

# The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

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

## Colorful Stamps of San Marino are Major Revenue Producer

*By Irving C. Whynot (# 490)*

Remember when you first started collecting stamps and came across those colorful issues from tiny countries you never heard of before? San Marino, for instance.

The situation is the same today for those entering the hobby. The big, colorful and inexpensive issues of this tiny country continue to intrigue the interest of beginners, just as they did so many of us years ago.

These thoughts came to mind recently when I was looking at the stamps being issued by several countries to commemorate Second World War events. I thought of San Marino and its own involvement during the war.

We first have to remember where and what San Marino is. The oldest and smallest republic in the world, it is located entirely within the borders of Italy, an ally of Germany during the conflict. At the time, it had a population of 14,000.

In September, 1940 San Marino sided with Germany and Italy and declared war on Britain. Newspapers of the time suggested the war had escalated ever so slightly because its army of 1,000 posed little threat. Even this declaration was something of an embarrassment because San Marino first had to end its 30-year state of war with Germany, something it had overlooked doing following the First World War.

But as quickly as San Marino marched into the war, it marched right out again. A month later, suggesting they had been pressured into the conflict by Italian dictator Mussolini, San Marino withdraw its

declaration of war. Even so, San Marinesi volunteers joined the Italian army but when fascism fell they were jailed under an old law against "serving a foreign power." In 1943 the country's fascist leaders were ousted and San Marino remained neutral for the duration.

Still, the republic had its taste of war. U.S. aircraft bombed the area when it was occupied by German troops. American troops finally drove them from the republic.

An enclave in the Papal States, San Marino used stamps of that region from 1850 to 1870, and those of Italy from 1870 to 1877. The republic then started issuing its own postage stamps and today the sale of stamps to collectors is one of its major industries. So much so that one of the country's museums is dedicated to its stamps.

Covering only 24 square miles, San Marino is perched on the slopes of Mount Titano. The three peaks of the mountain are shown on the arms of the republic, reproduced on a number of stamps including an early 1890 issue. With limited local subjects to be commemorated, the country has looked far afield for stamp subjects. Topicals are plentiful—olympic subjects are popular along with such other topics as trains, dinosaurs, art masterpieces, horses and flowers. The country doesn't have an airport but has issued scores of airmail stamps.

The population now is about 23,000 and the country has slowly moved outward into the world,

becoming a member of the United Nations and other

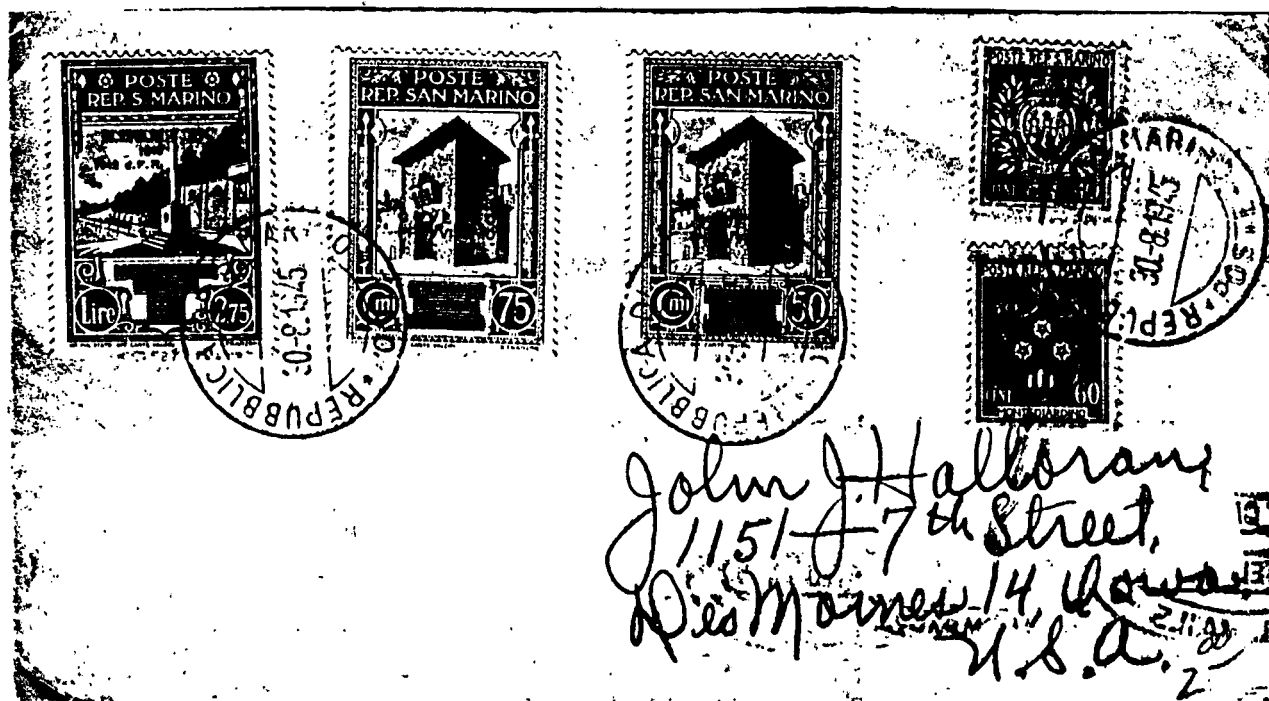


*Figure 1: San Marino reaches far and wide for some of its stamp subjects Top: Scott #213 issued in 1943 is overprinted to mark Rimini-San Marino Stamp Day; (Center) #266 is one of a 1947 set marking the centennial of the first U.S. postage stamp; (Bottom) #C51B issued in 1947 honors U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died two years earlier. The later is an airmail issue, even though San Marino lacks an airport.*

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## San Marino (Continued from Page 1)

international organizations. Stamps remain a major source of income and beginning collectors will no doubt be looking at San Marino's stamps for years to come. ••



*Figure 2: The commemorative stamps on this San Marino cover to the U.S. were two years old when it was mailed Aug. 30, 1945. This series was prepared to mark the 20th anniversary of fascism but Italian dictator Mussolini was ousted in July, 1943. So the stamps were overprinted to mark the fall of fascism, as shown on the stamp on the upper left of this cover. The stamps were also overprinted to indicate a provisional government, as on the other two commemoratives. Both sets of overprints were issued in August, 1943. Italy fell April 28, 1945, when German resistance was overcome and all hostilities in Europe came to an end on V-E Day May 8, 1945. A backstamp on this cover reads: "Military Censorship—Routed Thru Civil Mails."*

## Vice President's Report by Ken Costlow (#142)

Donations of stamps for the Youth Program have been pouring in since early October as a result of membership renewals and new memberships. Several parcels were sent out to group leader who requested stamps, either in stamp publications or from me directly, in Illinois, South Carolina, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas (3), and Montana. A thank you note received from one stated, "...on behalf of the students at West Allegheny Middle School, thank you for your donation. The package arrived on Wednesday and already many students have found stamps for their collections. Sincerely, Sherry Remaly."

I appreciated all the kind words and letters that arrived with the stamps donated by members. Included were appreciative notes and praise for our fine organization, its purposes, and the work of the officers of ISWSC. Specifically mentioned were Jerry Gross for his great job on the OMNI Exchange and Rita Kallal for her effort and dedication to the editorship and publication of the newsletter.

Several members asked about the type of stamps that were preferred or needed, and whether more than the required 250 could be sent for use in the Youth

Program. I reply to these questions, undamaged and larger type foreign stamps and U.S. commemorative issues are considered best to get youth interested and started in stamp collecting. The smaller stamps are usually definitive typed and are easier for new collectors to obtain. As for the number of stamps to be sent, we never get too many, as uses can always be found for them that will benefit youth collecting interests.

If any member knows of a youth group that needs stamps, please suggest to the leader that he or she write to me.

I have continued to keep my eyes open on Prodigy

(Continued Page 16)

**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**

## THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN *by Tom Fortunato (# 379)*

In this, my first column as your President, I thought I would introduce myself and tell you of some of the many things in the works.

I started collecting stamps when I was about 5 years old. A neighbor had given me a US stamp album and I dutifully glued all of my gems into the book, not knowing any better. Another neighbor's mother died a few years later and I wound up with the leftovers; a giant bag of assorted worldwide stamps off paper, some Harris US catalogs, glassines, a world stamp identifier and a musty, old 1964 Scott's world catalog which nearly wound up in the trash if my parents had their way.

Without an album to hold these foreign stamps, I was forced to sort and separate the pile into glassines. The process took three years (there were over 20 pounds of stamps!) and it was during this time that I taught myself the "basics", including what a hinge was. It also led to a far better understanding of geography, history, foreign languages and other cultures than school ever taught.

My interest in stamps waxed and waned through high school and college. A small dorm room prevented me from bringing my albums, catalogs and other paraphernalia along, which had grown to a bookcase full of items. After college, I joined the APS and

ATA and started subscribing to *Linn's Stamp News*. You see, learning never ends!

I now find myself as your new leader for the next two years, an active member and VP of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the PR director of the Cover Collectors Circuit Club, a life member of the APS and ATA, a judge for the Central New York Federation of Stamp Clubs and I will be exhibiting for the first time in a few months. Don't worry, I enjoy all of the activity and plan my time well.

We always have something new going on with the ISWSC. Here's a taste of what's up in the next few months. The society continues the work of filing for incorporation and tax-exempt status with the IRS. This will allow us to apply for greatly reduced mailing rates and permit US members to take a tax deduction for their donations. The leader to leader program is in high gear and expanding. Your board of directors will be considering offering family memberships and allowing stamp clubs with at least 5 ISWSC members to affiliate with us. The big meeting of the year will be held in Pittsburgh, PA during STaMpsHOW '94 in August. And don't forget that we will have an election to fill two directors at large positions in September.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of other projects and plans underway. As you will see in *The Circuit's* masthead, officer phone numbers will be listed in the next issue. We are all at your service whenever you need to contact us. If it's not an emergency, write with your queries. A SASE is always appreciated, for we all volunteer our time and often absorb such expenses ourselves. So do our many managers, overseas secretaries and countless others. Never forget that this club is a team effort and everyone should play an active role in its running for the benefit of all!

On a personal note, I will be

travelling July 1-14 to Dublin, London and Paris on a concert tour with our community choir. I'd be happy to visit with any members that might be available during that time. Let me know! ••

## A Contest Just for Fun

Fellow member John Hotchner runs a wonderful contest in his *Linn's Stamp News* column where a US stamp is presented to the readership for a humorous caption. I'd like to give the idea an international flavor with a twist.

I will give you a humorous caption and ask you to find the most humorous stamp in your own collection that matches it best. It doesn't matter if it is mint or used. Then send a photocopy of the stamp on a black background to me. You will have three months to send in your selection (only one entry per member, please).

I will pick the winner and it will be published in *The Circuit*. The winner of this contest will receive a group of covers from Andorra.

Send your entries to: ISWSC Humor Contest # 1, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA.

This contest's phrase is, "*I can't believe I ate the whole thing*". Good luck! ••

## Photocopy Help Needed

Here is another way you can help the ISWSC and the leader to leader youth program. We need volunteers who have access to copy machines to duplicate a variety of support materials and albums, most of which are under 12 pages each (6 double-sided pages). Anyone who can provide 50+ copies would be most helpful.

These can be mailed to the project managers by special 4th class within the USA. Your donation would be most appreciated, freeing youth funds for other purposes. If you can help, please write to Al and Mildred Feinberg at 3340 Dale Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. Foreign members may write to their Regional Secretary to assist in this project. ••

### Join the Sales Circuit

Send for details to sell and/or buy fellow members' stamps at bargain prices

Send a #10 SASE to:  
Judy Hungerford  
219 Stanford Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94708

Currently Available to US members only

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

It is an odd sensation to write "Happy New Year" while 1993 is still marching to a conclusion. Publication deadlines have me living in the future to some extent. I know some members on the following lists will have renewed by the time this column is published. If you have paid and see your name on the list, please contact me to make certain I have received your dues. Our economy has seen an increase worldwide in mail pilfering. Bob Eddy writes of an entire mail truck that was hijacked and there have been incredible difficulties with the automatic canceling machines. Some letters are arriving in plastic bags, others never get where they are addressed – shredded or mangled to the extent mailer and recipient are impossible to discern.

The following members have been dropped for non-payment of dues: 722 Sack, 775 Edwards, 777 Karlson, 779 Renard, 801 Garland, 810 Bridgers, 811 Hamburg, 823 Shau, 824 Ryder.

A number of members have not as yet renewed, and will be dropped if dues are not received in the near future. Members on the "endangered" list are: 94 Steiner, 105 Rovere, 123 Sivak, 173 Erickson, 177 Svatik, 276 Fromer, 277 Nebel, 304 Luthlie, 311 Hodges, 333 Gooch, 336 Beard, 366 Collazo, 369 Holman, 375 Domingo, 377 Bernstein, 399 Curtis, 420 Hoard, 471 Osbourne, 474 Heinz, 478 Sobel, 484 Clauser, 485 Waterman, 487 Pruett, 503 Kiepora, 525 Kroll Jr, 527 Fort, 537 Bird, 588 Vogt, 642 Stoeviski, 646 Merelaid, 660 Wright, 670 Rehling, 724 Davison, 773 Welky, 781 Rainbow Services, 831 Morse, 832 Brake, 843 Gesell, 853 Janssen, 881 Boyd, Y904 Bricker, 855 Gomez, 857 Meyer, 859 Perez Esteve, 861 Werner, Y862 Canaday, 863 Lambert, Finnerty, 867 Hunter, 876 Topp, 880 Fitzgerald. If you know any of these members, please encourage them to renew or contact us with their reasons for not doing so.

While we can't be all things to all collectors, this is your club, and we want to have the services you want and need. Priorities ebb and flow as we go through life, and at times hobbies have to take a back seat to more pressing matters. If this is your case, please send

### SERVICES ARE FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Recently there have been several attempts by non-members to use ISWSC services. The swap circuit seems to be especially popular. When making application to the manager of all ISWSC services, you MUST give your membership number. Managers will not enroll anyone in a service without verification of active membership. Member's dues help pay costs of some services; members who fail to pay dues will be dropped from service rolls. While the ISWSC Youth Program and the Leader to Leader program do not require membership, these services benefit groups of young stampers by providing a variety of materials and program ideas, and are not for adult collectors. ••

an explanation and resignation. If you simply overlooked your dues notice, please send it in so we can keep sending *The Circuit*. Some of the members listed participate in one or more of ISWSC's services such as the Swap Circuit, Omni Exchange, Auction, or Sales Circuit. These services are for members only, and renewal is necessary if you wish to continue. There are many new and exciting things planned for 1994, and we have added several new services over the past two years. Since some members have missed notices printed in the newsletter, you will find a complete list elsewhere in the next issue. Each listing has the name of the person in charge of the service. **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WHEN SIGNING UP FOR A SERVICE**, and allow time for verification of your membership status by the manager of that service. Since each service (as is the entire Society) is run by volunteers, the information is subject to change. Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

## BURDA APPROVALS



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FOR WORLDWIDE COLLECTORS

BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED  
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**EXPLORE THE WORLD**, past and present with worldwide stamps on approval. For quality and personal service write Elk Valley Stamp Shop, P. O. Box 8604, South Charleston, WV 25303 (2/2)

**TRULY WORLDWIDE APPROV-ALS.** All countries including U.S. Complete sets or penny packet approvals. Discount with ISWSC number. Comprehensive New Issue Service info. Dave Becker, Box 3284-H, Portland, OR 97208 (2/6)

**OUR FEARLESS LEADER**, Tom Fortunato wrote most of this ad. Something for everyone. Beginners, 100 worldwide foreign for \$1. All approvals priced at 50% catalog with bonus on each purchase. Advanced, high catalog seconds at 10%. What do you need? Album Service, Soledad, CA 93960 (2/2)

**MAIL BID SALE.** Quality worldwide and U.S., stamps, covers, collections, accumulations, sold to the highest offer. Send for free catalogue. Jim Mettler, P.O. Box 240652, Memphis, TN 38124-0652 (1/1)

**GERMANY AND JAPAN Price Lists.** I have used Japan and mint and used Germany, also Manchukuo. Send large SASE for lists. Grant Dyer, 2553 Kopf Lane, West Lafayette, IN 47906-5769 (1/3)

**Back Issues of Circuit** - For Information send SASE or IRCs to Peter Bylen (#695)

**PACKING UP 40** plus years of accumulating stamp doubles into manila envelopes, wide assortment of stamps - \$5.00USA. \$10.00USA brings stamps plus postcards, covers, valentines and unknown paper collectables. State clearly your dislikes, will try my best to send only desirable material. D. Westrate, PO Box 333, Augusta, MI 49012-0333 (1/2)

**ALWAYS TRADING POT-LUCK.** Send 150 or more large your country (duplicates OK), I return same number Australia/NZ mixed used. Crowe (#459), PO Box 33-724, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand (1/6)

**ISWSC LOGO PINS** - For Information on ordering, send SASE or IRCs to Sec'y Carol Cervenka (#498)

## Beginner's Swap JOIN NOW

Send 25 used  
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OMNI MANAGER  
BOX 252

WILLMETTE, IL 60091-0252

**Deadline: Next Issue  
January 20, 1994**

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:

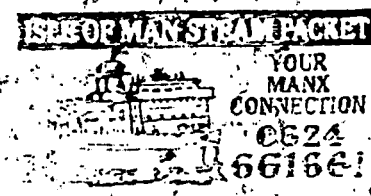
Full Page	\$40.00**
Half Page	20.00**
Quarter Page	10.00**
Per column inch	2.00

\* 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.



## Officers, Chairpersons, Managers

**President:** Tom Fortunato (#379), 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA  
**Vice President & Youth Stamp Program:** Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginus Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA (Send Required Stamps for Dues for Youth Stamp Program to the Vice President.)  
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**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  
**Board of Directors:** Dave Nelson (#25), Past President; Ken Jenkins, (#15); Herb Holland (#31); and the Elected Officers.

## Regional Secretaries' Reports: Austral-Asian Secretary by Peter Scannell (# 453)

### Norfolk Island History Filled with Convicts and Mutineers

Situated in an isolated position in the Pacific Ocean, Norfolk Island is approximately 1600 kilometers east-north-east of Sydney, Australia or 1050 kilometers northwest of Auckland, New Zealand and is of volcanic origin.



Norfolk Island was discovered by Captain James Cook in October 1774 although it was first colonized in March 1788 by a small party of hand picked British convicts and their guards. The settlement was later abandoned and burnt to the ground in February 1814 with little remaining today. It was reopened in 1825 as a penal settlement for the worst type of convicts, during this period the island was part of and

administered by the British colony of New South Wales.

Apart from a short

period in the 1830's Norfolk Island was a hell of floggings, misery and executions to the convicts. In 1840 the transportation of convicts to New South Wales ceased and prisoners were taken directly from Britain to either Norfolk Island or Van Diemen's Land (renamed Tasmania in 1855) and in 1844 administration of the island was transferred to Van Diemen's Land.

Transportation of convicts to the Australian east coast stopped in May 1853 and during the three years remaining convicts on Norfolk Island were released on "ticket-of-leave" or transferred to serve their remaining sentences at the infamous Port Arthur prison on the

isolated southern coast of Van Diemen's Land. The prisoners were shipped out in May 1856 leaving Norfolk Island uninhabited apart from a few caretakers.

At the same time on Pitcairn Island, 6000 kilometers east of Norfolk Island,

mutineers from His Majesty's Armed Vessel Bounty had outgrown the resources of their small island and in June 1856 the entire population of 193 people accepted the offer of the British Government of resettlement on Norfolk Island with each family granted 20 hectares of land. From 1863 onward the population was increased by migrants from Australia, New Zealand and England. Today the population is approximately 2000 with a little under half being descendants of the original Pitcairn settlers.

Norfolk Island was proclaimed a Crown Colony in 1857 and in 1897 the British Government handed responsibility for the island to New South Wales. In 1914 the Australian Government took over administration of Norfolk Island as an external territory. In 1979 the



only; the island is still part off and governed by Australia.

In regards to the island's postal

history, Tasmanian stamps were used on Norfolk Island from 1853 to 1856 but after the convict settlement was abandoned and the flow of Pitcairn Islanders in 1856, postal services were nearly non-existent for the next 40 years on the island, apart from a small number of New South Wales stamps used from 1877 to the early 1880's. The first recorded use of Norfolk Island's own postmarker was on



March 13th, 1891, but there were few opportunities to use it was postage stamps were not available for purchase on the

island. New South Wales stamps were again placed on sale in 1898 and were used until 1913 where they were replaced by the first Australian Kangaroo series of 1913.

Around 1923 the first of a number of unsuccessful efforts were made to obtain distinctive Norfolk Island stamps. Finally permission was given and the first series was printed in 1940 but were

not issued due to wartime conditions. In 1947 the stamps were destroyed although some did reach the philatelic



market and are readily identifiable as they are perforated 11 while the first issue of 1947 are perforated 14. During World War II the island was mostly populated by New Zealand army and air force units who used their own postal service.

Since the first issue of stamps in June 1947 the Norfolk Island Philatelic Bureau has been responsible for its own stamp issues, with the Australian Post Office determining their face value.



## Elections in September

Two positions will be opening up on the ISWSC Board of Directors for a two year term (1995-96) to begin on January 1, 1995. The positions are currently held by Ken Jenkins and Herb Holland, past officers of the society who have given countless hours to help us grow and prosper.

This is your opportunity to take an active role in society policies and procedures, no matter whether you are a newcomer or a charter member. All business is transacted through written correspondences or over the phone. It is not too early to consider running for these two positions.

For further details or any questions, write to Tom Fortunato (# 379) or Carol Cervenka (# 498).

## Cooperative Advertising

In an effort to gain greater international exposure for the ISWSC, we are looking for other philatelic groups interested in promoting each other's organization. An upcoming *Circuit* issue will feature detailed information on these clubs for the benefit of all ISWSC wanting to learn of other worldwide societies and/or publications. The ISWSC in return asks that information about us be published in these other newsletters.

Space will be limited, with priority going to groups with a minimum membership of 100 collectors and having appeal to worldwide collectors. Ads will run in a classified format with a maximum of 40 words including the address. Any ISWSC member knowing of clubs interested in this ad exchange are encouraged to write to their respective directors with our proposal.

Further details and ad form may be had for a SASE or IRC sent to: ISWSC Ad Co-Op, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA. Inquiries must be received by June 1, with an anticipated publishing date of the July/August issue. ••

## Beginners Column By Al and Mildred Feinberg (# 361)

Today the column will be about forgeries. When beginners hear about forgeries they assume that only very expensive stamps are forged but in reality, even very low priced stamps have been counterfeited. The reason for these so called "weeds" was to integrate them into low priced packets. Unfortunately these packets are purchased mostly by beginners.

When you first start collecting stamps most collectors try to get as much as they can for their money. Besides filling a lot of empty spaces in the beginner's album, packets serve a lot of other purposes. Collectors learn to sort stamps by country, become familiar with the language to some extent, learn their monetary denominations, etc. As beginning collectors start to get organized they are sometimes compelled to try to fill in or complete sets pictured in their album. At this point they would benefit enormously if they could identify forgeries. The higher denominations that are needed to complete sets are sometimes

counterfeited the same as the lower priced stamps in a set. When a collector lays out several dollars or more to fill in a set, s/he doesn't like to be gypped.

So, what could we do about it? I recently purchased a book from *Linn's* called *Focus on Forgeries*. This book is a must for beginners that intend to move up to the next stage of collecting. The book identifies the most common phony stamps.

After using this book for a little while, you will soon learn to recognize the "weeds." When you start buying stamps from dealers either from price lists, mail sales or auctions, you will have a good guide and be able to recognize most counterfeits immediately. Don't hesitate to return these "weeds" to whomever you purchased them from and insist on a refund.

Focus on Forgeries can be purchased from Linn's Stamp News, P. O. Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365. It costs \$14.95 postpaid. ••

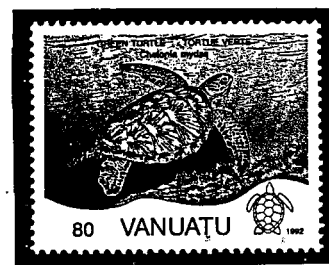
## New Book Valuable to WW Collector by Dave Creson (# 170)

Something new has been added to our philatelic world that I thought I would share. Most of us worldwidens have an interest in forgeries but with old expensive and very difficult book as a reference we do not get very far. We all know about some forgeries but have that nagging feeling that there is a lot out there that we don't know about.

Those of us who subscribe to *Linn's Stamp News* are familiar with their series on inexpensive faked stamps. This has been made into a book entitled *Focus on Forgeries* by Varro E. Tayler. *Linn's* is selling this softbound book for about \$15.00USA. I got myself a copy and I am impressed. The book shows a picture of the fake and a picture of the genuine stamp with brief but accurate write-ups of the forgeries and the genuine stamps.

My only concern is that the book now has but only one-tenth of the known fakes listed but that may be corrected with added volumes later. The book does not address expensive stamps but covers what is commonly found by collectors in many worldwide collections. ••

*Editor's Note: Obviously this is an impressive volume, since two writers wrote in about its value. •*



### Topical New Issue:

Set of 4 + SSht - Issued Dec 15, 1992  
Designer: Sue Wickison  
Printer: House of Questa

## Raech's Ruminations by RH (#363)

Since I never know for sure when these magnificent pieces of prose will appear in *The Circuit*, let me begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year, along with thanks and congratulations to our new Officers for giving their time and effort over the next two years.

If you've been reading this stuff regularly, you may recall that I mentioned awhile back that I do not make New Years' resolutions. I still don't, but . . .

This is directed at no one in particular, so don't any of you become offended. Let's talk about this "friend" of mine. He likes to trade, and, over time, has built up some long and friendly relationships with his trading partners. Things have been going great. Letters, stamps and other stuff have been going back and forth without a hitch. My "friend" has gotten many stamps that he needed and so have this traders. At least, that's what they keep telling him. Of course, since no one or nothing is perfect, delays, for various reasons, have been experienced from time to time. For anyone who is or has been trading, this sounds like the normal pattern, but . . .

My "friend" now tells me that he is confronted with a dilemma. It seems two of his trading partners

have not responded to his last trade for several months. This is very unusual since everything had been going along quite well. Now the problem, what to do? His and my experience with the U.S. Postal Service has been excellent. Except for occasional delays, the stuff gets through nicely. (In 13 years of trading, mail became lost only once and was severely damaged in route, again only once.) It may be that the returns did become lost in the mail. From both?? Highly doubtful.

So here's my "friend," knowing he must follow-up but how does he approach it? Suppose he writes and finds out something untoward has happened? He'd feel awful. Does he write and sound like a collection agency -- "We have been advised that you have not responded to, etc. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will turn this matter over to our attorneys?" Does he tough it out -- "If you don't send my stuff back, I'll . . .?"

As I said at the outset, I don't make New Year's resolutions but maybe my friend will. He pledges that he will answer all correspondence promptly and that he will keep in touch with his trading partners, especially if he has a problem. Think about it! ••

## Leader-to-Leader Materials Available

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors is pleased to make available to youth stamp club leaders and others interested in youth philately a variety of stamp albums and activities. These have been selected for their educational and "fun" value from a variety of sources. All have been tried out on youngsters and should be valuable to the novice and experienced leader alike. These are double-sided photocopies which should be copied as necessary by the leader for club members.

Among the items currently available are an '87-'93 US album and teaching guide, a current mini-US album, a beginners do it yourself worldwide album, a coloring book, a Black American album, a postmark/meter album, a Canadian specialized '73-'76 definitive album and a collection of word search puzzles. Members John Rose and Patrick Olson created some of these and the list of available items continues to expand. Any member interested in preparing an album, teaching guide or activity book on their philatelic specialty is encouraged to do so.

Due to limited resources, we must hold requests to only one of each, with all priced at 75¢ post-paid within the US except for the larger US album and teaching guide, which is available for \$2.50. Prices overseas are higher to defray mailing expenses. Work is in progress to make some of these available through our overseas secretaries in the near future. For an order form, send a SASE or IRC to: ISWSC Youth Publications, Al Feinberg, 3340 Dale Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 USA ••



## Stamp Show Representatives Sought

If you attend local or regional stamp shows, whether you live in the USA, Canada or overseas, we need your help to promote the ISWSC.

You can easily request ISWSC application brochures from any of the officers or overseas secretaries to place on information tables. If you have the time, consider manning a table to introduce collectors to our group, even for a short time. We can provide you with support materials, such as signs, sample *Circuit* issues,

brochures, etc.

How about organizing an ISWSC regional meeting? This takes a bit of planning, but as the society grows more members will be able to participate. Plan these at least four months in advance so that we can advertise the meeting in *The Circuit* and elsewhere.

Further details can be obtained by writing to the VP for Public Relations, Dave Park, President Tom Fortunato, or your regional secretary. ••



## (Past) President's Column by Dave Nelson (# 25)

Now it's official, no more ridiculously long columns from Petaluma, about practically nothing of significance to the society. As will be no surprise, the very energetic and capable Tom Fortunato will now be head of our growing group and I am confident he will have the cooperation of all of you in what promises to be a very productive term ahead. I won't bother with the usual outgoing messages to new officers and all that stuff since the new President and re-elected 1st VP and Sec'y/Treas. have been key components of our success the last two years and have their own well thought out agenda.

Most of you have by now heard about Petaluma in another context, as the scene of the tragic Polly Klaas kidnapping and murder. Having heard about Polly while I was in London, Istanbul, the Bahamas, and the French Riviera I know it was an international event and not just local news. Polly lived a few blocks down my street, and my daughter Calida was a good friend of hers; she even stayed over night with Polly in that very same infamous bedroom where the kidnapping took place. Under those circumstances, you won't be surprised to learn that I am a volunteer in the Polly Klass foundation. But, what are we doing now that her body has been found, and the President and other politicians and entertainers have had their say at her memorial service? As you can imagine, there is a certain confusion and lack of direction right now among this group of people who were totally focussed on simply finding Polly and her kidnapper. But many people locally and elsewhere are dedicated to continuing the Foundation and using its funding, name, and volunteers to do what they can to avert recurrences. As you likely know, the man arrested for killing Polly had been convicted of many prior crimes, twice alone for

kidnapping. Why was he still out there, free to amuse himself with this one last atrocity? The answer, of course, is complex. Some of the blame needs to be shared by those of us who were so focussed on minimizing our taxes that we voted against bond issues to build jails, forcing the government to release dangerous people before their terms were up. Some blame should be shouldered by the liberal advocates of the past three decades who made sure the laws deal too gently with violent offenders. Even the NRA and other advocates of the right to bear deadly weapons should share some of the blame, although no gun was used, because they have given so much of their energy to defeating crime control legislation and so little of their creativity to finding ways to assure themselves access to their blue-steel hobbies without siding, legislatively, with the kinkos, killers and kooks. Few of us can escape all the blame; I personally belonged to at least one of the above groups. But there is still a chance for us to make some difference for the future. That is my personal rendering of the mission statement of the Polly Klass Foundation, and the goal I personally plan to work toward now that my commitment to ISWSC is completed.

Obviously, there is room in America for all views. We can choose to be a "friend of Polly" or a friend of Richard Davis (the accused killer), but I don't think this is a fight we can afford to sit out. While we have never used the pages of *"The Circuit"* for politicizing, or even calls to charity, I hope you will forgive me this one last editorial. As you can imagine, this event has affected me and my family very much and I want to call in any green stamps I may have left with this call to you to help support the future work of the Polly Klass Foundation. Please write to me, 309 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952 with your offers of support

to work for this cause, or your contributions. I feel so strongly about it that I will personally match every dollar of donation that every member of ISWSC makes (tax-deductable checks to the "Polly Klass Foundation", please). If your inclination is to work rather than to write checks, great, please let me know how you want to help.

With that rather depressing subject as my swan song, let me thank you all for your continued dedication to ISWSC and to the worldwider principles it stands for, and for your volunteer assistance to this society. It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve you in this "caretaker" term as President while we matured from a small, aw-shucks, collection of collectors, to one of the fastest growing philatelic groups in the world. I hope I had some positive influence on that maturation. ••

## Election Results Report

by Peter Bylen (# 695),  
Temporary Election Chairman

Tom Fortunato was elected President with a total of 165 votes. Unspecified Other received 2 votes.

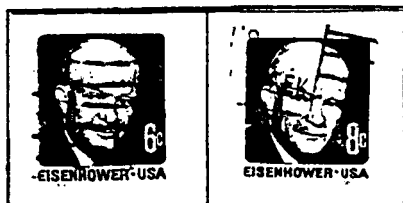
The office of Vice President went to Ken Costilow with 164 votes. H. J. Humm received 1 vote under Other and unspecified Other got 2 votes.

Dave Park received 163 votes as Vice President of Public Relations and unspecified Other got 2 votes.

Carol Cervenka was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer with 165 votes. This office also received 2 votes for unspecified other.

A total of 14 ballots were photocopied and these were set aside to insure return address and membership number did not reappear (Chicago style). They are included in the total counts. The comments/survey portion of ballots have been forwarded to our new PRO Dave Park. ••

1.



- One of these stamps pictures General Eisenhower and one pictures General McArthur.
- In one of these pictures President Eisenhower's face is larger and in the other picture his name and USA are larger. These are coil stamps.
- These are stamps from Canada.

## KID'S PAGE

I'm glad so many of you liked the game, "Get All 3."

I will send the remaining 17 clues for the game "Can You See the Difference" to any adult leader of Kids' Clubs and to any Junior member of the ISWSC if you would like to have them all at once. (And you could make up some of your own to add to them, too, if you wish!) If you cover the copied pictures of the stamps with real stamps, it makes a much more clear and colorful card.

Perhaps one of your meetings could be a time of putting some damaged stamps over the pictures on the cards. (Of course the stamps you use must be exactly the same as the pictures.)

The March-April, 1994, page will be a Scavenger Hunt.

Mrs. Arlene Futrell  
Route 1 Box 65  
Stokes, NC 27884

2.



- Both of these stamps are from South Africa, but the country name on one is written in English and on the other it is written in a native language.
- On one stamp "Postage and Revenue" is written in English and on the other stamp the words are written in the other language.
- There is no difference in these two stamps.
- These stamps are from South Australia.

### CAN YOU SEE A DIFFERENCE?

Provide pencils and a sheet of paper for each player. (A half of an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet is fine.) Each player numbers his sheet 1-20 in 2 or 3 columns vertically.

Pass cards out to players. The player must read card and put the letter of the one statement from the 3 on each card which is true about the stamps after that card's number on his sheet.

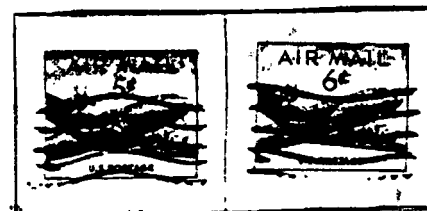
Cards are passed until all players have read all the cards.

(Twenty-weight paper can be used for making cards. Cover with protective adhesive plastic.)

Since only 4 cards fit an 8 1/2 by 11 paper, there will be four more "installments" in the future.)

1. B	2. A	3. B
4. A	5. C	6. C
7. B	8. C	9. B
10. C	11. C	12. C
13. B	14. C	15. C
16. C	17. C	18. B
19. B	20. A	
ANSWERS		

3.



- One stamp here is an airmail and one is a regular issue.
- These stamps have the same design and are the same color, but they have different cents values.
- There is no difference.

## Collecting in Many Albums and Ways

by John Wagner (# 835)

In response to Doug Casey's article titled **What Collecting Format?** (*The Circuit*, Nov-Dec 93). I have a few thoughts and comments.

I also use an album (an old Harris Citation) with printing on both sides of the page. I found that I have to use interleaving to keep stamps on opposite pages from rubbing against each other and pulling off. There are two basic types of interleaving, glassine and acetate. I use acetate because it is perfectly clear and looks nicer, but the glassine interleaves are less expensive and not as "sticky" as the acetate.

My Citation album has pages through 1963 and I am comfortable with ending my collection at that time. The reason I like this album is that it is relatively comprehensive and gives plenty of space for a solid representative worldwide collection. However, it makes no pretense of being "complete" so most of the very expensive items are left out. Frankly, I am quite happy not to be faced with a blank space for a 1910 Polish definitive with a catalog value of \$250.

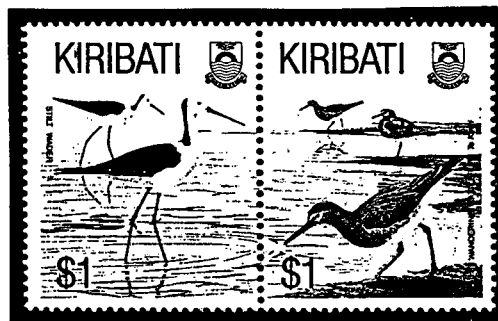
In addition to my general worldwide collection, I also collect by certain years. I have decided to try to make fairly complete worldwide collections for the years of birth of my parents (1920 and '22), myself, my brother and wife (1947, '48, and '52), and any children (1980 and '82). To make

this practical I had to make some rules for myself. I collect only regular postage (no airmails or other back-of-the-book), and nothing with a catalog value greater than \$5.00. In some cases, I find that certain countries did not issue any stamps in a particular year. In those cases, I collect the issues that were "in use" in that country during the year in question. For the years through 1952 I am using the Lighthouse Duku 3-ring binders and blank quadrilled pages. For the years 1980 and 1982 I just purchased the Scott International albums for those years. I found that it was actually pretty easy to identify which stamps I need by highlighting the numbers in the *Scott Catalogs*. When I get a particular stamp I need, I just mark over the number with a different color highlighter pen.

Finally, I am accumulating stamps with clear date cancellations with the future intent of mounting a collection with a representative stamp for each day of the 20th century. I would be interested if any other members are making similar collections. One thing I need is a good reference work on date cancellations. For example, I know Japanese stamps are canceled based on the year of reign of the current emperor but I don't know how to translate those dates into the western calendar. Any help would be appreciated. ••

### Topical New Issue:

Set of 8 (4 setenant pairs)  
Issue Date: May 28, 1993  
Designer: Norman Arlott  
Printer: House of Questa



## Why I Love Collecting Stamps

by Pat Olsen #433

There is no set of rules to stamp collecting. Collect what you like, worldwide, your own country, or do like some do and collect only butterflies, cats, dogs, fish or maybe cars. There is no end to the topics you can collect. I've heard there are people who only collect BLUE stamps, so maybe you can collect red only. I know of a chap who only collects triangle stamps. Other collectors look for stamps with a nice clean round cancel (bullseyes); some look for stamps with a square cancel. Then, there are others who go down to the Post Office and buy new issues — collect only mint.

I feel sorry for them because one of the joys of stamp collecting (for me) is finding a used stamp to fill in a spot on one of the pages of my album. On the long cold dark days of winter, soaking stamps and sorting through them is so rewarding. When you find a stamp with an exotic cancel you pause and think of that place on the other side of the world where the sun is shining and there are hot days and walks along sandy beaches. One can sit for hours day dreaming; at least I do.

Another swell thing about stamp collecting — you can make your own albums. Make your own set the way YOU like it. As long as you enjoy the work of making up the books, go for it! Tell others what you collect and swap stamps with people around the world. Once in a while you may get some dubious stamps but most of the time you'll open a letter and feel as if you've hit the jackpot as you behold some excellent additions to your collection. In gratitude, I send better stamps back in hopes of pleasing the friend from across the sea who made my day.

Oh yes, there is nothing better than collecting stamps and making friends around the world through your hobby! ••

## Editorial: Mail Order Laws *by Rita Kallal (#26), Editor*

Following several complaints about an advertiser's extreme delay in delivery of orders, it appears that it's time to discuss with advertisers the laws that they are required to abide by.

First of all, ISWSC and its Officers, Chairpersons, Directors, Authors, etc. assume no responsibility or any liability regarding transactions between members and/or advertisers. The Officers and *The Circuit* Editor will however attempt to assist you in solving any problems. In addition, advertisers who abuse the privilege will no longer be allowed to advertise in *The Circuit*.

Our advertising policy follows the ordinary Federal law concerning mail order advertisement. It is the law that advertisers MUST notify customers anytime they are unable to complete the order within 30 days, unless explicit notice of delivery time is noted in the advertisement. This is the reason for the clause "Delivery within 4-6 weeks" in many ads. They are meeting the federal law requirements while cutting the expense of notifying every customer in case of late delivery. This law provides that the customer must be notified and has the option of canceling the order and receiving a refund or electing to wait for a later delivery date.

I thought I would bring this law to the attention of members and advertisers, just in case you were not aware that it applies to anyone doing business through the mails. Thus I advise advertisers to be prompt in filling orders and if you will be delayed, please send each customer a postcard telling them of the delay. Most customers are understanding if given the chance,

but when the advertiser treats the customer with benign neglect, the customer becomes impatient, suspicious, and angry. It only *hurts* YOUR business to treat customers in such a manner.

Because I (personally) had recommended this advertiser in a review, it's been particularly distressing to me. I am very sorry for any inconvenience members were subjected to because of my recommendation. It appears the dealer has been under a great deal of stress and illness, but he should have sent customers a card to let them know. If anyone has not received stamps ordered from that ad, please notify me immediately.

While I'm typing away here, let me thank all the advertisers for supporting ISWSC; all the writers of articles, letters and columns - I love you!! You make my job easier; and all those who have helped by sending their articles on computer disk. (3.5" diskettes regular or high density - IBM compatible or Macintosh, in case YOU would like to send me something for the newsletter.) Thanks also to Dave Nelson and our Board Members who've served ISWSC for a long time and kept it going through thick and thin. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to Tom Fortunato and Carol Cervenka for all the help they have been with this editor's job - nor can I ever praise them enough for all the work they have done these past two years. You can see it in the wonderful publicity and growth we've had during this time.

And to each member - Make 1994 a Happy Stamping Year!! ••

## OMNI Sets New Records for Exchanges in 1993 *by Tom Allison (#42)*

Members of the Omni Exchange added stamps cataloging \$25,416.05 to their collections last year — the highest total in the nine year history of ISWSC's exchange. One member found over \$1,000 in catalog value to add to his collection, while five others kept over \$500 each. And all this for a very minimum cash outlay! As Manager I reported in the annual audit statement for the Omni year ending October 31, 1993, there were 1210 books of stamps in circulation, containing a total catalog value of \$72,178.50.

During the year, there were 1244 individual mailings to the 124 participants in the two divisions of the exchange. The Pink Division (for stamps cataloging 20 cents and up) had 79 exchangers in the three sections, while the Blue Division (for stamps cataloging 50 cents and up) had 45 participants. Currently, the Pink book sections are handled by co-managers Dave Paul (#59), Isaac Tannenbaum (#163), and Jerry Gross (#429). The Blue books are handled by manager Tom Allison. A detailed report of 1993 operations was sent to each participant, and is available to any interested ISWSC member. During the nine years the exchange has been in existence, stamps with a cumulative catalog value of over \$115,008 have been added to members collections.

Omni is the official exchange service of the ISWSC and is available to all its members in the United States and Canada. The only cash outlay is for blank books to mount stamps in (3 for \$1) plus cost of postage for mailings. If you have a good supply of better duplicate material, why not investigate this economical and easy way to add stamps to your collection? Write Tom Allison, Box 252, Wilmette IL 60091USA for complete details, enclosing a 29¢ SASE. ••

## What Now? *(continued from pg 15)*

why? How about a few new official positions such as a Member Retention Counselor. Our of ideas come programs and out of programs comes better services and reduced membership loss.

We have a wonderful stamp society in ISWSC. We all can be proud of our officers which have worked so hard for ISWSC and have spent untold dollars out of their own pocket to get it this far. Please let us all see what we can do to make it even a better society this stamp season. ••

## The Way I Do It

### by Harry Lucas (# 776)

*The Circuit* arrived at my home two days ago, and after reading the article by Doug Casey (# 750) titled "What Collecting Format?" I rushed to the old computer to dash off a reply.

My world collection started off as a secondary thing; I kept accumulating stamps other than what I collected, and you can't throw them out, can you? Now it has become six 2-inch, 3-ring binders with insertible index dividers to separate the different countries. I even tried colored index tabs for sub-indexes such as Bosnia-Herzegovina. This of course doesn't include any British Commonwealth. I had that first, so I keep five separate 1-1/2 inch binders for that. (I believe the smaller binders are better.)

I have a couple computer programs that let me put borders and titles on paper, and an using lettered computer paper for temporary. This paper tests out okay using a PH pen, and is about 20 pound weight. Light but serviceable. No pictures, no catalog numbers, when a pages gets crowded, simply rearrange with more pages.

Scott seems to have the dominant catalogues in North America, so I try not to get anything that is not Scott listed. It's irritating not being able to identify a stamp.

In addition I have a mint Canadian collection housed in four Lindner hingeless albums. I guess that albums are worth more than the stamps they contain. I'd never do it again. Lindner albums are arranged by year, so you collect year sets. It gets confusing, going through two or three years to find a complete set of definitives, or other series that comes out over a long period of time.

Something that amazes me is the amount of duplicates a person accumulates over a period of time. Most are not worth much, but perhaps we can trade them, so we hang on to them. Sound familiar? I

## Improvised Solution to Scott's International Album Problems

### by Bruce Kellogg (# 188)

About ten years ago when I decided to remount and expand my worldwide used collection in *Scott's International Albums* I ran into the same problem Mr. Palmer described (Nov/Dec 93 issue, Page 1): it was not possible to integrate Volume 1 into the succeeding volumes because of the way many pages were printed with two countries back to back or just as difficult, two or more back-of-the-book sections printed together.

The solution I adopted was to get a second copy of Volume 1 so that I had two copies of each of these problem pages. Then I trimmed them down with a paper cutter and mounted them on blank pages with acid free book mending glue. This allowed me to mount each country in chronological order, following Scott's cataloging system. It was a time consuming, labor intensive and somewhat expansive answer to the problem but it sufficed, for a while.

As my collection filled out the other aspect of the problem Mr. Palmer mentioned became apparent: there was no place to put a whole lot of stamps, never mind most perforation, watermark or die varieties. At this point I began substituting used Scott specialty album pages through about 1975 as I was able to find

store mine in #4 glassines. A strip of 3M Magic Transparent part way along the top of right edge can be written on with a porous tip pen, and if the right kind is used, can be wiped off with a damp towel. Stationery shops sell boxes of fit these glassines, my last one was Prestonia 98W. Don't get a file that pulls out. It takes up too much room. Buy boxes of 1000 glassines, and you have free storage boxes, just tape up the edges with carton sealing tape.

If any members want to write to me, by all means so, but expect to wait a week or two for an answer. •

them. Since this was a "here and there, now and then" acquisition, I trimmed them down and repunched them so that they were the same size as the International pages which provide fairly complete coverage after 1975.

This gives me a place for most stamps, except for most of the dies, watermark and perforation varieties that I am interested in. For these, for the time being, I am using dealer sales sheets with spaces for 30 stamps and enough room to annotate differences. In the future, when a new printer comes my way, I may prepare my own computer generated pages.

All this paper, as one can imagine, creates a somewhat bulky collection; however, a couple of medium-sized bookcases can handle it. Still, the revised Volume 1 Mr. Palmer anticipated would have saved me a lot of work and had it been available perhaps the volume of sales would have been greater than the 100 sets a year he reported. ••

## Stamp Bulletin Board

(continued from Page 15)

press ENTER and TAB down to STAMPS, then press ENTER again. (7). On new menu on the left side of the screen, type in the topic desired, or TAB to one of the listed topics. Press ENTER to start reading messages and replies. (8). You can continue reading replies or proceed to the next topic by selecting one of the available entries that appears with each page by TABBING to the desired action and pressing ENTER. (9). Exit from the Collecting Bulletin Board by using PATH, JUMP or EXIT.

Prodigy has been enhanced and made more user friendly, so that it is very easy to get around, however, I would be glad to answer any questions on-line. If I can help in any way, please address a message to HSKF48A and I will get back to you. Also, I would like to hear from any member who subscribes to Prodigy just to see how many there are. ••

## Who Uses Stamps?

(Reprinted from *Stamp News*, PO Box 1410, Dubbo, NSW 2830, Australia -The Op-Ed page, written by R.D. Samuels, New Zealand, November 1993)

Over the years the users of adhesive postage stamps have changed. Towards the end of the last century our biggest users of postage stamps would have been large business firms - while the Government itself simply used an array of "Official Paid" markings and frank stamps. For most of this century the position was reversed. Large businesses adopted the new fangled franking machines (although their smaller branch offices still continued to use stamps), while Government Departments gave up using frank stamps and reverted to using postage stamps. In more recent years we have seen a rapid decline in the use of postage stamps, both by Government Departments and big business. I would identify the main present day users of adhesive postage stamps as householders, very small businesses and tourists.

Increasingly adhesive stamps are no longer being used to denote the payment of postage. Stamps are no longer required on letters posted by larger users of the postal service, stamps cannot be used on registered or Courier Post mail and many parcels are franked with machine printed labels. Because of this many of our higher denominations stamps received very little internal use; they are destined to go overseas on air-mail parcels and letters. Neither the hobby nor New Zealand Post seem to have come to grips with this changed usage of our postage stamps.

In some ways our stamp issuing policies - and our stamp collecting expectations - are still back in the 1950s, when stamps of all denominations enjoyed wide

use. There is no real sense in complaining about these changes or seeking to return to the past. But stamp issuing policies need to reflect our changing times and the changing usage of stamps. If we are to promote the collection of stamps then collectors must have at least a reasonable chance of seeing stamps on their daily mail. New Zealand Post must, then, produce stamps for those who are still using these stamps - individuals, small businesses and tourists - not produce stamps for non-existent users."

*Op-Ed page Editor, Bernie Doherty, responds:* In my opinion most of RD Samuels statements can be directly applied to Australia. The evolution of users has followed a similar trend, as has the present day use by individuals, small businesses and tourists. Australian stamp issues are catering specifically for these groups. It may not be long before gummed sheets of 100 stamps are a thing of the past, replaced by the convenient booklets.

As to the dearth of used stamps, collectors themselves are compounding the problem - how many use current commemoratives on their mail? A great deal of stamped mail these days appears to be franked with 1980s decimal stamps, possibly from the dispersal of investment or collector's accumulation.

*Submitted by E. G. Lord (# 868) who wishes to inform ISWSC members that all values of used stamps of Australia and Pacific islands are NOT readily available on mail there; anything other than standard postage rate stamps are rarely seen on domestic mail ••*

## Who Are We? by Tom Fortunato (# 379)

I've read several survey reports over the years which try to "identify" the typical philatelist. In most cases, the results are similar. The "average" collector is a male in his mid-50's, a well educated professional making an above average income who has money in the bank and the stockmarket.

How many of these generalities apply to you? Rather than a name, rank and serial number approach to this question, there are surely other attributes which unite us.

You may not want to admit it, but we are all impulsive buyers. Who can resist that oddball cover in a dealer's junk box, or a rare item you never expected to find which blows your stamp budget for three months? Who has never had to make a decision about buying the stamps in your hands without thinking of the other daily necessities the money could be spent on? It's easy to blame the guilt on impulsive buying.

We are all goal oriented in a hobby with few limitations, an apparent contradiction. Our ultimate goal is to "complete" something, such as a country collection. Few of us can comprehend the time alone

it takes for this. Then we upgrade, by replacing used stamps with mint, mint hinged with mint never hinged, while trying to find better centered ones as well. It's a never ending project. Just keeping up with new issues is a challenge. No matter what we collect, there is always something "else" needed to complete the goal.

One final commonality among us is that we all have the potential of becoming teachers. Philately is so vast that there are thousands of areas to explore and we each take a different route. By collectively gathering in person, for meetings and shows, or by the written word, through the press or correspondence with collectors, we share our knowledge with others. It also can pass from one generation to another ensuring an even stronger interest in stamp collecting in the future.

These are just a few thoughts of who "we" are. To those outside the fraternity of philately, "we" are probably considered just plain nuts, but "we" know differently. ••

Heard that Invitations to Clinton's Inaugural were among 4000 lbs. of moldy mail recently found in Washington, DC. And all this time you thought you hadn't been invited! (Being President doesn't even guaranteed mail delivery!!)



## What Now? *by Dave Creson (# 170)*

Fall has turned into winter here in the hills of Oregon. Our hickory tree (the only one for several hundred miles) has gone from gold to dropping nuts and leaves by the big bag full. I like many those have returned to my beloved stamp collection with renewed vigor and a wish to further my worldwide collection not in just stamps but in writeup and researched items of interest.

I seems like yesterday when I was a new member of WWCC (WorldWide Collector's Club, as we were called before changing to ISWSC). We were just a small bunch of good intended collectors with a very foggy stamp club goal at best.

Nowadays it appears that the word is out. Our membership has grown. I really believe that because of ISWSC there are those who are STARTING worldwide collections in a serious manner. I know that the stamp world in general is starting to take the general collector more serious than before. Now when I tell other collectors I specialize in worldwide, I am not as often taken as a novice or kook. So we are making headway and in the right direction I might add.

It might be worthwhile though for us all to take a deep breath and look around and decide what we will NOT be in the future. We might wish to consider member retention as well as member acquisition.

Some time back I decided that I would like to join a very large stamp society which would give me insights beyond APS. So I sent in my membership dues (about 4 times ISWSC annual dues) and after four months I wrote them asking if my check had been lost. Not a word was written to me just a journal arrived (with the wrong zip code) in my mail. New members were listed, but my name appeared nowhere. I was then deluged with stamp dealers

advertisements (all with the wrong zip code). I asked about their exchange circuit and instead of information I received a circuit which cost me \$30.00 in postage and fees to return. The material while fine was not any better than our own OMNI exchange. Their journal while slick was of little use. Need I say more? I did not extend my membership.

I tell this little tale to illustrate what was lacking from that society and it was **friendship and service**.

In the world of friendship we all should take an active role. Write a note or letter to a new member or an old one (I seldom receive any member correspondence). You may be the reason why someone continues their collection efforts. Share your knowledge and approaches to stamp collecting. I cannot count the ideas that others have given me through out the years. Please remember young minds have good ideas also.

To retain members our Society must provide a group of services as well. How good (useful) these services are will have real impact on membership retention. The litmus test on any service, such as our journal, The Circuit, the club auction, sales circuits, exchange circuits, and others is just this: Is it better now than it was a year ago? If the answer is yes then we are progressing. If we do not know then we ought to find out (oh, those surveys) and of course if the service is decaying or is outgrown then we ought to step up to the plate and fix it less we as a society become like the one I described.

Improved services come from simple ideas such as: How about a FAX number for our auction/mail bid sales? How about a telephone listing of our members or at least our officers? How about The Circuit going first class mail for those who are willing to pay for it (I will)? Perhaps a survey letter to those who quit ISWSC to find out

## Prodigy Stamp Collecting Bulletin Board

*by Ken Costilow (#142)*

As a user of Prodigy Information Services, I would like to share the information that I have about the Stamp Collecting Bulletin Board. I often check this board to glean any information regarding philatelic subjects that might be useful. Collectors from all over the U.S. converse about various aspects of philately such as the value of specific stamps. Identification of stamp issues, buying/selling, where to find supplies, availability of the most recent plate number coils at post offices, etc., are also discussed. The philatelic knowledge level of participants ranges from beginner to specialist. No question is too small, and there is always someone that is able to provide an answer on the bulletin board or by private message. I have found this electronic bulletin board to be very informative. Additionally some contacts that I made showed interest in ISWSC and some became members.

If you have a computer and a modem, the Prodigy software (Windows or DOS versions) can usually be obtained from software outlets at a reasonable cost (about \$25-\$30), and is sometimes offered free by Prodigy during special promotions. Modem speed of 300/1200/2400bps are available in most locations. Some areas have 9600 bps access. Monthly cost is \$7.95, 14.95 or \$19.95, depending on the plan selected by the individual.

For those members who are already Prodigy subscribers, the procedure to reach the Stamp Collecting Bulletin Board is as follows: (1). TAB to JUMP (or press F6) with mouse or key strokes and press ENTER. (2). Type in "collecting bb" (upper or lower case is okay) and press ENTER. (3). A menu appears on the right side of the screen. The first choice is the date last logged onto Prodigy and the second block is the time. Make sure that the date is at least the previous day as only new notes going back to that date are presented (changes to the date and time can be made as desired). Then press ENTER or TAB to reach the next line. (4). Select whether to include questions to new replies (YES) or not to include (NO) and press ENTER. (5). You will now be at the "Begin Reading Notes" line, press ENTER. (6). Then select a topic by TABBING down through first page of topics to NEXT,

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## Need Smoke Free Stamps?

by Rita Kallal (# 26)

Member Peter Bialick (# 476) recently sent me copies of correspondence between himself and Gordon P. Wrenn, the APS Director of Sales. Mr. Bialick had complained to the APS Sales Division about a specific sales circuit sent to him last fall (1993) that reeked of cigarette smoke. He contends that these stamps are damaged and stink up his smoke free home and albums. In response, the APS Sales Director did not seem very sympathetic to the complaint. He indicated that APS cannot and will not attempt to tell members that they cannot smoke in their own homes while preparing APS sales books.

As a reformed heavy smoker with allergies, I can see this issue from both points of view. When I was a smoker, I would have angrily dropped out of any organization that told me I couldn't relax with a cigarette while I worked with my stamp collections. It is not within the providence of APS to interfere in this personal choice.

However as a person who has developed respiratory allergies I now understand that tobacco smoke bothers some people tremendously. Smokers do not realize how much everything within their homes reeks of smoke. After I quit smoking and my home had a chance to air out, I began to notice which stamp dealers smoked. Everything they sent smelled of stale cigarette smoke and when locked in my small office for awhile, the whole room smelled of stale smoke. It was most pronounced when I received stamps in mounted books because the paper pages and covers had absorbed a lot more smoke than did stamps in glassine envelopes. In fact, the stamp filled glassines quickly lost the odor if left spread out on my desk for a few hours. The books were a different story!! Leaving them out on my desk didn't seem to help their odor much, just stunk up the room!

I found a solution in my kitchen cupboard.... regular old baking soda. Using a portable metal file box, I sprinkled a generous coat of baking powder in the bottom of the box, then covered that with a layer of paper toweling. I laid the smelly books on the toweling and covered the books with another layer of toweling. (This second towel layer was long enough to run up the sides of the box a little.) Onto this I sprinkled more baking soda and closed the box for about 24 - 48 hours. After the deodorizing period, I carefully gathered up the top layer of toweling with the baking soda inside and removed it. The first time I tried this idea I found that the books in the middle of the stack weren't as fresh smelling as the ones on the outside. Next time I rotated the position of the books a couple of times during the deodorizing period and had better results. While this is a safe way to rid your stamps, books, and albums of smoke, if anyone knows of other remedies, please let us know. ••

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## Stamp Collecting BB *Continued from Page 2)*

for other ISWSC members, but no new ones have been noted. Prodigy recently changed their pricing and quite a few customers left the board. There is still a good core of beginners to experts on the Stamps Collecting Bulletin Board, and it is still possible to contact other collectors for just about anything: stamp identification and value information, buy or sell contacts, specialist subjects, etc. I have a separate article about the Prodigy Stamp Collecting Bulletin Board in the newsletter. Happy Collecting!! ••

### New Issue:

Pitcairn Island issued a \$5.00 stamp to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of QE2, on June 2, 1993. It was designed by Derek Miller using a photo by Cecil Beaton. Printed by Caror, SA (France).

