this program, it offers a free "stamp collecting information package." This kit not only tells the story of the country's stamps but also provides much other useful information.

It tells how to remove stamps from paper, the benefits of stamp shows, how to acquire stamps, the use of a perforation gauge, and so on.

Many of the country's stamps are illustrated in full color, such as the famous fifty-cent Bluenose (Scott # 158), considered by many to be one of the most beautiful stamps ever issued.

It also shows the first Canadian stamp issued in 1851, the three-penny Beaver designed by Sir Sandford Fleming. The price for a copy of this stamp today is relatively high, but a reproduction can be found on Scott # 314 issued in 1951 to mark the centennial of the Canadian postal system and again on Scott # 909 in 1982.

Fleming was a man of many talents, including development of the international time zone and mapping early Canadian railway routes. He was honored on a twelve-cent Canadian stamp (Scott # 739) issued in 1977.



You can obtain this free information package by writing: National Philatelic Centre, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2R8

Canada. Or it can be requested toll-free by calling 1-800-565-4362 (from Canada) or 1-800-565-1336 (from the U.S.). ...

... Chad Neighbor (# 510), U.K. Secretary

There is little to report on British activities of the society, so I thought I'd write a little about the centennial year of the Scottish Philatelic Society. A history of the society, *Scotland's First Philatelic Society* by Ian J. Fleming helps set the tone for the year's exhibitions and stamp events by noting that the society was hardly a preserve of Scottish professionals. In fact, he notes, early members were all German merchants and employees.

The group called the Briefmarken-Sammler-Verein zu Edinburgh un Leith (Edinburgh and Leith Stamp Collectors Club). Minutes were in old-fashioned German text, and the the boisterous nature of meetings is thought to be one reason the society met in so many venues in its early days.

The history of the society is filled with characters but one of the most memorable has to be Ian Anderson, a holder of many society offices in the 1940s and 50s, who managed to combine the Second World War and philately. He once admitted dodging into a stamp shop in northern France to avoid a brush with military authorities, but had to abandon

his purchases on the beach at Dunkirk.

He got his own back, however. Travelling in the opposite direction in 1945, he traded cigarette rations for the nucleus of an excellent collection of Dutch stamps.

.. I was glad to note in the ISWSC guidelines for trading a reminder that sending damaged stamps is not acceptable. Now I'm sure I've sent people damaged stamps -- sometimes I don't take enough care in inspecting my wares -- but if I do find a stamp with even minor damage I take it out. All too often, I'm afraid, I come across a "nice" stamp that is not collectable because of a fault. I've even noticed this in the excellent ISWSC swap exchange -- and the stamps aren't from the countries of the other people on the swap circuit.

Let's face it: we all know that half a stamp isn't worth half as much. We also know that minor damage, except on otherwise unaffordable stamps and when it is identified, makes a stamp just about worthless.

.. Now for a little light relief, thanks to an *Edinburgh Evening News* item which appeared sometime last year.

It is popular to complain about postal services, but local postal employees in Reading, England, did the Royal Mail proud -- they delivered a postcard from Hong Kong addressed to "The girls on the back seat of 6:15 AM No. 25 bus."

"The girls" are six fellow travellers in Reading who take the early bus to work every day. They work in different places and don't even know each others' names, but obviously enjoy a bit of a laugh together.

Phyllis Reilly, a hospital worker, explained: "There's a gang who get on the same bus every morning and we've

(Continued Page 8)

ASHLEY'S WORLD OF STAMPS



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Regional Secretary (continued)

become pals. Pam from Marks & Spencer was going on holiday and we joked about sending us a card. She asked where she should send the card and we all chorused she should send it to the bus."

And so she did. I wonder if a lucky collector managed to obtain that card? ...

— As a way of introducing British collecting ideas to other collectors, with each UK Secretary column (every other issue of *The Circuit*), a British member of ISWSC will present a short article on his/her collection. An active Scottish member, J. Colin Caskie, starts the series below.

KING GEORGE VI by J. Colln Caskie (# 510)

I have been collecting the stamps issued during the reign of Britain's King George VI for some time now. When people ask me why I collect King George VI, I want to respond by asking why I should not collect them. For me there are a number of reasons they are attractive to me. Firstly, it is a closed reign, as it began in 1936 and ended in 1952. It is also my own personal link with history, as I was born during the reign and so I can remember the stamps on letters received when I was a boy.

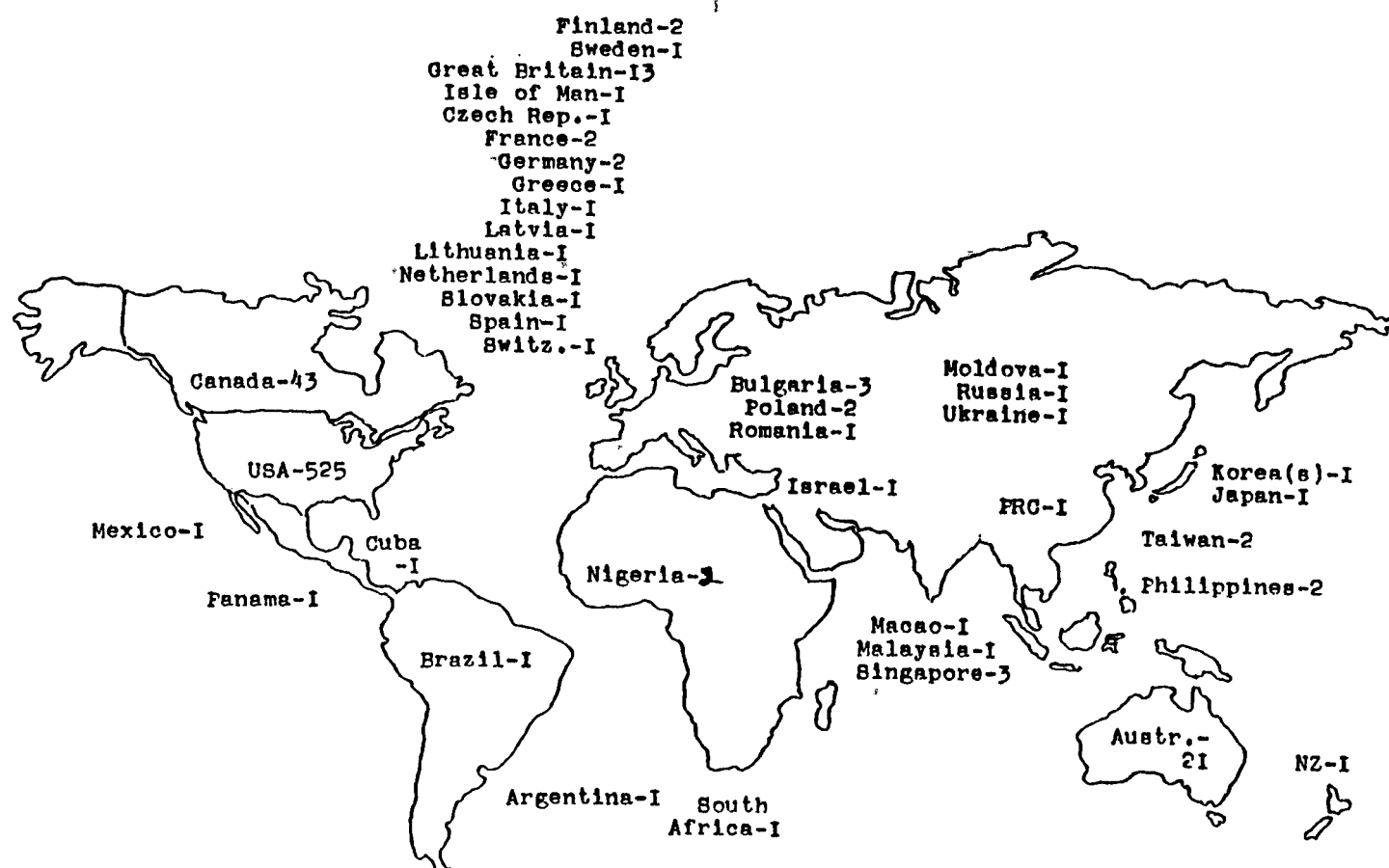
The printing processes used for the stamps range from

recess, photogravure, lithography and typography. In my opinion intaglio (recess) printing techniques were at their height at this time and produced some strikingly beautiful stamps. Further interest is generated due to the war time exigencies created, for example; by the bombing of De LaRue's printing plant, which meant that some stamps were printed in one place and perforated in another.

Most of the stamps are readily available, as sets or individual values, and many are not over the top in price. There is also scope for the wealthy collector who specializes in the Bermuda high values. There is significant literature available about the stamps which helps to take one from mere accumulation to philately, which means knowing something about the stamps we have in our albums. A further, and non-philatelic, reason is the character of the King himself, who endeared himself to his people by his exemplary family life, a strong sense of duty and personal courage.

The stamps of King George VI have been variously described as classics and as modern wallpaper. The combination of beautifully engraved pictorial stamps, different printers, and philatelic interest combine to make me delight in the stamps of King George VI. ...

THE 1993 ISWSC WORLD



by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Congratulations to ISWSC Winner at AROPEX '92



ISWSC member Mark O. Bakker (# 507) holds a trophy presented to him by the APO Philatelic Society of the Philippines during AROPEX '92 award ceremonies. Standing along side Mark is his wife Dandy and Mr. Ranjo, President of APO Philatelic Society. Recently Mark entered a large Regional stamp exhibition called PHILACON and won First prize in the thematic section for his exhibit entitled "Scales on Stamps." *** (Reported by Peter Scannell (#453), *AustralAsian Secretary*)

Computers, Album Pages and Catalogs

The jumbo issue of *The Circuit* (Nov-Dec 92/Jan-Feb 93) will stimulate a lot of reactions among ISWSC readers. Here are a couple of mine:

Point One ... David Creson's piece about printing one's own album pages using an IBM-compatible computer (with hard disk, yet) can help a lot of collectors who are blessed with such devices. How about the rest of us? I know a man in Indianapolis who can solve your problem. His charge (35¢ to 50¢ per page) seems like a real bargain to me. Not only will he fill out your Scott Specialty album where Scott gave up, he'll tailor the pages to your specifications. For example, he provided me with catch-up pages of Fiji including two pages of watermark varieties.

I refrain from giving his name and address here because he is not a *Circuit* advertiser, and fair is fair. However, anyone who writes me can have this information by mail. (No, I

get no commission! Just trying to help fill a long-felt collector want.) Please include a SASE.

Point Two ... Mildred Feinberg gives some good advice about catalogues, including the tip that if you collect mostly older issues -- and if current prices are not essential to your collecting happiness -- you can make do nicely with out-of-date catalogs and fatten your stamp budget as a result.

But think twice before you give away or throw out obsolete catalogues. Especially, guard your 1991 Scott catalogue. If you spend a lot of time sorting out the good from the not-so-good stamps in your duplicates, a more recent catalogue make it difficult to discriminate.

That's because Scott ruled in 1992 that "any common stamp is worth 15 cents." Not if you are trying to trade with another album-stuffer. But if you back-check your dupes against the 1991 catalogue, you can weed out the ones that list at a nickel (still too high)

Regional Secretary Named for Eastern Europe

Jan Szpyrka, member #539, at ul. Sieronia 7/9, PL-44100 Gliwice, POLAND, has agreed to become ISWSC's representative in Eastern Europe. As a regional secretary, he will be responsible for answering inquiries, recruiting new members, notifying regional members to renew, converting dues to US currency as well as managing the receipt and distribution of the area's youth stamp donations. An active trader, Jan has been a member of ISWSC since May 1991. ...

from the ones that list at, say 14 cents. I set an arbitrary cutoff at 10 cents. I set aside for traders most (not all) stamps priced this high in Scott's 1991 version. Those which list at less than 10¢ but are still collectible go into the cigar box for giveaways. ... Dave Park (# 747)

New Information on Delayed Newsletters

Based on the postmarks from the returned ballot-questionnaire contained in the Super Issue of *The Circuit*, we can now shed some light on the sometimes lengthy delays you may have experienced. The combined issue was mailed, January 22, from our Editor's Post Office in Louisiana, via 3rd class bulk rate to US residents and surface mail to overseas residents. Each issue weighed almost 4 ounces.

The first Circuits arrived at their destination a little under a week later. The earliest postmark on a returned ballot was January 27. Ballots from Texas and Florida were the first to be received by PR Officer, Tom Fortunato. The latest date of arrival within the USA for the newsletter was February 21, a month after it was mailed. Some members overseas received their copies well before this date! The Northeast seems to have experience the longest delays.

Please understand that these delays are not the fault of ISWSC or the publisher. Third Class Mail is only handled by USPS AFTER First Class Mail has been handled, sorted and moved out. Unfortunately the cost of mailing *The Circuit* by First Class is cost prohibitive, so we must expect varying degrees of delay to be the norm, rather than the exception. *** Tom Fortunato (# 379), Public Relations

Speedier Delivery May Be Possible Soon

There has been some discussion of tardy arrival of *The Circuit* to members in various places around the U.S. We have learned from a recent postal service seminar for mailers that we may be able to speed our bulk rate mailings up by using bar codes on our labels. Mail with bar codes affixed by the mailer cuts down on the amount of handling time and thus should arrive faster.

All third class mail is handled after first class is completed. If a piece of mail has the proper bar code, it can be sorted automatically by machine and will leave the area sorting centers immediately after first class mail. But third class that needs hand sorting, bar codes applied, etc., will be set aside to be completed later as time permits.

Bar coded mail also receives a small reduction in postage rates. Since Southern Graphics does mailings for several of our customers, we have just purchased software to print labels with nine (9) digit bar codes. So what we need from each ISWSC member (in the U.S. only) is your 9-digit zip code. Your post office can supply you with it in person or over the telephone. Your mail carrier should also know your nine digit zip code. It is particularly important for those of you who have been getting your newsletters 3-5 weeks after they were mailed.

To speed this operation along, please send a post card with your Name, ISWSC membership # and your 9-digit zip code to the Editor. Thank you. *** Rita Kallal (#26)

DEADLINE - NEXT ISSUE

JUNE 15th, 1993

**If your copy is not received by the
deadline, it goes in NEXT issue.**

Prices Realized - Mail Sale # 8

n.b. = No Bid			44.	7.25	6.25
W.D = Lot Withdrawn			45.	n.b	
T = Tie Bid			46.	3.50	3.25
			47.	6.00	5.50
			48.	4.00	3.75
Lot	High	Realized	49.	n.b	
1.	16.00	15.00	50.	n.b	
2.	5.00	5.00	51.	n.b	
3.	n.b		53.	10.50	8.50
4.	n.b		54.	1.25	1.00
5.	n.b		55.	5.25	4.80
6.	4.00	3.75	56.	6.50	6.00
7.	n.b		57.	n.b	
8.	n.b		58.	W.D	
9.	n.b		59.	n.b	
10.	n.b		60.	4.25	4.00
11.	n.b		61.	4.25	4.00
12.	n.b		62.	6.25	6.00
13.	13.00	12.00	63.	n.b	
14.	n.b		64.	7.25	7.00
15.	n.b		65.	4.25	3.00
16.	4.00T	4.00	66.	n.b	
17.	7.00		67.	6.50	4.25
18.	n.b		68.	5.50T	5.50
19.	7.50	7.00	69.	5.50	3.00
20.	8.00	7.00	70.	25.00	11.00
21.	5.00	4.75	71.	7.50	5.00
22.	n.b		72.	4.50	3.25
23.	9.00	8.50	73.	5.00	3.25
24.	9.50	9.50	74.	9.00	5.00
25.	n.b		75.	n.b	
26.	n.b		76.	1.75	1.50
27.	5.50	5.25	77.	n.b	
28.	n.b		78.	n.b	
29.	n.b		79.	10.00	6.00
30.	5.25	3.00	80.	16.00	12.00
31.	n.b		81.	22.00	12.00
32.	15.65	15.00	82.	n.b	
33.	4.00	3.50	83.	n.b	
35.	n.b		84.	n.b	
36.	3.25	3.25	85.	10.00	8.00
37.	5.00	3.25	86.	2.50	2.00
38.	4.00	3.25	87.	21.00	16.00
39.	12.00	12.00	88.	n.b	
40.	n.b		89.	2.50	2.25
41.	n.b		90.	12.00	11.50
42.	n.b		91.	15.00	15.00
43.	3.00	1.50			

Historian for ISWSC Needed

The ISWSC is looking for a member interested in helping the Society in compiling a history of our group. This person would correspond with the founding members and officers, collecting information on the beginnings and evolution of the Society, sort through club documentation, etc., with the goal of writing a series of articles or a small booklet about our group. Anyone interested in this position or having interesting details about the ISWSC they would like to share should contact Tom Fortunato, # 379. ***

Beginner's Column

Inventory! That's the subject for today. How to keep control of, and know what stamps you have and, of course, what stamps you are seeking.

Years ago when a Scott Catalog was in one volume only, I would check off the stamps that I had in the catalog. If I would go to a stamp show or bourse, I'd take the catalog with me. While checking through dealers' stocks, I immediately knew what was missing. I always had a want list with me, with the individual stamps I needed to fill sets. When price lists came in the mail it was always easy to see what I needed. All I had to do was check my catalog. It wasn't necessary to constantly search through my albums.

The system worked great but now the Scott catalogs are in four volumes and soon will be in five volumes. Although I still use the same system, it's a lot to carry around when you go shopping for stamps.

Well, I now have a new system for my inventory. Al and I went out and splurged for a computer. We're in the process of inventorying our collection into the computer.

We needed some ideas for a good system, so we bought an Inventory System from M.L.S. Software in Pittsburgh, PA. The program is called "Stamp Keeper." We liked the system, but it was not exactly what we wanted, but it did give us some ideas to develop our own system.

Al developed his own simple inventory control. It's just a simple spread sheet and we just fill in the blanks. We can merge newly acquired stamps into their proper numeric order and print reports on any file as we so desire.

We're very happy with the program we developed ourselves. When we're through we'll have our whole collection on a disk. This could be very useful in the event the collection is stolen. We can now print out a want list instead of carrying our catalogs when we're shopping for stamps. Al and I both enjoy the computer very much. It's quite a challenge at first but once you get it down it becomes fun to operate.

Another advantage of the computer inventory as opposed to using the catalog, is that we are better able to describe the condition of our stamps. We can type in notes, such as: no gum, missing perfs, or anything that has to do with the quality of the stamps.

In the near future we plan on designing our own album pages utilizing the computer. We're planning to install an encyclopedia and worldwide maps in the computer to be able to locate cities that we find cancelled stamps that are otherwise hard to locate.

We realize a computer doesn't fit into everyone's budget but if you can fit it in, you'll find as we have that it really enhances the hobby.

I would be glad to hear from anyone who has a computer. Perhaps we could put our heads together and come up with the ideal program. We feel, as collectors, we could probably develop a system that suits us much better than a commercially produced program.

Computers are just another way to have fun with our hobby. *** Al and Mildred Feinberg (# 361)

Beginner's Swap Circuit

In response to requests from several of our beginning level collectors, a second Swap Circuit program is underway.

Joan Roderick (#669), 12 Red Oak Road, Asheville, NC 28804 has agreed to manage this program. It will run just like the regular "Swap Circuit". Participants receive a packet of stamps, take what they need and replace ones taken with an equal number of stamps of comparable quality, and mail the packet on to the next member on the circuit.

This service will be helpful to new collectors and to those who do not have enough better quality duplicates to keep up with intermediate or advanced worldwide swaps. To enroll in the Beginner's Swap Circuit, send 25 good used stamps (which will be used to make up the initial packets) and a SASE (or IRC) to Joan at the address above. You will receive your first packet and full instructions as quickly as a circuit of 5 can be compiled. ***

FROM the GLOSSARY:

CON-CON — Concentration and convoy of registered mail movement under controlled conditions. CON-CON is a USPS trademark.

PRINTED MATTER — International mail consisting of literary items, newspapers, magazines, books, circulars, catalogs and price lists. ***

Catalogs Good for More than Values

Well, I see that the Franklin issue which is in the front of my US collection is Scott # 28 and comes in three shades. It is worth six dollars used (type of cancel or margins does not matter) and I also find that my Great Britain Penny Black is Scott # 2. I have no idea what happened to Scott # 1, but it was delisted for some reason. Oh yes, it catalogs for \$1.50 used with any margin and any cancel. My catalogs? I have only one and it is a small but thick book of some 1400 pages. Oh, I forgot it is a Christmas gift of 1942.

Older catalogs are fun from several points of view and the quite old catalogs are collected and becoming valuable.

Old catalogs can tell you what was delisted, a common thing as more data was developed and as fakes, forgeries and labels were weeded out of stamp catalogs. Catalog prices can be charted through the years for various reasons. Old data long since dropped from current catalogs is available. However one must read with a reserved mind as some of that was later found wrong and that was why the data was dropped.

Probably one of the most useful uses of old stamp catalogs I have found however, is reserved for when I travel with my collection of part of it, I can work on the collection with the assist of my 1942 Scott catalog which is one modest volume and easy to work with.

Because stamp catalogs are used for many things beside determining stamp value, older catalogs have their place in our hobby today. *** Dave Creson (# 170)

APPROVALS

**WORLDWIDE
MINT
COMPLETE SETS (No US)**

Beginners, Intermediates,
Advanced Welcome

FOR VALUE AND SERVICE
PLEASE TRY ME!

**Alan Stamp Company
Dept. CIR
P. O. Box 16965
Encino, CA 91416-6965**

(6/6)

What Determines Stamp Values ?

The true value of stamps to you as their owner is only what a bonafide dealer (one who is in the stamp business to make a living) will pay you for them. I am referring to monetary value, not some ethereal personal value. Most collectors will pay you somewhere between what a dealer will give you and the catalogue value, but most probably only for certain stamps, not for the entire collection.

Why is it that many collectors have a grossly exaggerated idea of what their stamps are worth when they decide to sell? Why do most collectors want dealer retail prices for their stamps in view of the fact that dealer prices include the cost to a bonafide dealer of doing business? This cost of staying in business may constitute over 90% of the price of the stamp or stamps. Why do so many collectors want to take advantage of this? Why does a stamp collector want to make money off his fellow collectors? Anyone who has seen APS sales booklets has seen flagrant examples of this.

Am I wrong about ? What do you think?

I am a collector. If I sell stamps I charge only what they cost me, and that is usually one-fifth the current catalogue (and that is more than a dealer can afford to pay). ...

Harold J. Humm (# 678)

NEW ISSUES:

Austria

Issued February 5, 1993
Honoring Peter Mitterhofer,
Inventor of the Typewriter
Printer: Austria State Printers



Raech's Ruminations

I don't know about the rest of you, but I try to spend several hours a week "fiddling" with my stamps collection. Maybe I should have said "working on" instead of "fiddling." There are probably other words that could be used to describe this enjoyable activity we refer to as stamp collecting. Anyhow, while doing whatever it was that I was doing, I was struck by something I hadn't noticed before -- I am not really a stamp collector at all.

I do have, maintain and add to my worldwide collection. Like many of you, this is housed in regular albums. Over the years, the stamps have outgrown the original albums, I don't bother too much with yearly supplements, and have found homes in various and sundry three-ring binders, but let's go back. Me, a stamp collector? Let me think about that.

If we look in a dictionary, collect means "to assemble from various sources - as in stamp collecting." So far I'm on the right track. But hold on.

I don't only have my stamps neatly mounted in their albums and binders, do I? Do you? I also have stamps in envelopes, in boxes, in file folders, in stock sheets, maintained on blank pages, and in extra albums I purchased years ago (and never looked at). I have stamps on paper, waiting to be soaked. I seem to have stamps all over the place.

If this is true, and it is, am I a collector, or an accumulator? Accumulate means "amass or pile up." I find now that I really don't collect stamps at all. I accumulate them.

My albums, boxes, envelopes, and file folders, are all neatly "piled up." Boy, I sure feel better about things, or do I!? Maybe, if not all the stamps in my accumulation are duplicates. But wait a minute! I also have duplicates of duplicates, triplicates of triplicates, etc. I think this situation brings me up to a higher level. I now have to categorize myself as a hoarder. Why? Because a hoard is defined as "a hidden accumulation." Now that I've learned what I am, I'll just have to accept it, and learn to live with it. Where do you fit in -- think about it !!! ... RH (# 363)

Youth Memberships Offered

In an attempt to broaden the appeal of the ISWSC and to assist in fulfilling the society's goal of introducing young people to the fun of philately, the Board of Directors has approved a new youth membership classification.

Children and teens under the age of 18 may become members of ISWSC for \$6 per year. Age verification and parental/guardian approval is needed to take advantage of this \$2 discount from the regular membership fee. The required Youth Program stamp donation will also be waived for youth members, who will otherwise be entitled to participation in all ISWSC programs and services. ... Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Changes Coming for ISWSC

The ballots have all been counted from the vote on the new ISWSC By-laws and questionnaire. A total of 185 ISWSC members took part on the vote. Based on your voice, the Board of Directors have agreed on the following:

1. Yearly dues for ISWSC membership will rise from \$5 to \$8 annually. Yearly dues have been at the \$5 level for several years despite increasing costs. At current rates, domestic membership costs for printing and postage costs of *The Circuit*, and other related membership expenses such as publication of the Roster, renewal notices, answering inquiries, etc. are over the \$5 figure. Overseas membership costs are even higher. In reviewing all of the options, rather eliminating or charging for certain services, the Board has increased annual dues to \$8. Nearly half of all ballots received indicated that a \$10 annual dues figure was acceptable if needed. Rather than a discount to \$8 for those on a fixed or limited income, the Board decided to keep dues as low as possible to the benefit of all.

2. Members will be given the choice of donating 250 stamps yearly to the ISWSC Youth Program, or making a reasonable equivalent cash contribution for the support of this effort.

Over the past year, many members have written in explaining that it was difficult for them to meet this request. Some are new collectors, some resuming the hobby after many year's absence, and some are joining primarily for the newsletter. Providing this option has several benefits; monies collected will be spent on expenses related to the Youth Program such as mailing costs, literature and supplies to youth groups, etc, as well as giving potential members an alternative way to support ISWSC goals. Everyone wins with this option!

3. Youth Membership category established. See article elsewhere in this issue.

4. The ISWSC Sales Circuit will be re-activated. There was strong interest in re-starting this service, with buyers out numbering sellers 2 to one. Details are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

Above all, your support and input continue to make the Society grow and prosper. Your comments on the questionnaire were all reviewed and considered. Your participation in this democratic process was invaluable to the Board in making some tough decisions. You have our collective thanks for this indispensable assistance.
Tom Fortunato (# 379)

It Became a Canadian Chain Letter

Crime didn't pay, and working for the post office didn't pay much, in turn-of-century Canada. In 1903 the maximum annual wage for a letter carrier was \$676 — or \$13 a week. A year earlier a clerk convicted of stealing a registered letter was sentenced to six years. A newspaper reported he was taken off to the penitentiary "with enough chains clanking noisily from the ankle to hold a whole army of desperados." ... Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

ISWSC Regional Meeting

STaMpsHOW '93



Astrodomain Expo Center
Houston, Texas

Thanks to all of you who attended the ISWSC meeting held in Rochester during the ROPEX stamp show on March 28. We talked about the ISWSC programs and services and discussed future plans.

The next regional meeting will be held during the APS STaMpsHOW 93, August 19-22, in Houston Texas at the Astroarena Exhibition Hall. No date or time has been officially confirmed, but we have requested a meeting on Saturday, August 21 or Sunday afternoon, August 22. ISWSC Secretary-Treasurer, Carol Cervenka will host the meeting which will be open to all current and prospective members. A final date and time will be announced in the July/August issue of *The Circuit*.

We would like to assist Bob de Violini at the APS affiliates table if possible. Please contact Carol if you will be in Houston and able to devote a few hours during any day of the STaMpsHOW. We need to notify Bob as early as possible so he can begin scheduling. ISWSC will supply membership applications, back copies of *The Circuit*, and if an ISWSC member is there, we will be allowed to sell membership pins, as well. If you are planning to attend STaMpsHOW '93 please contact Carol for further details.

Would you like to host an ISWSC meeting at a local or regional show? If so please contact PR Officer, Tom Fortunato, giving a least four months advance notice of the proposed meeting. The Society will be happy to send applications and support materials to you or to the host club, as well as a mailing list of area ISWSC members to contact. ...

NEW ISSUES:

Tristsan du Cunha
Issued February 2, 1993
Set of 3 Insects
Designer:
Gerhard Marx, South Africa
Printer: House of Questa



ISWSC Sales Circuit Returns

The Sales Circuit, composed of member owned approval books which are sold for cash, is making its return. A new two-tiered system has been developed to serve the needs of all ISWSC members, with insured and an uninsured books available. The newly named Sales Circuit Manager is Judy Hungerford (#513), 219 Stanford Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. Start up is planned for June 1, 1993.

The uninsured level is limited to books containing stamps with a total selling value of up to \$50, usually filling one or two sales books. A shipment would be sent to a circuit of five members, passing from one to another until it is returned to the manager. The buyer removes the stamp wanted, and sends the book(s) to the next name by regular, uninsured First Class mail, sending payment for stamps taken to the SC Manager (Judy). Judy will send a self addressed post card to the first person on the list, who will mail it back to her as proof that the books arrived safely. Each member of the uninsured circuit will prepare and include a self-addressed card to be mailed by the next recipient as proof of delivery.

The insured level has book shipments up to \$300 in selling value, in one or more multiple books, also going to a circuit of five members before returning to the manager. Each member must insure their mailing for the full value of the stamps remaining in the book(s), either by USPS or UPS. Please note that UPS will only deliver to street rural

route addresses, not to P.O. box numbers.

To defray Society mailing costs, buyers are asked to send 29 cents for every uninsured circuit they wish to receive and/or \$1.00 per insured circuit. Payment may be made by cash, check (made payable to Judy Hungerford) or mint US postage stamps with full gum. (see next page)

Sellers of stamps should first purchase ISWSC sales circuit books from the manager. These books should be ready for sale by June 1, 1993. Books containing topical stamps will be accepted, and should, if possible, contain stamps of related topics only (e.g. space/science fiction, flora/fauna, scouting/children, etc).

At present, the sales circuit is limited to US members only, due to postage and insurance costs and security considerations. Canadian members interested in developing a Sales Circuit to serve Canadian members, please contact Tom Fortunato. New GST and customs inspection fees preclude participation in the USA Sales Circuit at present.

If you are interested in buying or selling stamps through the Sales Circuit, contact Judy to let her know which level of circuit you are interested in, area(s) of interest and how many books or circuits you would like and she will get back to you. Both buyers and sellers will receive a form to complete along with an agreement to be signed by all participants. ••• Tom Fortunato, (# 379)

New Postal Museum Opens This Summer

Beginning July 30th, philatelists will have an interesting new museum to visit while sightseeing in our nation's capitol. The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., is adding a National Postal Museum, which will be located on Capitol Hill next to Union Station. The new museum will consist of five galleries to display the largest and most comprehensive collection of stamps and postal history in the world. Displays will cover everything connected with United States mail service from transportation to modern day technology.

National Postal Museum director says "The time has come for people to understand what a marvelous system our mail service is. Our theme is 'America's History Is in the Mail.'" ••• Rita Kallal (# 26)

Yes, Elizabeth, There is a Philatelic Santa

For those of you interested in philatelic magazines and journals, the following publications will send you a free copy of the their publication, along with subscription information, on request.

Linn's Stamp News, PO Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365-0029

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, PO Box 5050, White Plains, NY 10602

The Minkus Stamp Journal, PO Box 1228, Fort Mill, SC 29715-1228

The Stamp Collector, PO Box 10, Albany, OR 97321-0006

Stamps Magazine, 85 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843-1544

Stamps Auction News, 85 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843-1544

If you're interested in finding a local or regional stamp club near you, write to the two organizations below.

Council of Philatelic Organizations, PO Box COPO, State College, PA 16803-8340

(A non-profit organization of over 400 national, regional and local stamp clubs)

Stamp Club Center, PO Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365-0029

(Will send information on stamp clubs nearest you zip code)

••• Submitted by Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

NEW ISSUES:

Barbados

Issued:

December 15, 1992

Tourism & Transportation

Set of 4

Designer: Derek Miller

Printer: House of Questa

