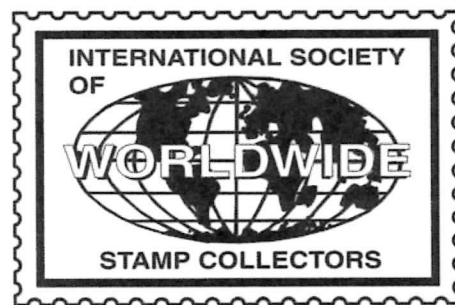


# The Circuit



*Affiliate of APS (#151) & Study Unit of ATA*

September/October 2013 • Volume 31 No. 5

[www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org)

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

## Computers: Inventory Tracking & Want Lists

by John Baumert (#1246)

I was intrigued by the Letter to the Editor from **Barry White** (#2803) in the May/June issue of *The Circuit*. I was going to reply and tell him I too tally my worldwide collection country by country. After further thought, I decided that the membership might be interested in how I use a computer in conjunction with philately.

I need to point out that I consider myself an average computer user, i.e. I don't use sophisticated programming or complex algorithms. I use either a word processor (Microsoft Word) or a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel), depending on the requirements.

There are two major uses of a computer for a stamp collection: inventory tracking and want lists. I will discuss these first, then end with some other miscellaneous ways I use the computer.

### Inventories

Since I have several different types of collections, I have an inventory for each. I will mention a few of the main collections.

The first is an inventory of my worldwide collection. I collect from the beginning (1840) through 2000. The collection is currently approximately 115,000 items housed in Scott International albums that go through 1997. The stamps issued from 1998-2000 are housed on stock sheets or home-made album pages in loose-leaf binders. Also, stamps issued from 1840-1940 are housed in a set of the original Brown Scott albums.

Using a spreadsheet, I tally each country for each album. The total size of the collection is the sum of country tallies. (The Scott International albums from 1941 were reassembled so that they are not by year, but by country, i.e. a country is assembled as a whole within an album.)

I have a specialized USA collection also housed in a Harris Liberty album to 1971, then White Ace sheets to current year housed in loose-leaf binders. I also have USA postal stationery in different albums/binders as well as binders for booklets and coils. For each of these, I maintain a tally by album. Again, the total size of the collection is the sum of the different tallies.

I also maintain tallies by country for my precancel collections (USA [bureau precancels and town-type], Belgium, Canada and France). For the USA precancel collection, I break the tally down by state as well; for the Belgian precancels, I tally by city and type of precancel.

In addition to maintaining the count tallies above, I also keep tallies for catalog value as well. In this case, I have picked a year for a specific collection and will use

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## Webmaster Needed

After several years of serving as ISWSC webmasters, **Rick and Terri Simpson** (#1703) have decided to step down, effective at the end of the year. Many, many thanks to Rick and Terri for all of their work designing and maintaining our website ([www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org))!

The ISWSC Board of Directors is now looking for a member to volunteer as webmaster. The ideal candidate will have extensive knowledge of web design, HTML4 coding and have time necessary to maintain our large website.

To learn more about the position and/or to express interest in the position, please contact Executive Directory, **Dr. Joanne Berkowitz** (#98), at PO Box 19006; Sacramento, CA 95819-0006 or via e-mail at [joannebe@pacbell.net](mailto:joannebe@pacbell.net).

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To participate in an ISWSC program, contact the appropriate volunteer listed above.

# President's Column

by John Seidl (#1646)

**F**all is upon us as another year sails by – I hope you're on track to hit your personal and philatelic goals for the year.

One of my philatelic goals this year was to exhibit for the first time and I'm happy to report I got that one taken care of. The exhibit even won an award in the process, which was a pleasant surprise. I'm already thinking about what I might create for the next effort. Our hobby can be rewarding in so many ways; I can only encourage everyone to try something new each year.

Every stamp club is reliant on volunteers and when you agree to help with a local show, serve as a club officer or provide time to an international society like the ISWSC, you are giving something back to this hobby we all enjoy.

We have something new to offer to our members as a way to spread the word about your belonging to the ISWSC! Beautiful ISWSC logo



pins—the pin measures an inch wide and has a nice finish. They are available postpaid for \$5. You can send cash or check to Executive Director, **Dr. Joanne Berkowitz (#98)** - see page 2 for address information.

Our Stamp Outreach program continues to have an active year and I've enjoyed teaching the Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge a few times. It's really exciting to see the kids enjoy building their first collection—I've found having them use Vario or similar stock pages is much easier than any sort of album and allows them to be creative in their assembly of material. If you know of a show or school program or other opportunity to share our hobby with kids and you'd like material, just contact **Richard Rizzo (#2215)**, 18300 Winter Park Ct; Gaithersburg, MD 20879-4626 or e-mail poly76ce@gmail.com.

Have you checked out the ISWSC on Facebook yet?

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\*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Outreach 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:

Dr. Joanne Berkowitz (#98)

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PayPal: ExecutiveDirector@iswsc.org

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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 Circuit* Editor (see address on page 2).**

## Ventures in Printing—Part 27

# The Multicolored Stamps of Wenden – Part 3 Of Griffins and Cloud-Swords (Or: A Mounting Murkiness)

by Sandy Stover (#2325)

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the series of articles adapted from a larger work on classic multicolored postage stamps currently being written by the author.

Author's Note: In Part 2, it was incorrectly stated that "In 1816, Tsar Alexander I emancipated all serfs of the Russian Empire." The statement should have read, "In 1816 and 17, under pressure of Tsar Alexander I, the Russian Baltic Provinces of Estland and Courland emancipated their serfs."

It took the first two parts of this article to trace the historical context of the multicolored local stamps of Wenden (Russia Scott L10 & L11, 1880 & 1884), thereby demonstrating that the stamps' German inscription is a linguistic symbol of seven centuries of German landlord domination over Wenden and its region (now Cēsis, Latvia and its region). One might hope, then, that an exploration of the *central symbol* on these stamps, a coat of arms, will simply and quickly confirm just this same German domination. It will indeed confirm such domination—but *not* simply and quickly.



**Figure 1—Cloud-Sword Arms, Russia, 1884 (Scott L11).**

There are two different coats of arms on Wenden stamps. The two multicolored stamps (listed above), as well as three bi-colored earlier stamps (Scott L7-L9, 1872-78), all feature a "mailed" arm extending from a cloud and grasping an uplifted sword (Figure 1, for the sake of simplicity, the "cloud-sword arms"). But even earlier, in 1864, a bi-colored stamp (Scott L5) had been issued featuring a griffin—a mythological winged eagle/lion beast—with an uplifted sword in its right paw (Figure 2, the "griffin arms"). And strangely, both before and after the appearance of the griffin arms stamp, Wenden issued a very similar stamp, but with a blank green vignette, i.e. *without* the griffin arms (Scott L4 and L6; Figure 3).

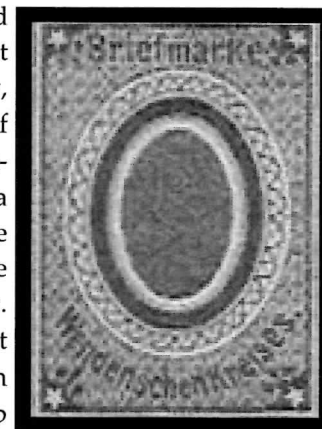
There seems to be general agreement—in the philatelic community and beyond—that the griffin

arms were the official emblem of the *entire* Russian Governorate of Livonia (Jakimovs & Marcilger, pp. 5-9; Larko, p. 4; Rosselevich, p. 42; Schmidt, p. 5; Smith, p. 66; Von Hofmann, *et al*, p. 41; "Governorate of Livonia", [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)). W. A. S. Westoby, however, stated that the 1864 stamp bore "the Arms of Wenden, a griffin in white on the green ground" (Westoby, p. 236; see also the Viner quote below). Westoby was



**Figure 2—Griffin Arms, Russia, 1864 (Scott L5).**

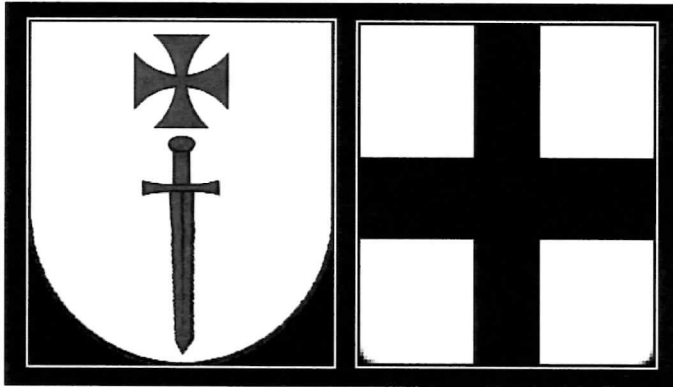
wrong when he identified the griffin arms as those of the Russian/Livonian District of Wenden (which was only one of nine Livonian districts); but it is also true that the much earlier Voivodeship (Province) of Wenden, Duchy of Livonia, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1598-1621, evidently *did* use the griffin arms as its official emblem, as did the Duchy itself. (Admittedly, the old Voivodeship of Wenden was much larger than the Russian District of Wenden, eventually including even the city of Riga within its borders. ["Wenden Voivodeship", "Duchy of Livonia", [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)].) Thus, during the three centuries of Polish, then Swedish, then Russian control of Livonia (roughly 1600-1920), the griffin arms had become emblematic of not only Livonia in its entirety, but perhaps also *especially* of Livonia's historic Wenden-region heartland, home area of Wenden Castle and of the former headquarters of the Livonian/Teutonic Order. Whoever it was that expropriated the Livonian provincial arms for a stamp of the Wenden District, they probably had *not* committed a serious distortion of history.



**Figure 3—No Arms, Russia, 1865 (Scott L6).**

But how and when were the griffin arms adopted by Livonia? They were *not* an emblem of either the

Sword Brothers or of the Livonian/Teutonic Order, at least not during their monastic four-century rule over Livonia (roughly, 1200-1600). The coat of arms of the



**Figure 4—Modern renditions of (left) the arms of the Livonian Sword Brothers; and (right) the Livonian/Teutonic Order.**

Sword Brothers was a cross pattée atop a downward pointed sword, while that of the Livonian/Teutonic Order was a simple Greek cross (Figure 4; “Livonian Brothers of the Sword”, “Livonian Order”, [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)). Still, with respect to the origin of the Livonian griffin arms, this tale of two coats of arms remains relatively clear. Hubert de Vries has written:

After the dissolution of the Livonian Order in 1561, Livonia was [annexed] by Poland. Riga remained a free city from 1561-82.

In 1566 by Treaty of Union between the landowners of Livonia and authorities of Lithuania, Livonia was made a duchy. At this occasion a coat of arms was granted to the Livonian Knights by King Sigismund August II of Poland (1548-’72) on 26 December 1566. It was: Arms: Gules, a griffin Argent armed with a sword in his right paw, his breast charged with the crowned cypher SA Or (“Latvija”, <http://www.hubert-herald.nl>).

Figure 5 displays two forms of the griffin arms: The first, a modern representation of the 1566 arms as they were granted to the Livonian Knights by Sigismund August II, marked with the king’s cypher SA; and the second, a version granted to the Livonian Governorate by imperial Russia in 1856, marked with a cypher of Peter the Great and topped by the imperial Russian crown. The “Livonian Knights” were, of course, the secularized Livonian/Teutonic Order, i.e. the major landowners and local rulers of Livonia.

The importance of this historical account is its indication that the granting of the griffin arms to the

German Livonian Knights was, basically, *equivalent* to the granting of those same arms to the Duchy of Livonia (a state within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth), never mind that the vast majority of the duchy’s population were serfs, i.e. the *undeutsch* Letts, Livs and native Estonians. This carries the further implication that the griffin arms almost certainly became an emblem with a very German aura, no matter that they were originally granted by a Polish king.

This basic equivalence of Livonia as a political entity (whether Polish duchy, Swedish dominion, or Russian governorate) and the Livonian Knights as an organization of nobles, particularly as this equivalence relates to “ownership” of the griffin arms, is perhaps best underscored by the following information:

Livonia disappeared from the map of Europe in 1918. But the organization of Livonian Knights, known also as the Livonian Noble Corporation (*Ritterschaft*), exists even today. The reader can visit the corporation’s



**Figure 5—Modern renditions of (left) the Griffin arms of the Duchy of Livonia and the “Livonian Knights” (also the Voivodeships of Wenden and Inflanty), various periods, 1566-1772; and (right) the Governorate of Livonia, 1856-1918.**

website at <http://www.baltische-ritterschaften-en.de>. Indeed, the corporation’s summary of its post-1561 domination of Livonia, as well as its current charitable purposes, is so clearly written that it is included here:

...Subsequently the territory [Livonia] fell under various sovereigns—the kings of Poland (1561-1629), then of Sweden (1629-1710), and finally to the Russian Tsars (1710-1918). The Livonian nobles’ and their corporation’s traditional rights and privileges, including their German language, the Lutheran character of the region populated mainly by Latvians and Estonians, as well as their self-government were generally recognized by the various rulers, except for a short period in the 17<sup>th</sup>

# Ventures in Printing

Continued from page 5

century when King Charles XI of Sweden abolished their self-government. However, Peter the Great in 1710 again recognized all their traditional rights and privileges and their local self-government was fully restored.

As a result, the Livonian aristocracy and its corporation enjoyed far-reaching autonomy within the Russian Empire, although after 1880 it under came pressure during the russification programme of the Tsarist government.

At the end of WW I, the Livonian Noble Corporation, like the other Baltic noble corporations [Estonia, Courland and Oesel] lost its legal-political functions in the newly-established states of Estonia and Latvia. The corporation continued its existence as a purely private organization to support its charities and traditional values. At present, together with the other three Baltic noble corporations, it is united within the Association of Baltic Noble Corporations ("The Livonian Noble Corporation", <http://www.baltische-ritterschaften-en.de>).

In another passage, the Association of Baltic Corporations describes how the individual corporations, for more than three centuries (1600-1918), controlled their respective provincial governing assemblies:

...But the corporations could decide which estate owners should be admitted (immatrikuliert) onto one of the four corporative rolls of nobility. They could also decide who would be dropped from the rolls. As enrolled estate owners controlled the voting rights for the three provincial Assemblies (Landtage), this meant in effect that the corporations also decided who could become a member of an Assembly and who would be called upon to play a role in the provincial administration ("The Four Baltic Noble Corporations", <http://www.baltische-ritterschaften-en.de>).

And most important for the purposes of this present article: What is the *current* coat of arms of the Livonian Noble Corporation? Of course—it is a griffin armed with a sword in his right paw (and still including the royal cypher of Sigismund August II) (Figure 6). Thus, the close connection between the griffin arms and the Livonian German nobility lasts even until today (notwithstanding the presence of the same sword-armed griffin on the Zahrins-designed coat of arms of *present-day* Latvia, as discussed in Part 4 of this Wenden series).

At this point, the story of the two coats of arms gets rather murky: According to several *early* philatelic commentators, an influential Livonian group objected to the use of the griffin arms on the stamps of

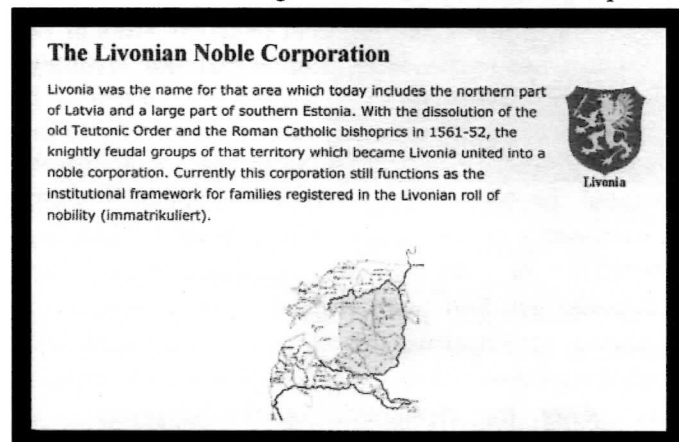


Figure 6—Portion of the [www.baltische-ritterschaften-en.de](http://www.baltische-ritterschaften-en.de) webpage of the Livonian Noble Corporation (including the Griffin arms and a map of Livonia).

Wenden—the objection having arisen even before such a stamp was issued. (Thus, perhaps, the first “blank” issue, Scott L4, 1863.) Consider the following four accounts in historical order:

(1) In 1865, only one year after issuance of the griffin arms stamp (Scott L5, 1864) and seven years before issuance of the earliest cloud-sword arms stamps, C. W. Viner, in his charming Victorian-florid style, extolled the “Wendenites” for their persistent support of “their griffin” (note the linking of the griffin arms with Wenden) in the face of “some difficulty”:

It seems there was at first some difficulty in obtaining permission to emblazon their arms on the second issue, but as the Romanists build their cathedrals and churches with a place for the addition of a tower or steeple when they get the requisite permission, so the Wendenites prepared the green blank, and in due time, the Finlanders being allowed their lion, they were accorded the presentment of their griffin (*The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, Vol. 1, p. 60).

(2) But in a later volume of the magazine (Vol. 10, 1872), when the first cloud-sword arms stamp was issued, a brief report corrected the Viner impression that the griffin arms belonged to Wenden:

In reference to our inability to comprehend the change in the design [from the griffin to the cloud-sword], an esteemed correspondent writes us that the arm grasping a sword is no other than the coat of arms of Wenden, whereas the winged griffin, which appeared on an earlier issue of the Wenden stamps, is the heraldic device of the county of Livonia (*The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, Vol. 10, p. 153).

(3) Much later, in 1900, Westoby (on the same page where he reported that the griffin arms were the arms of Wenden) confirmed that the "difficulty" (mentioned by Viner) had eventually proven insurmountable:

The use of the [griffin] arms being, however, objected to by a company that considered it had the sole right to make use of them, the stamp [Scott L5] was superseded in 1865 by a re-issue [Scott L6] of that of the type of 1863 [Scott L4], which appears to have continued in use till July, 1870, when a modification [replacement of the griffin by the cloud-sword] was made in the design (Westoby, p. 236).

(4) In 1907, Bertram Smith wrote an account (similar to Westoby's) about the interference of a "mercantile institution", but added comments about district vs. provincial rights in the matter and, as well, about the cloud-sword arms as the "proper emblem" of the district. Smith's account thereby suggested the possibility that the suppression of the griffin arms was for the sake of a simple clarity in governance, as well as legal reasons:

About 1864 the stamps bore the griffin of Livonia..., but this device was suppressed at the instance [legal proceeding], it is said, of a mercantile institution, which also used the Livonian arms. They [the "mercantile institution"? or the provincial authorities?] probably thought that Wenden, as a simple district, had no right to carry the arms of the whole province, and the griffin was therefore replaced by a coloured oval space.... This in turn was succeeded by the arm with uplifted sword..., the proper emblem of Wenden (Smith, pp. 66-67).

But what does more modern philatelic commentary say about the reason(s) for switching the coat of arms? Among all the authors available to this writer, there is not one who mentions the interference of any entity like a "company" or a "mercantile institution". Instead, they all agree that the griffin stood for Livonia in its entirety, while the cloud-sword arms stood specifically for Wenden; and thus they would probably all agree that the change was a relatively unremarkable correction of a simple misrepresentation. Even then, some murkiness remains. Larko states that "the [griffin arms] stamp was unpopular because Wenden had its own arms and did not wish to be represented by Livonia, even though Wenden is within Livonia, so after a short time reversion to the empty green center oval prevailed" (Larko, p. 4). This comment provides an interesting interpretive slant—that it was perhaps interested parties in Wenden who protested use of the Livonian emblem, rather than interested parties (beyond Wenden?) who protested that Wenden (in Smith's words) "had no right to carry the arms of the whole province".

This writer hesitates to add further murkiness to the matter, especially with a conjecture that has absolutely no support in the literature. But—what if the "mercantile institution", the protesting "company", was none other than the Livonian Noble Corporation itself? Consider the following arguments: It seems unlikely that several early philatelic sources would vaguely allude to such a "company" without *some* basis in fact. It also seems possible that the term "corporation" (as in *Ritterschaft* = corporation of "knights", i.e. noble landowners) may have become confusingly generalized as "company" or "mercantile institution". Furthermore, it is unlikely that the Livonian Noble Corporation would have allowed some *other* "company", i.e. private enterprise, to use its griffin coat of arms. Finally, it seems quite plausible that, in the 1860's, the postal authorities may have felt sufficiently independent of the German Noble Corporation to at least *attempt* to use a coat of arms deeply associated with *both* Wenden and Livonia. Of course, (1) the German nobility were *still* overwhelmingly in control politically; (2) it is plausible that the Livonian Noble Corporation (by this conjecture) would have reacted quickly in order to

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# Whatzit: Mint Never Hinged

by Richard Barnes (#2425)  
Whatzit? Coordinator

**M**y sister calls me a curmudgeon. A fellow stamp collector made a similar reference when I complimented him on his lovely mint never hinged set of Canadian Diamond Jubilee issue stamps (Scott #50-65), but was unimpressed when he quoted the price he paid for these MNH stamps. I have to go back 33 years when She Who Must Be Obeyed (my wife) "suggested" that I get a less expensive hobby and start collecting stamps.

I knew nothing about collecting stamps then. I was living in Inuvik, Northwest Territory and 2000 km from the closest stamp collector. I had contacts with various antiquarian book dealers. I was able to get old philatelic journals and magazines at close to scrap value and postage. These were mainly United Kingdom and Eastern Canada publications going as far back as the 1890's. The early publications up to post-WWII were advocating the removal of gum off of mint stamps. The lack of central heating, damp climate and big swings in temperature would cause cracking of the gum, stamp curling, foxing and staining. Up to the 1920's period, pictures of stamp dealer stores showed stamps strung on thread hanging in loops around the stores. It was common to have a dealer thread stamps using a needle to store his stamps. The bulk of collectors used hinges or spot stuck their stamps into albums. There was no other way to put stamps into albums. Remember plastic materials were not available until after WWII.

When I started stamp collecting, the gum fad was just starting to come into vogue. The re-gummers were not very good. Even I, a neophyte collector, could spot the slopping of new gum up into the perfs. Early on, I was offered a set of British Palestine as MNH, but I was able to see where the thread hole had been patched, then re-gummed.

Now, forgers can re-back and re-gum a stamp so it is, to my eye, invisible. I sent out a couple of 1920's stamps to be expertised and the expert would not comment on the gum (i.e. if it was original or re-gummed). This cost me \$200. Even chemical testing of the gum is not infallible. The forgers are taking the gum off low value stamps of the set and using it on high value stamps.

Up to the 1960's, most stamp collectors were mainly used stamp collectors. High value stamps, up to WWII, were proportionally more expensive to income than compared to now. How many MNH high value stamps could the average dealer afford to have in duplicate

stock, much less the collector? Today, how many new MNH \$10 Canadian stamps will Joe Blow collector hold in his duplicate stock? How many of these MNH \$10 stamps can a dealer afford to hold as stock?

Almost forgotten is the increase proficiency of fraudsters in their ability to wash stamps, chemically removing the postmark from the used stamps without noticeably damaging the stamps. Last year in France, there was a conference where post offices worldwide were looking for ways to combat the increased problem of washing stamps. Washing stamps now is so easy that it more than just a problem for stamp collectors—it is a major problem for post offices' income.

Since starting to collect stamps, I have watched how many more MNH high value stamps come on the market each year. It is noticeable how the value of the MNH stamps have disproportionally increased in value. All the time the ability of the experts to guarantee that the gum is original undisturbed gum has decreased to the point where it is almost impossible.

I cannot believe that all these MNH stamps are actually genuine, so I will not pay the premium—particularly for something I cannot see when I open my stamp albums.

I received only one comment on previous unknown Whatzits. Whatzit 31.3.3 is an Indian passenger tax stamp. The Indian rupee has been pegged at between 40-50 rupees to the dollar for a long time—probably over 30 years. The translation on this stamp reads something to the effect Goodbye/Best Regards. It probably was an airport tax stamp used when leaving the airport prior to the 1970's (a guess).

I am out of member's unknown Whatzits. Help!

\*\*\*\*\*

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**For ease of future reference, Whatzits are numbered sequentially, using the volume and issue number of the newsletter (in which the illustration first appears) as a prefix (e.g. 31.3.1, 31.3.2, 231.3.3).**

**STAMPS WANTED** by collector. I will pay 10x catalog value plus postage for: Slovakia J4 mint or used; Costa Rica C4 and O90; Dominican Republic J1 and J2. Please call George Rosenson (#2801) - 804-271-1412 or write to 7400 Cotfield Road; North Chesterfield, VA 23237—USA.<sup>[07-08/13]</sup>

# Computers

Continued from page 1

that until there is a compelling reason to change. Currently I am using the Scott 2008 catalog for the worldwide collection and 2009 for the USA collection. This provides a relative value of a collection. The values for stamps issued within a country should generally remain relatively constant over time (except for those issued within five years of the catalog issue date [this gets rid of the twice face value for mint stamps Scott uses for new issues]), i.e. a higher value stamp will always remain a higher value stamp over time.

For all of these inventories, I maintain a separate spreadsheet to track all stamps that have more than a specific catalog value. I selected a \$5.00 minimum catalog value. For such an item, I track country, Scott catalog number (Michel also if a German item), catalog value (dollars/Euros as appropriate), mint or used and the specific album where the item can be found. I started this as an aid when it comes time to dispose of the collection. It tells me what "better" items I have and where they can be found.

Before I talk about my German specialized collection, I need to mention my calendar collection. I am trying to get one cancel of every date of every year since January 1, 1860 to present. Country of origin is irrelevant. Such a collection comprises approximately 56,000 stamps. I track not only the number I have by month, year and yearly total, but also percent of year complete and percent complete for total number of dates possible since start date of collection. By the way, after doing this for ten plus years, I have yet to complete a month of any year. I am close on several months but there is always that elusive date.

My collecting passion is all things German. I have inventories for German stamps as I do for other collections. I also collect German covers, especially those from the inflation period 1919-1923. In addition to tallying totals, I also use a spreadsheet to keep the following information for each inflation cover:

- Michel/Scott catalog number of each stamp on cover
- Denomination of each stamp on cover
- Total Franking
- Date cancelled
- Correct Rate for service provided (e.g. airmail, foreign letter, etc.)
- From-To (point of mailing and destination)
- Comments (e.g. auxiliary markings, transit markings, etc)

- Amount paid
- Michel catalog value

The comments are particularly useful as they provide a narrative of the cover and highlight anything unusual about the cover.

I have two smaller German collections: German Bahnpost covers and German covers to foreign destinations. Using the word processor for these two collections, I keep a listing of the train cancels and foreign destinations that I have so I don't purchase duplicates.

Being a worldwide collector, I have no delusion of completing a collection. As a stop to the "completeness sickness", I have established two collecting goals that are not necessarily easy, but have a hope of completion. When I purchased the first Scott *Classic Catalogue* (2003), I decided to try to get every stamp that cataloged \$2.00 or less. This would fill a lot of holes in the Brown albums I have. This is not as easy as it sounds—often you have to buy an entire set (which may contain a more expensive item) to get the cheap item. Most dealers don't have/bring these cheap items to stamp shows. On a spreadsheet, I keep track by country the number of items that catalog \$2.00 or less and how many I have. This allows me to track the percent complete as well.

The second goal is to complete the Brown album for 1939-1940. This is more expensive than the \$2.00 or less collection as there are some pricey items. I track the same information as cited in the previous paragraph. I chose this particular volume because I wanted to work on the 1840-1940 period and I thought that this may be the least expensive of the five volumes. After all, it

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BEAUTIFUL UNITED NATIONS mint and cacheted FDCs available to trade for your surplus worldwide stamps or FDCs. Send and will return an equal or larger value batch. Stamps, postcards, currency, autographs, historic documents bought/sold, especially Jewish-theme, anti-Semitic material from 1933-1945. Free appraisals. Est 1995. Bick Int'l (Israel Bick, #502D); Box 854isw; Van Nuys, CA 91408—USA. ANA, APS, ASDA. Call 818-997-6496 or fax 818-988-4337. [iibick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iibick@sbcglobal.net) [01-02/14]

WORLDWIDE USED STAMPS in packet approvals 12c per stamp. France, Germany, Italy, Portugal stamps offered and more. Joe Farrugia (#690D); 102 Biancaville Triq Tilippu Farrugia; Zurrieq ZRQ 2263—MALTA. [farj@maltanet.net](mailto:farj@maltanet.net) [03-04/14]

# Computers

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doesn't have the pricey #1's or the Graf Zeppelin airmails of the early 1930's.

## Want Lists

If you have a collection, you have to have a want list. Using the word processor, I have the following want lists:

1. Catalog number of stamps needed for countries I actively pursue (broken down by price range). I have 14 such countries. I use the following ranges:

Less than \$5  
\$5-\$10  
\$10-\$100  
Over \$100

2. Dates needed for calendar collection.
3. 1840-1940 stamps needed that catalog \$2.00 or less. I could use the catalog as Lawrence Block does, but it gets heavy when you lug it around a stamp show...
4. List of stamps needed for Scott 1939-1940 album (available as Vintage reproduction).

## Miscellaneous

I also use the computer in six other useful ways:

- I use the word processor for all my philatelic correspondence. As I have aged, my handwriting has deteriorated so I use the word processor so that my correspondents can read what I write and not what they think I wrote.
- I use a spreadsheet to track all my philatelic purchases. I keep track of the item purchased, cost and date purchased.
- I also use a spreadsheet to keep track of my auction bids. I record date, auction house, estimate, my bid and winning bid. I hope to improve my success rate on auctions.
- I am a participant in the ISWSC Exchange circuits. For each circuit, the Circuit Manager encourages participants to track the date we mailed the circuit, the circuit identification and the person to whom we sent the circuit. I use a spreadsheet for this.
- I mentioned earlier that I print album pages for 1998-2000. I only do this with a software package I obtained for those countries for which I have a lot of stamps. If I have only a few stamps for a country I use stock sheets. I have printed out the pages for the 14 countries I actively pursue.
- Since I use Michel Specialized Catalogs for my

German material, I have translated key text from these catalogs and have placed the translated text in a word processor file. This prevents me from having to retranslate text.

## Closing Comment

If you have made it this far, you are probably wondering whether I have any time to actually do anything with stamps. The answer is "Yes". It may take more time to set up the various files, but in the long run I find the files helpful. The clue is maintaining currency. It is too easy to set something aside until tomorrow, but I have found that when tomorrow comes, you can't find the information or can't remember what that note on a piece of scrap paper means. The want lists provide focus when you are in purchasing mode at a stamp show. Also, with the want lists, it helps set priorities that you currently have that fit into your current budget constraints.

**FOREIGN TRIMMED SINGLE PAPER KILOWARE**  
150 gr (5 oz) for US \$25 postpaid. Many countries represented. Joe Farrugia (#690D); 102 Biancaville Triq Tilippu Farrugia; Zurrieq ZRQ 2263—MALTA.  
farj@maltanet.net [03-04/14]

## SUBMITTED LOTS DELAYED FROM MBS

by Mick Crump (#2126)  
Mail Bid Sale Manager

**I** want to notify all members who intend to sell items in the ISWSC Mail Bid Sale that there is currently a backlog of material for the sales. This will result in a considerable wait before a new item submitted for the sale will appear in *The Circuit* and on the society website.

As I write this (in mid-September) I am inputting items on-hand into Mail Bid Sale #59. Since space in the newsletter is a consideration, I am holding the number of lots in each sale to approximately 325-350. Also, since the Mail Bid Sale is open to ISWSC members only, there is a limit as to the amount of material that interested buyers can absorb. Presently, I have Mail Bid Sales #55, 56, 57 and 58 "in the pipeline" and these sales will appear periodically as the newsletter is published.

As you can see, items submitted for sale today will not appear for months. Thank you for your support and patience with the process. The success of the Mail Bid Sale is ensured by your participation and interest.

# Ventures in Printing

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retain exclusive right to use of the griffin coat of arms; and (3) the stamp's griffin design therefore would have been rather quickly scratched. Repeat: this is pure, but reasonable, conjecture. Reader reaction is certainly welcome.

If the reason for the "shift" in arms on Wenden stamps is murky, the history of the cloud-sword arms—as the arms of the District of Wenden—is even more obscure. As stated above, all of the later philatelic sources agree that the cloud-sword arms were specifically emblematic of this *one* district (among nine districts in Russian Livonia); but no one discusses *why* or *when* the arms were adopted. Jakimovs and Marcilger describe the cloud-sword as only *part* of the actual district arms, but they do not describe the total emblem (Jakimovs & Marcilger, p. 5-10). And Victor Kent, in a brief and tantalizingly vague remark, says that "Wenden obtained medieval city rights in 1224 and was the seat of the Livonian knights intermittently from 1297 to 1561, hence the *bared sword and mailed arm of the district seal*" (Kent, p. 109; italics added). Is



**Figure 7—Modern rendition of the arms of the City of Wenden, as early as 14<sup>th</sup> the reign of the Century.**

Kent suggesting that the cloud-sword arms were actually adopted during the Livonian/Teutonic Order and the existence of the medieval city of Wenden (but by whom?); or does he mean only that the cloud-sword arms were adopted by the Russian District of Wenden—obviously at a time much later than the medieval period—because those arms are at least *thematically* linked to the Order and the medieval city? Probably he means only the latter, for the cloud-sword arms are neither the arms of the Order (as made obvious above) nor the arms of the medieval city of Wenden (as next discussed).

This present writer promised in an earlier article (on the heraldic *Pro Juventute* stamps of Switzerland), that he "is not a 'lover of heraldry' and will not attempt that sort of history here." Still, what harm would come from probing a little deeper into this increasing murkiness? So: According to the "Heraldry of the

World" website, wonderfully authored (in slightly broken English) by Ralf Hartemink of the Netherlands, the coat of arms of the medieval city of Wenden (now, Cēsis), at least by the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, featured a knight, with sword up-lifted, atop a castle's walls and gate—clearly *not* the cloud-sword (Figure 7). [Note: Hartemink uses the name "Teutonic Order" here in reference to the Sword Brothers, later the Livonian/Teutonic Order.]

Cesis was the only large castle of small Baltic tribe Vendi. In 1209 Germans built a castle Wenden instead of the Vendian castle, which was occupied treacherously (Knights of the Teutonic Order came as allies of Vendi). It became a residence of the Master of Teutonic Order, i.e. there was a capital of the Livonia state.

In 1323 the city and its arms are mentioned. The arms showed saint Catherine, a patron of the city. But already in 14<sup>th</sup> century the city seal showed a city gate and a knight on it. The gate symbolized city rights, and the knight symbolized dependence to the Order.

The Northern war (1700-1721) destroyed the city almost completely. Old arms were forgotten and the new arms were established, basing on the city seal. In 1785 city right were granted again. In 1925 the new design of the arms was confirmed ("Latvian Civic Heraldry", "Cesis", [www.ngw.nl](http://www.ngw.nl)).

[It should be noted that, apart from its relation to the coat of arms puzzle, this passage supports the view that the connection of the name "Wenden" is to the Slavic Wends and *not* to the Saxon town Wenden in German Westphalia—a question discussed in an earlier article.]

Thus, having received some clarification about what Victor Kent *may* have meant by vaguely connecting the cloud-sword arms to the Livonian/Teutonic Order and to the medieval city of Wenden, i.e. meaning only a general *thematic* connection rather than a specific *heraldic* connection, the reader may well have wanted the writer not to roil the muddying waters of heraldry any further.

But wait, there's more! If not from the arms of the medieval city of Wenden, nor the arms of the Livonian/Teutonic Order, from where *did* the "idea" of the cloud-sword arms—the eventual arms of the Russian District

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# Ventures in Printing

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of Wenden—come? Was there a cloud-sword arms existing in Livonia *before* they were adopted by the district and before they were emblazoned on the bi-colored and multicolored stamps of the district? Yes, there were such arms, even as early as 1584; and they were the arms of a Livonian city *outside* the eventual District of Wenden—namely the city of Walk (German name; present-day Valka, Latvia; and present-day twin-city—on the Latvian-Estonian border—with the Estonian city of Valga) (Figures 8 & 9). Again, Ralf Hartemink is our trusted guide:

Valka is the only ancient city of Latvia, where Knights of the Teutonic Order did not build a castle. Maybe the reason is that Valka is situated in the center of former Livonia (present Latvia and Estonia). Valka is first time mentioned in 1286 as Pedele town at Pedele river. In 14<sup>th</sup> century the town is yet called Valka (Walk in German).

In 1419 Valka was chosen as a site of the Landtag (Assembly) of Livonia. The Livonian war (1558-1583) destroyed the city, and it lasted only as town.

The Polish King Stephen Batory granted city rights and arms to Valka in 1584. Although "valka" means "stream" in Latvian, but it was treated as German "Wolke" ("cloud"). So the arms show a cloud with armed hand, holding a saber. A hand means strength; also it could symbolize the past dependence to Knights of the Teutonic Order.

When Latvia and Estonia became independent states, the ethnically mixed Valka was divided between them in 1920. Estonian city Valga (the same name, but in Estonian) kept the old arms unchanged, and Latvian city Valka got new arms in 1925: the same cloud with armed hand and saber, but oppose directed. Three stars of National Arms were also added to show dependence to Latvia ("Latvian Civic Heraldry", "Valka", [www.ngw.nl](http://www.ngw.nl)).

True, the Walk arms are, to be exact, a cloud-saber (raised by a "mailed" arm) rather than a cloud-sword

(also raised by a "mailed" arm); but is it possible—judging only by similarity of appearance—that the cloud-sword arms on the District of Wenden local stamps are in some way derived from this 1584-adopted coat of arms of the German-nobility-ruled city of Walk, the eventual major town of the District of Walk, Russian Governorate of Livonia? (Besides, while it was later outside the District of Wenden, was Walk perhaps located *inside* the Voivodeship of Wenden when the latter was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth?)

Now we are really in the dark. While Hartemink mentions the likely thematic connection of these Walk



**Figure 8—Modern rendition of the arms of the City of Walk, as early as 16<sup>th</sup> Century.**

arms to the "Knights of the Teutonic Order", it still remains a mystery why the District of Wenden, lying south of the District of Walk, decided to use the arms of Walk (or at least arms inspired by the arms of Walk) on its own postage stamps. Could it be that Walk's past prominence, as the central Livonian city of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and as the site (then) of the Livonian German nobility's governing *Landtag*, gave its coat of arms a special meaning for the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Wenden officials responsible for the cloud-sword stamps? It seems a stretch.

Rummaging around in this heraldic darkness, we are confronted, finally, with an account of almost bizarre confusion. Jakimovs and Marcilger have made the statement:

In 1889 the Director of the Imperial Russian Post and Telegraph Department demanded the change in the Wenden stamps design, as it resembled too much the Russian Imperial stamps. *In 1890 he also disapproved of the new [?] stamp design because the Coat of Arms of [?] King Sigismund II August (Jagello of Poland) was not correct.* (King Sigismund II August became in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the protector of Livonia, after Czar Ivan II tried to invade it.) After that the Landrat (District Council) decided not to use any coat of arms on its postage stamps, and in the next issue the ruins of the fortress of Wenden were depicted. The inscription on

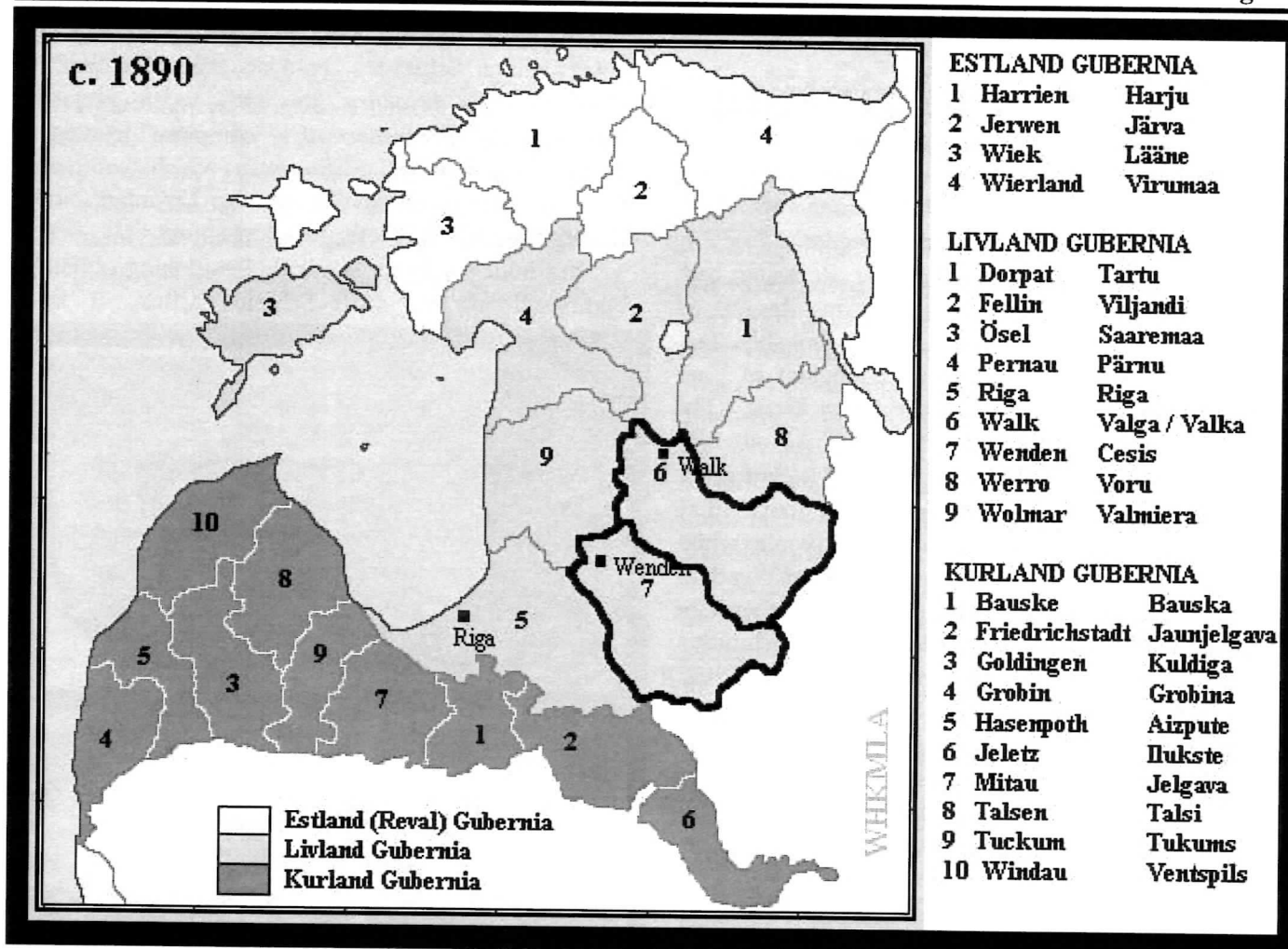


Figure 9—The Cities (and Districts) of Wenden and Walk, Governorates of Livonia, Courland and Estonia, Russian Empire, c. 1890 (including district names in German and native languages).

the stamps were no longer in German but Russian (Jakimovs and Marcilger, pp. 5-5, 5-6; italics and question marks added).

The first Russian objection has to do with *Zemstvo* policy; the relationship of *that* policy to the local stamps of Wenden is a topic left to Part 4 of this series of articles. But the second Russian objection (1890), at least as described, is confusing beyond comprehension. One must first of all assume that Jakimovs and Marcilger do not literally mean “the Coat of Arms *of* King Sigismund II August”, but rather “the Coat of Arms *granted* by Sigismund II August”, since the Polish-Lithuanian King did indeed have his own coat of arms—arms which would be somewhat inappropriate (wouldn’t they be?) on a Russian-Livonian-Wenden stamp. And, as discussed earlier, the arms *granted* by Sigismund II

August to the Livonian Order (the Livonian Noble Corporation), and thus to the Duchy of Livonia, were *the griffin arms*! Does the above-quoted passage mean, then, that in 1890 the Russians wanted the (mysteriously) already-rejected griffin arms to be *put back* on the stamps of Wenden, replacing the cloud-sword arms? Or, does it mean that there is a *third* coat of arms, unknown to us, which Sigismund II had granted to some entity (but to whom?) in Livonia, and to which the cloud-sword arms on the most recent (“new” but already issued) Wenden stamps were unfavorably compared by the Russians? Or, does “new stamp design” refer, not to the recent, already issued, cloud-sword stamps (a variety of which was printed as late as 1894), but rather to a totally new design that included *whatever* coat of arms but that also attempted to meet the *Zemstvo* requirements—i.e. a

200 FOREIGN OR US 70% large off paper \$3.00. 200 Canada 70% large only \$3.00. Russia 100 large \$2.00 pack. \$1.10 SASE per order. USA FDC 1950 to 1999 only 50¢ each, 12 for \$5.00, plus \$1.80 SASE. Harold Towlson (#2609D); 60 Ivanhoe Rd; Buffalo, NY 14215-3610—USA. [01-02/14]

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# Ventures in Printing

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totally new design proposed by the Wenden authorities that never got beyond the Russians' objections...?

This last interpretation—that the Russians had rejected a “new” and never-issued arms design, in other words, an *essay*—would seem foolishly far-fetched if it were not for the 1910 booklet of Carl Schmidt, *Die Briefmarken des Wenden'schen Kreises* (*The Postage Stamps of the Wenden District*). Admittedly, Schmidt seems at first only to report what is confirmed by the *later* English-writing experts (noted above): that the griffin arms signified the *province* of Livonia, while the cloud-sword arms signified the *district* of Wenden, and that the *Landesresidierung* (see below) therefore wanted the griffin arms removed. Moreover, Schmidt's 1910 explanation for the 1865 removal of the griffin arms is absent any mention of interference by a “company” or “mercantile institution”—the interference that had been suggested by the *early* (1900 & 1907) English-writing commentators (noted above):

Um dem Wunsche der Landesresidierung zu genügen, die die Entfernung des Greifen von der Marke verlangte, wurde ein neuer Stein mit dem Oval ohne Wappen für das grüne Mittelstück dieser Ausgabe angerfertigt, während der übrige Teil der Marke unverändert blieb (Schmidt, p. 6).

[In order to satisfy the desire of the *Landesresidierung*, who required the removal of the griffin on the stamp, a new (lithography) stone was made with an oval and without a coat of arms for the green centerpiece of this issue, while the remaining part of the stamp remained unchanged.]

The term *Landesresidierung* is problematic. The usual term, *Landesregierung* would mean, in this context, “provincial government” or “provincial assembly”. Is the first term just a Baltic version of the second term? It can be assumed, at least, that if not the assembly itself, the *Landesresidierung* was a political or administrative arm of the Livonian provincial assembly. It can also be assumed that, certainly in 1865 (i.e. 15 years before the Russification program), this provincial body (whoever) would still be under the control of the German Noble Corporation, who in effect *appointed* the membership of the provincial assembly (as discussed above by the Corporation itself). The

point being: Schmidt's booklet seems neither to confirm, *nor to disconfirm*, the early vague philatelic reports of the interference of a “company” leading to the suppression of the griffin arms—which “company” may, or may not, have been the Livonian Noble Corporation. Clear? Clear, pure conjecture!

But hold on! There is a truly benumbing philatelic bombshell in this 1910 Schmidt article. It is a discussion, tacked-on near the end, about a series of Wenden stamp *essays*—essays not mentioned in any other philatelic literature (at least not in any literature that has been available to this writer):

Von dieser Ausgabe sind folgende Entwürfe, hergestellt auf Veranlassung des livländischen Landratskollegiums, in der Typographie von W. F. Häcker in Riga gefunden worden:

1. In der Mitte befindet sich das livländische Landeswappen--weisser Greif in rotem Felde--auf einem Schilde mit einer roten Herzogskrone darüber. Zu beiden Seiten nehmen zwei geschweifte weisse Bänder, die oben sich zu Spiralen aufrollen, die rote Inschrift auf: links russisch: “Венденская Уездная Почта” rechts deutsch “Wendenscher Kreis”. Unten steht auf rotem Grunde in weissen Buchstaben die zweizeilige Inschrift: “Livland/Landpost”. In den vier Ecken nehmen kleine Kreise die weissen Wertziffern auf rotem Felde auf. Der übrige Untergrund der Marke ist saftig grün....

[This is followed by descriptions of additional griffin arms essays, seemingly all variations on this first essay, as well as descriptions of several essays related to the “Wenden Castle” issue.]

...Diese Entwürfe sind nur in je einem Exemplar angefertigt und befinden sich im Archiv der livländischen Ritterschaft. Am 23. April 1903 wurde die Wendensche Kreispost geschlossen (Schmidt, p. 13).

[Of this issue are the following drafts (essays?), prepared at the request of the Livonian Landratskollegiums (Assembly Staff?), typographed by W. F. Häcker in Riga:

1. In the middle is the Livonian state coat of arms—a *white griffin* in a red field—on a shield with a red ducal crown above. On both sides two curly white ribbons roll up

into spirals, on the left the red inscription in Russian: "Wenden County Post", on the right German "Wenden District". Below, in white letters on a red ground, a two-line inscription: "Livonia/Rural Mail". The four small circular corners show the value numerals on a red field. The remaining surface of the stamp is a lush green....

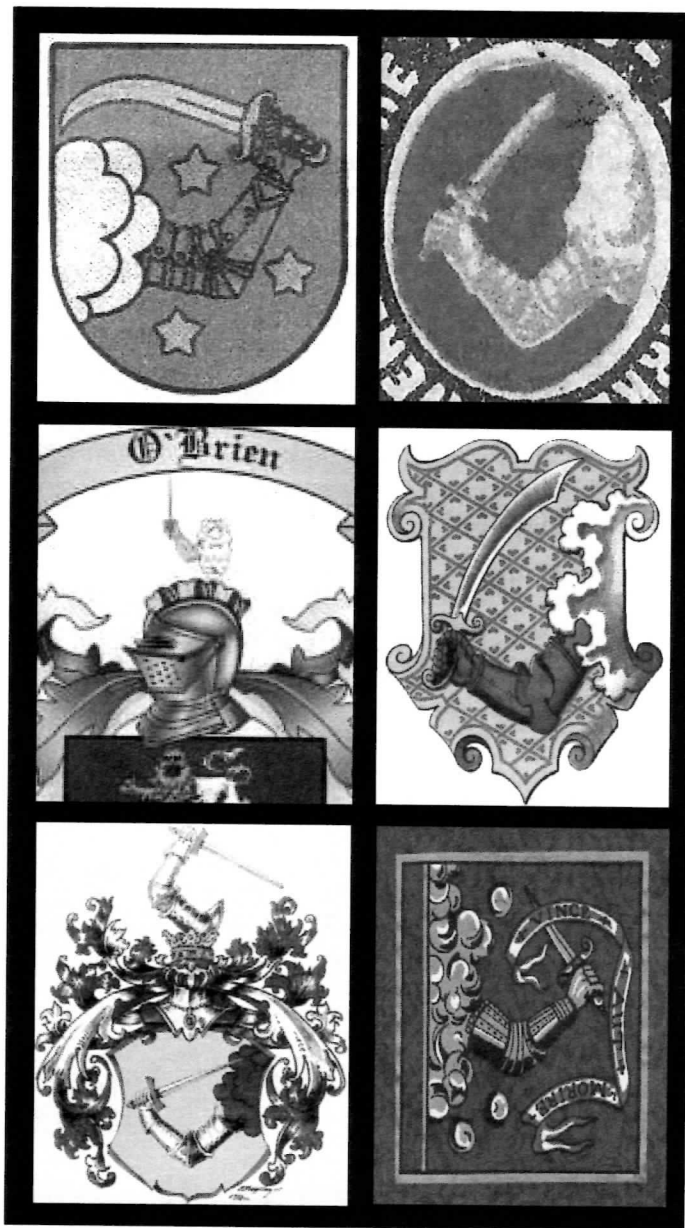


Figure 10—Cloud-Sword arms worldwide. Top row, left: Cloud-Saber, City of Walk, 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Right: Cloud-Sword on a postage stamp, District of Wenden, 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Middle row, left: Small Cloud-Sword on top of a helmet, O'Brien Clan, Ireland, 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Right: Cloud-Saber, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 1889-1918. Bottom row, left: Pogonia Cloud-Sword, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 17<sup>th</sup> Century (?). Right: American Colonial Cloud-Sword Flag, Bedford Minuteman Company (?), 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

...These designs are made in only one copy each, and are located in the archives of the *Livonian Noble Corporation* (Ritterschaft). On 23 April 1903 the Wenden District Post was closed (*italics added*).

The Schmidt article gives no information about *why* the essays were printed, nor about the dates on which they were printed, nor about any Russian objections to their designs. Unfortunately, illustrations of these bilingual Wenden/Livonia essays—as found in a photocopy of the 1910 Schmidt booklet—are too blurred for reproduction in this article. A griffin with raised sword, on a shield, is barely visible, but confirmable. No images of these essays have been found on the internet.

So the mystery deepens: Recall the *first* suppression of the griffin arms (1865). Recall also the subsequent substitution of the cloud-sword arms (1872). Consider, then, that sometime around 1890 *someone probably tried to bring back the griffin arms!* They did this, evidently, by channeling their influence through the Livonian *Landratskollegiums* (whoever *they* were) in order to have these essays printed. Who was it? The Livonian Provincial Assembly? The Wenden District Council? Even the Livonian Noble Corporation? And then consider further that *someone apparently prevented this return of the griffin arms*. Who? The Russian authorities? (In this case and in accord with the confusing Jakimovs and Marcilger statement above, the essays were probably rejected *not* because the arms were indeed griffin arms, but because these particular griffin arms were deemed improperly designed with respect to the original griffin arms granted by King Sigismund II August of Poland-Lithuania.) Or, could the preventer have been (again?!) the Livonian Noble Corporation—in whose archives the essays were eventually found?

As noted by Jakimovs and Marcilger, the Wenden District Council ultimately "decided not to use *any* coat of arms on its postage stamps", i.e. *they gave up*. Overcome by an impenetrable heraldic murkiness, *this writer also gives up*.

Final Heraldic Note: Use of the cloud-sword (or cloud-saber) arms, as found on the multicolored Wenden stamps, has been geographically extensive. In addition to Livonia/Walk and Livonia/Wenden, these arms have been used by: (1) the Austro-Hungarian Condominium of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1878–1918; (2) various noble families in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Pogonia arms), 1569–1795; (3) certain Irish clans (e.g. the O'Brien clan), as early as the middle

# Ventures in Printing

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ages; and (4) (possibly) an American colonial military unit (late 18<sup>th</sup> Century), i.e. the "Bedford Flag", claimed by some to be the standard of the Bedford Minuteman Company (Figure 10). This list, almost certainly, is *not* exhaustive.

Coming in Wenden Part 4: the Zemstvo connection, printing details, and more.

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# President's Column

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We have 156 fans—mostly from outside the USA. Facebook has been a nice way to extend the reach of the ISWSC to nonmembers. We post a new stamp image every day tied to a historical event from that date.

Welcome to our newest members! I encourage all members, new and old, to try out something new this year with your hobby—how about the Swap Circuits or the Mail Bid Sale? Invite your local club members to join the ISWSC!

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to meet more of you at stamp shows in the future.

Have you placed your free classified ad? All ISWSC members may place a free 30-word ad each year. To place your ad, get assistance writing an ad or for more information, contact the Editor at the address on page 2.

# Swap Circuit Trades

by Randy Smith (#1111)

Swap Circuit Coordinator

**S**wap Circuit members are reminded that for the program to work, EVERY participant must put quality stamps back into the circuit to replace those that they take out. Quality stamps don't need to have a high catalog value, but they must be damage free (no tears, thins, wrinkles, missing perfs, etc.), must be off paper, must be unique (no duplicate stamps), must match the circuit type (i.e. CTO stamps can only go in the CTO circuit, only large in the large circuits, etc.) and must be a stamp you would want in your own collection. Stamps that are commonly seen are not welcome as most members already have them. Circuit managers monitor members trading practices and are authorized, if needed, to take action (including removal of repeat offenders).