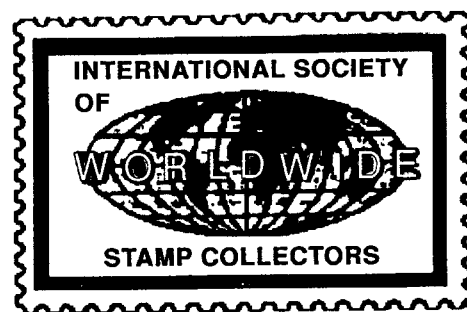


# The Circuit

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*Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)  
Current Membership: 609 Collectors Worldwide!*

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

## Historic Perspectives: Indian Philately

by V. Joseph Kainady (#1761)

### A Short History of Cochin State (India) and Its Philately

The Kings of Cochin were believed to be the descendants of a Namboodiri (high caste Brahmin) of Perumpadappa in Ponnani Taluk of Malabar, who married the sister of Rama Varma Kulasekhara, the last Perumal of Mahodayapuram.

This kingdom took shape in the 14th century at Cochin, which is situated between Malabar and Travancore, subsequent to the attack of Zamorin of Calicut, which forced the rulers of Perumpadappu to run away from Ponnani to Cochin.

Moreover, Crangannore (near Ponnani) lost its importance as a port due to the great floods of 1341, and Cochin became the most important port of South India. After the conquest of Cochin by the Dutch and the defeat of the Portuguese, Dutch influence was supreme in Cochin.

In 1791 Dutch influence gave way to British influence. From 1805 until 1949, when the State was merged with Travancore, 16 kings ruled this small feudal state sandwiched between Malabar (of the British ruled Madras province) and the princely state of Travancore.

In 1949 Cochin was merged with Travancore to form Travancore-Cochin State. Due to the linguistic reorganization of the States of India in 1956, this T.C. State was amalgamated with the Malayalam-speaking area "Malabar" of Madras State to form Kerala, with Malayalam as the official language.

### Philatelic History

The postal system of Cochin, known as Cochin Anchal, was the postal system for communication inside Cochin State only. For communication with outside States, the Indian Postal Department had its offices at various parts of the state, like that of Travancore State.

For Cochin Government use, ONCGS was overprinted on the regular issues. The first postal stamp of Cochin was issued in 1892, and the last in 1949.

### Currency

6 Puthans = 5 British Annas

12 Pies = 1 Anna

16 Annas = 1 Rupee

### A Brief History of Travancore State (India) and Its Philately

Venad, which subsequently became Travancore, was the southernmost feudal state in Chera Empire of India.

Ayyanadi Thiruvadigal (AD – 849) is believed to be the first ruler of this State, which consisted of the present Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts. Rama Varma Kulasekharan, who fled to Kollam after the destruction of the Chera Empire by the Cholas, became the King of Venad and is believed to have been the first king in the present royal dynasty of Travancore.

In 1729 Marthanda Varma became the king of Venad, and he extended the boundary of Venad to North Parur by subjugating the small principalities of Kayamkulam, Ambalapuzha (Chempakaseril), etc.

In 1741 at Kolachel he defeated the Dutch forces for the first time in the colonial history of India. After the rule of Marthanda Varma (1729–1758) 11 (eleven) kings and queens ruled Travancore until 1949, when it was merged with Cochin to form Travancore-Cochin State.

For internal communication inside the State, the State maintained a postal system known as ANCHAL, and for communication outside the State the British government maintained post offices. Travancore-Cochin State was in

**See "Indian Philately," concluded on page 7.**

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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 remember that the 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!*

**DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 20, 2001**

# President's Column

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

Several important ISWSC positions have now changed hands. Jim Gaul (#1853) is now firmly entrenched as our new Manager of the Sales Circuit (replacing Bob McKenzie) and Jerry Foster (#965) is now the new OMNI Exchange Manager (replacing Jerry Gross). All correspondence regarding these two programs should be sent to the new managers. Their addresses can be found on this page.

I have received the vote tallies for our two board positions from our Election Chair, Rick Simpson. As I sit here writing, we still do not know who will ultimately win the US Presidency, but at least the ISWSC election is decided. The vote tallies for the four candidates are as follows:

Joan Roderick - 116

Ken Costilow - 96

Joe Foley - 67

Bill Silvester - 42

So, congratulations to Joan and Ken who will begin their terms as members of the ISWSC's Board of Directors as of January 1, 2001.

I want to thank Rick for taking on this job and all four candidates for stepping up and being willing to serve the members of the ISWSC!

We still have no active Western European Regional

**See President's Column, page 5.**

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*(Represent the ISWSC, distribute stamps to youth programs in their region.)*

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Turku, Finland

## Swap Circuit Fees Due

by Randy Smith (#1111)

**C**ontinuing a practice started last year, the Swap Circuit fees are due = each January 15. If you have not yet sent in your fees, please do so now, otherwise current members will soon be removed from the Swap Circuit routings. If you haven't joined the program yet, now is a great time to do so! The program is lots of fun and helps you to fill in some of those gaps in your album!

A single \$2.00 fee is charged each year, along with a stamp fee. The stamp fees are as follows:

Regular Circuit (A-F, G-M, N-Z): 100 large stamps or \$4.00 Super Circuit: 200 large stamps or \$8.00 CTO Circuit: 100 CTO stamps or \$4.00 Small Circuit: 100 small stamps or \$4.00

If you request 5 or more circuits (per month) of the same type, an additional 100 stamps (200 for Super Circuits) are due for every multiple of five circuits requested.

Please send all fees (stamps and money) to: Randy Smith; Swap Circuit Coordinator; P.O. Box 21115; Eagan, MN 55121. Please also include your name, membership number, and the number of each type of circuit you wish to receive. In addition, please also indicate if you wish to be placed on circuits with members worldwide or only on circuits with members in the USA and/or Canada. Questions about the program and/or fees can be sent to the above address or via e-mail to [rasmarty@compaq.net](mailto:rasmarty@compaq.net).



## Omni Circuit Head Introduces Himself

by Jerry Foster (#965)

**I** am a retired chemical/environmental engineer. My collecting interests are general worldwide, but I concentrate mostly on about a dozen counties where I have lived or visited.

I also collect several topics, including mineral specimens on stamps and classical music composers. I was a part-time approval dealer for about 10 years.

Besides ISWSC, I am a member of APS and ATA.

My plans for the OMNI Exchange right now are to continue the fine job Jerry Gross has done. In the future, as I gain experience with the Exchange, I hope to be able to make innovative changes to enhance the value of the Exchange to its participants.



## Dues/Advertising Policy

### Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership, \$12\*

Youth membership (under 18), \$10\*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence), \$19\*

\*=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. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least 1 month prior to the current expiration date.*

### 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. All addresses: p. 2.

# Country Notes #1: Abu Dhabi

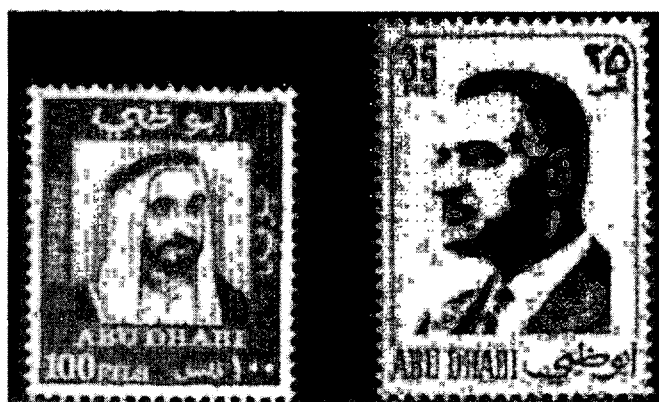
by Ralph Chapin (#158)

**A**bu Dhabi existed as an independent Persian Gulf Shickdom, also known as one of the Trucial States, until 2 December 1971, at which time it joined the United Arab Emirates. It is located on the southeastern Persian Gulf shore of the Arabian Peninsula. It has a population of about 25,000 and the capital is Abu Dhabi (Abu Zaby). The currency changed from 100 Naye Paise = 1 Rupee to 1,000 Fils = 1 Dinar in 1966.

The Abu Dhabi postal history begins with the stamps of the British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia in use beginning December 1960 (Das Island oil installation) and postmarked at Bahrain. From 30 March 1963 until 30 March 1964 these stamps were postmarked "Das Island" or "Abu Dhabi." From 30 March 1964 until 1 January 1967 Abu Dhabi stamps were issued under the guidance of the British Postal Agencies. From 1 January 1967 until 3 June 1972 the Abu Dhabi Post Department issued its own stamps, even though it joined the United Arab Emirates on 2 December 1971. United Arab Emirate stamps (Scott #1-12 except the 10f and 25f values) were only used in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi is considered a modern "dead country."

The short postage issuing history (eight years) of Abu Dhabi includes 83 listed stamps plus one referenced issue (Scott Catalog). There are three long sets (11 to 12 stamps each) of regular issues plus one long set of revalued regular issues and numerous short commemorative stamp sets. There are no watermark, paper, perforation or phosphor overprint varieties listed.

Key issues: Abu Dhabi has two higher value stamps (over \$50), one from a regular issue set and the other a single value.



a. 1 Oct. 1966 regular issue w/ 1d on 10r overprint (revalued Palace) Scott #25

b. 8 Dec. 1971 regular issue w/ 5f on 50f overprint (revalued Sheik) Scott #80

Referenced issue: In 1969, the 15f regular issue of 1 April 1967 (crossed flags of Abu Dhabi) was manually surcharged "25" in Arabic numerals, using either a hand stamp or a numbering machine. The surcharged stamp was for the airmail postcard rate to Europe, India and other Arab countries. This stamp has been sold at auction during 1999 for over \$100 for a mint single.

Topical issues: Abu Dhabi has some nice topical stamps depicting:

- a. Animals (gazelle, camel, horse)
- b. Birds (falcon)
- c. Oil production
- d. Gamal Abdel Nasser
- e. Military
- f. Jerusalem

Availability: The stamps of Abu Dhabi are generally hard to find in quantity in dealer stocks and at stamp shows. If they have any at all it is usually only a few singles or a set.



# Junior Philatelists Become Fifth Associate Group

by Ken Martin (#39)

The Junior Philatelists of America is proud to have become the fifth associate group of ISWSC. Founded in 1963, JPA was founded on the principle that the group should be run by and for youth collectors. While the editor of its bimonthly publication is now an adult, all of its officers still must be less than age 18. Although at its founding the JPA was given virtually no chance of survival, allowing youth to write articles and run services such as a pen pal program and special interest clusters has worked. An IRS recognized non-profit educational organization, the JPA is affiliate 26 of the APS, and has the prime objective of helping young collectors enjoy and learn more about the hobby.

Some of our members do drop out of the hobby, but if you wonder if your support of youth philately makes a difference, I assure you it does. A number of the JPA's 7,500 youth members (cumulative total since founding) have established themselves outside of youth philately. Founder Bob Osterhoff served on the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee. Ed

Roth is now a well known stamp dealer. Bill Donovan is currently an attorney in State College and is past president of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society and past chairman of the local SCOPEX stamp show. Ken Trettin who may be known to some of you as editor of the American Revenuer and an accredited judge, got his start writing for the November/December 1965 issue of The Philatelic Observer as director of the JPA U.S. Study Unit. Mark Winnegrad is current President of the Graphics Philately Association as well as a regular top membership recruiter for the American Topical Association.

"Johnny" Apfelbaum today runs the Apfelbaum firm in Philadelphia. John is also one of at least two former regular JPA members who have gone on to serve on the APS Board. John was APS Treasurer from 1995 to 1999 (and succeeded by former JPA Executive Secretary and JPA supporting member Nancy Zielinski Clark). After organizing JPA activities at INTERPHIL 76, Dan Siegel lost a race for JPA president by three votes. However, his experience was put to

good use as chair of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition and service on the APS Board of Vice Presidents. John Hufnagel apparently did not play as significant a role with the JPA but is a well known exhibitor today. After serving as JPA president, Dane Claussen went on to become Executive Editor of Stamp Collector and Stamp Wholesaler, and today is President of APS Writers Unit 30 and an accredited literature judge.

The JPA certainly appreciates ISWSC leadership in promoting youth philately and welcomes adult supporting members. Regular JPA membership, limited to youth under age 18, is \$9 per year and makes a great birthday or holiday present. Membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly Philatelic Observer and an invitation to join Study Groups and use the Stamp Identification, Penpal and other services. Full member details are available from PO Box 1665, Albany, OR 97321-0481 or the JPA web site at [www.jpastamps.org](http://www.jpastamps.org).



## President's Column, continued:

Representative, since we lost all contact with Jean-Marc Fruit over a year ago. If you are interested in serving in this position, please contact me via email or regular mail.

And now, I will move on to one topic that is not related to ISWSC business but to the pleasure of our hobby. One supply that worldwide collectors use a great deal of is hinges. Yet it seems almost impossible to find a truly removable/peelable the lowly stamp hinge. In the past, hinges such

as those made by the now defunct "Dennison" company were outstanding, yet the recipe seems to have been lost by all present day manufacturers.

I would like to request that any member who has found a suitable, peelable hinge share that information with me so that I may be able to share it with all members. If you could send me an empty envelope from your favorite brand and maybe a sample of a dozen unused hinges, I will run a "scientific" experiment and report on the results for the benefit of all members.

Till next time...



## Quiz Answers

(Quiz on Page 8)

| Answers | Correct   | Grade |
|---------|-----------|-------|
| 1. A    | 6 .....   | A     |
| 2. C    | 5 .....   | B     |
| 3. A    | 4 .....   | C     |
| 4. B    | 3 .....   | D     |
| 5. D    | 2 .....   | E     |
| 6. A    | 0-1 ..... | F     |



# ISWSC Member Featured in Rocky Mountain News Article

*Editor's Note: Dalene Thomas, long-time member of the ISWSC and its Secretary-Treasurer, was featured this year in the Lifestyles section of the Rocky Mountain News. Member Peter Bialick (#486) sent us the article to share with members*

**by Mark Wolf**

*News Staff Writer*

**D**alene Thomas should never run aground on a rocky shore.

For she has lighthouses.

More than 5,000 stamps in her extensive collection, as well as small figurines of lighthouses, paintings of lighthouses and calendars adorned with lighthouses in nearly every room of her house, should keep her from being lost on life's rough seas.

If anyone on the planet has ever licked a stamp depicting a lighthouse, it's probably in Thomas's collection. She is a "topical" collector, one who collects stamps on a specific theme.

She (was) installed (in June) as president of the American Topical Association, the world's largest organization of topical stamp collectors, with more than 6,000 members. She is only the third woman ever to serve as president.

Topical collectors devote their collections to a specific topic, such as archaeology, chess, Christmas, dogs, cats, performing arts, ships, sports, railroads, rainbows and windmills.

"I started collecting stamps when I was a kid," she said. "A bunch of us girls paid 25 cents for a little book. I



**ISWSC member Dalene Thomas of Lakewood, CO is one of only three women to serve as president of the American Topical Association.**

had a good collection, had everything except what was really expensive, and then it wasn't really fun anymore."

Her hobby faded into the background while she was raising her family, but she began collecting again about a dozen years ago and decided to specialize in lighthouses.

"The history of them intrigued me. They're all different. The style of life was fascinating. I can't imagine how people lived in them, with the waves crashing down on you all the time," she said.

"We wouldn't have near the shipping industry we have today without the lighthouses."

Dalene has become a well-informed amateur lighthouse expert as well as an advocate for lighthouse preservation.

"The first lighthouse in Alexandria, Egypt, about 300 BC, was one of the original seven wonders of the

world," she said.

"The only remaining manned lighthouse in the United States is in Boston harbor. They're all maintained by the Coast Guard now. They're all automated, run by computers. They even change their own lights automatically.

"The Coast Guard is trying to get rid of them, turning them over to cities and preservation societies. They'd like to just put up lights on a pole. A lot of them are falling apart."

Vacations for her and her husband Blaine have become lighthouse pilgrimages.

"We've visited at least 300, counting the ones in Canada. There are 156 in Michigan alone. There are more lighthouses on the Great Lakes than on the coasts," she said.

"We've been to the Great Lakes three times, to Key West, and we took a month to drive from San Diego to Seattle and saw every lighthouse on the way except one. We spent a month in Newfoundland and hope to go to the west coast of Florida."

About 95 percent of lighthouse stamps are foreign, including those from such locales as the Alderney and the Aland Islands.

Among the more unusual stamps in her collection is a 1916 German stamp for submarine mail that shows a lighthouse in the distance.

She buys stamps at local and national shows and on the Internet.

She declined to discuss the value

**Number of Postage Stamps of Travancore,  
Cochin & Travancore-Cochin States**

| State                               | Stanley Gibbons |                                  |       | Scott   |                                  |       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|----------------------------------|-------|
|                                     | Regular         | Overprint<br>ONSS and<br>Service | Total | Regular | Overprint<br>ONSS and<br>Service | Total |
| 1. Travancore<br>(1885-1949)        | 77              | 109                              | 186   | 49      | 60                               | 109   |
| 2. Cochin<br>(1892-1949)            | 118             | 105<br>(ONCGS)                   | 223   | 101     | 97<br>(ONCGS)                    | 198   |
| 3. Travancore-Cochin<br>(1949-1950) | 13              | 18<br>(Service)                  | 31    | 21      | 24<br>(Service)                  | 45    |

*For further details and for Travancore-Cochin stamps, write to: V. Joseph Kainady, Mammood P.O., Kottayam District, Kerala-India, 686553.*

**"Lighthouses," concluded:**

of her collection. Paul Tyler, executive director of the American Topical Association, said topical collection is generally less expensive than traditional collecting is.

"Modern stamps are generally cheaper than the classics before 1900," he said. "There are many decent collections in the thematics that can be put together for a few hundred dollars. You can also get into thousands and thousands of dollars.

"Kids can get a lot of stamps with pretty pictures on them for next to nothing. A lot of people donate stamps to our clubs for kids."

Thomas said she is "known as 'The Lighthouse Lady.' Exhibitors say, 'Here she comes!' when I show up."

She founded the Lighthouse Stamp Society eight years ago with six people; now it has 247 members in 13 countries.

Despite her rise in the philatelic world, stamp collecting remains largely the province of men.

"In our stamp group, the West Side Stamp Club, we have 45 members and only six of them women," she said. "I'd guess that about 10 percent of stamp collectors are women."

"Now that topical collecting is getting more popular, more women are getting into it. They can collect cats and other things they like. A lot

of stamp collecting is history, and that's kind of been a man's bailiwick."

**Dalene Thomas**

**Age:** 58

**Background:** Colorado native who graduated from Englewood High School and studied art history at Colorado State University

**Family:** Married to Blaine, an administrator with Keebler Company. Three sons, four grandchildren, four step-grandchildren

**Position:** President of American Topical Association, the second-largest stamp collecting organization in the nation

**Most unusual Item in her collection:** "Robert Louis Stevenson's family members were all lighthouse architects. I have a letter from his uncle to the lighthouse board in England."

**How the Internet has changed stamp collecting:** "A lot. I'm scared to see what it's going to do to stamp shows. Dealers can sit at home and sell more than they can at a show without the expense. It's opened it up for people who are buying, and the accessibility has been good. At least one of every three of my new members comes from my Web page ([www.lighthousestampociety.homepage.com](http://www.lighthousestampociety.homepage.com))."

**"Indian Philately," conclusion:**

existence from 1949 to 1956, only when the Malayalam-speaking Malabar province of the previous British-ruled Madras was merged with Travancore-Cochin to form Kerala (meaning "land of coconuts") for the Malayalam-speaking people of India. The "Anchal" system merged with the postal system of independent India in 1950. The Anchal stamps of Travancore were first issued in October 1885 and the last were issued in 1946. "For Travancore government use, on S.S." (on Sirkar Service — "Sirkar" means "government") was overprinted on the regular stamps.

*See Chart, columns 1 & 2.*

## Canadian Postage to Take a Hike by Wilson Wong (#1462)

Starting January 1, the cost of sending a letter in Canada will rise once again. The postage hike will see the cost of stamps go up one cent, for a domestic letter, to 47¢.

For a letter to the United States, the rate will go up five cents to 60¢, while a letter destined for the rest of the world will cost \$1.05, up from the current rate of 95¢.

Even though this is the second postage increase in four years, Canada is still one of the cheapest places in the industrial world to send a letter. Currently, in the United States, it would cost 47.7¢ Canadian to send a letter/ 63.9¢ Canadian would be the cost of a domestic letter in Great Britain, and in Japan the cost of a letter is 91.1¢.

# Youth Champion of Champions (Indianapolis Show)

submitted by Ada M. Prill

Many stamp clubs make up packages of 25–100 different stamps to give to kids, which is fine. Many individual collectors are generous with their duplicates, which is admirable. Beyond these efforts, there is very little done today to interest kids in stamps. Most young stamp collectors come from stamp collecting families, many becoming interested in philately at a very young age. Few schools have stamp clubs to encourage kids to move on past the beginner stage. Most in the hobby, in fact, think of all children who collect stamps as beginners. But the 12-year-old who has been collecting postal history for four years has little interest in the colorful CTOs from Mongolia which are likely to be pressed on him/her at a stamp show.

One of the few organizations that recognizes that not all kids are beginners is the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Children who have shown an interest in philatelic exhibiting can get their exhibits critiqued by an experienced judge through the AAPE critique service. AAPE tries to nurture young exhibitors at every stage of development, and one of its most successful programs, the Youth Championship, has encouraged advanced youth exhibiting at the national level.

The Youth Championship brings together the youth exhibits which have won Youth Grand Awards (provided by the AAPE) at any nationally accredited show in the US or Canada. At the annual Championship many prizes are given, and all participants are given praise and encouragement. There is competition — kids love earning awards that mean something — but all the participants are nurtured.

In the past many shows did not accept youth exhibits or accepted them only non-competitively. The Youth Championship has encouraged shows to take youth exhibiting seriously. And when kids — perhaps dragged to the stamp show by a parent — see what other kids are doing, they think "Hey, I can do something like that," and a new exhibitor is created.

Exhibiting encourages youngsters to organize their collections, to really think about what they have, and to present it in a pleasing manner. These skills are useful in school and in other aspects of their lives as well; most youth exhibitors are excellent students. It also gives focus to what in most cases is a family activity, putting the child in a position to make decisions about what to exhibit and how to tell a story with stamps.

Parent-directed stamp collecting is likely to disappear when the child becomes an adolescent. But an exhibitor with his/her own ideas and a lot of positive feedback from other adults is more likely to stay in the hobby. Or to return to it later in adulthood.

The AAPE youth programs are encouraging the young people who will be the philatelic leaders of the new century. In the competition which took place in Indianapolis in July, nineteen youth exhibits were on display, all of them excellent. The subjects of the exhibits ranged from "Indiana 4-Bars — Types and Usages" (the winner of this year's competition) to "Central Lithuania" to "Types of Birds" and "Horses Around the World." There was an exhibit of Guatemalan postal stationery and two of U.S. railroads. The young people, aged 10–16, who put together these exhibits are bright, active, positive, interesting people, truly the leaders of tomorrow. They deserve our support and encouragement.



**ATA YOUTH AWARD** *Horses Around the World* — Danielle Henak (age 10), representing The Plymouth Show.

**ISWSC AWARD** *Birds in Art and Culture* — Amber Marie Everett (age 12), representing AmeriStamp Expo

**JPA MEMBERSHIP AWARD** *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II* — Kristen Ollies (age 12), representing ROPEX

**APS MEMBERSHIP AWARD** *Christmas in Canada* — Kelly Liusz (age 16), representing the Edmonton Stamp Show

**GERTRUDE FITCH HORTON AWARD** (for a promising exhibit by an exhibitor under the age of 11) *Out of this World: Exploring Our Solar System* — Michael G. Ollies (age 10), representing OKPEX

**NAPEX TITLE PAGE AWARD** *Ships and Boats* — Tatjana Yurich (age 11), representing PIPEX

**NAPEX CREATIVITY AWARD** *Love Through My Eyes*, — Kristen Ollies (age 12), representing APS Stampshow

**NAPEX TOPICAL AWARD** (for an exhibit showing excellence in philatelic knowledge) *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II* — Kristen Ollies (age 12), representing ROPEX

**NAPEX THEMATIC AWARD** (for an exhibit showing outstanding knowledge of the subject matter) *Railroading in the U.S.* — Dzintars Grinfelds (age 11), representing ROMPEX





# Foster Takes Over Omni Circuit

by Jerry Gross (#429)

After struggling with gradually deteriorating health conditions, I have finally had to face the facts of life and relinquish my positions of OMNI EXCHANGE manager and Blue Circuit co-manager. Fortunately for the membership, an able successor stepped forward and accepted the dual roles.

Jerry Foster (#965), a retired chemical/environmental engineer, has been an active member of the exchange since June 1999 and is a member of both APS and ATA. In addition, he has some ten years experience as a part-time approval dealer.

Further correspondence should be sent to: Jerry R. Foster, P.O. Box 7426, No. Augusta, SC 29841

Your books in house, account records, postage account balance and recent correspondence are also being sent to him. Books currently out with other members should be returned direct to him under instructions identical to these.

I have had a great time in OMNI and will sorely miss all the terrific members. Sometime in the next sixty days I will be relocating to the Charlotte, NC area as my wife has been transferred there. I don't know what I will be doing yet; at the very least playing the role of a domesticated husband!

Best of luck and good health to you and yours.



**NAPEX RESEARCH AWARD** *A Guatemalan Postal Card: The 1890 3 Centavos Carmine Red* — Joyce Adams (age 16), representing INDYPEX

**HOWARD HOTCHNER AWARD** (for the best portrayal of American History) *Railroading in the U.S.* — Dzintars Grinfelds (age 11), representing ROMPEX

**WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY POSTAL HISTORY AWARD** (for the best postal history exhibit) *Indiana 4-Bars — Types and Usages* — John R. Ryle (age 16), representing The March Party

**LIBERTY AWARD** (for the best traditional-form exhibit) *Central Lithuania* — Dzintars Grinfelds (age 11), representing Filatellic Fiesta.

**YOUTH CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS** (includes Ralph Herdenberg Award) *Indiana 4-Bars — Types and Usages* — John R. Ryle (age 16), representing The March Party



# Quiz: French South Pacific Ocean

by Robert C. Toole

France has issued stamps for six different "lands" in the South Pacific Ocean since 1859. Two are merely different names for the same land.

- This French Overseas Territory and islands east of Australia have had stamps since 1859.
  - French Caledonia
  - Ile des Pines
  - Loyalty Islands
  - Norumea
- This colony and island of the Society Islands, now in French Polynesia, had stamps in 1882-1915.
  - Olaheite
  - Papeete
  - Tahiti
  - Windward Islands
- This colony, now an overseas territory, had stamps in 1892-1956. Tahiti was the largest and most important island.
  - French Oceania
  - Marguesas Islands
  - Rapa
  - Tuamotu
- This condominium under the joint administration of Great Britain and France, north of New Caledonia, had stamps in 1908-80, when it became the independent republic of Vanuatu.
  - Malekula
  - New Hebrides
  - Pentecost
  - Vila
- These French Overseas Territory and islands north-east of Fiji has had stamps since 1920.
  - Futuna Islands
  - French Southern and Antarctic Territory
  - Wallis Islands
  - Wallis and Futuna Islands
- This French Overseas Territory was formerly named French Oceania and has issued stamps since 1958.
  - French Polynesia
  - Gambier
  - Society Islands
  - Tubuai

Answers are on Page 5.

**New Members**

2285 Exp 09/01

Barry Hoffman

5005 Nassawango Rd

Snow Hill, MD 21863-3639

Email: quickwriter@sitecone.net

2286 Exp 11/01

Ann E. Adams

414 Welsted St

Napolean, OH 43545-1736

A,C,Int,Yrs(5),CC,1,2,7(US,GB,Can,  
Aust),9,10(FDC,rev),Top(medical)

2287 Exp 11/01

Gene Lunke

10225 Lyndale Ave, Unit 14

Bloomington, MN 55420-4100

Email: glunke@msn.com

A,G,Int,DD

2288 Exp 11/02

Jeffrey W Brandt

719 E Grubb Dr

Mesquite, TX 75149-7503

Email: brandtjw@aol.com

B(to1967), F,Int(15),CC,1&4(US),  
10(Ger,Vat,Can,US-pre1930),Top(WWII)

2289 Exp 11/01

Naomi Healing

PMB 415, 11956 Bernardo Plaza Dr

San Diego, CA 92128-2538

Email: naomihealing@hotmail.com

A,D,Beg,CC,1(women),3-6-9(ww),10(art  
covers & artistamps,cinderella)

2290 Exp 11/02

Henry Stein, Ed.D.

2541 Sweetbriar Dr

Campbell, CA 95008-4924

Email: hstein@mindspring.com

B(to 1941), G,Adv(58), EE, 1-3-8(ww),4-  
5(USA),Top(palms,radio,  
detectives,maps,lighthouses,space),L(Ger) non-  
exchanger

2291 Exp 11/01

Anthony D Calvert

Email: tcalvert@tscinc.com

A,G,Beg(1) DD,1,3,7(GB,com KGV1),8

2292 Exp 11/01

Gbeminiyi Aldeodachi

c/o Augustine Enabulele

PO Box 7936

Wues, Abuja

Nigeria

2293 Exp 11/01

Ada Enyioha

c/o Augustine Enabulele

PO Box 7936

Wues, Abuja

Nigeria

**Address Changes/Corrections**

1087- Young

125 4<sup>th</sup> Avw SE

Mayville, ND 58257

1162- Woodward

16 Gregory Ln

Chester Springs, PA 19425-3314

1257- Plaskett

3206-520 Beckrich Rd

Panama City, FL 32407-3206

1463- Enabulele

PO Box 7936

Wuse, Abuja

Nigeria

1504- Newton

1114 Nokomis Ave S

Venice, FL 34295

1641- Nyhlen

5021 Calle de Carino

Albuquerque, NM 87111-2966

2165- Murray

12433 Admiralty Way Apt J301, Everett, WA  
98204-7558

2281- Sweetser

45 School St, Apt 2,

Lebanon, NH 03766-1628

**New/Changed Email Addresses**

279- Tomecek ndiamond2@aol.com

669- Roderick jnroderick@earthlink.com

913- Ware r78172age@yahoo.com

**Bad email addresses/Returned emails**(email right one to Tom Fortunato:  
stampmtf@frontiernet.net)

2106- Yotov valyotov@yahoo.com

**Resigned**

576- Caskie no time for stamps

1525- Pease deceased

**Considered Dropped/Dues Exp.in September**

974- Stearman

1574- Stillwell

1590- Anderson

2200- Burke

2203- Netteburg

2204- Paolini

2208- Cabral

2267- Prater

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*Have a story to tell?  
Please think about submitting  
something for The Circuit!  
Send your story to the Editor  
via email or post.*

# World's Wackiest (Philatelic) Wonders

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

Just why did some countries issue these stamps? Either the subjects or designs (or both!) just defy logic. Here's what I mean...

Just why did The Gambia (Fig. 1) decide to issue a stamp depicting "Pillow fighting on a greasy pole" in 1978?

The Ivory Coast gets my vote for the ugliest designs. Here are two examples. The first (Fig. 2) is their first anniversary tribute to discovering oil. It's a ram with its head out of the water and flames coming out its curled horns, topped off with gold colored chalices in 1977. The second example (Fig. 3) from 1988 is a semi-postal would make anyone do a double-take. It looks like Siamese twins joined at the head and back with a heart-shaped opening between!

Speaking of heads, the Netherlands issue (Fig. 4) depicts two heads joined at the brain, which, incidentally, share a heart as well in that gray stuff!

What wackiness can you find?



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

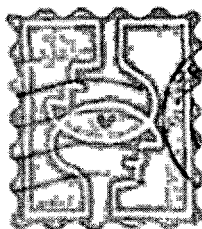


Fig. 4

# ISWSC Members Meet in Scotland



Chad Neighbor, the ISWSC Regional Secretary for the British Isles, and Jon MacLeod, long-time member of ISWSC, met in Edinburgh for lunch and a chat about philately in September.

MacLeod and his wife, Marian, the editor of this newsletter, were in Scotland for a month on a Rotary home exchange, living in Polmont (just 22 minutes by rail from Edinburgh, and about equidistant from Glasgow). Marian enjoyed the company of these two guys and the interesting conversation, which centered mainly around stamp collecting.

Jon was in Edinburgh doing genealogical research at the New Registry House. He traced his family back to the early 1700s there.



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—Send ads and payment (made out to ISWSC) to the editor; address on p. 2.—

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May 25–27, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

June 22–24, Glendale Civic Auditorium

June 29–30, July 1, Anaheim Brookhurst  
Center

**For Bourse applications and information on times  
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**Bick International, Israel I. Bick, Exec. Director,  
P O Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408 (Est. 1955)  
iibick@aol.com; Internet: www.bick.net**

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