

# The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

*The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors*

## Horizons Broadened by Philately

*by Chad Nelghor (# 510)*

For good reason, stamp collectors like to say that philately widens your horizons. I'd like to tell you a little about how my horizons have been widened - quite literally - thanks to the ISWSC.

One of the main advantages of membership is corresponding with like-minded collectors, and for the better part of two years I've been trading stamps and information with Jan Szpyrka, an active member in Gliwice, Poland. During this time I also started working out the details of a long-planned trip to continental Europe to visit friends and see Prague, about which I'd heard so much, from my home in Scotland.

Jan wrote that I should come and visit him and his family one day if I could. I looked at the map, saw that Gliwice was just six hours by train from Prague and advised Jan that the chance might come sooner than he expected.

To cut a long story short, in January of this year I enjoyed four days in beautiful and historic Prague, making up covers using Czechoslovakian stamps and the new Czech Republic stamps which, by sheer chance, had come out just before my arrival.

And then, equipped with a European rail pass, I made my way to Gliwice. The only problem was that Jan and I didn't

know what the other person looked like. I'd told him I'd carry an old blue rucksack,

but, it turns out, every other traveler in Poland carries an old blue rucksack. Anyway, with the help of a conscientious taxi driver and half of the people in Jan's apartment building, we finally met - only to discover that we'd passed each other in the station. Already having been made to feel at home in the apartment of one of Jan's neighbors while the taxi driver went back for him, I was received like a long-lost member of the family by Jan, his wife Janina and the daughter Marta, 10.

They were disappointed to hear I only planned to stay for the weekend - Jan said that local stamp meetings were Mondays and Tuesdays - and so I gladly extended my visit. I say gladly because, in addition to having long talks about stamps and other important matters, the Szpyrkas have a beautiful apartment (Jan did the wood floors and ceilings) and made sure I sampled all kinds of delicious and beautifully prepared Polish food.

The Poles are going through a difficult time economically because of the transition to a free-market economy, and the Szpyrkas, though he teaches mineral processing at the local technical university and Janina is a pediatrician - were not immune to the problems.

As state employees, they earn the equivalent of only about \$50 a week each. With prices in the stores being fairly close to those in Scotland, it's easy to see that money would be tight. (Poles spend about 50 percent of their income on food, and I'm afraid that when I was there the figure must have been more like 70 percent for the Szpyrkas.) Still, they have a Korean-made car and are gradually building their own large house, which is largely possible because Janina also has a private practice and Jan works on his own over summers and is doing most of the work on the house as well. It's a wonder he ever finds time for stamps.

Yet find time he does, for he has a highly specialized collection on the Olympics, which must be one of the best

## ISWSC MEETING

to be held at

**APS STaMpsHOW '93**  
on **SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 21, 1993**  
**4:00 - 5:50pm**

**Astro Arena Expo Hall**  
**Houston, Texas**

*For additional information, contact:*

Carol Cervenka  
ISWSC Secretary-Treasurer  
Rt. 1 - Box 69A  
Caddo Mills, TX 75135  
(903) 527-3957

## STaMpsHOW '93



of its kind in the world, and he collects used stamps from virtually the whole English-speaking world plus several other countries.

Before the stamp society meetings rolled around, I was busy learning about life in Poland: Poles have a much different daily routine than people in Britain or North America. They have a hearty breakfast and start work at 7 a.m. They work until 3 p.m. or so with only a 10-15 minute break for a "second breakfast." They go home to a

*(Continued Page 2)*



## Horizons (Continued from Page 1)

dinner of soup, hearty main dish such as chicken or pork prepared in various ways and a variety of vegetables, salad and bread. In the evening they have a light supper of mainly bread, cold cuts and cheese.

Public toilets do not bear the Polish equivalent of "men" and "women" on them, nor generally even signs of men and women. Instead, they are identified by a circle for women and a triangle for men. Also, you're expected to pay for the privilege - though it's usually less than 10 cents.

For most Poles eating in a restaurant is exorbitantly expensive (and a slightly long taxi ride can cost a day's pay), but when we were visiting the marvelous city of Krakow one day Jan treated me to one of his favorite snacks from a stall - delicious hot corn on the cob!

Poles and some other eastern Europeans celebrate what is known as a "name day," which is a lot like a birthday but is celebrated on the day set aside for your name. During my stay I was fortunate enough to be present at the name day celebration of Jan's sister. A (large) roomful of friends and relatives gathered for a feast of Polish specialties such as several kinds of herring, cold meats, deviled eggs and even caviar - crowned by the most delicious torte (a rich kind of cake) I have ever had, made by Jan's sister. The gathering had special significance for me as Jan's mother showed us pictures of her husband and Scottish scenes he had taken when he was stationed there during World War II.

I began my philatelic forays in local stamp stores, which perhaps are struggling some to stay in business. Good selections of Polish material and smatterings of mainly mint and CTO stamps for the thematic collector were often accompanied by anything the shop owner could sell, even household goods. The first time I reached for my wallet, however, Jan quietly noted that the stamps would cost roughly a third less at a stamp society meeting. We visited three shops, but only for window shopping so Jan could note what I found interesting.

There was no need to exercise caution at the philatelic counter of the post office, however, as I purchased several dollars worth of attractive miniature sheets and se-tenant issues for sending previous purchases home. One of these envelopes apparently came apart soon after posting. The stamps and an Olympics mini-sheet, my address and the registry label were carefully cut from the envelope and pasted

on to a new envelope. Red Warsaw numeral hand stamps tied my old piece to the new envelope, which was sealed with Polish post office tape. A sticker on the back states that my envelope was "Reemballe a W-wa: (repackaged at Warsaw) and received a large Warsaw circular date stamp and the signature of the postal employee. And - just for the record - all contents were present and accounted for, and in good condition.

Before long it was time for the regular Monday meeting of the Gliwice branch of the Polish Philatelic Society. About 15 collectors were present, virtually all with material for selling or trading. Three had used se-tenants (my main area of interest) and/or emerging republics material of interest, and I left five dollars "poorer".

Polish philatelists live by the catalogues, with prices for everything determined by formulas. Polish material is generally 100 percent of the price in the *Katalog Znaczkow*, surely a testament to the diligence of its editors. For European stamps, collectors pay so much per Deutschmark of catalogue value and so much per French franc in Yvert catalogues for other stamps. Good thematic sets command a premium.

Next was the meeting of nearby Katowice's two branches of the Polish society. Before my unbelieving eyes were nearly 200 collectors - buying, selling and discussing the philatelic issues of the day - so you can see that stamp collecting is alive and well in Poland.

Jan knew many of the faces and the contents of their briefcases, and soon located a collector who had postally used stamps and covers for sale. I quickly realized I was in se-tenant heaven. My first man had several aging stockbooks full of covers and clippings from his post, a goodly number of strips, blocks and miniature sheets used by thoughtful correspondents. Virtually all of the stamps were a standard three cents apiece in Polish money, though some were more.

My total expenditure at the first chair for 13 covers and a like number of clippings from post cost about as much as one somewhat better cover in Britain. While relatively expensive items were on offer, the profusion of cheap covers and stamps meant I rarely felt the need to pay more than about 70 cents for an item. One USSR mini-sheet I brought I later saw on sale in Paris for 50 times as much.

As stamp fatigue set in, Jan reminded me that we had a train to catch, and we set off through the snow for the rail station. My Polish philatelic foray and five

fascinating days of tourism and meeting local people had been capped in grand style.

When we visited Krakow Jan told me about the Polish tradition of touching the largest bell in the tower of Krakow cathedral with your left hand and making a wish. I don't know if you're supposed to tell anyone about your wish, but maybe you can guess what I hoped for. Dziękuję (thanks) Jan, Janina and Marta! ...

## RSA Member's Illness Reported

I am writing on behalf of my husband, Peter Wood (#639), to let all his correspondents know that he has not forgotten them. He has been very ill for the last 4 months and has to undergo major surgery during June to remove half of his stomach and part of his intestines. He will convalesce for about 3 months, so you will hear from him about the end of the year.

His school projects have been handed over to others but our postal address is still the drop for all donations. He says to thank everybody for their indulgence especially Francis Giles #637 and James Osborne #471. For without their initial help the project would not have been possible. Thank you.

... Margaret Wood

## ISWSC LOGO CLOISONNE' LAPEL PINS

Be among the first to own these beautiful four color pins featuring our club logo.  
ONLY \$ 2.50 (US) each plus postage (75¢ to US, \$1.00 to Canada, \$1.75 elsewhere)

Send your USA Check or International Postal Money Order\* made payable to ISWSC, to ISWSC Secretary/Treasurer Carol Cervenka (# 498)

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

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

From my recent mail, a few items worth sharing. Some months ago I asked when U.S. mail resumed out of Hawaii after the December 7th, 1941 bombing. I had written a letter to *The American Philatelist* after they had an excellent article on Hawaiian war time mail since I have a Christmas card posted from Honolulu on Dec. 15th. AP sent me a reply from one other collector who had an even earlier cover, but somehow I missed the published reply of one of our own ISWSC members, Gladys Bosler, # 133 who has sent me a photocopy of her unbelievable cover postmarked out at 3:30 on the Monday afternoon after the bombing. This was sent by a soldier at Schofield Barracks and was probably allowed out so fast by the sensors because he was in the U.S. military and believed to be a low security risk. Gladys speculates that the military postal service was "already poised for action" before the bombing. As an armchair WW II historian, I know the government was not totally asleep at this time, but we know that there was zero preparedness in Oahu for "the date which will live in infamy". So how did they manage to have a cover postmarked on Dec. 8 and already back-stamped "Released by I.C.B."? This is efficiency beyond belief in normal times let alone 30 hours after such a devastating attack! Do we have any historians of WW II postal and censorship practices that can further a dialogue on this puzzle?

I recently purchased the U.S.P.S. 1992 commemorative year set. As many of you know, it comes complete now days with a hardbound, full color, 36 page book describing the issues. I have mixed emotions about this book. On the positive side, it creates a quality image for the U.S. and for philately unless you happen to get a look at some of the competition. Recently some business visitors from Australia tried blatantly to curry favor by bringing a gift consisting of the 1992 Aussie gift set, even though I am pretty sure they had no idea I was a collector. What an accidental hit! And what a gift set! Theirs has no fewer than 56 pages, with not only full color, but spot varnished photographs that stand out beautifully, a gold embossed cover of much better quality than the U.S. book, not to mention a nice slip case and plastic envelope to protect that. Boy I hope they keep on currying every year! Another positive is that our book offers us needed education about these issues. As a case in point, the U.S. commemorated four famous Americans last year, but in my school days

they didn't take much notice of any of them. I need all the help I can get to recognize who these people were. But, on the downside, I see something of an economic issue for the financially distressed postal system. Personally, I buy the year set, flip thru the book for 3 minutes and throw it away. I've tried giving it to child and grandchild, but they seem unimpressed. I'm sure there are at least a few other "clods" like me that don't have the time to read, or space to store, this impressive book. So, wouldn't it save a tree, and save a buck, if the USPS sold the stamps at face, sans book, and charged a modest extra fee for those who do want the whole set up, mounts and all?

Long time readers of this space (i.e. members more than a year) will recall my search for the perfect, or even an adequate, edition of a stamp finder to help find all those world-wide issues that you just can't locate if you have memory cells like mine. Most of my member mail recommended finders that were 20 years old or more, my own was printed in 1954. Last fall the APS issued a new version but it is very small. Finally, Linn's comes to the rescue with their new "Stamp Identifier". At \$9.95 it seemed too good to be true. I haven't had time to get fully familiar with my copy, but it has helped me find album homes for several stamps that had me stumped before. To give you a brief but impartial book review I studied the entries under one letter in detail. I randomly chose "H". My 1954 finder had 26 entries under this heading, four of those were not in Linn's. Two of the missing entries turned up in later Linn's sections on Greek and Cyrillic words but "half-penny" on St. Christopher bi-sects and especially "Habilitado Para" seem like useful entries that are missing from the new edition. At that rate there are certainly still a few overlooked entries that keep this from being the perfect finder. But, the good news is that Linn's has fully 21 additional entries under "H" that the older finder is missing, meaning close to double the total useful entries. The \$2 APS Stamp Finder has 28 "H" entries including "Habilitado Para". By way of confirmation, Linn's offers us 17 "J"s to 12 and zero, 9 "Q"s to 4 and 5. "No 'J' s in the APS finder?" I hear you exclaim. Nary a Jhind or a Jugoslavlja...turns out the 1992 APS issuance has no I, J or K entries which is clearly a major typesetting gaff that has probably been discovered and fixed months ago. So the "Linn's Stamp Identifier" is easily the best such book I am aware of and a true bargain if you are

one of those that needs occasional look-up assistance. You can order via phone on 1-800-448-7293. Tell 'em Dave sent ya'.

Another budding interest of mine is the combination of philately and autographs or material related to famous people. I am sure this is a well established branch of collecting, but I know virtually nothing about it. Over the years I have managed to save aside the following items. A 5 Sept 1942 cover addressed to Earl Warren when he was the Attorney General of Calif. before becoming Chief Justice; a package shipping label to Luther Burbank, Esq. with no visible date, franked with Chilean stamps of 1911 issue; an official White House envelope posted 2 Jan. 1934 thanking a dealer for sending President Roosevelt some covers for his collection, signed by M. A. LeHand, Private Secretary, obviously the famous "Missy" LeHand. Of course, like most worldwidens, I have picked up a couple of stamps formally from FDR's collection with the little stamp on the back. I would like to hear from any of you who have picked up interesting covers or other items associated with famous people. If someone out there has some solid info on this, how about an article for *The Circuit*? Have a great summer! ...

## Vice President's Report

*by Ken Costlow (# 142)*

Since January, packages of stamps, accessories, and philatelist's booklets have been mailed to Ben Franklin Clubs and other youth programs in Massachusetts, South Carolina, New York (2), Florida, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, California and Missouri. These were in response to letters in *Stamp Collector*, *Linn's Stamp News*, and individual group leader requests. Two exceptionally nice thank you notes were received for the boxes sent, signed by each of the young collectors who benefitted from the contents. A steady flow of donations from new as well as renewing members has kept up with the demand, and I still have an adequate supply on hand.

NAPEX '93 held in Arlington, Virginia on June 4 - 6, had an exceptionally nice youth program. There was a separate room set aside with exhibits, games, literature and stamps available for young visitors, and was well attended.

Thanks to the efforts of members Carol Cervenka and Tom Fortunato, ISWSC continues to grow at a good rate!

Happy collecting! ...

## Beginner's Column by Al and Mildred Feinberg (#361)

To hinge or not to hinge, that is the question.

Many, many years ago when I started to collect stamps at age 10, I bought packets of stamps at the Five and Dime store. For a quarter you got a whole envelope full of worldwide stamps. Most were off paper, some were mint, most used. I never thought about "never hinged" (NH) stamps. I hinged everything. It didn't make much difference to me because I knew I didn't have anything of value. I would collect stamps for perhaps a couple years and then lay them away because of other interests. When I was about sixteen years old, I found an old stamp album and again got interested. It was the years of the great depression and I had very little money to spend on stamps. I used to buy approvals from dealers like H.E. Harris and a few others that were popular at that time. I never read any stamp newspapers nor was I in a stamp club so I didn't know anything about the NH craze. When I was about twenty-five years old I started to buy

several weekly stamp newspapers. I soon discovered that NH stamps cost about twice as much as hinged but it never mattered to me. If I had a choice I would always buy used or mint hinged, preferring used stamps. I try to avoid cancelled-to-order stamps.

Getting back to whether to hinge or not to hinge, since I collect worldwide up to 1960, if I acquire any stamps that managed not to be hinged over a period of about 30 - 40 years then I will mount with Showgard mounts. I don't do this necessarily for the value. I guess I do it just to keep the stamps from having any hinge marks.

I would suggest using mounts such as Scott or Showgard to cover any stamps that have never been hinged with a value of about a dollar or more. I don't see any benefit to cover used or mint hinged. If one tries to mount all stamps in a collection, it can run into a lot of money.

Still entering our collection in the computer, hope to be finished in a few weeks. ...

## Public Relations: Get Involved! by Tom Fortunato (#379)

As I write this, the RÓPEX stamp show in Rochester was just a month ago. Besides having an ISWSC meeting, the American Philatelic Society held their spring meeting during the weekend.

I was struck by comments from F. Barton Sellers, president of the 57,000 strong APS, and how they related to a smaller society such as ours. Every group needs input from its membership!

No one person can or should run an organization. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any group. Help from you is always needed. There are several society volunteers who wish to remain "behind the scenes" while helping the officers and managers. Others are better known to you. What can you help with?

Everyone can play a role. Consider writing an article for the Circuit; tell your friends or local stamp club about the ISWSC, writing to other members with similar interest, take part in a society program you've never tried before. You can make a difference.

If you're in the area, plan to attend the ISWSC's biggest meeting of the year. It will be held on Saturday, August 21 in Houston, Texas during STampsHow '93. Secretary/Treasurer Carol Cerverka will be hosting the meeting. Presently we know that Vice President Ken Costilov and Circuit editor Rita Kallal also plan to attend the show and meeting. I regret that I won't be able to attend, but we hope many other members are planning to attend -- Carol and others want to "See ya"

## CTO Cost Info Sought

I have often wondered what percentage of face value the various Communist governments sold cancelled-to-order stamps for. I have never seen anything in the philatelic press on this. For example, what percentage of face did the East German government sell cancelled stamps for? Did they sell only in quantity and only to dealers or were collectors permitted to buy directly from the postal service? Does anyone have information on this? If so, how about an article for The Circuit? ... Harold J. Humm (#678)

## OMNI Exchange

by Tom Allison (#42)

The OMNI Exchange is the official stamp exchange of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors. It is now in its ninth year of operation, and currently has over 115 active participants.

In 1992, these exchangers added stamps to their collections to the tune of over \$20,000.00 in catalog value, at a very minimum cost outlay. The only out-of-pocket expense is for postage and for blank books (which cost 3 for \$1.00).

There is no cash fee; only a 10% commission in catalog value which is assessed on stamps actually taken by other exchangers.

At the suggestion of several ISWSC members, and with approval of the editor Rita Kallal, we plan to run this column on a regular basis. It will bring news of the exchange to all ISWSC member, and will replace the OMNI NEWSLETTER which we have sent, off and on, to just the exchanger.

Presently, we have over 1100 books in inventory in our two divisions. The PINK Division is for stamps cataloging 20¢ and up, while the BLUE Division is for stamps cataloging 50¢ each and up.

In the last few months, we have welcomed a number of new exchangers including: Marian Poole #44, Rudy Paltauf #704, Ray Arnett #725, Norman Young #739, Randi Selehdar #741, Terry Collins #744, Sally Tunnicliff #764, John Vickers #821, Sylvia Edlebeck #874, and Scott Sadger #882.

Some of the areas which seem to be most in demand are Scandinavia, British Commonwealth, Western Europe, Japan, Thailand and South America. Less popular are early Great Britain, recent Germany and former Iron Curtain countries.

Find out how easy and economical it is to trade your duplicates for stamps you need. Send a SASE to manager Tom Allison, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091 for complete details. ...

## New Dues Brings A Few Changes

The recent increase in dues from \$5 to \$8 has ISWSC offering an 8 month membership for new members who send in the \$5 amount. We hope the new brochure stating \$8 dues will be widely distributed, but until word gets around, applications received with the old payment will be honored for 8 months.

If you have sent out the old brochure to

friends, please advise them of the new rate if they plan on joining. While we wish we could extend the old rate to new members, it isn't feasible economically. If you have flyers on hand at the old rate, please destroy them and request new ones from Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615 USA, or make copies of the new one enclosed. ...

## 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 (6/6)

**WORLDWIDE CLIPPING MIXTURES** contain commemoratives, large pictorials, medium and higher values galore from amny 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 (4/4)

**VARIOUS PRICE LISTS.** Approvals. Lots & Collectins. Get on our mailing list and/or request approvals. ABSP, Inc., Box 155, Warminster, PA 18974 (4/5)

**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 (3/6)

**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 (2/6)

**FOR SALE:** SCOTT International Jr, Hard Bound blue album 1840-1940 with over 5,000 stamps, good condition, numerous stamps catalog over one dollar, \$75.00. Jack Sackett, P. O. Box 22, No. Middletown, KY, 40357. (1/1)

## Deadline Next Issue August 15, 1993

Items received after deadline will appear in another issue.

## ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

TO BECOME PART  
OF A SWAP CIRCUIT  
Send 100 Large

Foreign Stamps to:

Swap Circuit -  
Dalene Thomas  
8612 W. Warren Lane  
Lakewood, CO 80227

## JOIN OMNI EXCHANGE

FILL EMPTY SPACES  
IN YOUR COLLECTION  
WITH  
A MINIMUM  
CASH OUTLAY

TRADE YOUR  
DUPLICATES

FOR INFO WRITE:  
TOM ALLISON,  
OMNI MANAGER  
BOX 252

WILLMETTE, IL 60091-0252

## Back Issues of The Circuit Newsletters Now Available

In response to requests to make available earlier issues of *The Circuit*, photocopies of older newsletters can now be purchased. For any of the following, write: Peter Bylen (#695), P. O. Box 7193, Westchester, Ill 60154 USA. make checks or money orders in U.S. Dollars payable to ISWSC: Shipments will be mailed by 3rd class or surface printed matter rate mail. Clearly state which volume or issue you want.

**Year Sets:**

**Combined Volumes 1 & 2 (1984-85) -**  
Postpaid to US & Canada \$ 3.00USA;  
Elsewhere \$5.00 USA

**Volumes 3 to 9\* (1986-92) EACH Year**  
Volume - Postpaid to US & Canada  
\$3.00USA; Elsewhere \$5.00.USA  
(\*Volume 9 does not include the super issue)

**Individual issues** (State Year, Volume and Issue Number) EACH - Postpaid to US & Canada \$1.00USA; Elsewhere \$1.50 USA ...

**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.

## Officers, Chairpersons, Managers

**President:** Dave Nelson (# 25), 309 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952 USA  
**Vice President:** Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginus Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Carol Cervenka (# 498), Rt 1 Box 69-A, Caddo Mills, TX 75135 USA

**Editor/Publisher:** Rita Kallal (#26), PO Box 1513, West Monroe, LA 71294-1513 USA  
**Youth Stamp Program:** Ken Costilow (#142)

**Public Relations Chairman:** Tom Fortunato (#379), 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA

**Austral-Asian Secretary:** Peter Scannell (#453), 4 Mankinna St., Jindalee, Queensland 4074, AUSTRALIA

**Canadian Secretary:** Irving C. Whynot (# 490), P.O. Box 371, Don Mills, ONT, M3C 2S7 CANADA

**East European Secretary:** Jan Szpyrka (# 539) ul.Sieronia 7/, Gliwice PL44100, POLAND

**U.K. Secretary:** Chad Neighbor (#510), 28 Refugas Place, Edinburgh, EH9 2PY, SCOTLAND, U.K.

**Sales Circuit Manager:** Judith Hungerford (# 513), 219 Stanford Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708 USA

**Auction Manager:** George Land (# 241), 4024 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566 USA **Auction Co-Manager:** Jim Watkins (# 372)

**OMNI Exchange Manager:** Tom Allison (#42), Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091-0252 USA **OMNI Co-Managers:** Dave Paul (#59), Dr. Isaac Tannenbaum (#163), & Jerry Gross (#429)

**Swap Circuit Manager:** Dalene Thomas (# 101), 8612 W. Warren Lane, Lakewood, CO 80227 USA

**Board of Directors:** Ken Jenkins, Past President (#15); Herb Holland (# 31), Tom Fortunato (#379), and the Elected Officers.

## Raech's Ruminations

Nicaragua - now there's a brilliant subject to ruminate about. How come, you ask? Well, I'll tell you if you'll bear with me a minute.

While attending a recent local stamp show/bourse, and while taking up space at my favorite dealer's table, a collector sat down near me and proceeded to ask for Nicaragua.

Now, over these many years, I've attended quite a few stamp get-togethers and I can't ever recall anyone asking for Nicaragua before. Hey, I thought, am I missing something? What's going on?

A couple of days later, I was still thinking Nicaragua, so I decided I'd better check out my collection. Not too shabby - quite a few hundred, but many, many open spaces. Well now, there's the baseball and Will Rogers issues, circa 1938-39. Hmm! Still not complete! Ah, Hah! There's that flaw issue - remember how you completed it when you first started trading in earnest. There's that building issue going back to the thirties. Still not completed. And what about all those surcharges and overprints on that issue. Not too many of them either. Look at these - issued when the postal ban on

Nicaragua was in effect. Where did I get these from? Am I, or was I, subject to federal prosecution? Maybe I should burn them? Heck no, nobody will ever find out. To be safe, I'll put them way back in the closet to be safe. Now that I've solved that problem, I'm still thinking Nicaragua. Now that I think about it, very few Nicaragua stamps turn up while trading. In fact, very few, if any, mixture dealers offer them. Maybe there are a few vagrant stamps in with South-Central American mixtures. Don't even see offerings of Nicaragua among auction lots. It appears that Nicaragua ain't too popular. Anyhow, I know of at least one collector who's looking for them.

How about you? Is Nicaragua high on the list of countries you collect. Maybe it should be! What about other countries? I'm sure we all have countries we've neglected or overlooked. Probably, many more than one. Why don't you look through your collection, pick a country you've neglected and concentrate on it for a few months. It couldn't hurt, and, who knows, it may be Nicaragua. Think about it!! ... RH (#363)

## Expertising Service Available from APS

One of the responses noted by several members on the recent questionnaire was the need to expertise items. Collectors who have stamps or covers of a questionable nature or have expensive items usually want to "verify" their genuineness. Certificates prepared by expertizing services act as a guarantor when philatelic items are bought and sold, or when they are exhibited.

While the ISWSC doesn't have such a service, the American Philatelic Society does. APS members and non-members alike may submit material to be expertise for as low as \$10 per item, depending on the items current catalog value. Once submitted, your stamp or cover will be forwarded to as many as five experts on that material who will render an opinion. Genuine or not, you will receive a certificate with their statements with a color photo of your item attached.

There are other expertizing services around the world which in general charge a lot more. To obtain an expertization application, send a SASE or IRC to: APS Expertizing Service, P. O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803. ...

## Sales Circuits, Do They Work?

by Dave Creson (#170)


We all from time to time wish to sell some stamp material. One question that has crossed by mind and I am sure yours as well is: Do sales circuits really work? Is it really worth the effort? Do the big boys in the sales circuit business give us a fair deal?

In a box I received not long ago, was the answer. I found 25 back pages to APS sales circuit books. I was able to determine that these books had circulated in the last 12 years. I found that each book's average net worth was \$96.00 and that an average of 36 percent were sold.

The circulation was looked at as well. How many times was it circulated within a circuit? Was it over circulated, routed with very little in it? Was it under circulated, returned to its owner with sales potential still in it? Investigation showed that each book was routed five to twelve times. Other data showed that of the 25 sales books only one was returned prematurely (however there may have been reasons that I could not glean from the data.) One in twenty-five is not bad. That is about four percent error rate. I wish I could do as well in the things I do!

So I concluded that at least in APS circuit books about one third of each book will sell. You of course can do a bit better with good material and reasonable to low net pricing in your books. You should clear thirty dollars or so per book with a lot of material returned to you for disposal some other way. If the work and the wait for circuit book returns (about twelve months) seems worth the cash return, then put in one a month and as long as you continue you will have a nice little check coming in every month once the system gets rolling. ...

### ASHLEY'S WORLD OF STAMPS




"TESTING THE WATERS!"

Do you need HIGH VALUE stamps on APPROVAL from a reputable source? I sell used and hinged sound sets and singles with a RETAIL VALUE of \$10 to \$1,000 at 50% to 80%.

My stock is predominately U.S., Japan & Europe.  
For further information send your WANT LIST and indicate condition desired.


*Paul Ashley*



BUY • SELL • APPRAISE COLLECTIONS

P.O. BOX 771 • MARINA, CA 93933

TEL +08-883-0963





## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Carol Cervenka (# 498)

With the advent of the dues increase, new brochures had to be printed to reflect recent changes. The new brochure contains the interest code form as a part of the application, and can be adapted for use by the Regional Secretaries. The new brochure is enclosed with this issue of *The Circuit*, and I hope many of you will use it to recruit a friend or give a gift to another collector.

There are times when keeping up with the Roster changes is a real challenge, and you will notice some of the changes this month correct changes made last month. Sneaky errors garbled one entry (#911 Bartojay), and I'm happy to report Jim Sandholdt will be back in Japan by the time this issue is received. #690 Joseph Farrugia, has sent in his dues for the coming year and therefore is reinstated to full membership privileges.

Please delete the following name from your Rosters as he has not paid dues to renew: #685 Miller

We have not yet received dues from the following members, and if we do not hear from them soon they will have to be dropped from the rolls: #556 Doucette, #699 Dummett, #701 Clanner, #702 Biermann, #708 Reidel

I am saddened to report the death of #749 - Felix F. Rosenwach. He will be missed by his many friends and traders.

Please check your membership cards and, if your dues expire the end of August, please your payment in before I mail out notices around the first. We can save the Society the cost of postage, and keep my time free for other ISWSC tasks. My sincere gratitude to those of you who do this routinely!

Many collectors (I'm told) put their collections "on hold" for the summer. For others, it is just the opposite; Summer brings about the free time to indulge in hours of hinging, mounting, sorting and classifying. If you are a "seasonal" collector, and your trading is tied to certain times of the year, please let your traders know you are "away" for whatever period of time. All of which brings me to an apology to my own traders; I'll eventually get to you, but I'm not sure when. As ISWSC grows so do the responsibilities of this office, and ISWSC comes first!

A word of gratitude to #961 Edward A. Heller, CPA, who is assisting me by setting up ISWSC's books according to IRS requirements relating to 501.(c)3 organizations and preparing the application for that all important designation. His guidance and expertise are invaluable and deeply appreciated! ...

## New Membership Application Debuts

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the new ISWSC membership application (in the new brochure). It contains several changes, listing the various programs and benefits of membership. The members's interest codes are also listed for the convenience of the applicant. You will notice that two new categories have been added to the codes, "souvenir sheets" and "maxim cards".

Send this form on to a stamp collecting friend, or make copies to mail to others. Additional forms may be obtained from the Public Relations Officer, Tom Fortunato (# 379), 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA. Send a #10 size envelope, self-addressed and stamped with a 29¢ stamp for the first 4 applications and 23¢ additional postage for each additional 4. You may send IRCs at the rate of one (1) for each 2 applications requested.

Don't forget, you will receive one year of free membership for every 5 members you recruit in a 12 month period. Gift memberships also count toward this total. ...

## Leader to Leader Program to Assist Youth Programs Worldwide

Junior stamp clubs from all over the world are eligible to participate in ISWSC new Leader to Leader program. Regional Secretaries are gathering the names of youth stamp clubs within their regions to participate in this exciting project.

Leaders of youth stamp clubs in the USA will be paired with the leaders of junior clubs in other nations to exchange ideas and to conduct joint stamp programs such as finding penpals and stamp traders between the children of each group. Group activities include the correct way to address and write letters to the other country, working on want lists of stamps for the other group, gathering postcards to send, etc. Every effort will be made to match the age and size of the clubs.

The best program ideas to come from this endeavor will be featured in *The Circuit* on the Kid's Page. There is no charge for this service, however we do request a 29 cent stamp or an IRC to help with postage costs.

If you lead a youth stamp club, or know some one who does, you are invited to sign up. Contact: Carol Cervenka, Rt. 1 - Box 69A, Caddo Mills, TX 75135-9625. ...

## Role of Regional Secretaries Expands

Along with the newly appointed ISWSC Eastern European Regional Secretary, the three other Regional Secretaries in Canada, the British Isles and Austral-Aisa will play a larger part in ISWSC operations around the world.

Rather than have members who reside in those specific regions mail their youth donations of stamps of the USA, the stamps may be sent directly to the appropriate secretary who will distribute them to youth groups within that region. This not only benefits the donor with reduced mailing costs, but greatly expands the Society's efforts of encourage young philatelists. The Youth Program, once available only to USA youth, is well on the way to becoming a worldwide service.

As our ISWSC family expands overseas, we continue to appreciate the hard work and effort our Regional Secretaries put forth to spread the goodwill of the Society to other countries. ...

## Vihanto Recruits Finnish Collectors

Martti Vihanto (#830), columnist for *Filatelisti*, promoted ISWSC membership in the May Issue of that publication. He used the opportunity to tell collectors in Finland how happy he is to be a member of ISWSC. *Filatelisti* is the largest philatelic magazine in Finland.

Vihanto's article gives information on the various ISWSC services, with details on the Swap Circuit and ISWSC's informal "Five for Fun" stamps sent by most members when corresponding with each other. The full page article also featured color photographs of butterflies on 5 stamps, a copy of the US stamp (#1334) issued to commemorate 50 years of Finland's independence, and ISWSC's logo.

Vihanto commented, "ISWSC membership has added a new dimension to my hobby. If more Finnish-members come in the course of time, my regular column might be a sort of connecting link with Finland." What a wonderful idea!

Readers were encouraged to write to the ISWSC Secretary - Treasurer for application forms. While it is too early to know what the response will be, we applaud Martti's recruiting efforts and are delighted to have him working to expand membership. ...

Please do let me hear from you about your philatelic ventures!

It isn't necessary to throw all damaged stamps away!

You and your philatelic friends can have a lot of fun with "Get All Three" or Four. My club thoroughly enjoyed philatelic games and we played them frequently. Perhaps you would like to try making the game.

If you need any types of damaged stamps to complete your game, I can probably send you what you need. (I have kept a box of damaged stamps just for games.)

### GET ALL THREE (or four)

**PREPARATION:** Cut thin poster board or manilla paper  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. With damaged and common stamps, make "books" (sets) of 3 or 4 each of types of stamps, etc. My set consists of three each of the following:

A perfin	Coil line pair
Coil plate number copies	Airmail stamps
Coil stamps	Se-tenant stamps
Vertical pair, perforated on 4 sides	Stamps from the transportation coil series
Christmas stamps	Space topical
Olympics stamps	Commemorative
Slogan Cancellations	Horizontal pair, perforated on 4 sides
Precancels	Imperforate stamps
Booklet pane (Could be Booklet stamps or Booklet pair)	A cut Square
Postage due stamps	
Coil pair	

Different categories can be used, according to your preferences.

Type or print the clue at the top left of the card. Glue stamps below in an attractive manner. (Twenty-pound weight paper could be used if you intend to cover cards with adhesive plastic protective covering.)

**TO PLAY THE GAME:** Shuffle cards. Deal 5 cards to each player. Put remaining cards in center of game table. Starting player asks another player for a category he has in his hand. If he does not have it, player who asked draws a card from the center pile. If he gets the category he requested, he takes another turn. If not, play goes to the next participant. Each time the requested card is added to a player's hand, he continues to play. When the cards in any player's hand are used up (by his making sets, or by another player's taking them), at his next turn, he draws one from the pile and uses it for his request. When a category is requested, players must give up all cards of that category which they hold in their hand.

Player with the most sets is winner.

Arlene Futrell, R. D. #1 Box 65, Stokes, NC 27884

Vertical pair,  
perforated on 4 sides



Precancels

