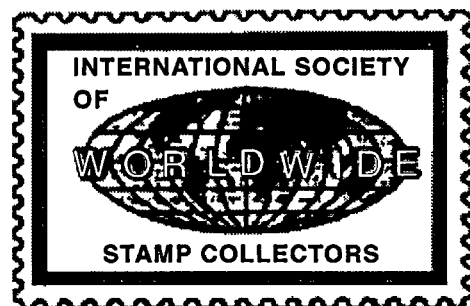


The Circuit

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American Philatelic Research Lib
100 Lincoln Parkway Pl
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May/June 2000 • Volume 18 No. 3

Affiliate of: APS (#151) & ATA (#89)

Current Membership: 641 Collectors Worldwide!

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Malawi and Its Stamps

By Charlie Jensen (#1367)

I get to work my way through a lot of mixed world-wide mixtures, and enjoy finding stamps I don't have, stamps I forgot I had, and groups of stamps that, together, can in some way make up a set to be traded with other collectors and stamp pen-pals.

The stamps that show up from Malawi are frequently colorful, interesting, and in these mixtures are not only used, but more often than not are neatly cancelled.

Since the obliteration is usually a postal circular date stamp from legitimate postal facilities, one could easily believe that they were postally used.

Au contraire, mes amis!

While sorting a large group that had a significant number of Malawi from the mid-80s, I began to notice the printing on the reverse side from the cancelled stamps. Gradually I accumulated enough samples to be able to reconstruct the original document that the stamps had been affixed to, and the purpose of the

cancel. (See Fig. 1, below.)

(In case the printing is too hard to read, the document's wording is reconstructed here): "Malawi Government Pension Warrant and Receipt: This warrant is not transferable and cannot be endorsed to a third party or used as security for debt. No claims in this respect will be accepted by the Malawi government. Payment may be made only at the particular Post Office, or Sub-Treasury Office authorized by the Accountant General within six months of the due date. Pensioner must produce pension book to Paying Officer, who will detach this warrant upon payment of pension. Payment will not be made against loose warrants. Pensioner must sign or thumbprint this warrant in the presence of the paying officer before payment is made."

Below are sections for signatures, the all-important

See "Malawi," page 9:

MALAWI GOVERNMENT PENSION WARRANT AND RECEIPT

14TH APRIL, 1982

This warrant is not transferable and cannot be endorsed to a third party or used as a security for debt. No claims in this respect will be accepted by the Malawi Government.
Payment may be made only at the particular Post Office or Sub-Treasury Office authorized by the Accountant General within six months of the due date.
Pensioner must produce pension book to Paying Officer who will detach this warrant upon payment of pension.
Payment will not be made against loose warrants.
Pensioner must sign or thumbprint this warrant in the presence of the Paying Officer before payment will be made.

RECEIVED the Amount stated hereon

Signature of Pensioner:

C. M. Mphahlela

Signature of Paying Officer:

[Signature]

Thumbprint
(If pensioner unable to write)

Paying office stamp



PENSION NO.

780648

PAYABLE TO

SOMANJE A

MONTHLY PENSION

20.49

GRADUATED TAX

= 82

NET PAYABLE

19.67

PAYMENT WILL NOT BE MADE EARLIER THAN THE FOURTEENTH

Fig. 1:
Malawi
Gov't
Pension
Warrant
and
Receipt

OFFICERS, MANAGERS & SERVICE CONTACTS

President & Executive Director: Anthony Zollo, MD (#856), PO Box 150407 Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA, zolloam@lcc.net

Immediate Past President (and Board Member): Tom Fortunato (#379) 42 Maynard St. Rochester NY USA 14615-2022 stampmf@frontiernet.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Dalene Thomas (#101), 8612 W. Warren Ln., Lakewood CO 80227-2352 USA, dalenel@uswest.net

Vice President for Charitable Services: Jeff Hayward (#1766), 163 Baden PL., Staten Island, NY 10306-6048, jeff@mail.rockefeller.edu

Interim Manager for Youth Services: Jeff Hayward (see above)

Vice President for Public Relations: Dave Nelson (#25—Past President) 200 Prospect St., Petaluma, CA 94952 USA, garcianelson@home.com

ISWSC Board: Dave Creson (#170) 8501 Pebble Dr. Pensacola, FL 32505, USA creson@freent.com

ISWSC Board: Joan Roderick (#669), 12 Red Oak Road, Asheville, NC 28804 USA, jnrderick@aol.com

ISWSC Board and Canadian Secretary: William Silvester (#1058) 378C Cotlow Road, Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 Canada, wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

AUCTION

Receiving & Bidding: George Land (#241) 4024 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 USA

Mailing & Billing: Everett King (#1389) PO Box 425, Sunol, CA 94586 USA, stamps@whitethorn.com

SALES CIRCUIT

Manager (US): Robert McKenzie (#1055), 420 Shorewood Dr., East Falmouth, MA 02536 USA, SKOSHEMCK@AOL.COM

OMNI CIRCUIT

Manager: Jerry Gross (#429), PO Box 24966, Jacksonville, FL 32241 USA

SWAP CIRCUIT

Coordinator: Joan Roderick (#669), 12 Red Oak Road, Asheville, NC 28804 USA, jnrderick@aol.com

SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

(ACCORDING TO THE FIRST INITIAL YOUR LAST NAME)

A–F: Scott Sadger (#882), 2140 Miller Road, Buchanan, MI 49107

G–M: Randy Smith (#1111), PO Box 21115, Eagan, MN 55121-0115

N–Z: Jack Searles (#982), 733 Front Street, Olean, NY 14760-2851

CTO Circuits: William Silvester (#1058), 378C Cotlow Road, Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 Canada

Small (Definitives) Circuit: Richard Bennett (#393), 172 Phelps Road, Madison Heights, VA 24572

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marian MacLeod, 302 Armory Place, Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783-2006. 906•632-9663; Fax 906•635-3425; mmacleod@30below.com

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

There is much going on in the ISWSC, as this issue of *The Circuit* bears out. My column will be short due to space limitations. However, I do want to give you all early notice of a change in the ISWSC dues, approved by a vote of the board. Due to the unpopularity of the late fees imposed one year ago, there will be a change. Instead of a stick, we will try to use a carrot.

As of July 1, 2000, the dues for the ISWSC will increase to \$12 per year (payable in US dollars, mint US stamps, or mint stamps from your country with a face value equal to \$10 US per year of renewal). However, we will offer a \$2 discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the expiration date (the last day of the odd numbered month shown on your membership card and on your address label from this newsletter). In other words, if your expiration date is July 2000, this translates to the last day of that month (July 31, 2000), and your renewal must be received by June 30, 2000.

Therefore, as long as you renew early, you can continue the \$10 annual dues for a long time to come. Remember, you can renew for up to three years in advance. Notice of this change will appear again in the July issue, but it pays to be prepared!

Till next time...

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

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

Australasia

Andrew McEachern (1755)
2 Lawnton St Daisy Hill QLD
4127 AUSTRALIA
Tel # 61-7-32083720
valerieandrewhenry@bigpond.com.au

Canada

William Silvester (#1058)
378C Cotlow Road
Victoria BC V9C 2G1 Canada

Eastern Europe

Jan Szyrka (#539)
ul. Srebrna 29
PL-44121 Gliwice Poland
szyrka@zeus.polsl.gliwice.pl

Western Europe

Jean-Marc Fruit (#1124)
18 Cite des Coquelicots
B-8957 Messines
Belgium

British Isles

Chad Neighbor (#510)
28 Relugas Place
Edinburgh EH9 2PY
Scotland, UK
cneighbor@scotsman.com

Cuba

Adrian Portuondo (#952)
Apartado 9009
Santiago 90900, Cuba

Scandinavia/Baltics

Martti Vihanto (#830)
PO Box 34
FIN-20521
Turku, Finland

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: MAY 20, 2000

Andrew McEachern: New Australia/New Zealand Rep.

Andrew McEachern, our new representative for Australia and New Zealand, describes himself as a willing victim of volunteerism and a persistent whole-of-world philatelist. After many years as chief of a group of eight Victorian fire brigades near Melbourne, career advancement took his family 1,300 miles north to settle in Queensland. Looking for a new outlet for his spare-time energies, he spoke up too loudly at the local philatelic society and found himself made public relations officer. From this it was a short step to Society President, and then to Secretary of the Queensland Stamp Promotion Council, and to national President, Australian Stamp Promotion Council (Australian Philatelic Federation forerunner). In the latter position, he personally supported 330 school stamps clubs with six-weekly kits and newsletters, gained membership of FIP for Australia, and founded the Card from Santa project, inter alia, until senior corporate appointments took him out of stampdom. He has won awards at STAMPEX (UK) and ANPEX (Australia) but does not now actively exhibit. In 1981 he was given a special Philatelist of the Year Award for services to national philately.

He took an early "retirement" in 1998 after having been CEO of Credit Union Australia for many years, followed by being Chairman and CEO of a multinational, he now has a small stamp business with a big name—Stamps International (A/Asia) Pty. Ltd. He runs monthly fairs in the state capital, Brisbane, and attends club days. Andrew conducts the world's only interactive correspondence course for wannabe stamp dealers, conducts quarterly mail bid auctions, and is moving some activities onto the Internet. With his wife, he travels to at least three international and national stamp exhibitions around the world yearly.

His collection is extensive, and, he admits, overdue for thinning out. "Its like working in a chocolate factory," he says. "When I buy in a collection, it gets raided for my needs before I prepare the balance for sale." He 'froze' some of his favourite countries by buying the annual albums from 1981 on, thus being able to concentrate on searching for items issued earlier.

He has great optimism for the future of stamp collecting. McEachern has noted a new breed of collector at fairs, who don't want to belong to clubs, and have no intention of exhibiting, treating FIP type rules with disdain—just doing their own 'thing.'

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.

"Looking back in hobby history, meter mail was seen as a threat, Tanna Touva and Lundy Island were seen as album weeds, and the trend to full-colour stamps was seen as obscene by traditionalists" he says.

"But still the collector scene is active, very active, in new ways, and we must all recognise the old maxim, 'To each his own,' as we adapt to new ways to collect." McEachern is also a qualified disaster controller, reached A-1 Editor rating as a journalist, and runs the local Neighbourhood Watch.



¿Whatzits? Answers Continued, Plus Another One!

Note: The March–April Circuit contained some responses to the January–February ¿Whatzits? This column had to be cut short because of lack of space. The conclusion is here, by Randy Smith, #1111:

“**T**he area in question is now known as the Western Sahara and is located in northwest-ern Africa. It is a desert country and consists of two main regions – Saguia el Hamra to the north and Rio de Oro to the south. Western Sahara is bounded by Morocco on the north, Algeria on the east, Mauritania on the south, and the Atlantic ocean on the west.

“Prior to 1884, the area was more or less independent, being outside the area controlled by the Sultans of Morocco. In 1884, Spain claimed portions of the area as a protectorate, having recently lost their colonies in Latin America. Spain later spread their claim to the area then known as Spanish Sahara and parts of Morocco. Spain didn’t inhabit most of the area and very little resistance was met from the Saharawis, a nomadic tribe of people who historically have lived in the region. Around 1906, a war began between the Saharawis and the Spanish colonial power, lasting until 1934 when the French aided Spain in defeating the Saharawis. Spain then occupied strategic points in the interior of the region and ruled through a series of administrative agencies until 1975.

“In 1956, Spain’s rule of the area began to crumble as Mauritania began claiming territory in the south. In an effort aimed at self determination, the Saharawis began an independence movement in 1960. In 1966, Spain promised to allow self determination in Western Sahara, but it never actually happened. In 1973, the Saharawis organized a military liberation group known as the POLISARIO Front, short for “The Popular Organization for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro.” In that same year, Morocco started claiming territory in the north, while Mauritania continued claiming territory in the south. In 1975, King Hassan II of Morocco, wanting to secure the resources of Western Sahara and wanting to distract his military from the numerous coups attempts it had staged, ordered approximately 350,000 civilians to march across the border into Western Sahara. This action was dubbed the “Green March.” In late 1975, Spain entered into a tripartite agreement (known as the Madrid Accords) with Morocco and Mauritania, dividing Western Sahara into two parts – the northern two thirds, rich in phosphate, was given to Morocco and the southern third was given to Mauritania, with Spain keeping some areas rich in fishing and a share of the phosphate mining profits. This action came in

spite of the International Court of Justice ruling in favor of independence for Western Sahara and the Saharawis.

“For their part, the POLISARIO opposed the Madrid Accords. Unable to persuade Morocco and Mauritania to withdraw from the region, the POLISARIO engaged in military resistance against both countries. During bloody battles, thousands of Saharawis were massacred and many fled to neighboring Algeria and other areas. (Recent estimates indicate 165,000 Saharawi refugees are currently in Algeria alone.) After the death of Spain’s dictator in 1975, Spain withdrew from Western Sahara in 1976. Corresponding to this action, the POLISARIO formed the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (S.A.D.R.). The S.A.D.R., or R.A.S.D. in Spanish (Repulica Arabe Saharaui Democratica) and in French (Republique Arabe Saharouie Demo-cratique), is currently recognized by over 75 countries as the legitimate government of the Saharawi people, even though the government is in exile.

“In 1978, after a military coup, Mauritania gave up their claims to the southern third of the region. After this action, the POLISARIO occupied three-fourths of Western Sahara (or Sahara Occidental), but still didn’t actually control any of it. Morocco, intent on keeping the area they controlled, started building massive fortifications along their expanded border. Throughout the 1980s, Morocco and the POLISARIO engaged in sporadic fighting over the region. In 1988, Morocco and the POLISARIO agreed in principle to a United Nations peace plan calling for a cease fire, an exchange of prisoners and a referendum designed to give the inhabitants of Western Sahara a choice between independence or integration with Morocco. The two sides, however, refused to agree on who could vote in the referendum. This disagreement led to several delays in the referendum in the early 1990s, despite the United Nation’s attempts to get the two sides to reach agreement and hold the referendum. Throughout this time, both sides accused the other of violating cease fire agreements and trying to manipulate who was eligible to vote in the referendum.

“In 1993, the Moroccan government and the POLISARIO held their first direct talks, however little was accomplished. During the mid-1990s, the POLISARIO underwent a series of changes in leadership, following defections by key leaders, leading to speculation that the group was in disarray. In 1996, the United Nations continued its ongoing attempts to negotiate a settlement between the two sides and appointed former Unites States Secretary of State

¿Whatzits?, continued

Howard Baker as special envoy to Western Sahara. Baker was able to get referendum talks resumed in 1997. In 1998, both sides agreed to the rules for the referendum and agreed to accept the outcome of it, no matter which side won. Early in 1999 however, the United Nations postponed the referendum once again, citing disagreements between the POLISARIO and Morocco over how the poll would be organized. In May, the United Nations announced a new agreement between the two sides and set a July 2000 date for the referendum.

"All of the Sahara Occidental stamps that I have seen are cancelled to order (CTO), with portions of a neat "SAHARA OCC." and "CORREOS" circular cancellation in one corner. While I haven't seen anything to specifically prove it, it seems safe to assume that the POLISARIO created the stamps and probably uses the stamps to spread its message, perhaps even to raise funds for its purposes. Given that S.A.D.R. is a government in exile and most, if not all, of the stamps are CTO, it appears unlikely that the stamps will be given catalog status."

And now a new ¿Whatzit? for you, from Robert McKenzie (#1055):

See at right a photo of Cape Verde stamp with three separate overprints:

orig. stamp '00 cat. val.
Cape Verde #31 \$7.75

"130 Riis" ovpt.

Cape Verde #75 \$2.25

"REPUBLICA" ovpt.

Cape Verde #192 \$1.50

"\$04" ovpt.

Cape Verde #203 \$1.25

This stamp was recently offered in one of our sales books for \$0.30.



QUIZ: Cities on French Stamps

By Robert C. Toole (#696)

Not surprisingly, France has pictured many of its cities on its stamps. *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary* lists 10 "chief" cities. All have been shown on from two to 50 stamps each, averaging six or seven.

The populations given here are mostly 1990 estimates:

Cities

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bordeaux | 6. Nice |
| 2. Lille (Lisle) | 7. Paris |
| 3. Lyons (Lyon) | 8. Saint-Étienne |
| 4. Marseilles | 9. Strasbourg |
| 5. Nantes | 10. Toulouse |

— The river port (population 2.2 million) on both sides of the Seine in northern France is the capital of the nation. A pre-Roman settlement on an island in the river was captured in 52 BC and fortified by the Romans. The city has had 50 stamps in its honor, far more than any other

French city.

- The seaport (801,000) in southeast France on the Gulf of Lyons was colonized by Phocaeans (Ionian Greeks) about 600 BC. 7 stamps.
- The city (415,000) in east central France at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers was founded in 43 BC and was sometimes the residence of Roman emperors. 7 stamps.
- The city (359,000) in southern France on the Garonne River was founded in about the 4th century BC and taken by the Romans in 106 BC. 3 stamps.
- The seaport (342,000) in southeast France on the Mediterranean was founded by a colony of Phocaeans from ancient Massilia and became subject to the Romans in the 2nd century BC. 5 stamps.

See "Quiz," continued on page 7.

Our 1st Member for 2000

Carol J. Edholm (#2224)

I started collecting stamps about age 11 or 12, and have never quit. I feel I can honestly say "I'm a Lifer" when it comes to stamp collecting. I became interested when I saw my older brother working on his collection. Several years later, I inherited his collection as well as three other siblings' collections over the years; they have since (except one) come back to collecting in one form or another. The three youngest siblings became interested in stamps seven years ago and still collect (they are 16, 19 and 20 years old). Only one sibling has never collected (yes, that makes 9 kids total in my family). I learned and studied stamp collecting via "Stamp Collector" and books.

I put my collection in storage September 1987 when I went off to finish college thinking I would not have time with my studies to work on my stamps. By Thanksgiving, my collection was with me at college. I guess I just could not live without it! Being raised in the country, I did not attend my first stamp club meeting or show until college.

I married a non-collector my last year of college. After my husband graduated, we moved to the Seattle area and immediately started attending stamp shows. My husband Keith did not mind attending shows with me. In fact, he enjoyed choosing stamps he thought should go into my collection. After repeatedly declining stamps he chose as they were not what I was looking for that day or I already had them in my collection, he became totally exasperated with me and decided to start collecting those stamps himself!

We also noticed that we were pretty much the youngest ones at stamp shows. Upon inquiry, many people stated they did not know how to work with youth, were not interested or did not have the time. We were dared to get kids interested in stamp collecting — and we did! Now, seven years later (in March), Youth Stamp Collectors is a non-profit organization and has registered youth members and teachers throughout Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, as well as members in Alaska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Massachusetts, and several more in Guangxi, China. We set up a youth stamp table at 20+ shows throughout Washington and Oregon, with our first California show this year. We write monthly newsletters for the members informing them of upcoming shows, new stamp issues in US, Canada and China, and lots of philatelic information and games. We do hold monthly meetings locally. Any time ISWSC members are in Washington or Oregon at a show (or WESTPEX in California), check to see if Youth Stamp Collectors are there, stop by the booth

and introduce yourselves. Come see what we do with the youth!

As for collecting interests, I collect general worldwide and specialize in China and Taiwan, India and British Royals. I have a fetish for worldwide Progressive Color Proofs and Specimens. Keith collects transportation, maps and flags on stamps. I am a member of APS #180320, local Collectors Club of Seattle and Secretary for local Sno-King Stamp Club. Keith is a member of ATA #51747-4, AAMS #11322, local Collectors Club of Seattle and Treasurer for local Sno-King Stamp Club.

When we are not enjoying Youth Stamp Collectors or helping youth at stamp shows, we do work at normal jobs. I own a home computer business doing word processing, transcription, data entry and whatever else needs to be done on a computer. Keith is a Computer Maintenance Technician for Shoreline Community College Northshore Continuing Education Campus and teaches a continuing education computer technician class part-time. Periodically, we do have time to sleep and eat.

Stamp collecting is more than a hobby to me; it is a part of my life. It is something I will enjoy until death do us part. I am pleased that my husband can enjoy this hobby with me, even though some dealers will tell you stories of us arguing over who gets that stamp!

I first heard about ISWSC in my youth, and after stumbling upon your excellent web site, decided it was past time to join. I am honored to be a member and look forward to many happy years together! Happy Stampin' Everyone!



Zealous Member Nets Free Year's Membership

by Tony Zollo (#856)

I have just had the pleasure of enrolling 20 members referred from Augustine Enabulele (#1463) of Nigeria.

This zealous member has signed up 19 of his students who make up a stamp club and one parent (a lawyer in Nigeria).

Furthermore, Mr. Enabulele has requested 20 more blank applications for other new members!

Way to go, Augustine!! I have awarded him a free year's membership in thanks!



ISWSC Youth Award

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

The ROPEX (Rochester, NY) award winner of the ISWSC Youth Merit Award for exhibiting and a free one year membership was: **Silver Bronze The Games of Winter** by Alyson Colton, International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors Youth Merit Award.

The show was held last weekend, March 17-19.

Quiz, continued from page 5:



- The city (252,000) in northeast France on the Ill River two miles west of the Rhine was a Celtic settlement that passed to the Romans and later was destroyed by Attila. 7 stamps.
- The city (245,000) in northwest France on the Loire River was capital of ancient Namnetes before the Roman conquest of Gaul. 6 stamps.
- The city (218,000) in southeast central France was a center of the metallurgical industry from the 16th century. 2 stamps.
- The seaport (201,000) in southwest France, 13 miles above the confluence of the Garonne and Dordogne rivers, was the capital of Aquitania Segunda under Roman rule. The city is famous for its red and white wines. 10 stamps (I vote for 20!)
- The city (171,000) in northern France was founded about 1030 AD and was the medieval capital of Flanders. 5 stamps.

Quiz Answers:

Scores	Answers
9-10: A	7 (Paris)
7-8: B	4 (Marseilles)
5-6: C	3 (Lyons)
3-4: D	10 (Toulouse)
1-2: E	6 (Nice)
0: F	9 (Strasbourg)
	5 (Nantes)
	8 (Saint Etienne)
	1 (Bordeaux)
	2 (Lille)

New VP States Goals

by Jeff Hayward (#1766)

First I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has sent me notes of encouragement and thanks after I was elected to the VP position. I'm very pleased to have been given the opportunity to work with the ISWSC and will do my best to live up to its expectations.

My first priority is to reactivate and enhance our youth programs. I have sent several letters to overseas societies in an effort to recruit members and seek contacts for the ISWSC penpal service. There have been a few requests for mentors from young collectors and I would like to encourage adult members to become mentors. There are many young collectors who do not have family members, friends, or clubs in their area where they can learn more about stamp collecting and have questions answered.

Requests for free stamps have been coming in steadily. We now include applications as well as some information about the ISWSC encouraging them to join. The annual stamp donation is one of the greatest ways we encourage young people to collect stamps. These large commemoratives can introduce new countries and topics that they might not been aware of before receiving them from us.

It is important for us to continue to recruit new members, but I also feel we need to encourage the young members of the ISWSC. I would like to ask youth members to send me a note at my postal address or my email address and let me know about your collection. Maybe you need some help getting material for a certain country? Maybe you would like a penpal or mentor? Perhaps you would like to start exhibiting?

I encourage all members to send me suggestions. If you feel I need to create or change a program, I would like to hear from you, The ISWSC is your organization and your input is valuable.

Over the past few months I have been encouraged by the responses from officers when seeking advice on some of the changes I would like to make; their help is appreciated. I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to both Carol Cervenka and Millie Feinberg. If not for their help, the transition would not have gone as smoothly as it did. My inspiration comes from the hard work Carol, Millie and Al Feinberg put into their work for the ISWSC and I will do my absolute best to honor them.



Invitation to Join Swap Circuits

By Randy Smith (#1111)

One of the most popular aspects of the ISWSC is the Swap Circuit program. The Swap Circuit is a method of trading stamps with other ISWSC members without having to worry about the monetary value of the stamps being exchanged.

Here's how a circuit works: The Swap Manager compiles a packet of 100 stamps (to keep postage costs at the 1 ounce rate) and selects up to five members to form a circuit. The packet of stamps and the names and address of the circuit members are then sent to the first member on the list. Each member removes the stamps they would like to keep, replaces them with an equal number of stamps, and then mails the packet to the next name on the circuit. To keep each circuit moving, each member is expected to mail the packet to the next person within 5-7 days of receiving the packet. The last person on the list sends the packet back to the Swap Manager, along with 33 cents in mint US postage or an International Reply Coupon (IRC). The names on the circuit are then reordered, a new packet of stamps is created, and the package is sent to the new first name on the list. Once each participant has been in each position on the list, a new circuit is formed with different members.

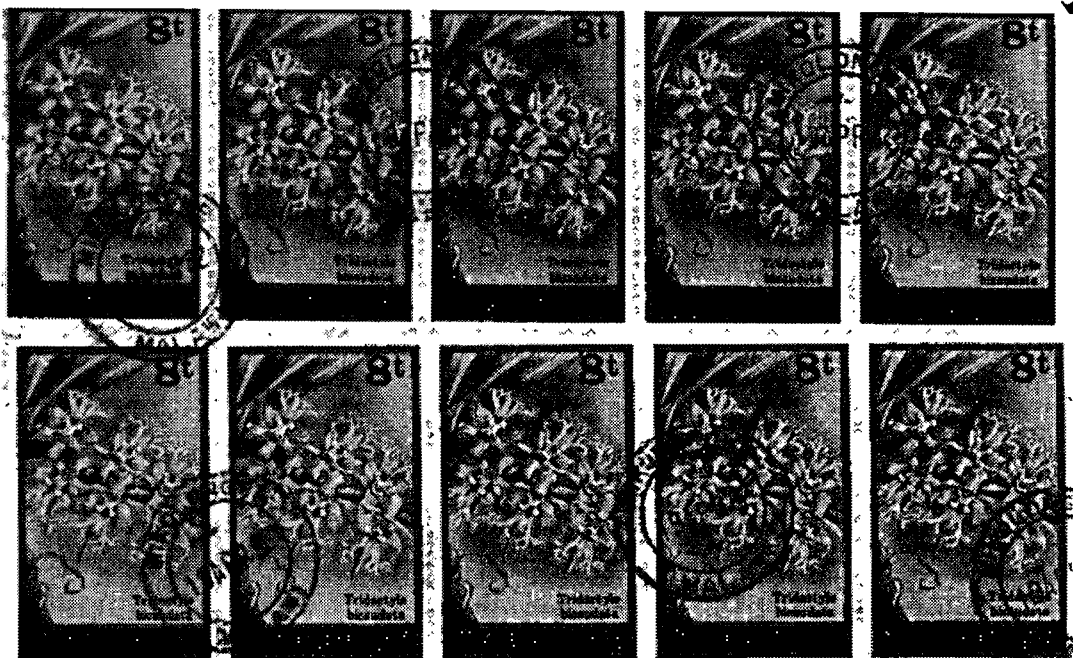
There are currently three types of circuits: Regular circuits, Cancelled To Order (CTO) circuits, and Small circuits. Regular circuits are for all worldwide stamps, excluding CTO's and small stamps. Members wishing to participate in Regular circuits are divided according to the first letter of their last name: A-F, G-M, and N-Z. The CTO circuit is comprised of only CTO stamps, whereas the Small circuit is comprised of stamps smaller than approximately 1" x 1 1/8". Due to their size, the small stamps usually are definitives.

In order to cover the expenses of the program, a yearly \$2 fee is charged to each circuit participant, no matter how many circuits the member chooses to receive. In

addition, 100 stamps per circuit requested is also required. The stamp fees are used by the Swap Manager to rejuvenate the stock from which packets are made. As an example, if Mr. X Tra Fine wishes to receive 2 Regular circuits and 1 CTO circuit, he would send \$2.00 to the Swap Coordinator, 200 Stamps to the A-F Swap Manager, and 100 CTO stamps to the CTO Swap Manager. The yearly Swap Circuit fee (money and stamps) is due January 1 of each year, however ISWSC members new to the Swap Circuit program can join at any time.

If you have questions or would like more information concerning the Swap Circuit program, please send a SASE to Joan Roderick, Swap Coordinator. If you wish to join a Swap Circuit or renew your membership, please send your name, address, and \$2.00 to Joan Roderick and 100 stamps per circuit you wish to receive to the appropriate Swap Manager. (Names and addresses of the Swap Coordinator and Swap Managers can be found inside the front cover of the newsletter.)

The Swap Circuit program is a unique and fun way to build your collection and to put your duplicate stamps to good use. Many swap circuit participants have commented on the friendships they have built through the Swap Circuit program, as well as the number of stamps they have been able to add to their collection. If you haven't participated in the Swap Circuit program, why not give it a try? You'll be glad you did!



"Malawi," continued from page 1:

thumbprint, and "Paying Officer" stamp, which in all the samples that I have found is the same as the postal facility cancellation that was used to cancel the stamps that are on the obverse. To the right bottom is a box that contains a place for the pension number, the payee's name, and the total of the pension amount. All are printed thereon and the two lines marked Graduated Tax and Net Payable, in which the amounts are written by hand.

Again, in all examples that I have the values of the stamps that were originally thought to be postal items equal the decimal amount of the graduated tax. Therefore, these items are not postal stamps and did not do the postal job of carrying the mail. They are revenue stamps that have been cancelled with the post office handstamps. There are no special markings on the face of the stamps. (See examples, this page.)

Once the stamps are soaked and cleaned, I don't think there would be any way to tell if they were genuine postally-used stamps.

There ought to be a note in catalogs, that there are significant numbers of fiscal uses on the market. A similar note was placed at the beginning of the Belgian "Parcel Post and Railway Stamps" section to alert collectors that many of the stamps available were used for other than postal purposes.

I have many examples of the following post office cancels on these revenue stamps, such as: Bwanje, Mikolongwe, Bilwa, Liwonde, Ekwende, Likuni, _ombezi [sic], Namwera, Lizulu, Bawi, Chingale, Champir, and Soche, to name a few of them.

I wondered how there could be so many nice used examples that had been cut from envelopes,

See "Malawi, cont. on next page."



"Malawi," continued from page 9:

considering the size of the population base and the literacy rate. I guess I have the answer now.

Now, this will probably not bother 99% of those who accumulate Malawi stamps, or the many topical collectors who are after the subject shown, and half the time neither know nor care where Malawi is.

I had gathered these stamps (shown) to make into sets to trade with other collectors, and thought they were quite attractive. Now I will have to be careful not to allege to anyone that they are postal items.

In Europe and in the USA, where almost the entire population is not only literate but receives several pieces of mail per day (I average eight to ten pieces each day) there would be a large flow of real postally-used items, and some fiscal usages would just be swallowed up in the mass of used stamps.

But as I mentioned before, Malawi has, at best, a 25% literacy rate, and I doubt that any of those people get very many mail items per day, so these fiscals would constitute the overwhelming majority of the used stamps running about.

Another interesting side note is that the majority of pension payments per month averages at about 30 Kwacha, which princely sum works out to be about 70¢. One hundred Tambalas equal one Kwacha, and it takes about 44 Kwacha to make a US dollar. Imagine being a retired civil servant living on 2¢ a day! "Living in the lap of luxury," as Ralph Cramden was often to remark!

"If at first you don't succeed . . . stamp collecting may suit you better than sky diving."

ISWSC Meetings at Stamp Shows

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

I'm trying to set the ISWSC meetings up for tentatively Saturday afternoon, July 8 at World Stamp Expo 2000 in Anaheim, CA and Saturday afternoon, August 26 at the APS STAMPSHOW at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence.

I'd also be happy to meet with members planning to attend The Stamp Show in London in late May, as well as the ATA National Topical Show in Buffalo June 16-18, but no facilities have been secured for meetings at these latter two venues.

Anyone with input on these proposed meetings is encouraged to contact Tom. See page 2 for information.



Where to Send What

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stampmf@frontiernet.net

Auction Bids and Lots

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4024 Fairlands Dr.
Pleasanton CA 94588 USA

Auction Payments

Everett King (#1389)
PO Box 425
Sunol CA 94586 USA
stamps@whitethorn.com

Election Coming Soon...

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

Did you know that it's almost time for our next ISWSC election? We will be electing two Directors for a two year term in September and October. Will you consider running for office? The terms run from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002.

What's involved? A little bit of your time and a passion to help our organization continue to grow and thrive in a changing world. Directors have a seat on the ISWSC Board, the governing body of the society, and a vote on pressing issues as they arise. You will help shape policy for now and the future, and your ideas will be most welcome.

The Director's post is open to any ISWSC member in good standing, including those not in North America. Email would be helpful, but not mandatory, to facilitate conversations about the topics at hand.

Interested? Feel free to contact the current Directors (see the masthead) or contact president Tony Zollo.



Texts for Ads, Articles for The Circuit, Corrections

Send to Marian MacLeod. Format of choice: E-mail direct to mmacleod@30below.com with attachment in MS Word, Claris or PageMaker if possible. Attach jpeg or tiff of your graphics. Alternative for those without email: send graphics and any other printed matter via snail mail. Editor's address is on page 2.

Please note: Editor does not mail out the newsletters. If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service, please contact Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!



Inexpensive Album Pages

How many times have you heard it – “Album pages are just too expensive”? Now there is a source for pages that are almost free! A group of stamp collectors have gathered on the Internet to create album pages for every stamp ever issued. They still have a long way to go, but they have already created pages for many small countries, as well as for several of the larger ones, such as France, Germany, the U.S. and Canada.

If you have an Internet connection, you can download these album pages for over 250 countries; over 6000 pages in total, from www.stampalbums.com. Each album contains spaces for every major Scott-listed stamp. The pages are designed to be printed on 8.5 X 11 paper so they can be printed on an ordinary computer printer. Naturally, a laser printer will improve the appearance of the finished pages. If you want to print your pages on heavyweight, acid-free paper, I have it for \$10/hundred sheets. Send me an LSASE and I'll send you a sample page.

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(This is a paid advertisement.)

Richard Simpson (#1703)
HC79 Box 52E
Romney, WV 26757
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Expiration Issue:
May/June 2000

Your Opinion Counts!!

by Randy Smith (#1111)

If you haven't done so already, please complete and return the Swap Circuit survey which was included in the last newsletter. If your survey is received by May 15, you will be eligible for a drawing for a free one-year extension to your ISWSC membership! (See the survey for more details.) Surveys returned after May 15 will still be welcome; however they will not be included in the drawing.

To receive more information about the Swap Circuit program, please drop a note to: Joan Roderick, Swap Circuit Coordinator; 12 Red Oak Rd; Asheville, NC 28804-2351. Joan can also be reached by email at JnRoderick@aol.com.

Thank you to all who have replied so far! Your comments and suggestions are very important and will be used to help direct the future of the Swap Circuit program. Your comments indicate that the Swap Circuit is a great program, but a few changes might make it even better! Watch future editions of this newsletter for survey results (and the name of our drawing winner)!

Selling Stamps on Internet, Linking to ISWSC

by Dave Creson (#170)

An interesting thing is going on that I thought you all might like to know. As many of you know, I sell stamps on the internet when the mood strikes. As it is spring I am doing this in a somewhat haphazard way. (Not many lots.)

I have set up a link from any of my auctions to ISWSC with an invitation for the customer to go look if they are a somewhat general collector. I do not know how many take advantage of this opportunity but I have had near 1000 hits (people looking not necessary bidding).

However I know some do explore ISWSC as I have had e-mail from as far away as Australia. Anyway it is interesting, at least to me.

On another note my India pairs (free offer in *The Circuit*) are going well. I have had about 15 letters on them.

I can be contacted at: dacreson@earthlink.net



ADVERTISING

—Send ads and payment (made out to ISWSC) to the editor; address on p. 3.—

Stamps, Memorabilia & Collectibles

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OFFER: ex-USSR new republics MNH, used, FDCs, overprints, locals, imperforates, provisionals, covers, cards, 1992-1999. **WANT:** recent MNH complete sets from worldwide. Dmitry Onishchenko (#1431), GPO Box 1474, Dnepropetrovsk 320070, UKRAINE. (May/June 2000)

OFFER: Full U.S. sheets and booklets, mostly 32¢ commemoratives, canceled for accounting but not used. **WANT:** clean used older foreign commemoratives, prefer British Commonwealth. Interested? Write: Ramona Finley, 1144 East Fork Rd., DuBois, WY 82513. (#649) (Mar./Apr. 2000)

COMMERCIAL COVERS from small countries, 25 for \$15. **REGISTERED COVERS** from small countries, 25 for \$22. Bob Gelfman, Box 315, Old Bethpage, NY 11804. (#1849) (Sept./Oct. 2000)

BEGINNER? ADVANCED?—You need my free WW liquidation lists. Darryl L. George #635, 19410 Hwy 10, Little Rock, AR 72223. DLGstmps@aol.com (11-12/00)

I cannot help every collector, but as you can see from the comments below, I can do a lot for most general collectors.

- 545 I will continue to buy as long as I collect.
- 1392 My worldwide collection has been enhanced.
- 1390 Excellence starts and ends with Album Service.
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June 23–25, Pasadena Convention Center

*July 28–30, St. Nicholas Encino Community Center

August 11–13, GLENPEX, Glendale Civic Auditorium

*October 27–29, St. Nicholas Encino Community Center

November 24–26, PASPEX, Pasadena Community Center

December 8–10, Glendale Civic Auditorium

December 15–17, VEGASPEX, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

* Stamps only

For Bourse applications and information on times and on how to find exhibits, contact:

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