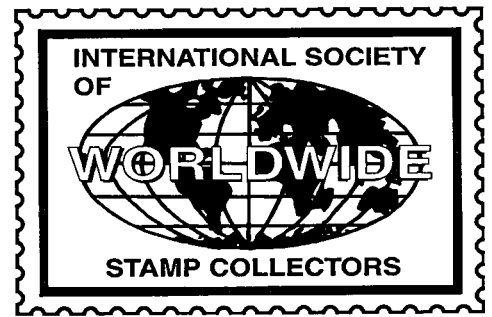


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July/August 2002 • Volume 20 No. 4

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Documentation of Case of Loss of ISWSC Member's Property

by Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)
Past President, ISWSC
March 8, 2002

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (ISWSC), APS Affiliate #151, has been running a catalog basis exchange of stamps for a number of years called the OMNI Exchange. Tragically, one of our exchange managers, Jerry Foster, died in late April 2001. His family from Texas was settling his affairs, which included his stamp collection and what he had of the OMNI Exchange books.

In May 2001, Jerry's daughter, Melinda Hart packed up what was believed to be his holdings of ISWSC member material and shipped it to me. I then forwarded the material to Jerry's successor, Jim Millette. In reviewing the documentation of ISWSC OMNI inventory, it was clear to Jim that quite a lot was missing.

Jerry's daughter was informed of the discrepancy, and returned to her late father's South Carolina home in early August 2001. On August 10, we received a shipment of more books. However, 380 books were still missing with a total catalog value of over \$41,000, which — as ISWSC president at the time — I was made aware of on August 30.

The following day, what looked like the complete stock of missing books appeared on eBay for auction by a man in Orlando, Florida. The lot listing was worrisome because some of the pages showed stamps missing without a member's mark on the spaces. This meant that even if all 380 books were present, a number of stamps may have been removed.

I immediately sent emails to the lot's owner, eBay management and all bidders requesting that the lot be removed from the auction. After sending several emails to the seller — who refused to give his last

name, address or phone number — to no avail, I gave him my phone number. I received a phone call from a man named Cyril, who was apparently a dealer who obtained the lot from a buyer. He said that he was unaware the books were misappropriated. He was suspicious of the ISWSC claim, but after I gave him numbers, contents and values of some of the missing books, he took the lot off the auction block.

However, 380 books were still missing with a total catalog value of over \$41,000

Cyril had many lots for sale online, so obviously this is a major business for him. As I was working in my clinic at this time and could not speak at length, Cyril and I agreed to speak in the evening. He promised to call after 6pm Central time. When I did not receive a call back, I left two voicemail messages and an

email request for communication.

On the evening of August 31, I called the Police Department in North Augusta, SC, and was informed that to file a claim and begin an investigation someone must appear IN PERSON with supporting documents. This would be a great burden to our all-volunteer society, but we started looking for a member to take on this task. The same evening, I also spoke with Jerry Foster's daughter, Melinda Hart, who was now in the process of relocating to West Virginia. She said that on August 8th she had sold her father's entire stamp collection to Barry and Randy Savedow who run a company called The Browse House in Florida. She stated that there were no ISWSC OMNI Exchange books in the lot she sold them, but added that they carried out boxes of stamps

Continued on page 4

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does not mail out The Circuit. If
you have any questions about your
Circuit mail service, please contact
Randy Smith, Tom Fortunato or
Tony Zollo. Thank you!*

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

JULY 20, 2002

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

As you read this column, it will probably be close to the Fourth of July. But, because of lead times necessary to prepare, print and mail the newsletter, I am writing this column on Memorial Day. For Americans, the two holidays tie naturally together, however. On both occasions, I salute all who have or are serving in their nation's armed forces.

In addition to the reverent nature of the Memorial Day holiday, in the United States, the long weekend is also known as the traditional "start of summer". Within a few short days, school will be over, making way for the long summer break.

Here in the Midwest, the weekend pilgrimages to lakeshore cabins and favorite fishing spots has already begun, despite the cooler than normal temperatures. (Okay, its true that Minnesota has the image of being cold, but you have to admit that having it snow here in May is a bit ridiculous!!)

In my town, summer sports such as baseball and soccer are in full swing. My six-year-old son, in his

Continued on page 4

New British Isles Regional Representative Appointed

Karen Rose has stepped up to serve the ISWSC as Regional Rep. for the British Isles. We are glad to have her helping us out in this capacity. Karen has collected worldwide stamps for over twenty years and has been a member of the ISWSC for about ten years now.

Other interests include reading, gardening and computer games. Karen doesn't work outside her home due to a disability, but she does spend a lot of time helping her mother with household tasks, as her parents are also disabled.

Karen says that she will do her best to be a good regional representative and will try to increase membership in our society.



Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*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, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one 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: \$75.00**

Half page: \$40.00**

Quarter page: \$20.00**

Per column inch: \$5.00

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; "P.O. Box 1234" = 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. All addresses can be found on page 2.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

second year of T-ball (baseball), is working on the fundamentals of the game and learning what it means to be part of a team. This reminds me of the old adage, "There's no I (individual) in TEAM." But is there in the ISWSC?

The ISWSC is much like a team — we all must work together to ensure the success of the society. But, because our society is dispersed throughout the world, the ISWSC relies much more on the individual work of its members to ensure the society's success. Like a team, however, if everyone performs a role, the team will flourish. I am grateful for all who volunteer and keep the "I" in our society!

However, there's another "I" in the ISWSC that I'm concerned about. That "I" is the first word of our society's name — international. Using the mailing statistics for this issue of *The Circuit*, our membership has fallen to 423. Of that number, only 54 members

live outside the USA (21 in Canada, 33 elsewhere). Without a concerted effort to attract and retain international members, we may be in danger of losing the "I" in our society's name!

While the decline in our membership (both domestically and internationally) is a trend all too familiar to many philatelic organizations, it doesn't make it acceptable! Each of us must do our part to reverse the trend. This can be done by introducing your local stamp club to the ISWSC, making ISWSC applications available at local stamp shows, inviting your non-ISWSC stamp friends to join us, writing articles for other stamp publications (mentioning the ISWSC, of course!), etc.

If each of us takes personal responsibility for attracting new members to our society, I am confident that we can reverse this trend. Doing so may just save the "I" in our name, too!

Happy stamping and remember — introduce someone to the ISWSC!



OMNI Loss

Continued from page 1

from her father's house without direct supervision and could have (deliberately or mistakenly) removed the ISWSC material.

On September 1, I received a phone call from Cyril who, after several requests, told me his full name is Cyril Javurek and he is located in Florida. He told me he did purchase the lot from The Browse House. Thus far, he had cooperated by removing the lot from eBay auction and promised to hold the stamps until the matter was resolved. Although he appeared to now believe the claim that these stamps belong to ISWSC members, he had so far declined to give me his address, or to return the stamps to us (even despite an offer of a \$500 "reward").

I informed Cyril that the ISWSC is insured by Collectibles Insurance Agency (CIA) and that we would be filing a claim when they reopen for business on September 4, 2001. Cyril stated that he used the same company and in fact knows the owner, Dan Walker, who might serve as an intermediary to help in the return of our stamps. So, we agreed to speak again the following Tuesday evening (September

**I again
requested his
address and
he declined to
give it over the
phone.**

4th). I again requested his address and he declined to give it over the phone, stating he would send it in an email message (which I never received).

I contacted ISWSC members living in the N. Augusta, South Carolina, area hoping to find a volunteer to appear in person to file a complaint with the N. Augusta Police Dept. My major concern was the return of the material from Cyril and the filing of a claim for any stamps still missing. The expense and inconvenience of making a trip to N. Augusta would be best avoided, if possible. However, whatever the cost, the ISWSC planned on pursuing this issue and taking any action needed to recover the members' property and secure reimbursement for any stamps that prove to be permanently lost.

A documented account of what happened (basically, everything before this paragraph) was emailed to the CIA on September 3rd. The missing OMNI exchange books — valued at \$41,171.11 — were reported by Mr. Ephraim (Duke) Day of the APS Stamp Theft Committee to the North Augusta, SC, Public Safety Department (case #2001-022561). Lt. Vern Sadler #13 of that agency took the "Lost/Missing Property" report on September 3rd. No investigation was to take place at the time, pending further developments. Cyril was informed of the report and the case number via email.

On September 5, I spoke over the telephone with Dan Walker of CIA. He stated he had called both Cyril

Continued on next page

OMNI Loss

Continued from page 4

and The Browse House and was told that the lot of OMNI books, housed in two boxes, was part of the collection sold to them by Melinda Hart. They said they removed about 20 books, took out the stamps from those books and the stamps are now irretrievable. They also removed some stamps from some of the remaining books, which are also irretrievable.

The remainder of the books was sold to Cyril as part of a larger lot. Dan then asked Cyril for a count and inventory of what he now has in his possession.

He said they found a total of 310 books recovered, which meant there were 70 books completely missing.

Dan said he would call me when the list is completed. I told him I had received the inventory of all that was missing from Jim Millette and offered to send it to him.

I was now fairly confident that we would eventually get back all the material in Cyril's possession.

On September 10, I spoke again with Dan Walker. He said he hoped to have the inventory from Cyril in a day or two. Once he had possession of the material, he would turn it over to an insurance adjuster and begin the process of recovery. In other words, things were moving along — albeit slowly — and the process would take time.

On September 24, I called Dan Walker who had just returned from a ten day trip. He said he had contacted Shelton Bosley of Leisure Associates who should have been in contact with me. The next day, Dan called me back to say Shelton Bosley did get the OMNI books from Cyril, but had gone on a personal vacation and would not be back until the following week, when I could expect to hear from him.

On October 4, I spoke to Shelton Bosley of Leisure Associates Inc. who was conducting the investigation for the insurance company. He recorded a statement from me over about 40 minutes. As part of the investigation, he requested that we send him a copy of our policy, the inventory of the missing books and the overall OMNI inventory from Jerry Foster (currently in Jim Millette's possession). Taking just under three weeks, the investigation was completed on October 23. Shelton Bosley recorded statements from all parties involved and sent the results of his investigation to the insurance company to make their decision.

On Thursday, January 10, 2002, I received another

Edmonton Stamp Club Says Thank You

John M. Powell, Exhibits & Awards Chairman
ROYAL *2002* ROYALE

Many thanks for sending me two Youth Merit Certificates to have awarded at the 74th Annual Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, hosted by the Edmonton Stamp Club, March 22-24, 2002.

The jury was pleased to award these certificates to the following: Mickey Gombos for "Greek Mythology"; Franciska Yurich for "Sports Played on Different Surfaces".

Many thanks to your society for making the certificates available. Next year we shall be back to hosting our regular Edmonton Spring National Show, March 28-30, 2003.

call from Mr. Bosley. He said that the insurance company attorneys had rendered their opinions and the loss would be covered. He said that he had asked our insurance agent, Dan Walker, to retrieve the remaining books from Cyril, at which time Dan Walker and Mr. Bosley would go through them to compare the contents to Jim Millette's inventory and determine the value of the missing books and stamps. He would call me back when this is complete and then we could expect the return of the books and a check for the material lost.

On January 30, Mr. Bosley called to say that he, Dan Walker and Duke Day had met to examine the booklets received from Cyril and compare them against the inventory from Jim Millette. He said they found a total of 310 books recovered, which meant there were 70 books completely missing. The remaining books, along with a copy of Duke Day's inventory of missing stamps, were shipped to me for verification before the check would be cut.

On February 5, I received the shipment of recovered OMNI books from Mr. Bosley. After going through them to verify their accounting of what was missing, I called him to arrange payment for the missing material.

In early March I signed a "Statement of Loss" and on March 6, I received a check for the value of the missing stamps.



Variations à la Française

by Napoleon

napoleon@voyager.net

Those who read the *Canadian Philatelist's* series on French cancellations saw a lot of information on cancellations, many of which carried no noticeable value premium. But printing varieties usually do sell for more than the basic stamp. This article is a chance to read about French varieties and their values. As it's easier to spot a variety if one has seen a copy of the stamp, this article illustrates early French varieties using images of actual stamps, accumulated from various sources. To the reader with lots of early French stamps, I wish you good hunting!

The price multiples given for each stamp are the price of the variety divided by the price of the normal stamp, using prices from the 1997 *Yvert et Tellier*TM Volume 1 catalog. This is a basic French catalog, not a specialized version. With one exception, all stamps shown were available for sale at a normal discount from *Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog*TM prices.

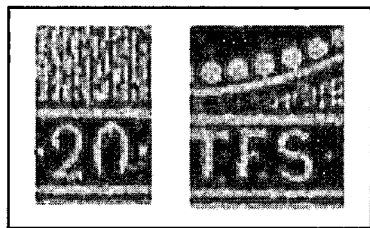


Fig. 1: POSTFS

looks like an "F" (Fig. 1). The variation only exists on Type I (in which the two lines in the hair curl below the "R" of "EMPIRE" are so close they appear to be one line). The ordinary stamp catalogues at 7 francs used. The variety's catalogue price is 500 francs, a multiple of seventy! The large price multiple does not carry over to the unused stamp where the multiple is only 5.4. The price differential between the unused normal stamp and the variety is, however, a large amount—5,900 francs.



Fig. 2: Cigarette in mouth

In 1863, Emperor Louis Napoleon is given a laurel wreath on a new issue, and a cigarette on some copies of the 1 centime stamp. The variation looks like a cigarette in Louis' mouth and smoke drifting across the bottom of his beard (Fig. 2). The used stamp multiple on this variety is sixty, with the ordinary

stamp being 100 francs. The dealer with the stamp had marked it as being the variety but priced for only the value created by the red "printed matter" cancellation. The multiple for the unused stamp is one hundred, and the difference in price between the ordinary stamp and the variety is 17,325 francs, a tidy sum at the current exchange rate!



Fig. 3: White growth on nose

In the same laurel wreath issue, the 20 centime blue comes with a white growth on Louis Napoleon's nose (Fig. 3). The multiple for the used stamp is almost ninety. This stamp is another one where the unused multiple is somewhat low, being 6.7. Still, there is a difference of 8,500 francs between the unused ordinary stamp and the variation.

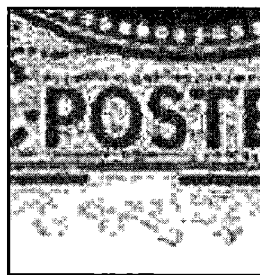


Fig. 4: Break in bottom frame line

In 1871, France continued the perforated Head of Ceres stamps first issued in 1870. These were new values to complete replacement of the Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath stamps whose removal was delayed by the Franco-Prussian War. The 1 centime olive green occurs with a large break in the bottom frame line (Fig. 4). On a used stamp this break carries a modest multiple of about four with the multiple for the unused stamps about 2.5.

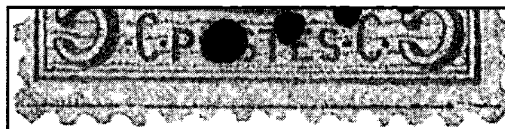


Fig. 5: Thin line below bottom frame line

Several denominations of this set come with a thin line below the bottom frame line. On an unused 5 centime green stamp, the variety is about twelve times the price of the normal stamp (Fig. 5). The multiple for the unused variety is only 1.5.

The twenty-five centime blue stamp comes in three types. One has a horizontal blue bar across the white border between the top center panel and the upper right corner ornament (Fig. 6). The used stamp is 6 francs, while the used variety is 175 francs, a multiple of almost 30. The multiple for the unused

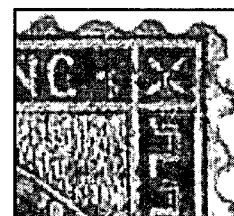


Fig. 6: Blue bar [from center panel to corner flower]

Continued on page next page

My Life as a Stamp Collector

by Aubrey Dunne (#1)

How I began collecting stamps is probably not much different from any other nine year old. My best friend, Joey, was given a coatbox filled with foreign stamps that someone had used to settle a debt to Joey's dad. Seeing all those colorful bits of paper with weird inscriptions and place names that I had never heard of sparked my curiosity. I had been bitten by the bug even though I didn't know it at the time.

It was all I could do to wait patiently until allowance day to purchase some stamps and a stamp album. With Saturday chores behind me, I headed toward Boyles Gift Shoppe (the only gift store in my small town). And there it was — the Modern Postage Stamp Album by Scott Publications — its bright red cover with the skyscrapers and plane in flight beckoning to me.

That was over sixty years ago. I have collected stamps of the world ever since. Interrupted only by college and the military. However, I think my passion might have been short-lived had it not been for adults, collectors and non-collectors alike, who took an interest in me and my hobby.

The first of these adults was a Mr. Harry La Barr. In my third grade class there was a girl named JoAnn La Barr. She was the giggliest girl I had ever seen. None of the boys in the class could stand her giggling and would run at her approach. One day during recess she came over to me, giggled, and said that her grandfather wanted to see me — something about stamps. "Oh sure," I said to myself and never gave it another thought. A few days later, my mother received a phone call from La Barr and La Barr, Attorneys at Law. An appointment was set up for me to see Mr. La Barr's stamp collection and I should bring along my stamp album. I didn't know Mr. La

Barr or where he lived, but as it turned out he lived only three blocks away.

On the appointed day, I set out with my Modern Album and soon found myself at the home and office of La Barr and La Barr. An elderly housekeeper answered the door and ushered me into an office where three or four albums had been neatly arranged on a desk. I was soon to learn that Mr. La Barr collected only U.S. stamps. But what stamps! I can still recall the blocks and sheets encased in shiny glassines, and the old — very old — beautiful U.S. classics. Closing his albums, he then asked to see my collection.

He eyed my album carefully, giving me a few tips. My stamps, each and every one, had been carefully glued (with Iron Glue) onto the pages, including the unused 3¢ Washington (Sc#720) which I had peeled from an envelope in my grandmother's mailbox (heck, how was I supposed to know it was placed there to be "picked up" by the mailman on his afternoon rounds).

After Mr. La Barr introduced me to hinges, he further suggested that I didn't need 14 copies of the 1½¢ Martha Washington (Sc#805) in my album, and that just one example, the one in the best condition, would suffice. The remaining stamps could be saved as duplicates for trading.

I never saw Mr. La Barr again, but with my new, new Modern Postage Stamp Album, I felt fortified to face once more the marvels and mysteries of the philatelic world.

I have often wondered whatever had become of JoAnn La Barr, who moved away at the close of the school year...

— To Be Continued —



Variations à la Française

Continued from page 6

stamp is less than 2.

There are three major varieties of the 40c orange perforated Ceres stamp. In two plate positions, the number "4" was damaged and retouched. As this variety is listed in Scott's, there is no reason to expect



Fig. 7:
Bottom
frame line
missing

to obtain the variety inexpensively. But there is a variety missing the bottom frame line, and this catalogues at ten times the value of the basic used stamp (Fig. 7). The multiple for the unused stamp is below two. (This variety is not catalogued in the basic Yvert et Tellier™ but is listed in the specialized edition.) The third variety lacks the lower left corner of the design (Fig. 8). The multiple for the

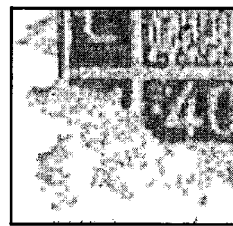


Fig. 8: Lower left
corner missing

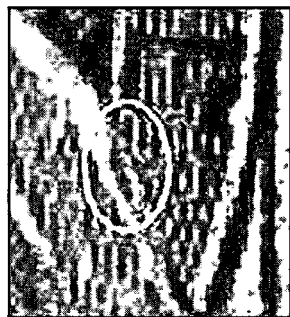
Continued on page 8

Variations à la Française

Continued from page 7

used stamp is ten and the unused one is just over one.

The first French issue of the 20th century shows Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. One of the more interesting variations is on the 4 centime brown (Fig. 9a). During the 19th century, AFFRANCHISSEMENTS appears in circular date stamps when a stamp pays a fee for a special mail service. In the 20th century, the same term, as AFFRANCHTS, becomes the usual pre-cancellation. The Liberty, Equality, Fraternity issue itself comes in two types. Type I has only one line of shading in the gown below the "E" of FRANCAISE while Type II has two lines in the same place. (See Fig. 9b for the location.)



Figs. 9a & 9b: Two parallel lines of shading in gown

The 4 centime stamp without precancel exists only as Type I. The precancel exists in both Type I and Type II. Type I with precancel is 6 francs and Type II is 115 francs, a nice multiple of almost twenty. In this case, one prefers unused stamps—the unused Type II is 3,000 francs while the Type I is only 22 francs.



Figs. 10a & 10b: 1 touches left frame; 5 touches upper frame

In 1900 and 1902, France issues two sets honoring the "Declaration of the Rights of Man." In both sets, the 15 centime stamp has a variety. The 1900 issue has a square background for the numerals of value. The variety has a very long nose on the numeral "1" such that the nose touches



Figs. 11a & 11b: Center color missing [bottom stamp and detail]

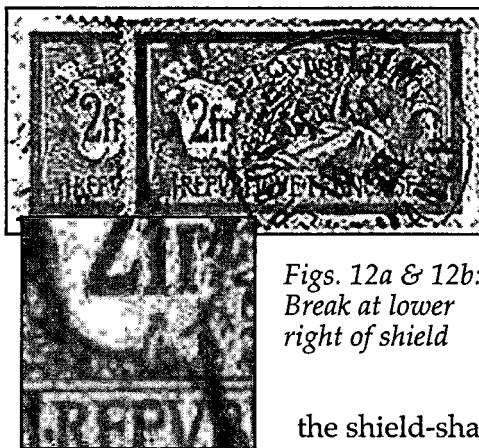
the frame line (Fig. 10a). As usual, there is a significant multiple for the used variety (80 francs versus 3 francs), but a much lower one for the unused one (350 francs versus 55 francs).

The 1902 issue's variety is a long tail on the numeral "5" (Fig. 10b). The tail curves up and reaches the frame line of the shield which serves as background for the denomination. The used multiple is forty; the unused multiple is a similar sixty.

Also in 1900, France issues the first of the Liberty and Peace stamps designed by Merson. A variety occurring on several denominations is the absence of the center color (Fig. 11a). For the 50 centime brown and gray stamp (Fig. 11b), the used variation catalogues at 750 francs, while the ordinary stamp is 10 francs, yielding a nice multiple of 75. The multiple for the unused stamp is about 4.5, but the differential between normal and variety still is high—2,550 francs.

Only one Liberty and Peace denomination was issued as a precancel. While not there is no plate flaw or difference in type, the AFFRANCHISSEMENTS precancellation itself carries a large multiple for a used stamp. The pre-canceled 45 centime green and blue has a multiple of twenty-six (10 francs normal, 260 francs variation) used, but less than 1.5 unused (150 francs normal, 275 francs variation).

Issued along with the 45 centime, the 2 franc orange and blue has a variety priced at 2,000 francs, well above the 3 franc value of the normal stamp. The variation is a break in the lower right corner of the shield-shaped background for the denomination (Fig. 12a, 12b). The



Figs. 12a & 12b: Break at lower right of shield

the shield-shaped background for the denomination (Fig. 12a, 12b). The

Continued on next page

Whatzit?

The Scott Catalogue can be a surprisingly big help sometimes in finding stamps that lack a country name. This example (bottom) says "Pro Tacna y Arica" and "Dos Centavos." I looked up "tacna" and "arica" in my Spanish dictionary to no avail. Then I looked in the index of the Scott Catalogue, which pointed me to Volume 5. Its index gave me a page number which turned out to be in Peru. There a note explained that these postal tax issues were required in Peru to pay for a planned plebiscite in Tacna and Arica.

I learned in an encyclopedia that after the War of the Pacific (1879-84, Chile vs Bolivia and Peru) a controversy remained between Chile and Peru over these two cities on the border and their surrounding territories. The plebiscite was never held, and the dispute was not solved until, with mediation by Presidents Coolidge and Hoover, Peru regained Tacna and ceded Arica to Chile in 1929.

Here's a stamp (upper right) showing the circular symbol of China after the revolution of 1912 and the

face of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the same portrait as featured on Chinese stamps from 1931 to 1947 but with the face enlarged. I cannot find this stamp in the Scott Catalogue and suspect it may be a revenue. Can anybody help?



I have received a few volunteers to help identify difficult stamps, but we need more, especially people who can read Cyrillic letters and Arabic, and, obviously, Chinese.

If you have stamps that need identification, please send photos or photocopies to:

John D. Pruitt (#121)
1151 George Road
Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1109
jdpruitt@comcast.net
Fax: 215-947-7305



Variations à la Française

Continued from page 8

multiple for the unused stamp is only twenty-five and pales in comparison with the used-stamp multiple of almost seven hundred. This is another variety, however, with a large price differential between the unused basic stamp and the variety—7,675 francs!

In 1903, France issued the first of its lined-sower stamps.

The design has a background of horizontal lines and a foreground of a woman sowing seeds. The

centime lilac-rose stamp comes in the normal design with only one horizontal white line between the bottom of the fold of the gown and the top of the "c" of "75 c" (3 francs used) and a redesign with two white lines between (1,000 francs used) (Fig. 13a, 13b). The unused multiple is a healthy one hundred forty-five with a differential of almost 5,700 francs.

Soon after release of the lined-sower stamps, France released similar stamps with a solid-color background. The 35 centime violet with thick letters and numerals (Scott Type II), comes with both the first and last "S" in "POSTES" the same (6 francs used) and with the first S retouched such that the bottom loop extends distinctly upward (260 francs used, Fig. 14). The multiple for the unused



Fig. 13a & 13b:
Two horizontal
white lines
between drape of
gown and top of "c" in "75c"

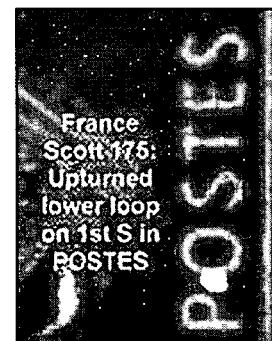


Fig. 14: Upturned
loop on first "S" in
"POSTES"

Continued on page 10

Coins, Currency, Stamps, Coin & Stamp Supplies and Collectibles

The following is a list of 2002 coin and stamp expos presented by Bick International. For bourse applications and general information about the shows, please contact:

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August 9-11, 2002

Pasadena Convention Center

August 30-31, September 1, 2002

Glendale Civic Auditorium

September 13-15, 2002

Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City

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St. Nicholas Encino C.C. - "STAMP EXPO"

October 25-27, 2002

River Palms, Laughlin, Nevada

November 15-17, 2002

Pasadena Convention Center

November 29-30, December 1, 2002

Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

December 13-15, 2002

Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood

December 27-29, 2002



Variations à la Française

Continued from page 8

stamp is seven, with the variety priced at 425 francs.

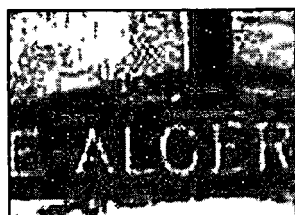


Fig. 15: *ALCERIE*

In 1930, France honored the centenary of it's conquest of Algeria with a stamp. On some of the stamps, the French word "ALGERIE" appears to be "ALCERIE" (Fig. 15). The normal used stamp is three francs, while the variety is

450. The unused numbers are 30 francs for the normal stamp and 1,000 for the variety. Both the used multiple (150) and the unused multiple (33) make this stamp some hunting.

We'll close with the first French Colonies general issue. The 5 centime green eagle stamp normally has parentheses around the "5 •" in the lower right of the circular band of text. This stamp is priced at 100 francs used and 160 francs unused. There is, however, a variety without the parentheses (Fig. 16a, 16b). The variety is priced at 750 francs used and 1,000 francs unused, creating multiples of 7.5 used and 6.25 unused.

You'd have to find many copies of most of these stamps to pay for a world cruise, but the fun is in the hunt. If you are going to be looking at early French stamps anyway, you might as well keep your eye out for bargains. But remember the CP articles on French cancellations—the postal marking seems always to

Fig. 16a & 16b: No parentheses around right "5•"

sit on the spot you need to see to find a variety.

As a reminder, only four of the varieties shown have as high multiples for unused stamps as for used ones. With five of the stamps, the unused multiple is so low as to have little real significance.



About the Author

Napoleon is 60 years old and started collecting stamps before age ten. He began as a worldwide collector and has remained so, although his interest wanes starting with post-1950 material. As he has been known to comment, "I take anything but currently spend money on early French, German, and Belgian material."

He is a member of his local stamp club, having served as treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and president. He also belongs to the local chapter of the Germany Philatelic Society, to the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (U.K.), and to the APS

You are welcome to contact the author with questions or comments at napoleon@voyager.net.

New Members**#2343 Josephine Poland** (Exp 03/03)

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New Britain, CT 06040-2821

*Beg, Top(American women on int'l), non-exchanging***#2344-U Josephine Poland** (Exp 05/05)

Email: grot@centurytel.net

B(to1949),G,Int,Yrs(52),DD,1(US Naval),4-5(US)

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#368 Noel

#385 Magyar

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#1029 Becker

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#2175 Buchanan

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Temporarily Away, Contact HQ

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Apdo 6123-1000

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35-50 77th St Apt 2

Jackson Heights, NY 11372-4550

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3021 14th St

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

Returned Mail - Unknown Address

#1056 Easton

#2211 Farrands

New/Changed Email Addresses

#356 Sackett sackett@sunnyfl.net

#2334 Gambol rgambol@pocketmail.com

Bad email addresses/Returned emails

(email right one to Tom Fortunato:

stampmf@frontiernet.net)

None

Resigned

#384 Ulz

#457 Tang deceased

#923 Andreachi deceased

#1452 Bowen deceased

Dropped - Dues Expired in May

#659 Jones

#663 Gali

#896 Bunker

#923 Andreachi

#982 Searles

#1156 Zerbian

#1162 Woodward

#1350 Herrington

#1360 Bennett

#1520 Arndt

#1530 Bish

#1612 Hohl

#1841 Mills

#1850 Harrison

#1856 Mixon

#1857 Kastenholz

#1868 Love

#1872 Ouellette

#1878 New

#1884 Visser

#2188 Guerrero

#2196 Reiber

#2319 Pasicznyk

#2320 Peacock

We need to update our records!

With a large membership, our records are always being updated. It has been a long time since we updated basic information, such as phone numbers, APS and ATA membership numbers, and age. We'd like your assistance in improving the data base, so send this information along by mail or email to:

Tom Fortunato

42 Maynard St,

Rochester, NY 14615-2022

USA

Email: stampmf@frontiernet.net

Is anyone aware of the current address for former Omni co-manager Tom Allison? Please write or email Tom Fortunato if you have details.

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SCOTT INTERNATIONAL JR. album pages, 1943 edition, no stamps, decent condition. Price US\$1.00 plus shipping. Jim Hanley, 1700 Pennrock Road, Wilmington DE 19809-1314, USA. Email ditch63@aol.com. [7-8/02]

ISWSC Meeting at Stampshow

by Tom Fortunato (#379)
VP for Public Relations

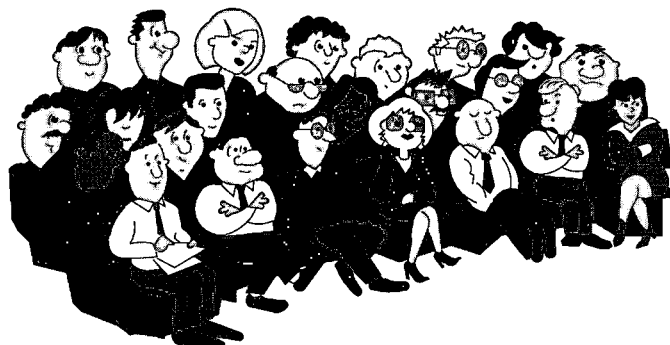
It has now been confirmed that the ISWSC meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday, August 17 during the APS Stampshow in Atlantic City's Convention Center. All ISWSC members are encouraged to attend the hour long open forum hosted by Tom Fortunato.

A full listing of Stampshow programs and events can be found on the APS web site at http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_stampshow_schedule.htm

The show will be open Thursday through Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Come join the fun at America's largest stamp show!

If you're planning to attend, contact Tom by mail or email at stamptmf@frontiernet.net as soon as possible.

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[11-12/02]

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Send to Jennifer Arnold (see above) via USPS, fax or email. When emailing graphics for publication, please use a higher resolution (150 dpi). Please contact the Editor if you have any questions about format.