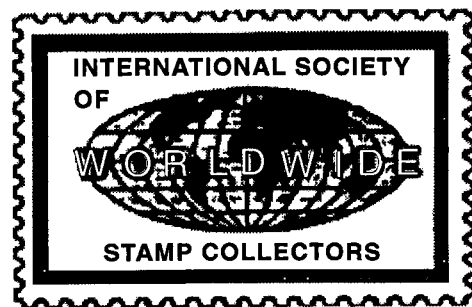


The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Aspects of Rural Life of Zimbabwe

by Augustine Enabulele, S.J., (# 1463)

The majority of Zimbabwean people live in villages in the rural areas of the country. Most village communities consist of extended family groups under the leadership of a headman or chief. The villages are generally self-supporting in food, and each community also supports the many traditional activities that enrich the lives of the people both materially and culturally. Six of these activities are illustrated in this series of stamps. Other activities include building thatching, basket making and pottery, and are usually gender-based, being passed on from father to son or from mother to daughter. Since independence in 1980, many villagers have worked hard to build schools, clinics and dams to improve the quality of their lives.

CARVING

Functional carving skills produce a wide variety of selection of artifacts for village life, from weapons, bowls, head rests and wooden spoons, musical instruments, pestles and mortars and stools to delicately carved combs that are used as toilet items



Fig. 1

and adornments. Craftsmen require not just a skill with their iron tools, but also a knowledge of trees and the different types of timber that are sustainable for each artifact. (Fig. 1)

WINNOWER

This is the process of separating the chaff from the grain. It is an activity that prepares grain and cereals for storage in the grain bins of the village. The granary (dura) is a very important building in the village, which has to secure the storage of food against the

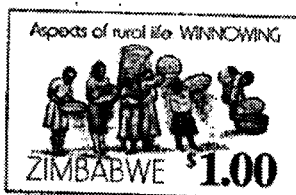


Fig. 2

weather, insect pests and wild animals. In traditional Ndebele culture, the granary enclosure contains both the threshing floors and the grain bins. It is recorded that the grain can be stored up in maximum of five years. Ndebele and Shona are the two major cultures and languages in Zimbabwe besides English. (Fig. 2)

DANCING

Among the indigenous peoples of Zimbabwe, dance is the most developed of all the performing arts. Dance and music are integral parts of the entertainment life of the village. Dance also has specific functions—for example, in the celebration of weddings, religious occasions, rituals, the harvest and other important

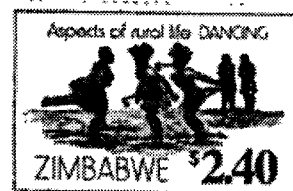


Fig. 3

times, and of the seasons. Several types of dancing are performed throughout Zimbabwe and these include mbakumba, muchongoyo, cinyabera and mbira. Dance music is provided by a range of different drums, percussion instruments, the mbira (a kind of hand piano), maimba (xylophone) and stringed and wind instruments. (Fig. 3)

PLUGHING

The cultivation of land for agricultural purposes began on the highveld of Zimbabwe about a thousand years ago. The first



Fig. 4

See "Rural Life," continued on page 3.

**PLEASE NOTE—NEW
RATES FOR MEMBERS' ADS!
SEE DETAILS, PAGE 3.**

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 Phone or send your questions to the appropriate volunteer. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope or an IRC for a reply. Please note: Editor does not mail out the Circuits. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!

ISWSC President's Column

by Tony Zollo (#856), President and Executive Director, ISWSC

This will be the first issue of "The Circuit" in the new millennium. I first want to take this opportunity to say I hope you and your families had a happy and healthy holiday season and to extend wishes for the New Year, as well as for a wonderful new millennium!

The new millennium has significant tidings for our hobby. The increasing growth of email and the Internet will undoubtedly continue to decrease the art of letter writing and the use of postage as a means of communication. Added to this is the decreasing interest in philately by younger people, and an average age of philatelists that seems to be ever increasing. The decreasing subscriber numbers for *Linn's Stamp News* and other philatelic publications further supports these facts. This does not bode well for the hobby we all love.

The only way to defeat this trend is to actively market our hobby to prospective new philatelists. Surprisingly, one of the major factors in stamp collecting's decline is its largest hope of survival. By this I mean using the Internet to advertise philately to new participants. It is by far the best way to currently reach young people and other interested novices. The activities of the ISWSC and other organized philatelic organizations are critical in this effort.

The ISWSC's youth outreach activities were very successful under the efforts of Al & Millie Feinberg. Unfortunately, Al's untimely death left a void that

(See "President's Column," concluded on next page.)

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

These secretaries represent the ISWSC and distribute stamps to youth programs in their region.

Australasia

(Seeking to fill this position)

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 Turku, Finland

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"Rural Life," continued from page 1.

implements were axes, which broke up the soil in preparation for the crops, such as millet. The use of manufactured ploughs drawn by oxen belongs to the modern era, while in many communal areas and

**Fig. 5**

on small plots of land, the soil is traditionally prepared using a badza — a metal implement with a broken handle. (Fig. 4)

This is a process of using mortar and pestle to grind cereals such as maize and sorghum, prepared foods such as dovi (peanut butter), and medicinal herbs. The average mortar is about a metre long and is made from softer wood than is the pestle, the wood of which is extremely hard. Pestles can be decorated with a carved band around the bottom section. The first recorded use of these domestic utensils is in the latter part of the sixteenth century.

(Fig. 5)**FETCHING WATER**

The settlement of any area requires land for crops and a source of water, usually a river or stream. Traditionally women and young girls carry water from the river on their heads and bring it to the village for the purpose of cooling, cleaning and drinking. Water is stored in a large variety of special bowls and containers that keep it cool and fresh. (Fig. 6)

**Fig. 6****"President's Column," conclusion:**

has not been completely and permanently filled to this date. The efforts of Dave Nelson, John Rose and others have helped to keep parts of the program alive. However, there has not been any person responsible for the over all coordination and management of the program.

On the election of Jeff Hayward to the position of VP for Charitable Services, that void will be filled. Although the totals from the election are not yet in, we have achieved a quorum and Jeff is running uncontested for that important position. On assuming the position, he will be responsible for dividing up the various activities and re-invigorating our various charitable and outreach activities. I ask that anyone willing and able to assist him in this important activity contact him directly (see his address in the listing to the left).

I consider our outreach and charitable activities

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$10*

Youth membership (under 18), \$8*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$17*

*=plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US \$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, PO Box 150407 Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA.

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, *only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads.* 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, \$75**; Half page, \$40**; Quarter page, \$20**; Per column inch, \$5. Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue. *Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra. **Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p.2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1. NOTE: State abbreviations = one word. "PO Box 12345" = two words. Zip code = one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds.

Send text and payment for ads

to the Editor, Marian MacLeod.

For all addresses, refer to page 2.

to be the single most important activity of our society. I will ask Jeff for a column in the next issue of this newsletter with his plans and ideas for the program. I can tell you that has already begun thinking and planning and will no doubt re-create a program that even Al Feinberg would have approved!

So, as we enter a new millennium, the membership of the ISWSC will be in a position to give something back to our hobby and insure its continuation and activity. In doing so, we will all benefit from a secure and popular hobby!

Wishing you health, prosperity and many pleasurable hours of stamping.

Until next time...



Selling a Stamp Collection: What You Need to Know

By American Stamp Dealers Assn., Inc.

Things You need to find out before selling a stamp collection:

Did the collector spend substantial sums on the collection?

Ask yourself the following questions to help determine the value of the collection to be sold. They are the same questions that a dealer asks himself or herself before making any determination about the potential value of

your collection.

If the answer is yes, did the owner buy single items, packets, lots or collections? Can you determine how much money he/she spent or how regularly the owner bought? Can you find any bills of sale, invoices or canceled checks from dealers or auction firms? Is there an insurance policy or a will with instructions?

These figures may be helpful, but one cannot depend on any of them. A collection which is made up of many low-priced items is not worth as much for resale as a smaller collection with a few high-priced quality items. The value of stamps, like the value of anything else, is what a willing buyer will pay a willing seller. This is never a fixed figure. The market fluctuates in varying degrees and at unpredictable rates.

How is the collection stored?

Is it in albums, mounted on album sheets, or stock cards, or is it loose in shoe boxes or cartons? Does it list the catalog value or original purchase

price next to each item? Stamps should be stored with care in a dry place away from extreme temperatures, preferably in a bank vault or safe. See that the collection is handled as little as possible.

What is the condition of the collection?

Are the stamps mint or used? Are they attached to an envelope. If they are, leave them attached!

Mint (not cancelled) stamps are those which have not been postmarked. Postally used stamps have gone through the mail and bear a cancellation mark. Envelopes (or covers, as they are called in philately) can have value

as postal history in addition to the value of the stamp(s) attached to them. Historical value considers the writer or recipient, the place of origin or destination, the date the cover was mailed. They can also bear a design (cachet) or be a "First Day Cover" — one which is issued to coincide with the first-day-of-issue of a specific stamp, and carries that stamp on it.

Are the stamps singles, pairs, blocks or sheets, or are they a complete unit (set) as issued — a series starting with a low value, with each following stamp increasing in value to a final high (i.e. 1 cent, 5 cents, 8 cents....25 cents....\$5)? If they are in larger multiples, do not detach or separate them, as stamps often have greater value as multiples.

The importance of condition cannot be over-emphasized. The tiniest tear, the most minute thin spot, the faintest crease, or the smallest stain can reduce a stamp to a fraction of the value it would have had in perfect condition.

CATALOG VALUE VERSUS MARKET VALUE

What determines the value of a stamp collection?

Prices listed in a stamp catalog are revised yearly. A given stamp may be bought or sold above or below catalog prices, depending upon the condition of that particular

stamp. Condition refers to freshness, color soundness, centering, gum, perforation, and margins.

The sale price of a stamp varies depending on who buys it — retail shop owner, auction or mail sale bidder, dealer at a stamp show, or another collector. Each sector of the market has its own markup and price structure.

The price paid for a stamp also depends on the role of the buyer — whether it is a retail shop owner, show dealer, another collector or bidder in a mail sale or public auction. When selling stamps you must remember that unless you sell to another collector or through auction, you will only obtain a wholesale price from a stamp dealer, since he must resell the collection at a profit or keep it in inventory until it is sold.

(See "Selling Your Collection," next page.)

"Selling Your Collection," cont. from previous page:**OBTAIN A PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL****Estimating
the value of a
stamp collection**

A professional appraisal by a member of the American Stamp Dealers Association is recommended. ASDA members adhere to a strict Code of Conduct. They are responsible for reviewing your philatelic material and placing a fair value on the stamps, with regard to the quality and the current market price. Appraisal fees vary, depending on the appraiser and on the size of the collection. However, it is the practice of most dealers and auctioneers to waive the appraisal fee if the collection is subsequently sold to them or consigned to their auction.

An appraisal can be prepared based on several approaches:

1. Catalog value
2. Insurance (replacement value)
3. Potential auction realization
4. Retail (over-the-counter) value
5. Wholesale value (what the dealer will pay that day)

MAKE YOUR OWN INVENTORY

(Recommended only for those with stamp knowledge)

If you have some knowledge and experience in stamp collecting, you have an edge when selling a collection. Start by preparing an inventory or list of your stamps. The most common method of preparing a collection for sale is by marking in pencil the catalog value (keeping in mind that a catalog value is a guide and may not represent the true market value) of each stamp or row of stamps in the margin of the album page, according to one of the current stamp catalogs. (If you can't buy one, you can find one at most libraries in their reference sections.) It is important to note that many U.S. and worldwide stamps feature the same design, and can be incorrectly identified unless the collector is familiar with perforation varieties, watermarks, or color shades.

**Methods
of sale**

There are several methods of sale to be considered. The appropriate method depends on the nature of the collection, the value of the material, the preference of the person selling the collection, and some-

times the geographical location of the sale.

DIRECT SALE TO A DEALER

Selling to a dealer has two advantages. The seller receives an agreed amount of money immediately, and there is no fee.

CONSIGNMENT TO A DEALER

The seller can place the stamps with a dealer on consignment. The seller should ask for an itemized receipt, a minimum price should be set, and payout terms should be arranged before the collection is consigned. If possible, the seller should have photographs of any expensive stamps in the collection, and these should be made part of the receipt. A time limit, in writing, should be placed on the sale and on the payout.

CONSIGNMENT TO AN AUCTION HOUSE

Auction offers the greatest potential for the highest sale price. The customary fee to the auction house is 10% of the sale price. There may be a wait of a few months between the time of consignment and the date of the next auction. On a consignment of sufficient value, most auction houses will, at the time of consignment, give a cash advance against the estimated sale price.

OUTRIGHT SALE TO AN AUCTION HOUSE

This is the same as an outright sale to a dealer.

PLACEMENT IN A MAIL SALE

Consignment to a mail sale can be a way to dispose of a large number of items with a smaller selling price. Fees vary and the seller should inquire about all charges.

PRIVATE TREATY

Retail dealers and auction houses often act as agents to offer collections in their entirety for sale privately. Commission fees vary.

SALE AT A STAMP SHOW

Take the collection to a local or regional stamp show. There you can show it to several potential buyers at one time and obtain the highest price offered.

WHERE SHOULD IT BE SOLD?

When the decision has been made as to the appropriate method of sale for the collection, the seller needs to have assurance of the sound reputation and financial responsibility of any dealer or auction house. The seller should ask for references, and should contact the American Stamp Dealers Association to ask whether

(See "Selling Your Collection," next page.)

the dealer is a member in good standing. Most members display the ASDA sign of membership in ads in the Yellow Pages or in philatelic publications. All ASDA members take an oath to conduct business under a strict Code of Conduct.

Other Options: You might consider keeping the stamp collection. Throughout the years stamps have increased in value. You could try to add to the collection and enjoy the hobby. It is one which can be shared with children and grandchildren. You can also visit a local stamp club and make friends while you learn about stamp collecting and get to know your local ASDA stamp dealers.

Timing the sale of stamps

Probably the most overlooked aspect of selling one's collection is timing — whether or not the market is strong or weak. When the market is good, a collection

will bring a higher price. When money is tight, it may be beneficial to wait to sell. Remember, the more knowledge the potential seller has, the more he/she can expect to receive for his/her collection or accumulation.

How to store your stamps...

...until you decide to dispose of them

The condition of your stamp collection affects the final sale price because buyers all

seek stamps in sound condition. Postage stamps do not bring top prices if they are torn, creased, mildewed, stuck together, pasted down or damaged by moisture. Therefore, during the time that you are determining the value of your collection, you should take the following precautions:

STORAGE

Keep your stamp collection at dry, moderate room temperature. Avoid attics or basements, since temperature (both hot and cold) or dampness damages stamps.

When storing stamp albums, place them in an upright position. Do not stack them one on top of another, since the weight of other books will tend to make the stamps stick.

CONDITION

If any of the stamps are stuck together, do not attempt to separate them because you may do damage in the

process. Leave them stuck together until a professional stamp dealer can look at them and determine whether they can be separated safely.

Do not remove any stamps that have been postally used on envelopes. If the stamps themselves have a value, they can have an even greater value when left on an envelope.

Leave the stamps in multiples, whether cancelled or unused, intact, since they are sometimes more valuable as blocks or sheets than as singles.

In short...

Selling your stamp collection is like any other business decision: consider all your options, always get multiple opinions, plan carefully and do business with stamp dealers that display the ASDA logo.

(This is a reprint of an ASDA brochure entitled "Selling a Stamp Collection: What you Need to Know!" You may contact their Collectors Service Division at 3 School Street, Suite 205, Glen Cove, NY 11542-2548; Tel. 516/759-7014; Fax 516/759-7014; asda@inx.net



ISWSC Update

By Tom Fortunato, Past President (#379)

Greetings to everyone. Time for a brief update. Newsletter editor, Marian MacLeod, has requested that I inform all ISWSC members that her backlog of *Circuit* articles is just about depleted, and she's looking for articles for the year 2000.

Have you been thinking of writing up something? Now's the perfect time to do it! The philatelic subject is up to you, as is the length, and images are welcome!

By the way, do you have a ¿WHATZIT? lying around that you haven't been able to identify? First, try the best stamp identifier on the web, our own at: http://iswsc.homepage.com/iswsc_ident.html.

If you don't have any luck there, send the image (by email at mmacleod@30below.com or just copy it) and mail it off to Marian.

Dues are going to expire for many ISWSC members in the next two months. Get them in before the holiday season's rush. Don't know when yours expires? Just send me an email or contact me and I'll let you know. See page 2 for my address.

What are your thoughts of putting some basic

See "Update," page 9.

Stuff, Indeed!

by Charlie Jensen (#1367)

The recent article in the newsletter entitled "Stuff" by Linda Smit caused me to look about the room and to construct the following list.

If anything, the list is an understatement.

- A twelve-volume used set of Minkus albums (I tossed out the Sand Dunes and the Iron Curtain pages);
- A battered but moderately used set of Scott catalogs of recent vintage;
- Six large and ten small stockbooks to supplement the above;
- Separate albums for favorite countries—USA, Canada, Great Britain, Israel, France, Germany, and Australia/New Zealand;
- Several separate albums for certain special stamps or topics that I can't resist;
- Two separate albums for a specialized collection of Machin stamps, and two additional 3-inch binders with stock pages for these issues;
- An ancient set of Minkus Whole World catalogs;
- A group of Gibbons specialty catalogs, and several of the countries-of-the-world sections;
- Some specialty Machin catalogs;
- A group of other catalogs from around the world—several Michels, two Yvert and Telliers, a Ceres, a Ma's China (1947), a Zumstein, a Vladstos, a Sassone, a Unitrade Canada, a Norges Catalogen, a Facit; a group of Danish, Swiss, Dutch, and Mexican catalogs; plus several others whose names escape me at this moment;
- A set of Billigs handbooks (missing three);
- Several USA 19th & 20th century stamp reference books;
- A group of Congress yearbooks;
- A world atlas;
- A stamp atlas;
- A shelf full of other stamp reference books;
- A group of eight travel guides (for locating places and scenes depicted on certain stamps, and very useful in identifying postmarks);
- About seven plastic shoeboxes full of stamps, covers, and other stamp doo-dads;
- Six or seven 3-inch binders full of articles and data gleaned from stamp newspapers and periodicals over the last 20 years or so. (That started before the computer revolution.);
- Three 3-inch binders full of letters to and from various stamp traders and correspondents;
- Several foreign dictionaries and the old trusty Webster's that I got for college over 40 years ago.

(Again, that also started before computers provided instant translations from one language to another.);

- Eight steel card files holding glasseine envelopes that I'll get around to someday if I live long enough!
- A stack of classic Scotts, Gibbons, etc. dating between 1904 and 1975. No room on shelves.
- Another plastic shoebox holding pens, pencils, mailing labels, several pairs of tongs, envelopes of hinges, an assortment of perf gauges, a small portable microscope, ultra violet lamps, etc. etc. etc.
- Two old plastic milk cases full of partially-creamed albums and a mess of odd pages with an assortment of stamps on them.
- A pile of recent stamp newspapers and magazines that are to be read or re-read, two or three years of the *American Philatelist* and four or five cardboard boxes full of stamps to be closely re-examined someday;
- Four or five sets of reading glasses strategically left lying about so I don't have a conniption when I misplace the pair I am using; and
- Last but not least, a rack full of current project files and other things I don't know where to put.

Besides the items listed, there is a shelf full of various reference books, history books, a map file and an almost-complete set of *National Geographic* magazines from 1961 to date.

I'll bet many other collectors have also written in to describe all the "Stuff" that they have accumulated over the years. Perhaps there is the making of another article for the newsletter in this list.

Editor's Note: No, Charlie, you are the only one who has written on this subject, and we are all grateful for the great list!



Update from Swap Circuit Manager

By Joan Roderick (#669)

Fees for the year 2000 are coming in nicely. They are not actually due until January 1st, but don't get caught in the Christmas rush and forget. If your fees are not paid by February 1st, you will be dropped from circuits.

It's only \$2.00 for all that fun. You just can't beat it.



THE FUN OF COLLECTING WORLDWIDE

Some Strange Questions About Some Strange Stamps

By Albert H. Ewell, Jr. (#2119)

Over our years of collecting, most of us have probably gathered many curious pieces of perforated or imperforate paper that may or may not be postage stamps. Probably we have searched general catalogues, likely first Scott, but then Minkus, Michel, Gibbons, Yvert, in hopes of finding out about them, especially if they seem very much like stamps we know. That is the story of the four stamps illustrated here.

Stamp
1a→



Stamp
1b→



Stamps 1a and 1b clearly identify themselves as Egyptian revenues. However, their cancellations, much like Egyptian postal cancellations of the time (late 1800s), suggest that they were used for postage. As far as the catalogues seem to reveal, though, there was not such authorized postal usage of Egyptian revenue stamps.

Details of Stamps 1a & 1b:

- Watermarked: crescent and star (Scott: Egypt watermark 119)
- Vignette in central oval: sphinx and pyramid
- English inscriptions: "EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT" around central oval, with "Salt Department...Revenue Stamp" in upper corners
- Colors and denominations: 1a—yellowish orange with dark

brown in denomination tablet, 500M;

1b—carmine with green in denomination tablet: 1L.

Stamps 2a and 2b are tantalizingly reminiscent of some of

Stamp
2a→



Stamp
2b→



the stamps issued in Mesopotamia at the time of the breakup of the Ottoman Empire. However, they also have distinct and challenging differences from them.

Details of the Basic Stamps 2a & 2b:

• The basic stamps are likely Turkish in origin, both because of their designs and because they are very similar to the basic stamps of the "Mosul Issue" of Mesopotamia (Scott N42–49) that Gibbons describes as Turkish fiscal stamps. In fact, basic Stamp 2b looks almost identical with the Mesopotamia basic stamp illustrated as Scott Type A18, except that Stamp 2b is denominated with a "2" in Arabic in the small boxes toward its upper corners, while the stamp shown as Scott Type A18 is denominated "1" in similar small boxes.

- Colors and denominations: Stamp 2a—green, denominated

"1" both in Arabic and in English.

Stamp 2b—brownish red, denominated "2" in Arabic only. No watermarks.

Details of the overprints on Stamps 2a and 2b:

• Color: black on both. The overprints and those on the Mesopotamia stamps shown in Scott look very similar both in typeface and in size. However, they have clear differences that raise many questions:

1. The Mesopotamia overprints shown in Scott use the English letters "I.E.F.D." ('Indian Expeditionary Force D'), but what does the "A.D.P.O." on Stamps 2a and 2b mean?

2. Like the IEDF overprints, are the ASPO overprints of Mesopotamian origin?

3. One line of the IEFD overprints designates them as "POSTAGE." The ADPO overprints lack such designation. Did the latter stamps serve a different, non-postal purpose? Perhaps as revenues?

4. Nevertheless, both overprints occupy three lines. The ADPO overprints have a middle line with either "FIXE" or "z.o." What is their import?

5. The IEFD overprints appropriately denominate the stamps in annas, a unit of Indian currency. The last line of the ADPO overprints, if it denominates the stamps, is in units of two (2) or four (4) "P.S." Does that line denominate the stamps? In what units?

Very likely, in ISWSC there are members who could supply the answers to at least some of the above questions. It would be very interesting to have them. (Ed. Note: If you can answer any of Mr. Ewell's questions, send them to us for the next issue of *The Circuit*.)



"Update," conclusion, from page 6:

information about the membership on the web? Certainly, security is a prime concern for all. What I had in mind was a page simply listing: membership number, member name, country, expiration date, email address Finale, Act II, Finale, Act II, (if applicable) and perhaps most importantly, collecting interest codes.

If you request that we omit your address or state, none would be listed, to protect your privacy. This would replace the membership email page now on-line, but provide you with more information at your fingertips. Putting such a list on the web will give you instantaneous data about yourself and other members. Using the "find" command on your browser, you could sort through the list easily and perhaps start an immediate correspondence via email!

Send me your thoughts! Visit my home page: <http://www.frontiernet.net/~stampmf/> for stamp links, etc.!

**"Omni" Origin**

"I have been asked a few times what the 'OMNI' abbreviation stands for. I would appreciate the meaning of this; being curious of nature, I would welcome the information," emailed Jim Millette (#1314), one of the OMNI Circuit managers. Dave Nelson answered: "Omni was a name that came WITH the circuit, which predated ISWSC. I think Ken Jenkins, my predecessor, made some sort of deal with Tom Allison, who was running it at the time, to come into ISWSC and make his existing circuit into one dedicated to our club. I never assumed it was an acronym, it probably just means what Omni usually means."

**¿Whatzits?**

By Lynda Bray (#938)

Here are some stamps that we have received and cannot find the country in the Scott catalog. I wonder if an ISWSC member can assist us. The stamps say R.A.S.D. Sahara Occ., and we are interested in any information that is available about the country that issued the stamps.

The photocopy here is of just a few of the stamps we have. Thank you. Linda Bray, Member #938, 77 Stewart Harris, Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 3Z8 Canada.



FROM Tom Fortunato: Gordon Manhard (#1580) has identified the Austrian ¿Whatzit? in the last issue. They are indeed a private issue issued in Linz, Austria on November 10, 1924. Some 20,000 sets were issued, with a complete mint set of six cataloging in Michel's specialized Austria catalog at 20 marks, around \$12.



QUIZ: Belgian Empire: Eleven "Lands"

By Robert C. Toole (#696)

- A. Belgian Congo
- B. Belgium
- C. Belgium: German Occupation
- D. Burundi
- E. Congo
- F. Congo Democratic Republic
- G. German East Africa: Belgian Occupation
- H. Katanga (Shaba)
- I. Ruandi - Urundi (Belgian East Africa)
- J. Rwanda
- K. Zaire

Answers	
1-11	A
10-11	B
9-8	C
8-7	D
7-6	E
6-5	F
5-4	G
4-3	H
3-2	I
2-1	J
1-0	K

Belgian Europe: 2

- ____ 1. (Stamps 1849-): The kingdom is in Western Europe. Its capital is Brussels.
- ____ 2. (1914-18): Its far larger enemy is World War I issued occupation stamps.

Congo: 5

- ____ 3. (1886-1908): An independent state in Central Africa founded by Leopold II became a Belgian colony in 1908. The capital was Leopoldville.
- ____ 4. (1908-60): The colony became an independent republic in 1960.
- ____ 5. (1960-63): The province in the south seceded. The recession was suppressed with the aid of U.N. intervention.
- ____ 6. (1960-71): The republic's capital was Kinshasa (Leopoldville).
- ____ 7. (1970-): The republic changed its name.

Ruandi-Urundi: 4

- ____ 8. (1916-22): Belgium issued occupation stamps in its enemy's protectorate in East Africa.
- ____ 9. (1924-61): A Belgian trust territory in central East Africa. The capital was Usumbura.
- ____ 10. (1962-): An independent republic in East Central Africa which had been the north district of Belgian East Africa. The capital is Kigali.
- ____ 11. (1962-): A republic that had been the south district. The capital is Bujumbura.



United States Singles

I recently bought a small US collection.
Here are some duplicates at favorable discounts.

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4	179	Used, fine	15.00	5.00
5	214	MNH - str. edge	50.00	15.00
6	215	Used, fine	16.00	5.00
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8	221	Used, good (perf pull)	6.00	1.75
9	222	Used, fine	2.25	1.00
10	227	Used, fine	18.00	9.00
11	230	MNH	25.00	18.00
12	232	mint, good (discoloration)	62.50	15.00
13	237	mint, good (gum disturbed)	135.00	50.00
14	248	Used, fine	3.00	1.00
15	248	mint, fine OG	25.00	11.00
16	256	Used, fine	14.00	8.00
17	287	mint, OG	140.00	60.00
18	289	Used, good (perf pull)	37.50	6.50
19	320	mint, good perf nr. Design	19.00	9.00
20	476	Used, good	12.00	5.00
21	496	MNH	3.50	2.00
22	503	MH	10.00	6.00
23	504	MH, plate # single	9.00	5.00
24	504	MH	9.00	4.00
25	509	MNH	14.00	8.00
26	511	MNH, VF	9.00	6.00
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29	512	MNH, Good, perf touches	9.00	2.50
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32	538	MNH, F	11.00	5.00

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Exp: Jan/Feb 2000

ISWSC Membership Update

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

New Members

2209—Robert Kemp
253-28 87th Drive
Bellerose, NY 11426-2309
A,G,Adv,Yrs (50),DD,Top (Churchill)

2210—Ann Saari
PO Box 104
Ilwaco, WA 98624-0104
Email: asaari@potlatch.esd112.wednet.edu
A,D,Beg,Yrs (3),DD,10 (postal history),Top (orchids)

2111—Bruce D. Farrands
unlisted per member's wishes
Email: queeretta@yahoo.com
A,G,CC,1 (WW2/military),
Top (gays/lesbians,wine,coffee)

2112—Raymond Mueller
2522 N. Lake Dr Apt #14
Milwaukee, WI 53211-3812
A,F,Adv,Yrs (6),DD,Top (Europa)

2113—Arthur Casey
2 Colby Drive, Unit 204
Dartmouth, NS B2V 1X6
CANADA
D,Adv,Yrs (20),6 (US,GrB),Fr

2114—Eero Turunen
Nevatie 9B17
FIN-45200 Kouvola
FINLAND
F,6-9 (ww),Top (airplanes,ships,
bridges,Antarctic,flora,fauna)

2115—Richard Rizzo
18300 Winter Park Ct
Gaithersburg, MD 20879-4626
Email: borizzo@erols.com
A,F,Int,Yrs(35),DD,2&7(US/UN),
Top (joint issues,construction,one stamp/
country),non-trading

Temporarily Away, Contact HQ

1376—Tendall
2146—Charron

Address Changes/Corrections

68—Jones
2562 Grandville Ave, Hendersonville, NV
89052-6414

178—Stork
117 N 4th St,
Las Vegas, NV 89101-2932

374—Peterson
PO Box 549, Fulton NY 13069-0549

388—Rowe
1584 York River Rd,
Gloucester Point, VA 32062-2510

716—Schaubroeck
36624 Winterset Dr,
Clinton Township, MI 48035-1676

986—Burda
151 St. Andrews Street, Suite 117, Victoria
BC, V8V 2M9 Canada

1446—Schultz
64625 Pierson Blvd. SPC D8,
Desert Hot Springs CA 92240-2905

1480—Hartley
PMB 1480, 1285 Baring Blvd,
Sparks NV 89434-8673

1544—Jordan
PO Box 872, Pasadena CA 91102-0782

1890—Ewing
3231 Alder Ave, Fremont CA
94536-3501

Address Changes/Corrections, cont.

2131—Morse
396 May Apple Ln, Carbondale IL 62901-
7689

2146—Charron
5909 Clydesdale Pl.
Orlando FL 32822-4291

2178—Cirone
5540 S Everett Ave,
Chicago, IL 60637-1902

2190—Cornielison (was Yoder)
Rt. 2 Box 427 Blk. 1 Lot 22, Catoosa OK
74015-9433

New/Changed Email Addresses

25—Nelson: garcianelson@home.com
76—Poling: ckyvixen@kiva.net
410—Pomaski: ncrgtom@earthlink.net
836—Ickler: jjiickler@aol.com
896—Bunker: jonbunk@telusplanet.net
1090—Chamberlin: nyuknyuk@home.com
1188—Longmire: wqtv@tcac.net
1300—Whinnery: whinnery@apex.net
1545—McCoy: cmccoy6002@aol.com
1691—Trammell: ultramel@prodigy.net
1802—Rosinski: rick@rosinski.com
1756—Doyle: bdoyle@doylepublishing.com

Bad email addresses/Returned emails

(please email the correct one to Tom
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17—Rotter: grotter@amoco.com
1514—Cappa: mleon@accessnv.com
1056—Easton: bill@emabc.com
1781—Haralambous: haralambous@msn.com
2115—Harbin: sycocoe@aol.com

Resigned

97—Burmeister: resigned
311—Hodges: no longer collecting
511—Ramsey: no longer collecting
925—Cook: resigned
955—Falle: dropped
1239—Wozniak: poor health
1552—James: dropped

Stamp Hinging

by John D. Pruitt (#121)

Hinges

Until about ten years ago most hinges were thinly coated and very peelable. Properly used, they rarely damaged the stamp when removed. For reasons no one seems to know truly peelable hinges have disappeared from the scene, and the only ones available are thickly coated and dangerous on removal. I understand one major supplier has stopped packaging hinges under its own name because of inability to obtain a safe product to market. Recently a *Linn's* article reported that one major supplier is trying to replicate the old Dennison hinges. We all wish them luck.

Some collectors are using "Magic Tape" or similar pressure-sensitive tape. I would advise against it for these reasons:

- When peeled off, the tape leaves an invisible thin residue of stickiness, which can be felt and must be rubbed off.
- The longer the stamp has been attached, the greater this residue will be.
- Over years the chemical characteristics of pressure-sensitive adhesives tend to change, and no one now can predict how they will affect stamps. The gum may harden, adhere more to the stamp than the tape, leave a sticky mess, or allow chemicals to leach into the paper and then into the ink, etc.

(See "Hinging," other side.)

Resigned, continued

1609—Schleining: lack of time

Considered Dropped/Returned mail

Considered Dropped/Dues Expired

No Longer a Trading Member

1774—Murphy

NOTICE—Check your expiration date; about 1/3 of our membership's dues expire between November and February! Renew now!

Placement

The small part of the hinge goes on the stamp and the large on the page. This keeps hinge remnants and gum residues on the stamp to a minimum.

For small stamps the top of the hinge should be $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch down from the perforations. The hinge should not cover the perforations because it will show and because peeling the hinge will tend to damage the perforations. For larger, heavier stamps the hinge should be $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch down, to prevent the stamp from flopping when the pages are turned.

If the hinge is more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch down, it will interfere with the hinging action—it will be hard to lift the stamp to inspect its back. The back will need inspection for gum, damage, stains, numbers, etc. For diamonds and triangles, the hinge should be parallel to a top diagonal edge, again to allow easy inspection of the back.

Moistening and pressure

Moistening and pressure should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to keep the stamp in place. This is surprisingly little in most cases.

For the average used stamp it is sufficient to moisten, very lightly, only the top $\frac{1}{16}$ inch next to the fold. Then the hinge is laid very gently, with no pressure, on the stamp, which is lying on the table. Gravity alone may be sufficient for most stamps going into the album, or you may find a very light touch at the crease is needed. While the glue sets and dries, turn your attention to something else for 20 seconds at least, so that the hinge does not come off when you moisten the long part. This will also ensure that no stickiness will cause the top of the stamp to stick to the page.

This technique, using the absolute minimum moistening, is the only sensible way to hinge previously-hinged mint stamps that have marks but no hinge remnant. If done lightly enough, it may prevent leaving another visible hinge mark. I do not recommend putting hinges on previously never-hinged mint stamps, but if you must, this is the way.

Only the bottom $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the long part should be moistened. This will allow the free hinging motion. Again, the minimum moisture and pressure used in

applying the hinge to the page will pay off in less damage to the page when the stamp is removed. As you gently press the hinge on the page, wipe away any excess moisture around it with your finger, to prevent the stamp from sticking to the page.

My father taught me this one when I was a kid: after the stamp is put on the page, pull it up a fraction of an inch so that it stands away from the paper until you have to turn the page. This allows any spot on the stamp or page that accidentally got sticky to dry. It stops stamps from getting stuck to the page, and the subsequent damage.

If the stamps are going onto pages for sales or trading purposes they will have rougher handling, and slightly more moisture and pressure may be needed.

If you made a mistake and want to remove the stamp you just put in, wait until the hinge gum is dry before trying to remove it. When partially dry it holds much tighter and will cause a thin.

Removal

Sooner or later you or someone else will want to remove the stamp. If the hinge is very peelable or has been applied lightly as suggested above, it may be possible to remove it, slowly and cautiously, abandoning the process if resistance is encountered. Some collectors rub the hinge with the top of their stamp tongs to break the seal. Most of the time the best way to get the hinge off is to soak it off. Or, you can leave it on, carefully tearing off the part that was attached to the page. This is probably the most practical course of action most of the time. With mint stamps, leaving on a remnant to which the next hinge can be attached means that the stamp will only have one hinge mark. But even for used stamps, leaving the old hinge remnant on means that you can apply one of today's robust hinges without fear of damage.

If you suspect the hinge remnant on a used stamp conceals damage, then soak it off. If there are several layers of old hinges, soaking is always a good idea.

Careful attention to detail will allow you to display stamps attractively, inspect their backs easily, remove them safely, and yet not have them stick to the page or flop around when the page is turned.



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