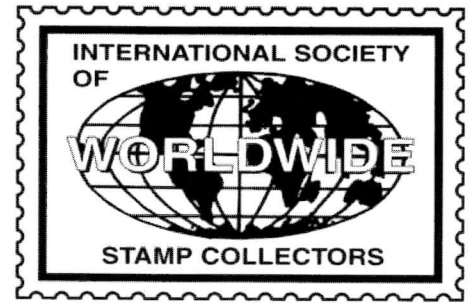


The Circuit

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The Story of a Stamp Collector Lifer

by H.K. Bert Harris

The voice of my often profane father rang out. "What the h@\$& are you doing?" He wasn't angry; he was just curious what I was doing, cutting up little pieces of paper and coloring them with my Crayolas.

"Dad," I said with a big grin, "I am playing stamp collector."

I had watched my dad work on his stamp collection many times and it looked like fun. The time was in the fall of 1944, shortly after my sixth birthday. Dad's response was, "If you are really interested, stamps are cheap enough, you can have the real thing."

Within minutes, Dad went and brought me an assortment of US stamps. I was thrilled. At Christmas, I received a US American Stamp Album. Weekend evenings, Dad and I would work on stamps and Dad would toss me the duplicates, which were often quite nice. Dad worked in New York City for Jones and Laughlin Steel Company, in the Export Credit Department, and did business all over the world. In the 40's and 50's, most foreign companies used actual postage stamps. As a result, Dad's office mail was rich in interesting postage stamps. I remember looking forward to Dad coming home from work and unloading his pockets with philatelic treasures from all corners of the globe.

Before long, Dad bought me a Scott International Album, volumes I & II, which I started to fill not only with stamps from Dad's office mail, but also from a little stamp shop down on Main Street. The stamp shop had a gigantic "penny box," any stamp for just a penny each. The man who owned the store was a World War



**USA Scott 975,
Will Rogers**

II veteran, with a wooden leg. When new juvenile customers would come into the shop, he would nonchalantly, but vigorously, thump on his wooden leg with a very large monkey wrench. The first time I saw this I was horrified. Once I had seen the demonstration a couple of times, however, I enjoyed the expression on the new kid's faces – at least as much as the proprietor. At the stamp shop, I discovered that there were a number of my school mates who were also bitten by the stamp bug. We formed a stamp club at school, where we got together to swap stamps.

Another source of stamps, of course, was the Post Office, located perhaps two miles from my home. In 1947, I had read in the local paper that a new stamp honoring Will Rogers was coming out. I walked all the way to the Post Office on a blustery November day, three cents in hand, to purchase the new stamp. First, I carefully looked over the "wanted posters" on the Post Office bulletin board, in the event I should encounter one of these bad guys on the journey home. Then I marched up to the window and made my purchase. Before starting on the trek home, I carefully examined

Continued on page 12

Nominations Sought

Nominations are sought for candidates to serve in an elected position as ISWSC President, Vice President or Secretary. Elections will be held in November, with winning candidates serving two year terms (beginning in February 2010) on the ISWSC Board of Directors.

For information concerning the duties of each position or to express interest in being a candidate, please contact President **Joanne Berkowitz** (#98).

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ISWSC Award Won

By Richard Rizzo (#2215)
Director of Stamp Outreach

Congratulations to Trevor Thomas for being awarded the ISWSC Award at the annual Youth Champion of Champions competition. This year, the competition was held in conjunction with



the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) 2009 in Dayton, OH. Trevor's exhibit, "The Game of Soccer," won the ISWSC Award for best use of worldwide stamps and material. To qualify for the youth championship, Trevor's exhibit won the AAPE Youth Grand award at ROMPEX 2008.

Youth Merit Awards are available for local and national show committees who wish to recognize young exhibitors. For more information, please review the criteria posted on our web site, www.iswsc.org.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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. dollars. Send text and payment for advertisements to the Editor. ISWSC members are allowed one 30 word ad free per year.

Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club 1 yr. membership: \$15.00*
Single/Dealer/Club 2 yr. membership: \$27.00*
Single/Dealer/Club 3 yr. membership: \$39.00*
Youth 1 yr. membership (under 18): \$12.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equivalent donation in U.S. funds.

Dues include six newsletters per year. You may pay for up to three years at a time. For an application or further information, send a SASE or an IRC to:

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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 advertisement, 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 sized ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125.00 per issue.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra.

Classified Rates per Insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address and ZIP Code are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00.

NOTE: *State abbreviations = one word; "P.O. Box 1234" = two words; ZIP Code = one word.*

Make all checks payable to "ISWSC" in U.S. dollars. Send text and payment for ads to The Circuit Editor (see address on page 2).

Ventures in Printing—Part 8

Relief Printed CMP Stamps—Heligoland (Part II)

by Sandy Stover (#2325)

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the series of articles adapted from a book on classic multicolored postage stamps currently being written by the author. Due to space limitations, Figures 1-5 from Part I of this article (printed in the July/August 2009 issue) are referenced, but not reprinted here.

Multiple Design Influences—One Designer

In reference to the bi-colored Heligoland Victoria heads, William Finlay wrote that Heligoland “had its stamps produced by the Prussian State Printing Works, hence the peculiarly Teutonic blend of coloured typography and the Queen’s profile in colourless embossing” (Finlay, p. 58; Figure 1 (Jul/Aug 2009 p. 11)). Finlay is drawing attention to the fact that it was the Prussians who frequently combined embossing, often colorless coats of arms, with relief printing (typography); although he goes on to note that others pursued the same practice, including other German states, Sardinia, Imperial Russia (to be discussed in a future article), Portugal, and even Great Britain herself in the case of the Gambia cameos (Scott 1-19). It would appear, then, that the Heligoland Victoria heads were not only printed by Prussians, but influenced by them in design as well.

But there is nothing particularly Prussian about the later, multicolored Heligoland stamps. Although the stamps are relief printed, the coat of arms (Scott 20, 21; Figures 2 & 3 (Jul/Aug 2009 p. 11)) and decorated numerals (Scott 22-25; Figures 4 & 5 (Jul/Aug 2009 p. 14)) are neither embossed nor colorless. Furthermore, the constant colors (green ink, red ink, white paper) of *all* Heligoland stamps, multicolored *and* bi-colored, are those of the island’s flag—a flag that, according to Drower, was developed at the encouragement of the British, but which probably had pre-colonial precedents (Drower, p. 38).

The Heligoland tricolor is often linked to a popular rhyme extolling the island’s dramatic natural appearance. Rendered here first in *Halunder*, the dialect of *North Frisian* unique to Heligoland and spoken today by probably only a few hundred people, the rhyme reflects general similarities between Frisian and English:

Green es deat Lün, n,
road es de Kant,
witt es de Sunn,
Deät es deät Woapen
van’t Hillige Lün, n!

Green is the land,
Red is the cliff,
White is the sand,
Those make the flag
of Heligoland!

(Ritsema, p. 13)

Therefore, owing to their *color*, all of the stamps project a relatively strong *indigenous* element alongside the Prussian and British elements.

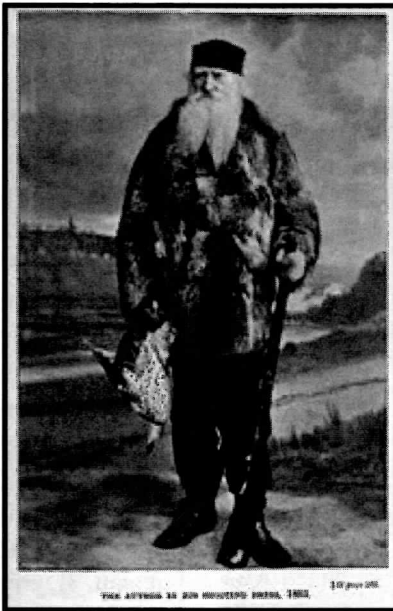


Figure 6—Heinrich Gätke

period.)

It is surprising to learn, then, that *all* of the Heligoland stamps—whether Victoria head, coat of arms, or fancy numerical—were designed by *one* man: Heinrich Gätke (Figure 6), a Prussian-born ornithologist and artist, who served as Heligoland Government Secretary *and* official interpreter, as well as founder/director of the island’s famed ornithological institute (Amtmann, pp. 429, 433-5; Drower, p. 108). From Pritzwalk, Brandenburg, Gätke made Heligoland his home in 1841, and so it remained until his death in 1897. His ornithological work, as observer/collector/writer, was widely respected; he was even honored by having a subspecies given his name: *Luscinia svecica gaetkei*, a variety of bluethroat (European fly catcher) (http://species.wikimedia.org/wiki/Luscinia_svecica).

Heinrich Gätke is the second individual encountered in this study of CMP stamps who gains our admiration as a *Renaissance Man*, having excelled both in science and art (Figure 7), and evidently in

Auction Features Early US, Sand Box

Auction #38 continues our odyssey through auctions lots of earlier USA. Great opportunities there. I see some interesting UN, several retired OMNI circuit books, Pacific Islands, kiloware, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and lots of Worldwide. Take a look at "The Sand Box" (Lot 128). Collecting is fun again!

Note to sellers: Please keep track of your HBO lots.

Note to bidders: Bid the highest amount that you are willing to pay for a lot. Your high bid is only used to cover one bidding interval over the second highest bid. Your highest bid amount would usually not be used except in case of a tie bid. Please bid in the increments as listed in the Auction Rules.

What do you think of our auctions? What would you change? Please let me know your opinions.

ISWSC AUCTION #38—Closing December 15, 2009

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
1	USA. #158, MH, perfs touch design 2 sides. CV \$130.	\$35
2	USA. #206, MH, F. CV \$95.	\$22
3	USA. #207, M, NG, F. CV \$30.	\$7.50
4	USA. #210, M, NG, F/VF. Nice stamp. CV \$17.50.	\$5
5	USA. #212, M, little OG, F/VF. CV \$120.	\$22
6	USA. #213, MNH, perfs cut design one side. CV \$150.	\$25
7	USA. #213, M, NG, perfs cut design one side. CV \$17.50.	\$7
8	USA. #216, M, NG, F/VF. CV \$100.	\$35
9	USA. #220, M, NG, couple short perfs, otherwise nice stamp. CV \$25.	\$4
10	USA. Three Classics, M. All w/issues, but a worthwhile lot at the price: #230, some gum, HR; 267, small repaired tear (space filler?); 267b, SE, HR. CV \$60.	\$15
11	USA. Classics. Group of 6 U stamps: #271, 3 clipped perfs, LC; 272, LC, F/VF; 274, HC; 376, medium cancel, F/VF; 379, SE; 384, Imperf, medium cancel, G. '08 CV \$30+.	\$6
12	USA. #279Bc, F/VF, LC, nice U stamp. CV \$100.	\$35
13	USA. #285, M, HR, F/VF. CV \$30.	\$7
14	USA. #286, M, HR, SE, F/VF. CV \$27.50.	\$7
15	USA. Pan-American 1¢, 2¢: #294, M, HR, F/VF; 295, M, HR, perfs cut design at bottom. '08 CV \$37.50.	\$8.50
16	USA. Louisiana Purchase, #323, M, partial gum, HR. CV \$30.	\$5
17	USA. Louisiana Purchase, #325, M, HR, F/VF. CV \$90. Only!	\$20
18	USA. Louisiana Purchase, #327, MH, small thin. CV \$175.	\$40
19	USA. Jamestown Exposition of 1907, cpl M set: #328, MNH, bottom close to design; 329, MNH, F/VF; 330, M, HR, small thin, perfs cut design at top. '08 CV \$290. Great opportunity!	\$54
20	USA. Group of 5 U stamps: #397, F/VF, LC; 398, F/VF, medium cancel; 402, SE, medium cancel; 466, F, medium cancel; F1, U, SE, LC. CV \$17+.	\$4.50
21	USA. #807a, bklt pane of 6 (3¢ 1938 Prexie Issue), MNH. CV \$8.50.	NMB
22	USA. #3535 b & c, MNH, intact. Porky Pig! CV \$60. Oink!	\$25
23	USA. #E3, U, F, bright color, LC. '08 CV \$40.	\$8
24	USA. Special Delivery. Two MNH plate blocks (4 stamps each): #E21, E22. CV \$7.75.	NMB
25	USA. Officials. MNH: O127 (2 copies); O132 (4); O147 (5); O148 (2). CV \$12.30.	\$3
26	USA. Special Handling. #QE2, pair, MNH. CV \$9.	\$2
27	UN. New York, MNH, singles, 150 stamps, F/VF, few dups. Retail Value \$150.	\$70
28	UN. New York, MNH, singles, 150 stamps, F/VF, few dups. Retail value \$150. (Similar to lot 27 above).	\$70
29	UN. New York, MNH: #179 S/S (Chagall) (3 sheets); 188, blocks of 4, 6¢ (9); 189, blocks of 4, 20¢ (9). Retail value \$50.	\$10
30	UN. New York, MNH, 1980-1989 Flag sets, F/VF, singles (160 total): #325-340, 350-365, 374-389, 399-414, 425-440, 450-465, 477-492, 499-514, 528-543, 554-569. Retail Value \$100.	\$35
31	UN. Collection of 36 diff U and MNH sets and singles. CV \$16.60.	NMB

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
32	A to D Countries. Ret OMNI book, 59 stamps, M & U, 18 countries(!). Best: Azores 52, 62, 93, 96*; Bermuda 42*, 182A; Bolivia 40*, 42*; Brazil 68; Denmark 66, 113. Many other nice values, couple of dups. Great cat value, low MB! '04 CV \$55+.	\$5.50
33	Afghanistan. HBO. On album pages, 1930's to 1960's, mixed U & M. CV \$90+. WOW!	\$20
34	Africa. 18 stamps total. Chad (15), MH/MNH, #64, 65, 218, 219, 220, 254, 256, 314, 333, 341, 384, 386, C23, C246, C247; Cameroun, 332; Burkina Faso, 543, C210 (U). Nice values here! '09 CV \$35+.	\$11
35	Algeria. 37 U stamps in ret OMNI book (plus 3 Antigua). Runs from #163-271 plus a few airmails, others. CV \$9+. Only!	NMB
36	Argentina. 90 stamps, more U than M, in ret OMNI book. Best: #710-711*, 712*, 796*, 1004*, B662*, C105*. Many ordinary U values. '07 CV \$26.90.	NMB
37	Asia/Pacific Islands. 116 U stamps, ID'd in uncirculated sales book: Ceylon (12 stamps), Hong Kong (28), Aitutaki, Christmas, Cook, New Hebrides, Solomons, Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea. Older Ceylon but bulk of rest is recent. Good values. '07 CV \$111. Only!	\$22
38	Brazil. HBO. 17 large S/S, value from \$2 to \$22.50. Incl: #2801-2802, 2413a, 2722, 2740, 2764-2765, 2674-2675. Total CV \$161. Wow!	\$25
39	Brazil. 50 mostly U stamps in ret OMNI book. Best: #182, 183, 185, 186, 194, 260, 375, 406, 457, 1253*, C23, C31, others. '07 CV \$13+.	NMB
40	Bulgaria. Ret OMNI book; years 1941-1960. Mostly MH, 75 stamps. CV \$27.	\$3
41	Burkina-Faso. Mini S/S #C244, MNH. CV \$7.	\$3
42	Burundi. 3 sheets (7 stamps each), #157, 158, C26, MNH. CV \$16.25.	\$6
43	Canada. Take advantage of this pricing dilemma: A MNH blk of 4, #35. Obvious cr ruins one; 2 perf separations repaired w/hinge pieces. 3 usable stamps, \$47.50 each in '09 Scott. CV (for 3) \$142.50. How about 10%?	\$14
44	Canada. Mini sheets: #832a, intact MNH pane of 12, 821-832, in attractive Canada Post mailing envelope (unused, clean); intact MNH pane of 16, 857-858; intact MNH pane of 16, 890-893 "O Canada" – Canada Day issue. CV \$15.70.	\$4
45	Canada. Flag Sheetlet, MNH, #832a; Prestige bklt, 1978 Commonwealth Games, #757-762, MNH. CV \$6.25.	\$2.50
46	Canada (Newfoundland). #226-229, MNH, Silver Jubilee issue. CV \$24.	\$9
47	Caroline Islands. #7, 9, MH, VF. Beautiful! '09 CV \$2.20.	\$1
48	Central African Republic. #286, MNH, Montgolfiere Ballonist S/S. CV \$5.75.	\$1.50
49	Central African Republic. #C187, MNH, Zeppelin S/S. CV \$5.50.	\$1.50
50	Ceylon. #378a, Birds of Ceylon S/S, MNH. CV \$10.	\$4
51	Chad. 6 sheets of 8 stamps each, MNH, medal winners, 1968 summer Olympics, (incomplete series). CV \$15. How can you beat this? Only!	\$1
52	China (PRC). 1981 – 36 th World Table Tennis Championship Victory. Two sheets: #1692 a-e, intact MNH sheet of 20; intact MNH sheet (of 8) – #1693; and sheet (of 8) #1694. Beautiful, pristine! CV \$19.20. These won't last!	\$7
53	Christmas Island. #39-54, MNH, complete, gorgeous! Ships/Maps. CV \$10.70.	\$3
54	Costa Rica. MNH: #377-384, 385 (Fauna and Flora set – value keeps rising); 369-373 World Cup Soccer; total 5 complete sets. Beautiful stamps, country rarely seen here. CV \$31.40.	\$12
55	Czechoslovakia. HBO. Wow – fill a load of holes – 700-800 U stamps in approval book, all diff, 1918-1958. Unbelievable! Are you kidding me?	\$3
56	Danzig. Two nice U stamps: #186, VF, and 187, F. CV \$12.25.	\$2.50
57	Denmark. #51, U, F/VF. Medium cancel, one short perf. CV \$12.50.	\$2
58	Equatorial Guinea. Topicals galore! Okay, I know what you're thinking – a country not worthy of consideration by serious collectors. But since 1979, Scott has listed this country & here is your chance to get a great deal on 230+ colorful topicals (mostly CTOs) including history, birds, flora, sports, Olympics, classical art & much more. CV? When have you had this much fun for less than 5¢ each?	\$10
59	Fiji. From 1953-1987. MNH: #277-279, 289-292, Royal Visit, 570 S/S. Incl 20 cpl sets. CV \$49.90, 43 MNH single stamps CV \$23.60. Total CV \$73.50.	\$25

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
60	Finland. #25, U, F, LC. CV \$17.	\$3.50
61	Finland. Ret OMNI pages, 91 mostly U stamps, few dup. Starts at #266. Best: 343, 344, 1041, 1066, 1088, 1095, 1096, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1109, 1110, 1114, B9*, B10*, B15*, B17*, B19*, B39, B42, B43*, B48, B63*. '03 CV \$50+. Only!	\$5
62	Finland. 192 U (couple MH) stamps ID'd in uncirculated APS sales book. Starts at #179, runs to 800. All nice large stamps. No dup. '07 CV \$63+. Only!	\$12
63	Finland, Sweden, Iceland. 192 large U stamps, ID'd in sales book: Finland (142), Sweden (34), Iceland (16). Mostly recent, no dup. '07 CV \$97.	\$17
64	Finland (Aland Islands). 1998 year, MNH, as issued in postal promo folder: #88, 138-139, 143a cpl bklt, 144 (Europa), 145, 146, 147 (sheet of 10), 148, 149-151. Pristine! CV \$37.75.	\$15
65	Finland (Aland Islands). Ducks! 2001 MNH bklt, #185e (World Wildlife Fund). CV \$11.	\$4
66	Germany. 153 U stamps in uncirculated sales book. All ID'd, all recent, no dup, 1997-2006. Half are semi-postals. High values galore! '07 CV \$230. Don't miss this one!	\$43
67	Germany. Plus a few others—Poland, US, DDR, Denmark, Philippines, etc. Ret OMNI circuit book. Approx 100 M & U. No rhyme or reason that I can see. Nothing outstanding but – CV \$30+. Look at this!	NMB
68	Germany. On-paper mix, 8 ounces, approx \$500 in CV. Values from 70¢ to \$5, mostly 2003-2006. Some dup. Lots of fun soaking, sorting, trading!	\$15
69	Germany. Better kiloware mix, on-paper, large stamps, 6 ounces. Lots of values to \$5. Dup. Mostly 2002-2006. Est value \$500.	\$25
70	Gilbert Islands. #269-284, MNH, complete, beautiful! CV \$12.30.	\$3
71	GB. #138, U, LC, bright color, small pinhole (not unusual for era). '08 CV \$40.	\$4
72	GB. #MH175-MH176, U, F/VF, LC/medium cancel. CV \$5.50.	NMB
73	GB. #288, U, LC, F/VF. CV \$9.75.	\$3.50
74	GB, Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey. Large lot to list: GB presentation folders, (2) #595-599, S/S 847a, (7) MNH. Most of the rest is cpl sets, a few incomplete, racket sports maxicards, 3 S/S 1962 stamp exhibition. Isle of Man 297-300; Guernsey 307 sheet (folded); Jersey 245a S/S (3). GB, U, 109. Well worth the price! CV M \$72.40 plus U \$46.80.	\$25
75	Greece. 191 U stamps ID'd in uncirculated sales book. Some oldies, but many newer to 2007. Very nice selection, no dup, lots of good values. '07 CV \$110. Only!	\$22
76	Hong Kong. #212, MNH. CV \$17.50.	\$5.50
77	Ireland. #791-793, U, medium cancels, F/VF. High values of set. CV \$16.85.	\$4
78	Israel. MNH sets (no tabs): #17-22, 52-54, 425-429, 509-520, 611-615. CV \$10.65.	\$3
79	Israel. MNH sets (with tabs): #129-131, 231-234, 298-303, 502-504, 580-582, 701-703, 709-711, 730-732 plus MNH singles. CV \$10.	\$3
80	Jamaica. 1962 to 1980, MNH. #185//196, all others cpl, S/S: 379-382, 398, 401, 402-405, 416-418, 457-460, 490 (strip of 4). '09 CV \$62.45.	\$20
81	Jamaica. #643-664B (partial set, missing 661A, 665A), MNH, very nice. '09 CV \$24.25.	\$6

AUCTION RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Bid increments: \$1-10 = \$0.50, \$10-30 = \$1.00, \$30-100 = \$2.00, Over \$100 = \$5.00. Bid in these increments only. Odd amounts will be lowered to the next increment. All bids are in US dollars.
2. High bidder wins at one advance over second-highest bidder.
3. If there are tie bids, the earliest postmark wins.
4. If only one bid is received, lot goes at the minimum bid listed by the owner.
5. State the highest you are willing to pay. Your high bid will be used only if necessary. No "buy" bids or requests for percentage increases will be accepted.
6. Lots are returnable for items misdescribed or misidentified. No returns on large lots or collections, etc.
7. The Auctioneer reserves the right to decline unreasonably low bids.
8. Lot information will be sent to successful bidders with invoice. Invoice will include postage. Payment is expected in U.S. funds within 10 days.
9. Lots will be shipped and billed by Mike Crump and payment should be sent to him at the address on the invoice. PayPal can be used: ExecutiveDirector@iswsc.org. There will be an additional 10% fee to cover the PayPal transaction. PayPal users should notify the Auction Manager by e-mail when payment has been made.

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
82	Japan. Sheets of 20: #991, MNH, intact sheet, First Japanese Nuclear Ship, Mutsu; #992 (2 sheets), MNH, intact, New National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. CV \$18.	\$5.50
83	Japan. Intact MNH sheet of 20, #1138, 1973 Philatelic Week. CV \$6.	\$2
84	Japan. MNH stamps 1976-1977. National Treasure, International Letter Writing Week, Philatelic Week, #1308-1309,a. S/S. CV \$22.95.	\$7
85	Japan. MNH, 1978-1979; International Letter Writing Week, Philatelic Week, Sumo Wrestling Series, National Treasures. CV \$31.40.	\$12
86	Japan. HBO. 32 MNH S/S plus 2 covers. S/S from 1964 (#825a – \$3.25) to 1997 (2228 – \$7.50). Incl Prefectures S/S 1989-1992, Z1/Z129 (values from \$3.50 to \$5.50). Total CV @ \$100. A great deal at only –	\$15
87	Japan. 192 U stamps, ID'd in uncirculated sales book. All nice larger and recent (1982-1996), #1512//2527. No dup, no prefectures. Lots of value for small investment! '07 CV \$71.	\$13
88	Kiribati. #327-340A, cpl set of 15, MNH. Beautiful flora, fauna, ships. CV \$7.35.	\$2
89	Malawi. #578-581, Orchids, cpl set, MNH. '09 CV \$22.25.	\$8
90	Mexico. 13 nice stamps, M and U: #709, 860, 862, 1113, 1171, 1174 (all M); 649, 766, 781-783, C602 (all U, no HC). Better values. CV \$29.75. Wow!	NMB
91	New Zealand. MNH sets: #528-531, 626-629, 685-688. CV \$9.10.	\$2.50
92	New Zealand. #674-677, 696-697, U, F/VF. CV \$3.60.	NMB
93	Norway. Ret OMNI pages, 56 U stamps, recent (1980's-1990's), no dup. Very worthwhile lot, avg value is \$1.00+. '02 CV \$61.85. A deal starting at –	\$6
94	Norway. 49 U stamps in ret OMNI book. Mostly #800's to 1100's, many good values. '03 CV \$57+.	\$5
95	Paraguay. #627a, S/S of 5 stamps, MNH, 1961 Europa Issue. Perforated. CV \$17.50.	\$7
96	Paraguay. #627b (?), S/S of 5 stamps, MNH, 1961 Europa Issue, imperf w/diff colors. Est value \$50.	\$20
97	St. Helena. #33, U, F/VF, moderate cancel. CV \$8.	\$2
98	Scandinavia. 192 mostly large U stamps ID'd in sales book. Sweden (93 stamps), Norway (82), Denmark (16). Lots of good values, many recent. Fill a lot of spaces w/this interesting lot! '07 CV \$116.	\$21
99	Sweden. Classics. 11 U stamps, sound, LC: #8, 13, 35, 36, 38, 42, 47, 49, 65, 93, 101. '08 CV \$49.90. A steal at 10%!	\$5
100	Sweden. #206, U, F/VF, medium cancel, rough perfs. '09 CV \$32.50. Only!	\$3
101	Sweden. #281, MH, F/VF. '09 CV \$2.25.	NMB

Abbreviations:

& = And

+ = Plus

// = Incomplete

ADDR = Address (ed)

ANN = Anniversary

APS = American Philatelic Society

BKLT = Booklet

BLK = Block

BOB = Back of Book

CAT = Catalogue (d)

COMMEM = Commemorative (s)

CPL = Complete

CR = Crease (d)

CTO = Cancelled to Order

CV = Latest Scott Catalog Value

DEFIN = Definitive (s)

DIFF = Different

DUP = Duplicate (s)

EST = Estimate (d)

F = Fine, off center, but perfs
don't touch design

FD(C) = First Day (Cover)

G = Good, perfs cut into design

HBO = Held by Owner

HC = Heavy Cancel

HR = Hinged Remnant

INCL = Include (s) (ed)

LC = Light Cancel

LH = Light Hinge

LS = Left side

M or * = Mint

MH = Mint Hinged

MLH = Mint Light Hinge

MNH or ** = Mint Never Hinged

NG = No Gum

(N)MB = (No) Minimum Bid

OG = Original Gum

RET = Retired, Returned

RS = Right Side

SE = Straight Edge

S/S = Souvenir Sheet (s)

U = Used

UNADDR = Unaddressed

VF = Very Fine, wide margins

VG = Very Good, perfs touch
design

W/(O) = With (out)

XF = Extra Fine

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
102	Sweden. Ret OMNI circuit book. 60+ M & U (mostly) stamps. Better: 128, 146, 159, 183, 186, 187, 188, 261, 270, 271, 325, 331, 354, 355, 367, 388, 417, 425, 447, 463, 466, 489, 496, 542, 551, 557, bklt 706a*, 708 & more. Very nice – don't miss this one! '05 CV \$90+.	\$9
103	Switzerland. #98-100, U, LC to medium cancel. 98 and 99 are F/VF. 100, perfs cut design one side. CV \$33.	\$10
104	Switzerland. 3 items: #112a, U, F/VF, medium cancel; 204-205, U, F/VF, medium cancel; B303-B307, cpl, M, VF. CV \$20.65.	\$4
105	Switzerland. 3 sound U stamps, F/VF: #191, 215, 252. LC to medium cancels. '09 CV \$25.75. Only!	\$4.50
106	Switzerland. #200-203, U, F/VF, LC to medium cancels. Very nice sound stamps. '09 CV \$21.25. Only!	\$3
107	Switzerland. #C15, U, nice cancel from "Chaux-de-Fonds". CV \$85.	\$8.50
108	Switzerland. 19 cpl sets! MNH: #521-523, 616-619, B166-B169, B339-B343, B374-B377, B390-B393, B406-B409, B422-B425, CB1, 8O10-8O13, 10O11-10O13; MH: B360-B364; U: 365-368, 510-514, 540-543, 603-605, 606-609, B370-B373, B410-B413. All F/VF or better. CV \$35+. Bargain at only –	\$7.50
109	Switzerland. Very nice group, U and M, all ID'd in sales cards, F/VF or better, no HC. U: #183, 184, 209, 216-218, 324, 499, B1, B19, B61, B63, B190. M: 558-568, B215, B290, B291, C46, 9O15. Total '09 CV \$59.60.	\$10
110	Switzerland. Ret OMNI book. 46 U stamps, all higher values: #182, 183, 186, 191, 193, 200, 201, 202, 203, 206, 207, 213, 214, 218, 225, 244, 245, 249, 252, 281, 282, 283, 286, 319, 320, 321, 343, B11, B62, B63, B64, B66, B70, B71, B74, B83, B95, B98, B111, couple others. Whew! You won't be sorry (unless you skip this one!) '08 CV \$145+.	\$25
111	Tonga. #402-406, MNH set, Captain Cook's Farewell Voyage. CV \$11.75. Aloha!	\$3
112	Venezuela. Airmails. Ret OMNI pages. Great opportunity to fill some spaces. 125 mostly U (some MH) airmails (C2 to C1100's). Lots of value for a small investment! '06 CV \$41+. Only!	\$4
113	Worldwide. "A" countries in ret OMNI book. 65 U stamps. Long list includes Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra (French), Angola, etc. Contact me if you need more details. CV \$30+. Worth a look!	\$3
114	Worldwide. All Asian Bonanza! 700 stamps, U, off-paper, all large, all diff, no CTO's: Korea (185), Japan (150), Indonesia (100), Philippines (100), Singapore (65), Malaysia (50), PRC (50). Only!	\$20
115	Worldwide. Mostly "N" countries, ret OMNI book. 34 U stamps (half are New Zealand). '04 CV \$22. Live dangerously and take a flier!	NMB
116	Worldwide Bag #1. Bag of off-paper mostly smaller, many Machin Heads, tons of countries, mostly foreign, no Christmas. Eleven ounces – thousands of stamps to dig through!	\$4
117	Worldwide Bag #2. Same idea as previous lot but MORE – fifteen ounces off-paper! Sort till the cows come home!	\$6
118	Worldwide. 5 ounces off-paper mixture, approx 2600 mostly small, some commems. 1930-1960. Est value \$520. Sorting Heaven!	\$2
119	Worldwide. 175 U stamps, ID'd on sheets, 25 per country: Australia, Belgium, Germany, GB, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland. Total CV \$110+.	\$15
120	Worldwide Mish-Mash. Don't let the title throw you. 65 U stamps on OMNI pages w/lots of value. Best: Austria #1365, 1469; Brazil 2070-2073, 2218, 2268, 2273; Finland 470A, 814, 815, 817, 843, 868, 870, 876, 878, 882, 884, 902, 904; Greece, Israel, Laos, Spain – too many to mention. Total CV is over \$90. This one is a steal at only –	\$7
121	Worldwide. BOB Nightmare! Not the usual boring semi-postals, airs or postage dues. This exotic lot of mixed U and M, 120+ stamps incl telegraphs, postal tax, customs, municipals, revenues & fiscals of all kinds. Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy – the list goes on & those are just the ones I can recognize! Many mystery stamps. A cataloger's dream (or nightmare!). What a challenge! Value? No one knows!	\$8

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
122	Worldwide. HBO. FDCs (31) from all over the world in 2 APS sales books. All in celebration of World Refugee Year 1960. A bargain at only –	\$15
123	Worldwide. HBO. Album Pages, 1840-1940, Vintage Reprint pages, clean & unused. Note: for BOB issues only! Dues, officials, postal tax, etc. (NO POSTAGE, SEMIPOSTAL or AIRS!). Fits International binder, enough to fill 3 binders. You won't see this just anywhere!	\$75
123A	Worldwide. HBO. FOUR POUNDS!!! Net on-paper. Wide variety, much dup, but unpicked. Value? Let's start an only –	\$5
124	Album. HBO. Brazil. Scott Specialty Album (1972-2005) for #1214 to 2959. Good condition, no stamps. Also, large green 2 post special binder. Retail \$165. A real sweet deal at only –	\$25
125	Album. HBO. Scott Specialty Series. Good condition, 2 post. Contains pages for Ghana (1957-1968) w/150+ stamps. Also pages for Pakistan (1947-1967) w/339 stamps. Worth it for the stamps alone!	\$20
126	Album Pages. HBO. Philippines, 1982-1988, no stamps, printed in the Phillipines. Pages fit 3 ring binder.	NMB
127	Seals. Not the animals, but lots of fun anyway! Thick bag of 3.5 ounces Easter Seals, Boy's Town, Omaha Home for Boys, Lutheran Wheat Ridge Foundation, NAACP, AM VETS, FAA, St. Jude Hospital, many others. 1940-1966. Unusual, very collectable. Priceless! Arf!	\$1
128	The Sand Box. You've heard of a sand box. What about a "box of sand" as in "Sand Dunes"? Golf ball box (8" X 6" X 2") absolutely stuffed, crammed, bulging w/stamps, sets & S/Ss. This will be someone's treasure trove! Very collectable, very topical. Hundreds & hundreds of stamps from places like Ajman, Fujeira, Umm Al Qiwain, North Yemen Republic & others. Don't scoff – first check the Michel catalog for the Euro values! This lot is loaded! "Play in The Sandbox" for hours & days of fun!	\$50

BARGAIN BIN! The following lots have been in previous auctions are now here in the Bargain Bin for a re-run at reduced prices.

BB129	USA. #372, MNH, SE on top, F/VF. CV \$22. Ran previously at \$7.50. Now only!	NMB
BB130	USA. 8 FDCs, #1498a on large (4.5" X 10.5") white envelopes w/PO Department cachets, several diff Detroit postmarks. Unaddr (one shows evidence of an addr label). CV \$35+. Now reduced to only –	\$5
BB131	Cuba. Tropical Birds, #3328-3334, cpl set, MNH. CV \$95.50. Reduced to –	\$30

Have unwanted quality material? Consignments are always welcome. Please contact Mike Crump for more information.

ISWSC AUCTION #38 BID SHEET ~ Closing December 15, 2009

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR ATTACH AN ADDRESS LABEL.

MEMBER #: _____
 NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

 PHONE: _____
 E-MAIL: _____

LOT #	BID	LOT #	BID	LOT #	BID	LOT #	BID	LOT #	BID

Lot #	Description	Minimum Bid
BB132	DDR. Bklt, MNH, cpl. Has 3 panes of stamps: Pane of #330c; pane of 333a; pane of 477b. (IDs are my best guess.) CV? Slashed to –	NMB
BB133	GB. #96, U, LC, small scuff. CV \$140. Now reduced to only...	\$14
BB134	GB. #111-116. Short set. All stamps F, nice margins, medium cancels. CV \$44.85. Now reduced from \$10 to:	\$5
BB135	GB. #132, U, LC. CV \$19. Only –	\$7.50
BB136	GB. #292-308, cpl M set of 17 stamps, very LH, nice stamps. CV \$126.90. Now reduced to:	\$35
BB137	Switzerland. #197, U, F/VF; 232, MNH, F/VF. CV \$6.75. How low can you go?	NMB

END OF AUCTION

Tips for Successful Auction Bidding

by Mike Crump (#2126)
ISWSC Auction Manager

The ISWSC Auction is a mail bid sale open only to ISWSC members. You might have wondered why you have made reasonable bids and not scored much success. The common complaint: "I have repeatedly sent in several bids in multiple auctions and never win any lots."

First, I will assure you, all bids are treated fairly and no one gets inside information on our auction lots and bidding process. Why then do some bidders enjoy regular success and others "go home empty" and discouraged? Here is some "inside information" for all of you auction bidders that I can share: Foreign stamp lots in ISWSC auctions draw the highest number of bids

and almost always completely sell out. You can pretty well figure that when bidding on foreign stamp lots, those lots will draw multiple bids. The retired OMNI book lots and other larger lots consistently draw the bulk of the bids.

Bid Early, Bid Often!

An analysis of a recent auction showed some interesting facts. Forty-one bidders made 402 bids and purchased 104 of 122 total lots, about 85%. Eighty-one lots had multiple bidders, with twenty-nine lots having 5 or more bidders. A look at these 29 "hotly contested" lots shows that 75% of them were larger groups like the retired OMNI books, sales books and similar material.

Continued on page 16

Circuit Seeks Members

The Premium Circuit can accommodate more members! The concept of the circuit is similar to the Swap Circuit program, except trading is based on an exchange of 50 stamps. Each stamp catalogs 50¢ or more, plus participants are guaranteed to never see the same stamp twice.

Some current members are now in their 18th round, so it would appear to be meeting their expectations. The total number of participants in the program is limited due to the amount of labor necessary for the manager to run the program, however there are current openings available—no one has joined since last October!

To receive more details about the Premium Circuit or to express interest in joining, please contact **Ken Wills** (#2150); 5308 Shadow Glen Drive; Grapevine, TX 76051-7350—USA or wills@airmail.net.

SPECIAL OFFER TO MEMBERS: Nigeria two stamp Rotary mint set, Scott #771-2. Catalog value \$3, selling for \$1 plus SASE. 25 sets available. ISWSC; PO Box 19006; Sacramento, CA 95819-0006—USA.

CAN YOU HELP with my want list used stamps to year 2000: Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany? Purchase only. Robert Fisher (ISWSC #1608); P.O. Box 923; Penney Farms, FL 32079—USA. rafstamps@juno.com [09-10/09]

200 WW OR US only \$2.00. 200 Canada 70% large \$5.00 or 100 large Russia \$5.00 plus 84¢ SASE for each offer. 10 FCS show cover mix \$4.00 + \$1.64 SASE. Towlson (#2609D); 60 Ivanhoe Road; Buffalo, NY 14215—USA. [01-02/10]

BREAKING UP 62-YEAR ACCUMULATION. Let me send you a stuffed envelope of old, new, mint and used, etc. Pick what you want at 1/3 SCV and return the balance. Robert Gelfman (ISWSC #1849); Box 315; Old Bethpage, NY 11804—USA. [11-12/09]

Deadline for *The Circuit* (Jan/Feb)—November 20, 2009

Story of a Lifer

Continued from page 1

the stamp, a smiling picture of Will Rogers and the inscription, "I never met a man I didn't like." I contemplated Roger's message all the way home.

Upon arriving home, I said to my mom, "What's wrong with this guy, Mr. Rogers? I'm only nine years old and already I know lots of people I don't like." Mother smiled at me and explained that Will Rogers meant everyone has some likeable qualities and that he always tried to find them in everyone he met. For me, it was an important lesson that has stuck with me all of my life. It would not be the only useful morsel of information I would learn from stamp collecting.

In 1938, the US postal system came out with a definitive series honoring our nation's presidents, starting with a 1¢ George Washington and continuing, in order, to the \$5 Calvin Coolidge. The set took me several years to complete, although the set was in use until 1954. Local Post Offices didn't carry the odd denominations, such as the 19¢ Rutherford B. Hayes or the 22¢ Grover Cleveland. The result was that I learned and could recite (and still can) the names of our presidents in order, therefore improving my grades in American History.

Of course, by collecting foreign stamps, one also learns geography, world history and the specific history of other nations. Take Germany, for example, which postally has one of the most interesting illustrations of its history on stamps. It starts with various German states like Saxony, Prussia, Bavaria and Wurttemberg, to the forming of the German Empire under Bismark. Followed by the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm, with ships depicted on German colonial stamps coinciding with the German naval build up leading to World War I. The 1920's inflationary period, when in 1921 a Mark would mail a sizeable package, to 1923 when it took millions of marks to mail a simple letter in one's own town. In late 1923, the Weimar Republic instituted a stable currency, although there continued to be unrest in Germany, giving rise to Hitler and the Nazis.

Once Hitler came to power, the influence on German postage by the Nazis began subtly with the Nazi swastika first appearing on the watermark of stamps honoring revered President and war hero General Von Hindenburg. Later stamps came showing the German military build up, then many stamps with

Hitler on them. Wartime stamps illustrating battle scenes, tanks, war planes, naval vessels, soldiers and, of course, Hitler himself, as he led Germany to defeat.

After the defeat of the Nazis, stamps were issued in the occupation zones by the Allies and Russians. Separate postal systems were established for the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), Berlin, and the German Democratic Republic, which, of course, was anything but democratic. In 1990, the walls came tumbling down and Germany was reunited. All clearly visible on German stamps.

My German collection got a wonderful jump start about 1950 when my great-aunt Martha escaped from East Berlin to the west. She converted everything she could into stamps, stuffed them into her brassiere, making an already portly lady even more so. My Grandfather had the collection, which included many stamps from the early 19th century, through the Hitler issues of World War II, appraised. The value wasn't as great as Aunt Martha hoped. My Grandfather, understanding his sister's need, bought the collection from her for the appraised value and gave the stamps to me.

The story of the growth of my German collection continued with her son, Hans. Hans served on the Eastern Front in the Luftwaffe that is the German Air Force. Hans settled in Bielefeld after the war and took over the family dry goods business and also took up stamp collecting, or perhaps continued. Hans would send Dad and me German stamps and we would swamp him US stamps. This continued until 1985 when Hans died. I continued to share the hobby with my dad, who was an active collector, especially after he retired in 1962 and until he passed on in 1978.

In 1954, our family moved to Colorado and it wasn't long before I found a cople of stamp collector buddies. One of my collector friends, Chuck Larson, also worked for my family's business, which incidentally also had a stamp corner, where we sold supplies and a few packaged stamps, which it was my job to prepare. My pal Chuck and I decided that the ½¢ Franklin stamp in the Liberty series was a better value than a single 3¢ (and later 4¢) – after all, you received six, then eight stamps for your money. We used them to mail our personal correspondence to our friends we had left behind after moving to Boulder.

Chuck and I were frequent visitors to the post office, as it was our duty to take Dad's Ford Ranch Wagon, loaded with books for the store's wholesale clients, so we would buy the ½¢ stamps. Mr. Nicholson, the postal clerk, asked us what we were doing with the orange half-centers. We assured him we were just collectors, but he was suspicious of us. He asked us to



USA, Scott
811—John
Quincy
Adams

use the single proper stamp, because the cancelling machine didn't cancel all the stamps. We continued to use the ½¢ Franklin stamps, as long as they were available.

Years later, when I was a bank president, I met a fellow, named Jim Nicholson, who was an officer of a correspondent bank with which we did business. One evening at a bankers meeting, we happened to sit next to one another at dinner and discovered we were both graduates of Boulder High School. I asked him if he was, per chance, any relation to Mr. Nicholson at the Post Office. Jim said, "Yes, as a matter of fact, he is my Dad."

I told him the story of the ½¢ stamps. Jim laughed and said, "You know that really upset Dad. He knew what you guys were up to and at our family dinner table, he used to cuss you two out every time you bought those stamps."



USA, Scott
1030a—
Benjamin
Franklin

For about 20 years, I was less active as a stamp collector, with operating a business and raising five children. Once the kids left the nest, I had more leisure time and once more took up collecting with my former eagerness. One of the great things about stamp collecting is they do keep with a minimum of effort; that is, keep them dry.

After a few years of relative inactivity and not following stamp values, I was pleasantly surprised to find that some of the stamps I bought years ago had greatly appreciated.

I don't recommend collecting as an investment. The trouble with investing in stamps, or perhaps speculating is a better word, is stamps are at least as fickle as other collectibles. Values vary with a combined function of supply and demand, and current interest in a particular country or kind of stamp fuels speculation. Simple scarcity is not enough to make for a good "investment," because if no one is interested in that particularly rare country or stamp, it will not go up in

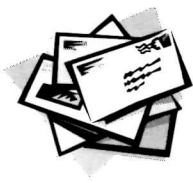
value. Nevertheless, it is always fun to discover that a stamp you paid little for is now a Thousand Dollar Treasure.

On more than one occasion, I have purchased a box lot of stamps for, say \$20, with the objective of acquiring a number of common, but useful, stamps to add to my worldwide collection. Much to my pleasant surprise, I have discovered a stamp worth as much as \$1000. For me, going through a bunch of unknown, disorganized stamps and coming up with an interesting or valuable philatelic prize is great fun. A part of smart stamp collecting is good organization and knowing what you have in your collection.

Of course, the most important part of all of this is to have fun with it. After all, stamp collecting is a hobby to be enjoyed and there are many ways to do that. Some people collect topical issues, like boats, butterflies, famous people, airplanes, frogs and other animals. My daughter, Juli, is not a collector in the usual sense of the word, but always enjoys pictures of frogs, dogs, and her favorite musician, Bob Marley, depicted on stamps.

There are no laws about stamp collecting. You can do whatever strikes your fancy — after all, it is your collection. This thought was brought home to me one day, in trying to help my grandson, Haydn, with his collection. Age 7 at the time, Haydn liked animals and was mounting on notebook pages stamps picturing various Australian animals. He was having a little trouble managing the hinges used to mount the stamps and as a result, they appeared quite crooked on the page. I tried to show him how to arrange the stamps in neat orderly rows. Haydn, annoyed at my interference, said, "Grandpa, this is my collection. You told me I could collect the way I like them! I like them this way." Then he pointed to the stamps, irregularly mounted on the note page.

Enough said. Haydn was absolutely correct. It was his collection and if it pleased him to mount his stamps every which way on the page, so be it! After all, it is the collector's choice. The important thing is to have fun with stamp collection activities.



Letter to the Editor

It has taken me about three years to return to stamps after bringing a halt to participating in the hobby back in 1976-1978. Basically, I collect world 1840-1950 and of course, that will mean a lot of used material—singles. Which requires hinges.

Well, I bought two packs of Vidiforms hinges—prefolded—and these things are just terrible. Too labor intensive. They are like handling cold fish that have dried and been stacked like Pringle chips. Too much time is wasted handling these because of that stacking, thin size and their curl. And the gum is no great shake either.

I still have about a pack and a half of Dennison hinges left. Price—29¢. Bought them in 1975 or so. Never had a problem with Dennison.

What is out there other than these Vidiforms hinges?

~ Larry Toomey (#2589)

Ventures in Printing

Continued from page 4

government administration as well. (The first was Frenchman Serge Beaune, artist and printing press inventor, highlighted in an earlier article.) If ever a

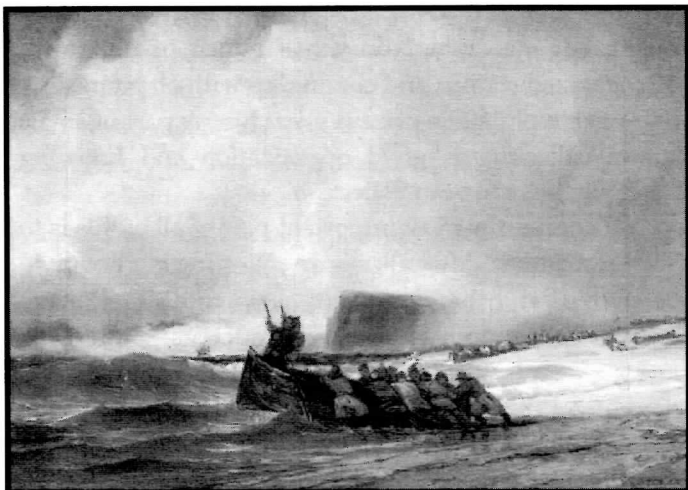


Figure 7—Untitled Painting by Heinrich Gätke

stamp designer was able to combine multiple influences—in this case Prussian, Victorian, Heligoland and personal—it was Heinrich Gätke.

Heligoland Reprints

The printing history of Heligoland stamps, especially the Victoria heads, is an unusually complicated subject—a philatelic fine-tooth combing that will have little appeal for the non-specialist collector. If you would rather decide that for yourself, check out www.fritzwagner.com. According to Wagner, “a million and a half valid stamps were printed for use, but only half of them were ever used.



Figure 8—Germany,
Scott B176

The rest were bought for resale to collectors. Then there were between five and seven million reprints, the number depending on which source you rely on.” Some reprints were official, others private. Some were printed in Berlin, others in Leipzig and Hamburg. The

complexity of minor varieties, among original issues and reprints, is daunting.

Of the six Heligoland CMP stamps (Scott 20-25), evidently only Scott 20 was subjected to the private reprintings of Hamburg stamp dealer Julius Goldner

(Amtmann, pp. 434-435; Wagner; Pollard). Thus, the first two stamps in Figures 1 & 2 (Jul/Aug 2009, p. 11) are almost certainly reprints, as are the great majority of Heligoland stamps owned by generalist collectors. (According to Robert Pollard, only Scott 1 and 16-19—of the Victoria heads—were *not* reprinted.) Forged cancellations are another bane of Heligoland stamp collecting, and Figure 3 (Jul/Aug 2009, p. 11) is very likely an example of that additional form of philatelic disappointment.

It is ironic that stamps so authentic in their expression of historically vibrant design influences should have that authenticity overshadowed by extreme degrees of reprinting and cancellation-forgery. But there is an even further irony in the matter of the Heligoland reprints: Who was it that signed the contract giving Goldner the right to produce and sell “all former Heligoland schilling stamps?” It was R. Pilgers, Royal Post Master, and H. Gätke, Government Secretary (Amtmann, p. 769).

Twentieth Century Postscript: Disappearing Island

In 1890 Heligoland (now Helgoland) was absorbed into the German empire and became a “dead country” stamp-wise—and in the following years, almost a “dead country” otherwise. The island’s unhappy fate



Figure 9—Return to Helgoland, 1952

was noted even in the popular philatelic press. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, June 1923, cited a *Cleveland Plaindealer* article entitled: “A Disappearing Island.” Germany had fortified the island prior to World War I, mounting huge guns on its *Oberland* and converting the *Unterland* harbor into a haven for torpedo craft, gunboats, light cruisers and submarines. At the beginning of the war, all Heligolandians were deported to the German mainland (Drower, pp. 149-158; Ritsema, pp. 90-94). Following the war, as stated in the Mekeel's article:

By the terms of the peace the fortifications of Heligoland were to be destroyed. In destroy-

ing them, Great Britain and France are practically destroying the island itself; what is left after the destroyers are through is likely to be swept away by the sea. Those Heligoland stamps are given new interest by what is occurring there in the North Sea (*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, June 30, 1923, p. 333).

This was an exaggeration, albeit some demolition did take place. The islanders had been allowed to return as early as 1918, and pluckily they gradually refurbished their homeland, returning it again to a fishing and tourist village and extending its visitor popularity even into the early years of the Third Reich. Permanent population reached over 2,500 during the 1930's. In 1940, Germany issued a beautiful bi-colored stamp (Figure 8) to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Heligoland ceding.

At the beginning of World War II, the island was closed to tourists and the Nazis began construction of a new submarine base (*Project Hummerschere—Lobster Claw*), which was never completed. This time the Heligolandians remained on the island, along with the German military. They underwent frequent Allied bombardment, culminating in an April 1945 7000-bomb attack that rendered the island uninhabitable. They were again dispersed to the mainland (Drower, pp. 183-214; Ritsema, p. 101).

From 1945 to 1952, uninhabited Heligoland was again under British control and served as a practice bombing range for the Royal Air Force. A huge explosion occurred there in 1947, described as the largest non-nuclear detonation until that time. There was a significant change in the island's topography, so much so that a Mittleland now exists along side the Oberland and the Unterland. Drower believed that Great Britain even contemplated testing its first atomic bomb on Heligoland (Drower, pp. 215-250; Ritsema, pp. 100-102).

But in 1952, Heligoland was given back to Germany and the islanders were

allowed to return (Figure 9). In the years that followed, Bundesrepublik Deutschland (West Germany) issued three stamps depicting the island (Scott 690, 1069 (Figure 10) and 1527). The permanent population reached higher than 3,000 in the 1960's. It is approximately half that now.

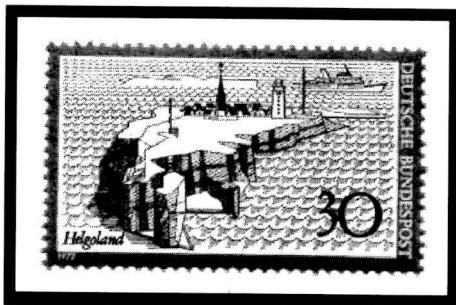


Figure 10—Germany, Scott 1069

The tourists still come.

The red cliffs still rise starkly out of the German Bight (Figure 11).

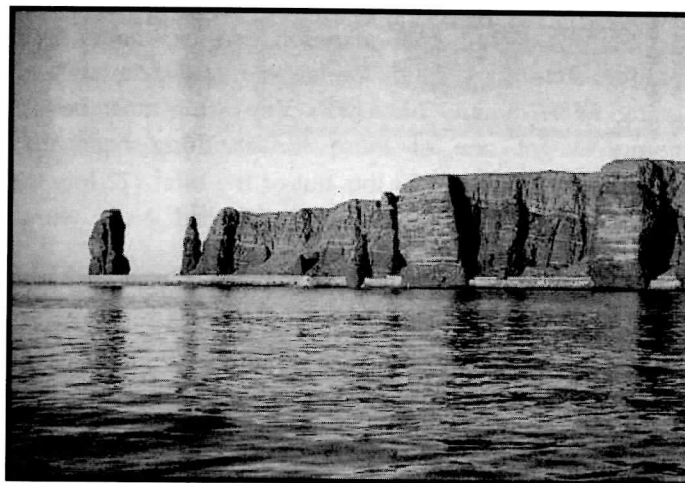


Figure 11—The Cliffs of Heligoland

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Auction Bidding Tips

Continued from page 11

So, the broad generalization can be made that bidders should recognize the larger worldwide lots are going to be heavily bid upon. You are almost never going to get one of these for anything near the minimum bid. (Note: 23 lots out of the total 122 lots in the auction did sell for the minimum bid. None were these kinds of lots).

A closer look at a few of the contested lots.

Lot A: Worldwide, retired OMNI book: Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, etc. CV \$23+, no minimum bid. Eleven bids were received:

\$2.50 X 2	5.00 X 2	7.50
3.00	6.00	8.00
4.00	6.50	11.00

This lot sold for \$8.50, one bid interval over the second highest bid.

Lot B: Worldwide, retired OMNI book. 130 stamps, various countries, etc. CV \$54+, no minimum bid. Ten bids were received:

2.50	7.00 x 2	10.00 x 3
5.00 X 2	8.50	24.00

This lot sold for \$11.00, one bid interval than the second highest bid.

Lot C: Europa, retired OMNI book. 100+ U stamps, etc. CV \$49, no minimum bid. Ten bids were received:

\$4.00	9.00	13.00
5.00 X 3	10.00	17.00
6.00	12.00	

This lot sold for \$14.00, one bid interval over the second highest bid.

Lot D: Austria, retired OMNI book. 40+ stamps, etc. CV \$15+, no minimum bid. Eight bids were received:

\$1.00	4.00 x 2	6.50
2.50	5.00	
3.00	6.00	

This lot sold for \$6.50, the highest bid.

Looking at the bids on these lots, what would you surmise? Do you think the winning bids were outlandish? Would it surprise you that 3 out of 4 of these lots were won by one individual? One thing is obvious: that bidder knows what he is doing and consistently does it well.

Bid results for auctions are available on the ISWSC website and by mail upon request from the auction manager (see page 2).

Thank you for participating in the ISWSC auctions!

Membership Update

New Members

- 2624 **Vincent H-H Jones** (exp. 09/30/12)
1900 Cobblestone Drive
Findlay, OH 45840-7703—USA
vhhjones@gmail.com; B (to 1970), G, Adv (45), DD
- 2625D **D M Fuerstenwerth** (exp. 09/30/11)
Muhliusstr. 68
D-24103 Kiel—GERMANY
- 2626 **Yoshiharu Kada** (exp. 11/30/10)
2-13-10 Shinsenri-Kita
Toyonaka Osaka 560-0081—JAPAN
hsb80822@nifty.com; B (1945—present), D, Int (65), EE, Top (Air Post), 7 (Swiss), 8 (Worldwide & US)
- 2627 **Larry Illgen, Sr** (exp. 11/30/10)
463 Leisure Woods Park
Hiawasse, GA 30546-5049—USA
larryillgensr@yahoo.com; B, G, Int (50), EE, 3 (USA, cancelled stamps), 6 (USA), 8 (USA), 10 (USA blocks, singles, sheets)
- 2628 **Paul Zanoni** (exp. 11/30/10)
1120 Brockway Drive
Kingsport, TN 37663-2402—USA
pfz88@hotmail.com; A, F, Int (20), DD, Top (Peace), 7 (Algeria, Argentina, Basutoland), 8 (Worldwide)

Closed Album

- 2601 **Stout**

Dropped—Dues Expired/Resigned

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| 428 | Cox | 2572 | Edwards |
| 2124 | Bullen | 2573 | Pilarski |
| 2236 | Wilkie | 2574 | Daniel |
| 2489 | Fabri | 2576 | Velardo |
| 2495 | Roberts | 2577 | Schrader |
| 2516 | Baker | 2578 | Larson |
| 2567 | Larsen | 2579 | Millo |

Changes/Corrections/Reinstatements

- 436 **Dr. Roger Boneham**
12 Lookout Harbor
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- 2391 **Theodore C Steinbeck, Jr**
902 NW 92nd St
Vancouver, WA 98665-6833—USA
- 2588 **William Ault**
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