

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Where In the World ???

By Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Do you have stamps from such places as Davaar, Enyhalow or Lundy? May of us probably do have at least a couple of these local post "stamps" in our collections, but where are these places?

Several *Stanley Gibbon's Great Britain Catalogues* mention islands off British shores which have or are still operating local post offices as a means of paying for the costs of ferrying mail to the nearest GPO on the mainland.

You will need to consult a very detailed map to find the exact location of some of these islands. However this brief summary will help you at least determine the region where they can be found, denoted by letters on the map here. Also given are the periods of operation.

Argyllshire (A)
Davaar (1864 -)
Sanda (1962 - 70)

Devon (D)
Drake's Is. (1973-)
Lundy (1929-)

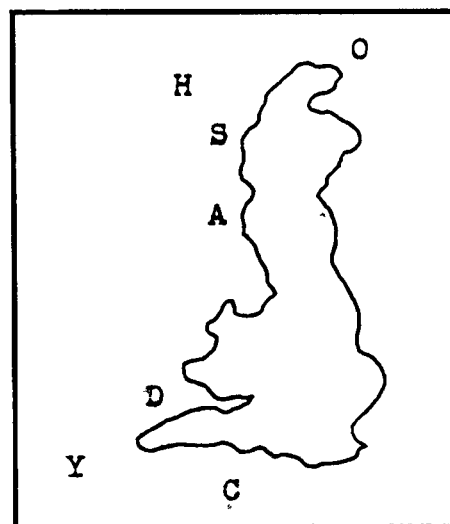
Orkney (O)
Eynhalow (1973-)
Gairsay (1980-)
Grunay (1981-)

Channel Is. (C)
Herm (1946-69)
Jethou (1960-69)
Lihou (1966-69)

Hebrides (H)
Bernera (1977-)
Calve Is. (1983-)
St. Kilda (1968-71)
Staffa (1969-)
Summer Isles (1970-)

Skye (S)
Pabay (1962-)

Isles of Scilly (Y)
Gugh (1972-80)



"Stamps" from these islands are not valid for inland or overseas mail. Additional British stamps must be affixed to allow a letter to continue to its destination. Finding non-philatelic, commercially used covers from these places will be quite a challenge! ••

References for the General Collector

by Joe Foley (# 308)

Collecting the world can pose something of a dilemma when it comes to philatelic literature. After all, if we spend most of our stamp budget on books what's left?

I'm going to share with you some references and an approach to literature that has worked reasonably well for me. Of course one of the key points in collecting the world is that we each do it in a way that brings enjoyment to ourselves. The only "rules" are those we make for ourselves. Before getting started, let me admit to a tendency to over do references a bit, whether the subject is stamps or some other interest. So what I do, may or may not work for you. However, there may be an idea or two that might appeal.

Most of us need a general catalog. If you live in the U.S. then *Scott* is your primary catalog and it's the way we communicate with each other. So, we need a *Scott* catalog, but do we need the *US Specialized*, and a rather expensive outlay. I mark my catalogs, checking off the stamps that I have. To redo this each year got to be a pain. I could put my inventory on my PC, but that's hardly portable. My worldwide collection is capped at 1949, with British going to 1970 and a few countries later. I

settled for some older catalogs for maintaining my inventory and no longer have the need to transfer my inventory markings from the old catalog to a new one. (I do get a little kidding when I pull out a catalog that's about 20 years old.) I use a newer one when I need up-to-date catalog "values." Sometimes access to, rather than ownership, can fill the bill for a new catalog - your local library or stamp club. Since the information in the catalog such as listings and explanations evolve, getting a new catalog from time to time is still a good idea. You may find you don't need one or a set every year. One idea is to stagger your purchase: Vol. I this year, Vol. II next and so on.

On the subject of catalogs, I keep some real old ones for information on those stamps that used to be listed but no longer are, or where the listing information has changed. Here I try to have one for each decade. These are not very expensive, I don't think I've had to pay more than \$4.00 and that was for a 1912 *Scott* in just about perfect condition. Every so often, I run into trouble in identifying a specific stamp using the *Scott* catalog. So a few other catalogs can be useful. (Sometimes the information is

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the same in is Scott, but presented in a slightly different way that makes it easier for me to understand.) I'm not much of a linguist, so my first choice are other English language catalogs, Minkus and Gibbons. If I'm really having a rough time, I'll take a crack at *Michel* (German) or *Yvert et Tellier* (French). Here again, I'm interested in information, not values, so old catalogs easily fill the bill and do so at quite a reduction in price. (I noticed a recent ad by Subway Stamp Shop offering the 1987 red Gibbons for \$3.50.)

A good general stamp reference book or two is really helpful. *Fundamentals of Philately* by L. N. Williams has just appeared in a revised edition. Published by the APS at \$60.00 (with a 20% discount to APS members) this is a quality book, well illustrated running to over 800 pages and well indexed. It concentrates on the technical side of the hobby such as the manufacture of stamps. If you don't want to spend \$60, consider a used copy of the earlier edition. As often happens, a copy of the 1st edition sold at a premium when it was out of print. Now that a revised edition is available, that's no longer the case. A friend of mine recently bought a used 1st edition for \$5.00 (a great bargain in my opinion). A fairly new basic book being offered by the APS is *Stamp Collecting: The Complete, Easy Guide to the World's Most Popular Hobby* by C. F. Adams. This is a 180 page paperback published by Dell and available from the APS at \$3.75 (\$3 to APS members). Two older general works that you may be able to find second hand at low cost are: *Postage Stamps in the Making* by John Easton (early versions by F. J. Melville) and *Stamp Collecting* by Stanley Phillips.

An atlas can come in handy. Either a standard one or an atlas geared to stamp collecting. The APS has *The Stamp Atlas* by Wellsted, Rossiter & Flower. This has over 300 pages with 144 maps. Van Dahl Publications has one by Ken Wood, *Stamp Collector* editor emeritus with 230 maps. A hybrid, combining the features of an atlas and general handbook is a three volume set also published by Van Dahl and authored by Ken Wood: *This is Philately*. It is arranged alphabetically and runs to almost 900 pages. An earlier book with a similar approach is *The Stamp Collector's Encyclopedia* by R. J. Sutton. A stamp identifier of some sort is always helpful. I think most worldwide collectors tend to have a couple. My favorite is an oldie put out by H. E. Harris a long time ago. The APS recently came out with the second edition of its *Identifier*, which sells

for \$2.50 (\$2 to APS members).

There may be some parts of the world you collect a little more deeply than others, and for these you may want to have more depth than the general catalogs as reference. A good case in point is U. S., and the *Scott US Specialized* in many ways is as much a handbook as it is a catalog. Again, for information, we probably don't need the latest one. I've always had a particular interest in British stamps and have found Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps* a great source of information. This series began in 1947 and it was initially planned to be complete by the end of '52. The gestation period proved to be a bit longer and volume VI, Leeward Islands only recently appeared. Postal History and Postal Stationary are covered as well as adhesives in a fairly specialized way. Background information, both historical and geographical, is provided. Even in the more recent volumes, nothing issued since 1952 is covered. Now this is an expensive set of books and all but the last two volumes are out of print. But used sets or part sets do appear from time to time, and are worth watching for. Sometimes, you might get a bargain. You can probably find a somewhat similar situation for other collecting areas. On these older books, decide on what you want and, much like seeking that particular stamp to fill in a set, good hunting!

This may be a bit of a stretch, but as I go over my stamps, I often become curious about what may be the story behind the stamp. A general encyclopedia is useful and the family Britannica isn't too far away from the collection.

What about the weekly and monthly stamp magazines and newspapers? I keep those that have a good subject index. Both the American Philatelist and the Collectors Club Philatelist have cumulative subject indexes covering the first 100 years for the former and 75 years for the latter. (Strictly speaking, the AP has a geographic and author index.) Others like *Stamp Collector* and *Linn's*, I'll clip and only file the clippings.

Where can you get some of these reference? Let me give you addresses of some that I've mentioned: APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (they have a list of literature available); Van Dahl Publications (Stamp Collector), Box 10, Albany, OR 97321; and Subway Stamp Shop, 111 Nassau Street, New York NY 10083 (they have a price list and usually provide a discount). (Editors note: Check the classified ads in your favorite philatelic journal for firms selling

reference books.)

This is by no means a complete list of references for the general collector. Just some comments about some that I think are helpful. What works for me may not work for you and vice-versa, so give a little thought before making a major purchase and if you're not sure, try to examine a book before you buy it. ••

It's Official

The sales circuit is back in operation! Blank books have been printed and are now in the hands of those members who first requested them.

Here's how it works. If you have stamps to sell, purchase blank sales books for \$3 for \$1.00 plus postage. Each book has spaces for 96 stamps. Follow the directions in the guidelines as to mounting and pricing. Return the completed books to the manager, who will enter them into the program.

Any member may purchase stamps from the sales circuit. Simply make your interests known to the manager, who will do her best to match your needs with available material. Purchase those items you need and send the rest to the next member.

Full details for buyers and sellers can be obtained from the manager, Judy Hungerford (# 513), 219 Stanford Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. Send a SASE (#10 size) and mention if you wish to buy or sell (or both) stamps through the program. Due to mailing restrictions, this service is currently only available to U.S. members. •• Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Beginner's Swap - Join!

The first round of exchange of our new "Beginner's Circuit" has completed successfully. We need more members and look forward to further growth. Though there are complaints about the quality of some stamps, everyone exchanged a good amount and those that returned to me were of better quality and value. Remember that any exchange will only be as good as the stamps you provide. "Give unto others as you would hope they would give to you."

We are hoping for more participants in this swap circuit. There is a lot of enthusiasm and it is a great means of adding to your collection as well as making new friends. If you are a beginner of any age why don't you join us?

Just send 25 used commemoratives and a 29¢ SASE or IRC to: Joan Roderick, 12 Red Oak Road, Asheville, NC 28804. ••

THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN by Dave Nelson (#25)

I'm a pretty lucky guy...I was selected for the U.S. Postal Service Customer Survey! I have no idea how many get selected for this honor but I like to think I was in the top quarter billion. The survey has a few personal questions and a bunch on how I rate the USPS on service. I gave them pretty good marks. Frankly, I get tired of hearing how bad the U.S. postal service is. True, it's not the one-day service our British members enjoy, but it's a far sight better than most modern countries especially as large as the U.S. In Canada they go on strike every other year; in Russia it's a coin toss if they'll deliver at all and many citizens still don't feel comfortable writing in an uncensored manner; in Italy your banker makes liberal allowances for late payment since it often takes a month or more before the postal people deliver your remission.

They asked to be graded on a scale of 1 to 7. I gave them a top on "delivering undamaged" (I can't remember the last mail I received damaged), and a bottom on "consistency of delivery from out of area". It's unfortunate that the questions about promptness and consistency were not segregated by class of service since I think the 1st class service is pretty good, but I have to say there are days and even weeks delay in getting my regular copy of *The Circuit* after I get the 1st class copy sent of ISWSC officers. The only other bottom score I gave them was on "window hours" since here in Petaluma it is hard for a working person to get to a window. I really don't think it would increase costs much to put some window staff on flex hours with the first starting at 07:00 and the last one closing at 19:00 and, alas, Saturday morning hours!

But, I think the postal service gets blamed for all the human failings of all the people who use the service. When the car payment is overdue we past date the check to try to avoid a late charge and blame the mail service, when we forget Mother's Day we ask mom didn't she get that card we (never really) mailed, when we let that stamp circuit sit on the desk beyond deadline we past date that and hope the manager will blame good old USPS. Since most of us use our carriers as convenient excuses how can we expect their reputation not to suffer unfairly? The honest truth is that I cannot think of one single case in over 50 years of using the U.S. postal service that I or anyone in my family actually lost a piece of mail that I know we sent, or that I know for sure was sent to us. "Lost in the mail"?...sure it was!

A month prior to writing this I mailed some postcards to my family and to Carol Cervenka. They still have not arrived. Is this another example of lousy postal service? I really doubt it. I sent them from Liechtenstein and the service there is run with Swiss-watch precision, by the Swiss. My guess is that the Park Hotel Sonnenhof still has them sitting on a file cabinet or something, but once again, the postal services will get the blame. Not to pick on the hotel, it is excellent and I highly recommend it the next time you are in Liechtenstein. I had a really special dinner there one night and my balcony looked right out on Schloss Vaduz, Prince Hans Adam's medieval castle, and the castle views that appear on 90% of their picture postcards must have been shot from that balcony. It turned out to be a great place to spend a long holiday weekend, with rail side trips to St. Moritz and along the Glacier Express. An irresistible side trip for a stamp collector. Naturally I took in the postal museum. This is a one room display with all the Liechtenstein stamps ever issued in 50 pull out frames plus a few glass display cabinets. The stamped envelopes that predated the start of the Liechtenstein post in 1912 consisted of Austrian and Swiss mail postmarked from towns that are now in Liechtenstein. There were stampless covers from the very early 18th century. The Eurail guidebook suggests it will take only 90 minutes to tour Vaduz, but of course a philatelist could spend a lot more than that just looking at this little museum. As to the rest, not a whole lot to do but hike and look at the great scenery, so it is a relaxing place to recharge the batteries. When I arrived by train (they all stop across the Rhine in Switzerland) I took the Postbus for 3 SwFr to Vaduz. The Rhine area is a more or less continuous town so I really had no idea how far I had to go, and the driver wasn't announcing stops in English. But at one stop I realized I was looking out at a post office and the coat of arms over the door was not the Swiss white cross on red shield! I grabbed my huge suitcase and jumped out! I was right, this was Liechtenstein. One of those rare but satisfying occasions in which being a philatelist had some honest to goodness practical value.

It is always a satisfaction to me to see how active our ISWSC members are in the world of philately generally. I rarely pick up an issue of *Linn's* or *The American Philatelist* when I don't see a letter to the editor from one or more of our members. The case that prompted this mention was

the August issue of the latter where I observed a short note from Mike Ercolini congratulating APS for offering a choice of quality competitors for the director-at-large posts. A few letters down was a note from Dave Creson, one of our most active members, and this one was on the subject of ISWSC itself where he managed to get our name in front the APS membership one more time and I'm sure that will lead to yet another spate of new members for whom this will be their first issue of *The Circuit*. These just happen to be two members that I know and have corresponded with, there may well have been others among our 700+ members whose names I didn't recognize. Of course this is not even to mention a number of our loyal worldwidors who are regular philatelic columnists, whose names are very well known in the industry press. Keep it up, all of you. The two ways we grow are through word of mouth referrals and by mention in the press; please each of you make it a point in the next year to do one or both on behalf of our rapidly growing club. Growth is good in many ways, it enables us to keep dues low, it gives us a much larger talent pool to draw on for newsletter articles and for volunteer efforts and officers and it gives us "muscle" in lobbying for change and effecting improvements to the hobby.

My latest travels took me to four continents which should have enabled me to return with a couple of interesting philatelic experiences to relate, or at least some foreign members met, but I covered this ground in just 18 days so you can imagine that I was moving too fast to actually do anything really fun. I was in and out of Peru and Brazil so quickly I didn't even take hotel rooms! I did have a chance in Johannesburg, South Africa, to pop in to a downtown stamp dealer. The proprietor and I had a language gap so all I was able to buy was a large on-paper mixture for about \$7 which was a real bargain. Wait a minute. "A language problem?" I hear you ask. Yes, they speak 11 languages there and many who speak Afrikaans are not at all adept with English, even in the shops and travel industry jobs. In Capetown I stopped at a post office to get stamps for postcards home. I was presented with a strip of pretty stamps from the '92 succulents series which had no denomination printed on them. The clerk saw me holding them up to the light for a careful inspection and must have known what was going through my head so she volunteered that they were valued at 45 cents which was not printed on them. Shucks, I was just about to buy

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

As an old time stamp collector I still have difficulty identifying colors and shades, particularly shades. So Can just imagine how beginners feel when they see the same stamp with different shades.

The best way, of course, is to have the stamps expertised but that can cost a lot of money, especially if you have lots of stamps with different shades.

I find a Stanley Gibbons color gauge very useful but stil not exact. You must take under consideration that most older stamps fade and some colors actually change over time. As an example, a lot of violets and purples turn gray. Some colors just oxidize and look totally different from what they are supposed to be.

Another difficulty is stamps that are classified as red-orange or orange-red. The second color is the primary color. Red-orange would mean the stamp is orange with some red added to it. Orange-red would be a red stamp with some orange added to it and so on.

To determine colors that have special names like lake, magenta, mauve, ultramarine, etc., your color gauge helps quite a bit.

Another thing that helps me quite a bit is to compare the stamp in question with another stamp of that color from the same country. The reasoning here is that each country has their own idea as the name of the color of the stamp. So comparing stamps with same country is essential.

Some shades are just next to impossible to identify. The difficulty lies in trying to distinguish between the many shades of blue named variously as blue, bright blue, cobalt blue, steel blue, gray blue, light blue, powder blue, and so on.

I would say it all boils down to this: If the catalog value of a light blue stamp is \$5.00 and the other variety of the shades is \$100.00 or more, you can rest assured you have the \$5.00 one.

Lots of luck, you'll need it. ••

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Carol Cervenka (#498)

While ISSC membership continues to grow, we want to retain as many current members as possible. If you notice a friend has failed to renew, please remind them how much every member means to the Society. ISWSC is the only organization dedicated to the general worldwide collector and membership is an important way to keep this part of the hobby alive and well.

#702 Biermann has paid dues and is reinstated.

We received the resignation of #766 Henderson. Members #556 Doucette, #699 Dummett, #701 Clanner and #708 Riedel have been dropped for non-payment of dues. Please delete their names from your Rosters.

The following members dues have expired, and they will be dropped unless dues are received by September 30th: #723 Harris, 731 Wilson, 732 Propst, 734 Beckett, 761 Tedesco, 762 Mizerack, & 765 Liggett

ISWSC member # 1000, Alain Pautard, was enrolled on July 12, 1993. Alain is from France but was raised in Montreal, Canada. He began collecting stamps at age 10 when his grandmother gave him an album. When he was 15, Alain and his parents moved to Florida where he continued to collect stamps primarily of France, Canada, and the USA.

Alain collects postally used stamps as he feels they are more of a challenge to find. He is currently working on his collection of France, offices abroad and Colonies which is about two-thirds complete. He also collects telephone cards and is eager to trade them with members in countries where these cards are in use.

A Marine Engineer, Alain is 33 years old and single. He is stationed at Anchor Island in the Bahamas where he works as a contractor for AUTECH (Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation), a US Naval Base. He gets all his mail through the Fleet Post Office.

Alain writes that he joined ISWSC to trade stamps with other members, so, if you have used stamps of France, including French Colonies and Offices Abroad, drop him a line to welcome him and initiate some trades.

Last month two member codes were left off the Roster update because of space limitations: they are included with this month's codes. ••

A Big Thank You to Crown Agents



Crown Agents
Stamp Bureau

Crown Agents Stamp Bureau (#2 Carshalton Rd., Sutton, Surrey SM1 4RN, UK) has donated many mint sets of recent issues to our Youth Program. They were from many different countries and included a lot of pretty topical subjects which appeal to kids. ISWSC wishes to thank the Crown Agents for their very generous donation to the future philatelists.

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her whole supply of these stamps with the color missing error when she dashed my hopes.

In closing, my thanks to you Bernard Walker (#842) of Tamworth, Australia. Bernard is ahead of me on Dalene Thomas' international swap circuit and he enclosed a gift for me, a "PEELPEX" exhibition souvenir sheet from the local society's Sept. '92 show. Bernard himself designed it (very well I might add) and since this is #70 of a limited edition of only 500 you can be certain it was not a duplicate in my collection.

October is
National Stamp
Collecting Month
Talk about your hobby
with everyone you meet

Public Relations Report

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

In a Word - VOTE!

This Circuit issue contains a ballot with the slate of candidates for the 1994-95 term. Although each office is uncontested (despite attempts to the contrary) your vote and support does count! Take a few minutes to fill out the ballot, as well as the brief questionnaire. Your comments are always appreciated on ways to improve the society.

Since the I am running for office, a temporary PRO has been appointed to handle this election. Peter Bylen (#695) has graciously consented to handle the election returns and count the ballots. He will report on the election results in the upcoming newsletter. (The office will revert back to me after the election until the newly elected officers take over.)

Stamp season has resumed for many of us after the summer hiatus. Stamp meetings and shows are in high gear once again. Use these opportunities to introduce fellow collectors to the ISWSC. ••

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BACK ISSUES OF The Circuit Newsletters Available: For information send SASE or IRCs to Peter Bylen (#695), P. O. Box 7193, Westchester, Ill 60154 USA.

ISWSC LOGOPINS 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)

BEGINNER'S SWAP

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Send 25 used commmeratives and a 29¢ SASE (or IRC) to:

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Asheville, NC 28804

ISWSC

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October 15, 1993**
Items received after deadline
will appear in another issue.

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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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.

STaMpsHOW '93 A Hit with Me *by Rita Kallal (#26)*

I am sad to report that STaMpsHoW '93 is over! I am pleased to report that it was great fun! It was the first APS show I have had the opportunity to attend. In fact, it is only the third large stamp show I have attended. I have seldom lived close enough to stamp shows that I could afford to go. (While I like shows, I prefer to spend my money on stamps rather than plane tickets and hotels.)

I spent all day both Friday and Saturday at the show. There were many seminars and meetings scheduled throughout all four days, including breakfast and dinner meetings. I found I didn't have enough time to cover everything and attend all the meetings or seminars that sounded interesting, plus see the exhibits, examine dealer offerings, etc.

There were so many intriguing and well done exhibits that I don't know how judges can decide. ISWSC member and well known philatelic writer John Hotchner (#62) won a Gold Award for his exhibit *20th Century U.S. Auxiliary Markings Documenting Delay of, or Inability to Deliver Mail*. This interesting exhibit shows all kinds of rubber stamped "excuses," some rather amusing, on cover for why the mail was delayed or couldn't be delivered. My husband, being a part-time rural mail carrier and a non-collector, spent the most time studying John's exhibit. We both voted for that exhibit as our favorite. I cannot report on who won the Grand Award or Viewer's Favorite Award as we were on our way home when those announcements were made on Sunday. An exhibit of very modern material by Dr.

Frank Shively, Jr., which garnered a Silver Award. His exhibit, *The History of the Ohio Jet Spray Experience*, centered on the various jet sprayed cancellations used recently in eight Ohio cities. Both of these exhibits appeared to have taken the owners many, many hours of searching for covers that fit into their collections, yet weren't extremely expensive, which gives hope to those of us with lesser means that award winning exhibits don't have to break the bank.

Carol Cervenka (#498) chaired the ISWSC meeting late Saturday afternoon. Nineteen people attended, including nine members. Besides Carol and myself, those attending were Franz Nelsson (#475), Dan Matous (#360), Ralph Cox (#428), Joe Foley (#308), Karen Forse (#968), Theresa Beabey (#992), and new member Dan Altman. A non-member Richard S. Little won the door prize of an assortment of worldwide stamps and souvenir sheets. We were a bit surprised at the turn-out since previous attempts at ISWSC meetings have not had many attending. Joe Foley suggested it was because meetings have been held on Sunday afternoons, when travelers are catching flights home or already on the road. Coordinators for meetings in the future should keep it in mind to have meetings on Friday evenings or Saturday. It was nice to put a face to the names of the many members I've corresponded with and I enjoyed meeting everyone.

Nancy Zilenski Clark represented the APS and was interested in our programs for youngsters as she is working to set a youth agenda for the APS. Randy Neil (incoming APS President) plans to work with Nancy and our own Carol Cervenka on the youth agenda. Many topics were covered with comments and suggestions from the members. The time went by very quickly. I'll let Carol tell you more about the meeting's agenda in the next issue.

There were five dealers from Great Britain and one each from Belgium and Canada. The U.S. dealers covered the spectrum of stamp collecting interests. Hugh Goldberg of Subway had a large booth of philatelic supplies and accessories. The large assortment of books seemed to attract a lot of lookers, if not buyers. It was a good chance to examine items for later ordering. The U.S. had a large booth in a back corner. Nearby American Bank Note Company had a nice display. Mini-raffles were held each day for those interested in purchasing the coveted limited edition STaMpsHoW Souvenir Card. My husband was lucky enough to be able to purchase one - his one and only philatelic treasure.

I came away with many newsletters and journals of philatelic groups around the US, Canada, and the Netherlands. I have enough reading material to keep me busy this coming winter. *Stamps* and *Meekel's Weekly* were giveaways, but *Linn's* was charging 50¢ per copy in their booth. The APS Library had several issues of journals and some books for examination. I was able to check out a couple that are of interest to me. I was disappointed that APS Research Library still has not upgraded its computer system, so only IBM and IBM-compatible machines can access the information.

A large area was set up with computers for kids and was busy most of the time, especially Saturday. Dealers indicated that Thursday afternoon was slow, but Friday picked up and Saturday was busy all day. An auction was held Friday evening. There weren't enough tables and chairs for eating or relaxing. The menu left a bit to be desired, but I found the famous Domedogs quite tasty. I purchased some stamps for my collection and some mint US for postage. (I paid face value, but I was able to choose what I need for ISWSC mailings. I didn't want 3¢ & 4¢.) Over all I enjoyed STaMpsHoW '93 immensely and hope APS has a meeting nearby very soon. ••

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Dr. Sandy Kramer • 8908 East Alfedena Ave. • Scottsdale, AZ 85260**(APS # 166040 • ISWSC # 806)****MAIL BID SALE •••• CLOSING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 1993****TERMS:**

Successful bidders will be notified. Please send your telephone number so that we may contact you, if necessary. NO BUYER'S FEE. Payment must be sent prior to shipment of lots. Make check, money order or bank draft payable to "SANDY KRAMER." Personal checks must be allowed time to clear our bank. Postage & insurance (at actual cost) will be added to all bids. Please include your street address for shipping. Stamps in this sale are duplicates of the 100,000+ stamps in my master collection. **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:** Payment must be received within 10 working days after notification or lot will be sold to another bidder.

LOT #**DESCRIPTION**

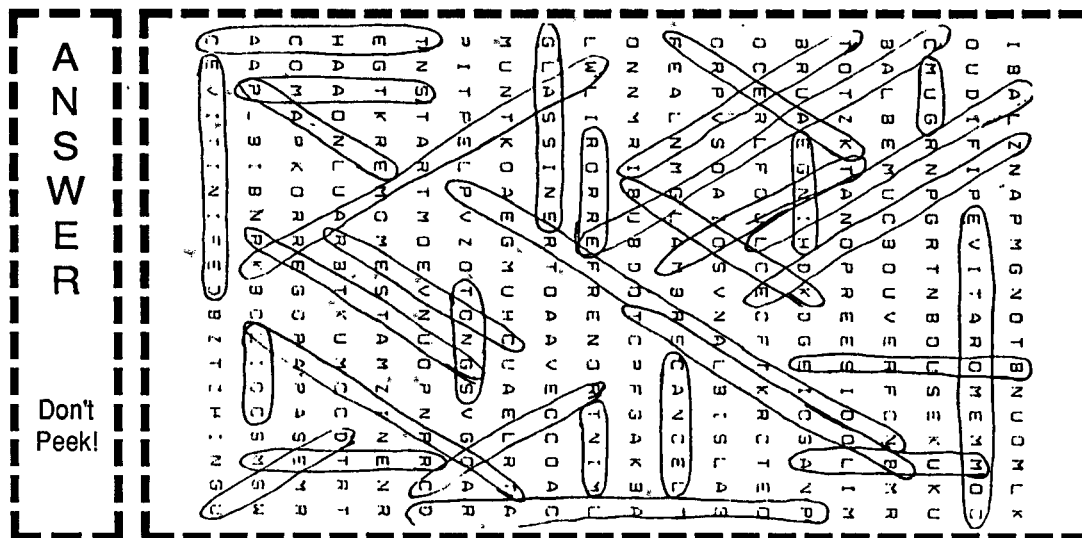
- 70 **OFF-PAPER MIX:** 2,000+ small worldwide stamps. Several hundred dollars 1993 SCV. Good variety: old, new, etc. From BOYS' TOWN & other sources. Minimum bid: \$6.
- 71 **OFF-PAPER MIX:** About 2,000 medium/large worldwide. Several hundred dollars 1993 SCV. Good variety: Pictorials, commems, old, new, etc. but mostly 20th century. From BOYS' TOWN and other sources. Minimum bid: \$12.
- 72 **MALAYSIA (& related):** Accumulation, 1,000+, mostly large pictorials: flowers, butterflies. NOTE: Subway Stamps sold similar mix @\$30. Min. bid: \$7
- 73 **MOZAMBIQUE/MOZAMBIQUE CO.:** Accumulation, 300+ stamps. Min. bid: \$5.
- 74 **MONGOLIA:** Accumulation. About 250 large topicals. Minimum bid: \$2.
- 75 **NETHERLANDS ANTILLES:** Accumulation, 100+, some MNH. Minimum bid: \$1.
- 76 **SOUTH AFRICA:** Accumulation, about 900 stamps. Most med/large. Min. \$10.
- 77 **GOLD COAST/GHANA:** 200 diff., almost all pictorials & commemoratives. NOTE: H.E. HARRIS sold similar collection for \$43. Minimum bid: \$10.
- 78 **UNITED NATIONS:** Accumulation. Flag series: 121 stamps, no more than 3 of a kind. \$23.96 face, ALL UNUSED, MOSTLY MNH. Minimum bid: \$20.
- 79 **CANADA:** Packet, 800+ diff., QV-modern. Minimum bid: \$25.
- 80 **SAAR:** Packet, 126 diff., HARRIS sold similar @\$70. Min. bid: \$10.
- 81 **UNITED NATIONS:** 118 diff., most MINT! \$15 face. Minkus pages. Min.: \$12.
- 82 **DANZIG:** 137 diff., Minkus pages. Subway sold @\$105. Minimum bid: \$15.
- 83 **HUNGARY:** 872 diff., Grossman pages, all pre-1955. Minimum bid: \$15.
- 84 **LUXEMBOURG:** 191 diff. to 1976. Homemade pages with Scott numbered spaces. HARRIS sold similar for \$42. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 85 **SAAR:** 100 diff., Minkus pages. HARRIS sold similar @\$56. Minimum: \$6.
- 86 **BAVARIA:** 120 diff., Minkus pages. HARRIS sold similar @\$50. Min.: \$7.
- 87 **SWEDEN:** Accumulation, 500+ stamps. Defins, coils, commems. Min. bid: \$7.50
- 88 **DANZIG:** Packet, 73 diff. HARRIS sold similar @\$63. Minimum bid: \$7.
- 89 **HUNGARY:** Accumulation, all pre-Scott #408. Mixed condition. 600+ stamps, most F-VF. Minimum bid: \$6.
- 90 **TUNISIA:** Packet. 170+ diff. pre-1965. HARRIS=\$32. Min. bid: \$5.
- 91 **SINGAPORE:** Accumulation. 300+ stamps. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 92 **WURTEMBERG:** 85 stamps. Almost all diff. HARRIS=\$45. Min. bid: \$5.
- 93 **SWITZERLAND:** 200+ stamps, mostly different, mostly SEMI-POSTALS! Very nice. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 94 **SPAIN:** Accumulation, about 500, mostly diff., commems. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 95 **SCOTT 1989 CATALOGUE:** Vol. 2 (A-F). Good shape. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 96 **SCOTT 1989 CATALOGUE:** Vol. 4 (P-Z). Good shape. Minimum bid: \$5.
- 97 **SCOTT MINUTEMAN U.S. & U.N. ALBUM:** Pages & binder; looks complete to about 1971. Very good condition. No stamps. Minimum bid: \$5.

BID ON ANY PAPER

NOTE: More lots available. Send S.A.S.E. for complete listing of lots.

A Stamp Collector's Seek and Find Puzzle by Michelle Gregg (# 915)

airmail	I B A L Z N A P M G N O T B N U O M L K
album	O U D I F I P E V I T A R O M E M M O C
block	C M U G R N P G R T N B O U S E K U K U
booklet	B A L B E M U C B O U V E R F C N B M R
bourse	T O T Z K T A N O P R E E S I O O L I M
cachet	B R U A E G N I H D K D G E I O S A N P
cancel	O C E R L F O U L C E C F T K R C T E O
catalogue	O R P V S O A I O S V N A L B I S L A S
coil	F E A L N M G L A M B R E C A N C E L T
color	O N N M R I B U S D O T C P F G A K B A
commemorative	L W L I R O R R E F R E N O R T N I M L
cover	G L A S S I N E R T O A A V E O C O A C
definitive	M U N T K O A E G M U H C U A E L R T A
error	P I T F E L P V Z O T O N G S V G O A R
freak	T N S T A R T M O E V N U O P N P R C D
glassine	E G T K R E M O M E S T A M Z I N E N R
gum	H A A O N L U A R B T K U M C C D T R T
gutter	C O M A P K O R R E G O P A P A S E M R
hinge	A A P L B I B N R K B O L I O C S M S W
invert	C E V I T I N I F E D B Z T Z H I N G U
meter	
mint	
mount	
pane	
perforation	
postal card	
stamp	
tongs	
topical	
used	
watermark	
zip code	



KIDS PAGE

Regional Secretaries Reports

Canadian Secretary

By Irving C. Whynot (#490)

Canada Tops at Sport of Curling; Are More Stamps Sure to Follow?

Here's a quiz which I'll bet will stump even avid sport topical collectors: What two sports are expected to be the fastest growing in Canada over the next quarter century?

Baseball, perhaps, considering that Toronto Blue Jays are defending World Series champions? Or how about hockey, the country's traditional sport? Or maybe basketball, now that the National Basketball Association of the U.S. is looking at Toronto as a new team city?

None of the above. If you recall some of the country's stamps you might have thought of curling, and you'd be right. It is ticketed to be the second fastest growth sport. But the fastest growing will be darts. Even the billiards club where I play now has more dart boards than billiard tables.

Canadian teams hold both the men's and women's world curling championships for the first time since 1989. These wins could be additional positive influences on the remarkable comeback the sport is enjoying, with about 1.3 million players. And with the recent confirmation that it will be a medal sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics, curling's future seems rosy.

Darts have yet to be honored with a stamp, but curling hasn't been ignored. A 1969 issue (Scott Canada #490) shows four curlers as a rock is swept into the house. The four-stamp "keep fit" winter sports issue of 1974, printed se-tenant, shows two curlers sweeping a rock on #647. A curler delivers a rock on #1196, one of four stamps issued to mark the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, Alberta where curling was a demonstration sport.

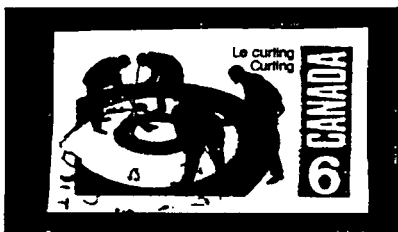
The origins of the sport are unclear but the evidence appears to favor Scotland. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club was formed in 1838 and was the accepted authority on the game until the International Curling Federation was organized in 1966.

It was a Scottish team which provided the opposition for the Canadian men in this year's championship final, continuing a long-time rivalry. Curling battles between

the two countries go back to 1908 when a Canadian teamed toured Scotland, winning 23 of 26 matches.

Curling is even a major Canadian television attraction. A hockey playoff game will draw up to six million viewers and football's Grey Cup game more than 3.5 million. Curling attracts up to 2.6 million for the men's championship and 2.2 million for the women's.

Curling will obviously be a hot sport for some years to come. It seems safe to assume that Canadian stamps will reflect this, perhaps as part of an Olympic issue in 1998. ••



Are Your Dues Due?

This is an appeal to Canadian members to help ease the considerable workload of our secretary-treasurer, and at the same time save the society a bit of money — both highly desirable objectives!

About a third of our almost 50 Canadian members have memberships expiring during the latter part of the year. Please check and if you are one of these, consider sending along your renewal NOW. This will save the society the expense and labor of sending out notices. And it will ensure that you don't miss an issue of *The Circuit* or any of the other benefits of membership.

The following membership are due over this period: # 163, 227, 277, 321, 345, 347, 359, 433, 481, 520, 646, 689, 776, 789, 795, 800, 877. (If you have already sent along payment, thanks and ignore this request). If you wish to pay in Canadian funds, send your cheque for the Canadian equivalent — \$8 U.S. equals \$10.40 Canadian—and make it payable to me personally. •••

U. K. Secretary

By Chad Neighbor (#510)

•• Some stamp firms in Britain have been trumpeting the "fact" that the recession in the stamp trade is over. It could be, of course, that this is just a ploy to get stock moving faster. On the other hand, Scotlnd's main dealer says that while he reads that there is a recession, he hasn't noticed any decline in sales at his store or auctions.

What it comes down to, of course, is that people buy stamps mainly for pleasure and that a few pleasures in life are essential. As another dealer who is a serious

collector put it: "I'd rather buy stamps that food." Luckily he's doing well enough to afford both.

•• If there is a recession in stamp collecting, it would seem to be in Eastern Europe. Worsening, if possibly short-term, economic difficulties are hitting people in the old Soviet Union hard, and my correspondents from there seem to be writing less. One reason is that postage rates are skyrocketing. Another is the pilferage of mail is getting worse, especially in Russia and bigger former republics such as Ukraine and Belarus. Little, not even letters, seems to be getting through unless the package is registered, which of course is expensive. I am tempted to give up some of my trades, particularly as the value of some Russian and Soviet material seems to be dropping, but I figure we westerners owe it to our colleagues to persevere and stick with them when the going gets tough. As Boris Yeltsin says to Bill Clinton, please don't abandon us now that we're trying to get our economy in order.

•• The much-discussed single market of the European Community came into effect at the first of the year and it has had a few effects on stamp collecting. The idea of the open market is to remove trade barriers but, of course, this isn't always how it works out. The first change I noticed was that Denmark started added a value-added tax of 25 percent to its new issue prices. Some incentive! Luckily I have friends in Denmark and now I just send them dollars, which they use for occasional trips to America, and they send me the odd set I have my eye on. On the other hand collectors now can buy large amounts of stamps within the European Community and generally not have to worry about paying taxes on them — any more than they paid in the country of origin, anyway.

•• Terence Lyons, the ISWSC member from the Isle of Man who is writing such interesting articles about his homeland tells me he is somewhat behind on his correspondence. This is because more than 200 people have written him about the isle, which does sound like a fascinating place — and apparently with a lot of philatelic activity to boot. Potential advertisers in *The Circuit* take note.

•• Here is another in a series on the collections of members in Britain. No one has stepped forward this month so I'll tell you a little about my "specialized" collection.

My collection of postally used, joined se-tenants (stamps of different designs

(Continued Page 10)

Mail Sale # 9 Report *by George Land*

Mail Sale # 9 just completed in July, was the most successful in the history of ISWSC. The net sales totalled over one thousand dollars for 135 lots. The average price of each lot that sold was \$9.35. Several reasons help to explain the success of this sale: 1). The pioneer efforts of Dr. Wallace Johnson who began the mail sale and nurtured it through its first eight editions. 2). The philatelic merchandise. 3). The buyers who have put their faith in impartial descriptions and bid competitively for items that hold their interest. An important improvement in Sale #9 included a new printed bid sheet designed by our Editor.

Certainly, no sale can be successful without interesting and useful lots supplied by our members. An analysis of Sale #9 suggests that the British Channel Islands are extremely popular, along with Japan and Israel. Other items receiving many bids: Booklets, Souvenir sheets, Europa, Retired club sales books/sheets, Large varietal lots, multiple countries, country collections, Philatelic supplies (stockbooks, album pages, etc.).

Less popular areas that did not attract as much interest include: United States, Britain, France, Germany, High-value specialized items, "Off-beat" items, some single stamps.

Material is now being accepted for the composition of Sale # 10 to be held later this year. Members are urged to send in lots following the guidelines printed in the May-June 1993 newsletter. Be sure to include a description of each lot. Catalog values should always be listed. I realize this is difficult for large lots with many stamps, but try to give an estimated catalog value to new market value. It is hard for buyers to bid realistically on a large lot, sight unseen, when no value is listed. Also, be realistic with your minimum bids. In Sale #9, 52% of the lots with minimum bids actually sold above the minimum. Only 26% failed to go above the minimum. Most of the unsold lots remain so because the minimum bid was too high.

The best advice to buyers is to bid early with the very highest peak you are willing to pay. Twelve lots had maximum bids which were tied. Of course, the earlier bidder got the lot. You

can bid with confidence that your maximum will be used only when forced by the second highest bidder. A look at the following auction statistics will show that 59% of the lots sold were bought for less than what the bidder was actually willing to pay.

Every sale includes a few bid sheets received AFTER the closing date. You should be aware that bids must be **RECEIVED** by the closing date, not merely postmarked by that date. We do not sit around after the closing date waiting for more bids. Jim is busy sending out lots immediately!

SALE # 9 STATISTICS:

Number of lots: 135

Number of bidders: 52

Number of successful bidders: 32 (at least one lot)

Number of lots unsold: 27

Lot with most bids: # 94 (13)

Lots with 10 or more bids: 16, 20-22, 25, 59, 94, 112, 114, 116-7, 130

Sales range: \$1.00 to \$70.00

Highest bid received: \$85.00

Largest \$\$ saving-sale price from bid price: \$33.00 on #112. (\$85.00 bid reduced to \$52.00)

Largest %% saving-sale price from bid price: 73% on #124. (\$4.50 sale price was 27% of \$16.50 maximum bid)

Number of lots bought at less than maximum bid: 65

Send lots for next Mail Sale/Auction # 10 to: George Land (# 241), 4024 Fairlands, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Phone: (510) 846-6960 • (George has a NEW area code for his phone number so please change your files Editor.)

Regional Secretaries *(Continued from Page 9)*

joined together, as in the U.S. wildflowers sheet) came about because of a chance remark by a London dealer I overheard: "Modern U.S. stamps are generally cheap and easy to find, but there's one exception. Decent se-tenant blocks are hard to get used."

His statement seemed quite true, and so I started saving all the joined se-tenants I came across. Originally I intended to sell them or use them for trades, I suppose, but one day I realized I had the basis of an unusual and challenging collection.

Now I collect used se-tenants from all countries and eras, on or off covers. My collection has benefited tremendously from my membership in the ISWSC, as everyone seems to have a few of these they've set aside for someone such as myself. People -- especially the officers of ISWSC -- are kind enough to use se-tenants on their mail to me, swelling my collection even more.

Here are a few choice items I obtained through the kindness or resourcefulness of ISWSC members:

- A complete set of the U.S. Columbus souvenir sheets with first day cancellation sent from the Chicago stamp show last year.
- A Soviet se-tenant strip sent from Latvia and cancelled, by pure chance, on the first day of the unsuccessful but historic coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.
- The attractive 1991 Polish butterfly block of six and Phila Nippon '91 hologram butterfly souvenir sheet on registered cover.
- An East German se-tenant pair with a mixed franking of a West German stamp and a unified German issue.
- A corner strip of three U.S. wildflower set with a special "Mailer's Postmark Permit."
- A full sheet of the diamond-shaped 1992 Canada Day issues on cover.

It shows that with a bit of luck and imagination and just a minimal outlay, you can create a collection that almost no one else is doing but will attract people's attention. •••

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Prices Realized - Mail Sale # 9

Lot #	Sale Price	High Bid	# of Bids	Lot #	Sale Price	High Bid	# of Bids
1	\$ 6.50	\$ 7.50	7	62	4.25	5.00	1
2	5.50	7.50	2	63	4.00	5.00	3
3	14.00		2	64	2.00	3.00	3
4			0	65	5.50	13.00	9
5	3.75	5.00	6	66	3.75	5.00	7
6	0			67	12.00		1
7	0			68	3.75	7.50	7
8	0			69	11.00		2
9	6.00	8.50	1	70	4.25		2
10	2.00		1	71	6.75		3
11			0	72	4.75	6.50	5
12	4.25	5.00	5	73	5.50		2
13	4.25	5.25	6	74	8.00	T	2
14	4.00	4.75	3	75	18.00	38.00	5
15	13.00		1	76	7.00		4
16	2.25	2.75	10	77	4.75	7.00	4
17	1.75	T	6	78			0
18	4.00	4.25	1	79	12.00		1
19	5.50		8	80			0
20	7.50	8.50	11	81			0
21	5.50	T	10	82			0
22	6.00	8.50	10	83	2.75		1
23	3.50	5.00	6	84	2.75	5.50	4
24	5.50	10.00	9	85			0
25	10.00		12	86	5.50		1
26	5.50	8.00	2	87	2.25	3.25	7
27			0	88	5.50		1
28	4.00	4.50	3	89	12.00	15.00	4
29			0	90	3.25	4.00	3
30	1.00		1	91	3.00	T	5
31	4.25	6.50	2	92	1.50	2.00	4
32			0	93	4.00	7.50	1
33	27.00	36.00	3	94	39.00	50.00	13
34	12.00	12.50	1	95	4.00		4
35	70.00		1	96	5.00		3
36			0	97	5.00		2
37	40.00	46.00	1	98			0
38			0	99			0
39	6.50	7.50	3	100	6.50	T	3
40	10.00		1	101	2.25	6.50	3
41	5.00		1	102	50.00		1
42	9.50		1	104			0
43	8.00	14.00	1	105	5.50	12.00	4
44			0	106	4.50	T	3
45	15.00	16.00	2	107			0
46	4.00		1	108	3.75	4.00	4
47	4.50		1	109	5.00	T	4
48			0	110	27.00	40.00	7
49			0	111	3.25	10.00	4
50	6.75		1	112	52.00	85.00	11
51	4.25	4.50	2	113	32.00	36.00	7
52	2.50		2	114	38.00	52.00	10
53	5.00	T	6	115	9.50	10.00	7
54	2.00	3.25	1	116	12.00	26.00	11
55	5.00	6.25	1	118	5.50	17.50	7
56	2.25		3	119	21.00	25.00	3
57	4.25	T	4	120	6.50		6
58	7.00	T	2	121	5.50	6.00	7
59	8.50	9.00	10	122			0
60	6.00		1	123			0
61	14.50	15.00	1				

(Continued Page 12)

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 about 120 participants.

High Value - Low Demand: A number of trading areas exist where stamps have relatively high catalog value, but most collectors don't need them. For example, we are overloaded with Great Britain Queen Victoria and Edward VII issues (Scott 116-150). The same with Nyassa camels and giraffes, Gambia 1966 definitives, Cameroon and Central Africa airmails, etc.

Requested by Exchangers: Books with stamps of Thailand, Ryukyu, China (both), German pre-war colonies (Kaiser's yacht), small British islands such as Nauru, Pitcairn, Norfolk, etc.

Our Women Members: We have a number of very active and knowledgeable women traders in the OMNI Exchange. This fact led us to check the total ISWSC Roster, which shows that less than 12% of those listed have given names that appear to be feminine. Of course names like Pat, Terry, Kim, etc. could skew the count. However, in the OMNI Blue section alone, women traders make up over 15% of the total.

In the list of ISWSC officers and managers, it is a different matter, Four out of 15 (over 25%) are women, including our Secretary-Treasurer and our Editor-Publisher. The conclusion here is that although women members are outnumbered, they are more actively involved than the men.

New OMNI Members: We want to welcome recent new exchangers including: Bob Schappelle #164, Peter Bialick #476, Gene Moench #903, Walter Moreau #934, and Jim Mettler #966.

Overseas Members: Because of recent problems experienced with traders in foreign countries, we have had to restrict participation in the OMNI Exchange to members living in the USA or Canada. Among the problems encountered are: 1. the high-cost of postage both ways compared to the values of the stamps traded; 2. non-availability of Scott catalogs for identification and pricing; 3. long in-transit time slowing down circulation of books; 4. virtual impossibility of tracing or accounting for lost or missing stamps or books. Perhaps our overseas Secretaries in Poland, Scotland and Australia could establish some trading facilities for members within their regions.

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

Catalogs and Values

A good source of older catalogs is the APS Philatelic Library. They have a lot of them sent to them and they sell for a buck or so, if you pick them up in State College, PA. Postage extra if by mail.

I have a question regarding Harold Humm's remarks on page 12 of the May-June Circuit. Where does he buy stamps at 20% of current catalog? I have not been able to get stamps for that fraction since the 1989 price change. I buy country collections and large lots and they still are 35% to 50% of current catalog unless there is nothing in the lot that catalogs over the minimum. The value of your stamps all boils down to condition. Most new issue values (last 5 years) are only priced slightly above face to twice face. If you sell these for 20% of catalog you lose money. People that are knowledgeable collectors do not mind paying face value for mint stamps. Another difference is that a stamp that the seller would consider VF and was probably purchased as VF will only be graded F or less by the dealer when it comes time for him to buy it back. Of course, the condition immediately reverts to VF when it goes into the dealer's stockbook. •• Ken Jenkins (# 15)

Rick's Ramblings

I am just finishing reading the Many-June 1993 issue of *The Circuit* and have really enjoyed reading the thoughts of other contributors. I guess it's time for me to take my turn.

RE: Dave Nelson's (#25) trivia question, "What is the cheapest stamp in the world?" Using Scott 1992, of course, a single stamp cataloging ten cents was found (Victoria # 165). I don't know what Scott had against this stamp, a bitter blow. No doubt there will be a massive rush to purchase Victoria # 165! Seriously, though, one finds several sets of cheap stamps whose "set value" is far, far below the total of 15-cent minimum value per stamp. How about the 1964 Indonesia "Transportation Series" (Scott # 626-37), for example: twelve stamps, all different designs (!), each individually priced catalogued at 15 cents, but the total set value given is 50 cents, mint or used. That comes to about 4 cents a stamp! Examples of this kind abound in Scott. Of course, the catch here is "Scott catalogue value," as these same stamps might cost considerably more in other parts of the world.

RE: Raech's Ruminations (#363). Sounds like a detailed (!) description of my "collection!" I know I am a hoarder of stamps, but I am also an accumulator, and even a collector as well! I call MPC (Multiple Personality Collector). Some days I love to sit and go through unsorted envelopes of stamps from all over creation. Other days I am contented to examine a single issue (like the Romanian "Wheat Ears" or Norwegian "Posthorns", e.g.) for different features such as watermark types and positions, perfs, design varieties, etc. Some days I go through semi-sorted country envelopes and re-sort them by era or type, and other days I actually mount stamps in my albums, or in swap circuit sheets. I thrive on variety, and stamp collecting gives me plenty of variety!

RE: New U.S. Postal Museum (#26, Editor). Hooray!! At last! I say no more.

RE: My favorite "Pet Peeve." The term "wallpaper" applied to colorful modern stamps often printed primarily for sale to collectors. They are popular enough to sustain the industry, and as far as that is concerned it speaks for itself. Personally, I find a lot of those stamps extremely interesting. My only criterion in collecting them is that they must be well executed. I cannot stand seeing stamps that are printed as eye-catchers when the color registration is bad. Some of the "Sand Dune" (another "Pet Peeve" term of mine) countries produce extremely attractive and

educational stamps. I don't care if stamp production increases from its present level. Chances are, there is something good bound to turn up in the years ahead.

RE: "Catalogs Good for More than Values" (Dave Creson, #170). I agree, and I buy them when the price is right. Some of the information (in fact, most of it) does not change, and having the whole British Empire in a catalogue is very handy. I prefer the smaller sizes of some of the older catalogs, too, especially when I am lazing in bed with my stamps. The big new Scott's are heavy, and with my tennis elbows that is a major consideration. Also, I like some of the older catalogues because the illustrations are better. Sometimes I have the dickens of a time trying to identify a stamp type in Scott because the illustration is poorly printed. Another reason I have for buying older catalogues is philosophical: seeing the lower prices makes me realize that the market is variable, and a penny spent today may be a dollar earned a few years later. That can encourage me to buy, but it can also encourage me to resist buying stamps which used to be pathetically cheap but now sell for ridiculously inflated prices due to market conditions and manipulation.

I have a monthly stamp budget in double figures. Out of that I am able to be happy and excited in my acquisitions. I have stopped yearning and mourning for stamps which I do not have, and am enjoying that I do have more as a result. When I make a purchase, it is because I really feel the stamp(s) will add to an area of study or provide some other visual pleasure. But going back through my sorted and unsorted stock I find all sorts of interesting stamps that I had not thought much about before. That, to me, is a major part of the joy of stamp collecting! •• Richard St. Clair (# 884)

Sale Results (Continued from Page 11)

Lot #	Sale Price	High Bid	# of Bids
124	4.50	16.50	5
125	16.00	18.00	3
126	6.50	7.00	6
127	6.50		2
128	12.00	20.00	9
129	7.50	11.00	6
130	16.00	T	10
131	6.50	8.50	7
132	9.50	15.00	6
133	5.50	6.00	8
134	3.50		7
135	4.00	5.00	7

Raech's Ruminations

Back in the May/June '93 issue of *The Circuit*, our President commented on the use of minimum bids as they are applied to lots submitted to the ISWSC Auction/Mail Sales. It appeared to me that he was concerned that members were misusing, or over-using, the minimum bid feature. Let's not overlook the fact that the Auction/Mail Sale rules impose a minimum bid of \$1.00 on any lot. I assume this is to discourage bids that are really ridiculous, as well as make the auction a worthwhile endeavor for all concerned. At least I think that's why — but onward!

I have submitted lots of my own with "realistic" minimum bids. One lot featuring 1000 (minor duplication) foreign cataloged (Scott '92) for a minimum of \$150. Many stamps cataloged for more than the fifteen cents Scott minimum, as well. I don't think I estimated or indicated the catalog value in the description. In addition to the stamps, there was the time I expended putting the lot together, envelope and letter to send it to the auction, the postage to mail it, and, if the lot sold, the 20% commission retained by ISWSC. Considering all this, I sent in the lot with a minimum bid of \$10.00.

The lot sold for more than the minimum bid. I was happy, since I "made" a buck or two, and got rid of a bunch of doubles. Hopefully, whoever bought the lot enjoyed the stamps and was able to use them.

In this case, my minimum bid worked well for me. I could have asked for \$20.00, but would the lot have sold? Maybe, I could even have asked for more. I would say the lot would not have sold.

I realize that there will be some who set their minimum bids too high. So what! Chances are their stuff won't sell. When we submit lots, there is a no guarantee the lots will sell anyway. We all know when something is priced too high and we act accordingly. A few of us are compulsive and will bid on anything. A few others are bargain hunters. Others just like to have fun. There's a place for all of us.

Apparently, there are some of us who have difficulty gathering enough stamps for our dues payments. Why not bid on some larger auction lots? That'll get you needed stamps, make the seller happy, add a few bucks to the ISWSC Treasury, etc. Think about it!!! •• R.H. (# 363)

The word philately comes from the Greek words *philos* (love) and *atelia* (exempt from payment). So a philatelist is one who loves letters with stamps on them, showing that the postage has been paid.

•• Irving Whynt (# 490)

New Album Debuts

It's rare to find a new international stamp album available to collectors. The Debs Worldwide Postage Stamp Album offers a uniquely complete alternative to the various yearly supplements now in the market place.

The album itself only covers one year, 1992, but is over 3 inches thick with more than 8000 stamps reproduced in full scale on double-sided pages. As publisher Jerome Debs explains, he created this new album to be the most complete anywhere and he certainly hits the mark. It has space for all perforation varieties and souvenir sheets, something only found in expensive individual country supplements. Almost 240 countries are represented among the pages. Those not included are Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. It is questionable whether new issues were released by some of those in 1992 as information is scarce or unavailable.

The pages are three-hole punched on an 8-1/2 x 11 inch layout, compatible with most three-ring binders. Each illustration is refreshingly crisp and enclosed by a single line border. Setenants are shown attached but without room for additional single stamps along side.

The prices for the pages alone is US\$ 60. An attractive binder embossed 1992 is available for \$31.95. Shipping and handling is \$5.50 complete to US addresses. Special shipping arrangements are available to other countries. The publisher is offering a 25% discount off of these prices to ISWSC members if at least five albums are ordered in total (i.e. \$45 for the pages and/or \$24 for the binder). Each order will be mailed to your own address and you may pay by credit card. To receive a detailed brochure and the special discount order form, send a SASE or IRC to Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA. To order directly from the publisher at full price contact: J.H. Debs Company, 1738 Union Street - Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94123-4425 USA.

•• Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Mint - CTO Same Price

Stamps of Czechoslovakia were valid for postage in the Czech Republic until August 31, 1993. Since then only Czech Republic stamps can be used. They apparently are not available CTO except at full face value. ••• Harold Humm (# 678) *Editor's Note: In a recent edition of a national stamp journal, I noticed the Hungarian Postal service is offering "used" at the same price as mint. ••*

SON Cancels Main Interest

I thoroughly enjoy purchasing large worldwide stamp collections from philatelic auctions and diving in to see what I can find. My collecting interest is foreign Socked on the Nose (SON) cancels and foreign used block of four with complete legible postmarks. I collect foreign only, no U.S.

The collections I've purchased so far have yielded some good SON postmarks.

Other interesting finds I've come across are specimens, perfins, telegraph stamps and charity seals. I do find a lot of used stamps that are not SON but do have the complete town name portion of the cancel on it. These are saved and made up into mini town cancel collections for selling and trading with other collectors.

I started buying collections when I joined ISWSC in 1992 and have only purchased two worldwide collections thus far. It's much more enjoyable to me, finding SON cancels this way than buying from dealers and I also get the enjoyment of selling and trading the stamps I have that are not in line with my collecting interest with other collectors. So far, I have 28 foreign SON cancels from eight different countries. •• Lonnie M. Hodges (# 311)

Special Discount Offer

For the past two years Linn's has offered all clubs registered with them and their membership a discount of 50% off of their numerous book publications for orders placed in late November through December. Unfortunately this information always arrived too late for publication in The Circuit.

Should such an offer be made again, we would like to inform interested members. Send a mint 29¢ stamp (or IRC) to Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA, who will mail a copy of discounted items when available.

Member Busy with Move

Member Kevin Crowe (# 459) has moved from Australia to New Zealand and wishes to advise members that it will be months before he'll be able to work on his stamp collection. His new address in New Zealand is listed on the roster page. ••

Whatzit? Answer

Whatzit? # 93-2: (May-June '93 issue) is probably a telegraph stamp since Costa Rica did not issue postage stamps for that use. (i.e. Some Latin countries issued stamps for either postage or telegraph with "Correos y Telegrafos" inscribed.) •• Ken Jenkins (# 15)

What Color is This?

Perhaps the most frequently asked questions in help columns of stamp newspapers deal with stamp colors and shades. Some novices can't understand why there isn't a color guide for sale to aid in determining shades. Stanley Gibbons has one, but since there is no standard-ization of color among the various stamp catalogs, what is brick red to Scott's might be reddish-brown to Gibbons. Another factor is stamp aging. Oxidation occurs, especially on older stamp inks, which change color over time. Most dramatic are oranges which turn brown.

So what is a collector to do? A friend recently showed me an unusual album she bought several years ago. It did not sort stamps by country, but by color! It was divided up like a color spectrum -- red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple and black. Sub-groups were further sorted, for example blue green, bluish green, dark blue-green, deep blue-green, light blue-green, pale blue-green, etc. Each page was a heavy weight paper, and fit a three ring binder. There was enough room above each description to allow room for a large sized stamp.

This sort of album has potential for all collectors. It would make a great project for youngsters. They could research the colors, design their own pages and dig through duplicates for fill them. Several games could be developed around it. More advanced collectors will find their color collection a useful tool in determining shades. Computerizing each page will allow for a more uniform look.

Here are some hints in starting your own color collection. First, pull out all of your duplicates, especially definitives, where you will find the widest variety of shades. It would also be handy to have an empty stockbook. Then begin the search using the catalog of your choice.

As you find a new color and a stamp to go with it, mark the color name and catalog number on the reverse. Put the stamp face down on a stockbook page, sorted by its major color. Leave enough room to add more and resort. When you run across an unusual color which you don't have, write down its color and catalog number. Cross it off should you find one later. In a couple of hours, I had 226 shades from my duplicates and a list of 74 others. With further searching more can be found.

One final thought. Even two stamps listed as the same shade might be visibly different. A more advanced color collection should leave room for multiple examples of a range within a shade. Have fun with your color collection! •• Tom Fortunato (# 379)

Mixture / Lot Review: Bargain Lots of Fun

Spying an ad in a July issue of *Stamp Collector* offering old approval glassines at 10 times catalog value for each dollar sent, I quickly sent off my order with a \$15.00 check. A bulging manila envelope arrived in about 10 days. Being a treasurer hunter at heart, I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. I opened it to find that I had unknowingly ordered from a fellow ISWSC member, Ray Kerstetter (#354) . . . He recognized my name.

My excitement did not diminish as I began sorting through the big pile of glassines - all sizes, shapes and colors (some are quite old and brown). Once sorted by country, I got out my marked catalogs to see how many I could use for my collection. I was surprised by the variety of material, 60 different countries ranging from Albania to Uruguay and how many were MNH complete sets (some short sets, also, of Fr. colonies). The years ranged from early 1900's to late 1980's. I collect mint, used and CTO, so nothing was counted out. I got \$150.74 cv for my \$15. The highest value items were a used block of 4 (Japan 470-3) valued at \$9.50 and a MNH set from the Philippines (#605-7/C75-6) valued at \$9.90. I received a total of 655 stamps, finding only 10 damaged and 1 mint/no gum. (Since most of the damaged were in very old glassines, I doubt Mr. Kerstetter knew they were damaged and none were valuable stamps, mostly minimum value.) The lot was about half mint (95% MNH) and a quarter each of CTO and used stamps. I found many items for my own collection and have some lovely items to trade and give away. I was able to replace some of my heavily hinged Fr. colonies stamps with NH.

I was pleased enough to reorder shortly with another \$15.00 and was as satisfied as the first time. However, I did not receive the same stamps the second time. There were only a few duplicates of the first shipment. (I mention this in case someone orders hoping to get the above mentioned stamps - you may or may not). I didn't keep track of the details on the second shipment but it was as nice as the first. There were no British Commonwealth in either shipment, but both orders contained a wide range of countries from A - Z. I would highly recommend this lot to anyone who is a beginner. Many long-time collectors would likely find many duplicates of their collection, but at this price they're great traders. It would also be a nice way to obtain stamps for the ISWSC kids program or your own kids stamp group. And you choose how much you wish to spend - \$2.00, \$5.00, or more. Look for the Luray-Belmont ad in the classified ad section. And become a treasurer hunter like me. •• Rita Kallal (# 26)

Join the Sales Circuit

Send for details to sell and/or buy
fellow member's stamps
at bargain prices
Send a #10 SASE to:
Judy Hungeford
219 Stanford Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708

* Currently available to US members only

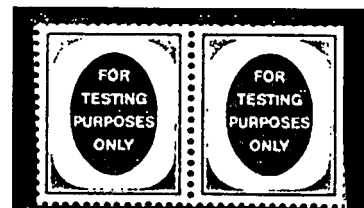
¿Whatzit?



when?"

¿Whatzit? #93-3: Was found in a large worldwide collection bought at auction. It is Great Britain # 122, used. It appears to have FC overprinted, although it could be a broken O. Tom Fortunato thinks it likely was privately overprinted by a private firm, in the same manner they used perforated initials (perfins). Can anyone shed anymore light on the overprint, such as "who, what, where &

¿Whatzit? #93-4: Is from a booklet showing Gr. Britain's postal rates. Can anyone explain the purpose or use of this "stamp?"



¿Whatzit? #93-5: Some Austrian stamps are found with an unusual circular postmark containing three wavy lines. Are these for "skipped" stamps - those missed by regular canceling machines, or is there another explanation?



¿Whatzit? #93-6: Can anyone explain the oblong "Canceled" postmark on Jamaican stamps? Are these revenue cancels?



¿Whatzit? #93-7: Owner of this nifty looking British "revenue" stamp wants to know what it was used for. Was it for marriage license fees? Was it used by the Exchequer Dept. (similar to our Treasury Dept.)? Or was it, as your editor surmises, used as receipt of payment for anyone who filed suit in court, showing they had paid a filing fee?

Election List • Mark Ballot on Reverse

The following ISWSC members have been nominated to run as Officers for the two year term beginning January 1, 1994:

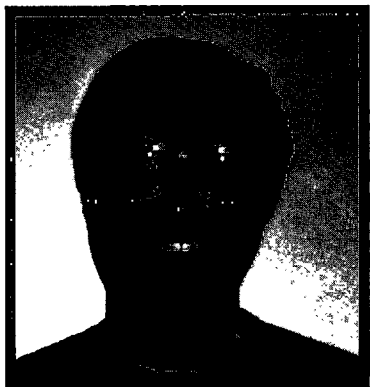
President: #379 Tom Fortunato

Vice President, Youth Programs: #142 Ken Costilow

Vice President, Public Relations: #707 Dave Park

Secretary-Treasurer: #498 Carol Cervenka

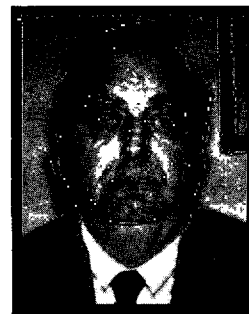
Considerable effort was made to locate additional candidates for these offices without success, and while this means all offices are thus uncontested, your vote is still vital. These people will devote many hours to the running of ISWSC and deserve the consideration of your vote.



For President: #379 THOMAS M. FORTUNATO - Currently serving as ISWSC's Public Relations Officer, Tom has done a splendid job of recruiting new members for ISWSC during his two year term. Tom is 34 years old and a Life Member of both APS and ATA. A member of the Rochester Philatelic Society, Tom served on the ROPEX '93 Stamp Show Committee and is currently serving as RPS Vice President ('93-'94). Other memberships include the Cover Collector's Circuit Club (presently serving as Public Relations Mgr.) and Kodak Stamp Club. Tom's statement reads as follows: *"I am proud to have assisted the other officers and managers in our efforts these past two years to improve and expand the ISWSC. Our Society has grown tremendously over this period, and as President I would continue to seek greater exposure of ISWSC in the philatelic world while listening to the needs and wishes of our membership. We have much to offer worldwide collectors of ALL levels, beginners through advanced. I seek your support in being allowed to "carry the torch" as your President for 1994-5."*

For Vice President - Youth Programs: #142 KENNETH L. COSTILOW - Currently serving in this position, Ken has been the responsible for the Youth Program for many years and keeps records on donors of stamps and recipients as well as filling requests from youth clubs for stamps and other materials. Under the new By-Laws, this will be Ken's last consecutive term. Ken has been a worldwide collector since 1942. He served as President of an International Philatelic Society (1977-79) while living in Belgium and is presently a member of APS, ATA, Ships on Stamps Unit, Europa Study Unit, Philatelic Computing Study Group, American-Belgian Philatelic Society (currently serving as Secretary), and Virginia Beach Stamp Club (Past - President).

Ken's statement reads as follows: *"Goals: Maintain record of donated dues and provide report to Secretary as required. Fill requests from philatelic youth organizations in a timely manner. Promote worldwide stamp collecting to young and old as opportunities arise."*



For Vice President - Public Relations: #707 DAVE PARK - Dave has been an ISWSC member for just over a year. In this time his elegant writing style, wit and wisdom have given his letters a special place in our files. Dave is a member of APS and spent his pre-retirement career in journalism and public relations. He is well qualified for this office.

Dave's Statement reads as follows: *"I would like to spread the message of the benefits of worldwide stamp collecting, and if elected, would endeavor to meet the high standards set by the Society."*

For Secretary-Treasurer: #498 CAROL CERVENKA - Carol is currently serving as ISWSC Secretary-Treasurer. Her philatelic memberships include: APS, JPA (adult), Disabled Collectors Correspondence Club (Charter), and Universal Union of Collectors.

Carol's statement reads as follows: *"During the past year and eight months, it has been a distinct privilege to work with the Officers and Managers of ISWSC. Getting to know the members as they enroll and as renewals come in is one of the many personal pleasures of being ISWSC's Secretary-Treasurer. The numerous changes implemented recently will mean great things for ISWSC and its future. I am eager to work with this new slate of Officers to complete the process of obtaining the 501.(c)3 designation, to assist with the new ISWSC Sales Circuit implementation, and to expand member services and Youth memberships, as well as meet the other challenges facing our Society over the next two years. I would appreciate the opportunity to be a viable part of ISWSC's future, and seek your continued support."*



OFFICIAL BALLOT - ISWSC OFFICERS '94-95**Ballots must be received by December 15, 1993****Please do NOT write your name and membership number on this form.****Do write your membership number and name on your outer mailing envelope.****MAIL BALLOT TO: Peter Bylen (# 695), Box 7193, Westchester, IL 60154, U.S.A.**President: ☐ Tom Fortunato (#379) ☐ _____Vice President: ☐ Ken Costilow (#142) ☐ _____

Vice President -

Public Relations: ☐ Dave Park (#747) ☐ _____Secretary-Treasurer: ☐ Carol Cervenka (#498) ☐ _____**Optional Membership Survey Questions:**How did you get started collecting ☐ Friend/relative introduced ☐ Inheritance☐ Organized group (e.g. Scouts) ☐ Commercial promotion (e.g. advertising; cereal box; dime store packets; etc)☐ Other _____ Comments _____

About your albums: Primary Album(s) used* _____ Through date _____

Organized by: ☐ Year of issue ☐ Alpha by Country ☐ Alpha within Geographic groups☐ Alpha within Colonial groups ☐ Other _____* If Scott: Do you still buy supplements? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you re-sort them to fit in? ☐ Yes ☐ NoWould you likely buy new 'back-book' supplements (dropped 30 yrs. ago)? ☐ Yes ☐ NoWould you likely buy an expanded version of Scott's first 100 yrs. album? ☐ Yes ☐ NoWould you likely buy new pages to facilitate re-organization of Scott into alpha sorts? ☐ Yes ☐ No**Use this additional space for comments or suggestions about any aspect of ISWSC.**