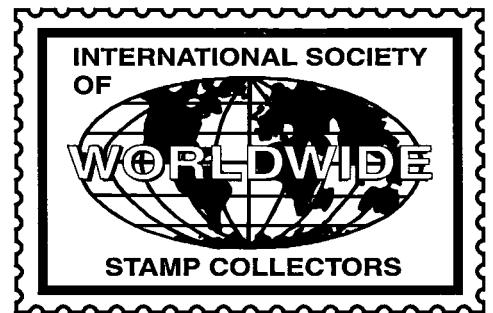


# The Circuit

January/February 2004 • Volume 22 No. 1



Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)

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

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

## President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)  
ISWSC President

**A**s ISWSC president, I occasionally receive correspondence from new ISWSC members. One of the more common themes in this correspondence is, "Ok, now that I've joined, who can I trade with??" Here are a few of the many ISWSC options available to all ISWSC members:

### Member Roster Issue

Approximately every other year, the March-April ISWSC newsletter gives way to the roster issue. This issue, strictly for ISWSC member use only, provides an alphabetical listing of ISWSC members and their interest codes (e.g. collecting interests, types of stamps collected, worldwide collecting experience (in terms of years), age, topicals collected, and other interests). Listings by membership number, geographical location, and by popular collecting interests are also provided.

Between roster issues, the membership data is updated in our newsletter. An up-to-date hard copy or electronic version of the data is also available for a fee from our Executive Director, Tony Zollo (#856). Pick a member with interest codes similar to yours, and you may have a trading partner!

Write to the member prior to sending any material to be traded and be sure to include a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) or IRCs (International Reply Coupons).

### Swap Circuit Program

If one-on-one trades with members aren't for you, try the Swap Circuit program! A complete description of this stamp-for-stamp trading program

is found in another article in this newsletter.

### OMNI Stamp Exchange

This program allows members to exchange their duplicates for those of other members on a catalog value basis. Unfortunately, this program is only available for USA and Canadian members (due to limitations on insuring stamp shipments), but it does provide the majority of the ISWSC membership with an affordable way of disposing of duplicates and filling in some spaces in your album.

### Sales Circuit Program

If trading on a per-stamp or on a catalog value basis isn't for you, then the Sales Circuit program is for you! As a seller, you mount stamps in a circuit book and price each entry. Books are then sent to the program manager who records them and sends them on to other ISWSC members who are interested in buying the material. Like the OMNI program, this program is also limited to the USA and Canada.

(If anyone can figure out an affordable way of insuring shipments overseas, please contact me!!)

### Auction Program

Another program available to all members is our auctions. Periodically auctions are held of material submitted by other ISWSC members. You can either sell unwanted material or purchase something for your collection. Some members graciously donate lots to be auctioned to help keep dues low and to provide the society with extra funds to bring you're the best in programs and services!

### Regional Representatives

The ISWSC just about has the world covered with

Property of

American Philatelic Research Library

P. O. Box 8000

State College, PA 16802

**Continued on page 3**

## OFFICERS, MANAGERS & SERVICE CONTACTS

**President:** Randy Smith (#1111)  
P.O. Box 21115  
Eagan, MN 55121-0115 – USA  
rasmay4@earthlink.net

**Executive Director & Immediate Past President (Board Member):**

Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)  
P.O. Box 150407  
Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 – USA  
zolloam@lcc.net

**Secretary:** Joanne Berkowitz (#98)  
125 43rd Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819-2101 – USA  
joannebe@pacbell.net

**Vice President for Charitable Services:**

Mike Crump (#2126)  
4708 Palm Aire Circle  
Sarasota, FL 34243-4938 – USA  
StampGuy47@aol.com

**Vice President for Public Relations:**

Tom Fortunato (#379)  
42 Maynard St.  
Rochester, NY 14615-2022 – USA  
stamptmf@frontiernet.net

**ISWSC Board:**

Joan Roderick (#669)  
12 Red Oak Road  
Asheville, NC 28804 – USA  
rdjnrod@aol.com

**ISWSC Board:** Ken Costilow (#142)  
Virginia Beach, VA – USA  
kcos32@cox.net

**Immediate Past Secretary (Board Member):** Dalene Thomas (#101)

8612 W. Warren Lane  
Lakewood, CO 80227-2352 – USA  
dalene1@wideopenwest.com

## AUCTION

**Manager:** Everett King (#1389)  
P.O. Box 130  
Whitethorn, CA 95589 – USA  
Ph: 707-986-7230  
stamps@whitethorn.com

## WHATZIT? COORDINATOR

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

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jennifer Arnold  
1035 4th Avenue SE  
Albany, OR 97321 – USA  
Ph: 541-967-7043  
Fax: 541-967-9515  
pizzazz@cmug.com

## SALES CIRCUIT

**Manager (U.S.):** James M. Gaul (#1853)  
1920 Fawn Lane  
Hellertown, PA 18055 – USA  
terrynjim@enter.net

## OMNI CIRCUIT

**Manager:** Jim Millette (#1314)  
8901 Marcel Cadieux (#207)  
Montreal, PQ H2M 2L9  
CANADA  
jmmillett@globetrotter.net

**Co-Manager:** David Paul (#59)  
2 Heritage Drive  
Belchertown, MA 01007 – USA

**Co-Manager:** Thomas Pomaski (#410)  
8195 National Drive  
Melbourne, FL 32940  
stamper10@earthlink.net

**Co-Manager:** Dale E. Harris, MD  
212 Schofield,  
Reedsport, OR 97467-1366,  
harrisda@ohsu.edu

## SWAP CIRCUIT

**Coordinator:** Randy Smith (#1111)  
P.O. Box 21115  
Eagan, MN 55121-0115 – USA  
rasmay4@earthlink.net

## CHANGES IN SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

## SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

### Regular Circuit:

Scott Sadger (#882)  
2140 Miller Road  
Buchanan, MI 49107 – USA

John Seidl (#1646)  
4324 Granby way  
Marietta, GA 30062-8150  
jseidl@mindspring.com

John McArthur (#768)  
422 S. Lattimer Dr.  
Pueblo, CO 81007-3521  
jmmcarthur@earthlink.net

### Super Circuit:

William Silvester (#1058)  
378C Cotlow Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA  
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

### CTO Circuit:

William Silvester (#1058)  
378C Cotlow Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA  
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

### Small (Definitives) Circuit:

Kenneth Wills (#2150)  
5308 Shadow Glen Drive  
Grapevine, TX 76051 – USA  
wills@airmail.net

### U.S. Circuit:

Andrew Titley (#2366)  
3334 Long Beach Rd. #149  
Oceanside, NY 11572-5049  
info@albionstamps.com

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

**Australasia:** Noel Routley (#1610)  
C/- Post Office  
Redesdale, 3444 – AUSTRALIA  
routley@netcon.net.au

**British Isles:** Karen Rose (#584)  
47 Heron Road — Oldbury  
West Midlands B68 8AG  
GREAT BRITAIN – U.K.

**Canada:** William Silvester (#1058)  
378C Cotlow Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA  
wgsilvester@shaw.ca

**Cuba:** Cleto Sánchez (#1311)  
P.O. Box 2222, CP-10200  
Havana – CUBA

**Eastern Europe:** Jan Szpyrka (#539)  
ul.Srebrna 29  
PL-44121 Gliwice – POLAND  
szpyrka@zeus.polsl.gliwice.pl

### Scandinavia/Baltics:

Martti Vihanto (#830)  
P.O. Box 34  
FIN-20521, Turku – FINLAND

### Western Europe:

LTC (ret) Alan Horwedel (#796)  
Unit 30612, Box R-160  
APO, AE 09154 – USA  
ahorwedel@hotmail.com

*Phone or send your questions to  
the appropriate volunteer. Please  
include a self-addressed stamped  
envelope or IRC for a reply.*

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
NEXT ISSUE:  
JANUARY 20, 2004**

# Club Member

by Noel Routley (#1610)

Are you an active member  
The kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just content that  
your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
and mingle with the flock,  
Or chose to stay at home  
and criticise and knock?  
Do you take an active part  
to help the club along,  
Or are you satisfied  
to just belong?  
Do you push things along  
and really make things tick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
and talk about the clique?  
Think this over brother  
you know right from wrong.  
Are you an active member  
or just belong?



## President's Column

Continued from page 1

our regional representatives. While their primary role is to promote the ISWSC in their region, I'm sure most wouldn't mind receiving a letter of inquiry if their region matches up with your area of collecting. They just might have someone in their area that would love to trade with you!

### "The Circuit" Newsletter

Still not finding a suitable avenue for trading? Look through the newsletter articles – perhaps someone has written an article about an area of collecting that also interests you. Or write a short article describing your area of interest and why you like to collect it. Then invite people of similar interests to contact you to share knowledge, exchange stamps, etc.

If writing an article isn't for you, pen a short advertisement that you can place in the newsletter!

By taking even one of the above suggestions, I'm sure you'll be well on your way to adding more stamps to your collection! (See page 2 for complete contact information for each suggestion.)

Happy Stamping!



## Dues/Advertising Policy

### Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00\*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00\*

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

\*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

### Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the Editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

### Display Rates (Camera Ready\*) per insertion:

Full page: \$75.00\*\*

Half page: \$40.00\*\*

Quarter page: \$20.00\*\*

Per column inch: \$5.00

Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue.

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

\*\*Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p. 2) for special rates.

### Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1.

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

**Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor. All addresses can be found on page 2.**

# Expand Your Collection – Join the Swap Circuits!

by Randy Smith (#1111)

**N**ow that winter has officially started in the upper-Midwest, it is time once again to get serious about stamp collecting. (Not that you can't be serious in the summer, too, but we only get so many weeks to be outside!) One popular way to add stamps to your collection is through the Swap Circuit program.

Here's how the program works. Participants are grouped into a 4 or 5 member circuit. The first member of the group is sent a routing sheet (containing the names and addresses of the other members of the circuit and the manager who creates the circuits) and a packet of all different off-paper stamps. The first member selects the stamps he/she wants, then replaces them with an equal number of quality all different off-paper stamps. The routing sheet and the stamp packet is then mailed to the next member of the circuit.

The process continues until the last member receives the packet and makes his/her swaps. Then the packet is mailed back to the manager of the circuit, along with mint postage for sending out the next circuit. The manager then changes the order of the members, creates a new packet of stamps, and sends it back out to the participants. Once all members of the circuit have been in each position on the circuit (from first to last), a new circuit is formed with a new grouping of participants.

There are currently four circuit types to select from: Regular, Small, CTO, and Super. The Regular circuits consist of 100 stamps that are considered "large" in size – more than 1" x 1" (approximately) in size. Because the Regular circuits are the most popular, participants are assigned to one or more manager based on the number of circuits the participant wishes to receive.

Small circuits, containing 100-150 stamps are just the opposite of the Regular circuits – those stamps smaller than 1" x 1" in size. The Small circuits also contain definitive stamps of any size.

CTO, or Cancelled To Order, circuits contain 100 stamps and are the only circuit where CTO stamps can be traded.

The last circuit type, the Super circuit, is the same as the Regular circuits, however each stamp packet contains 200 stamps instead of 100. Stamps in all circuits must be off paper, but they may be mint or used, hinged or unhinged.

In order for the program to operate, annual fees

are charged to Swap Circuit participants. (The term "fee" is used to distinguish them from the separate dues charged annually to be an ISWSC member. ISWSC membership is required to participate in any ISWSC program.) Except for the programs' annual fees, no cash is needed – for each stamp you select, you simply replace it with another stamp, without regard to the catalog value! In order to maintain the quality of the program, members are, however, encouraged to only swap desirable stamps – common and damaged stamps are not allowed.

If you want to start putting your duplicates to work for you, please join the Swap Circuit program! To join, complete the form accompanying this article and mail it with your fees to the address on the form. If you would like more information prior to joining the program, please contact Randy Smith (postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2).



## Swap Circuit News

by Randy Smith (#1111)

Swap Circuit Coordinator

**T**here are several items of interest to be passed along to participants of the Swap Circuit program:

### Swap Circuit Manager(s) Found!

Thank you to the ISWSC members who expressed interest in the Regular Circuit Swap Manager position(s). As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, I have not made a final decision on the new managers, therefore I'm unable to introduce them at this time! I am excited, however, about the response I received and am confident that our new managers will be in place prior to your receiving this newsletter.

Once final arrangements with the new managers have been made, those members participating in the J-Z Regular Circuits will begin receiving circuits again, along with instructions as to who the new managers are. I look forward to completing this transition and getting the J-Z Regular Circuits back up and running smoothly! Many thanks to current participants for your patience as this transition is completed!

Continued on page 6

# ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join the ISWSC Swap Circuit program, please complete this form and return it with your fees to:

**Randy Smith PO Box 21115 Eagan, MN 55121 USA**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If this is a new address, please check here.

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

# CIRCUITS REQUESTED<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ USA/CANADA MEMBERSHIP

☐ INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

☐ STAMPS

☐ MONEY<sup>2</sup>

MONETARY FEE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**US \$2.00 (or equivalent in mint stamps)**

STAMP FEE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE SPECIFY QUANTITY OF CIRCUITS REQUESTED:

### LARGE CIRCUITS

**The fee for up to 4 Large Circuits is 100 large stamps or \$5.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**The fee for up to 9 Large Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### SMALL CIRCUITS

**The fee for up to 4 Small Circuits is 100 small stamps or \$5.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**The fee for up to 9 Small Circuits is 200 small stamps or \$10.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### CANCELLED TO ORDER (CTO) CIRCUITS

**The fee for up to 4 CTO Circuits is 100 CTO stamps or \$5.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
(4 circuit maximum.)

### SUPER CIRCUITS

**The fee for up to 4 Super Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**The fee for up to 9 Super Circuits is 400 large stamps or \$20.00. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Totals: \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>1</sup> This is the number of circuits (per type) you want to be on at the same time. USA/Canada circuits take approximately 1 month to circulate, International circuits take approximately 1½ months to circulate.

<sup>2</sup> Checks must be in US funds and should be made payable to ISWSC. Cash is sent at your own risk.

Overpayment of fees, if any, should be (check one): ☐ Donated to ISWSC ☐ Returned

Questions? Write to the address above or send an e-mail to [rasmay4@earthlink.net](mailto:rasmay4@earthlink.net).

**THANK YOU!!**

# Computer Fraud (Forgeries)

by Paul Jackson (#2339)

I know it is difficult for a computer person, who has used the internet to build his collection, communicate with fellows of like interest, found information to help build an exhibit, able to do business at the push of a button... But from such a person a warning; unplug the monster living off of promise and delivering complication after complication.

I'd like to add to the trickle of information about the forgeries on the Internet, with regard to stamps at least. There are a dozen "sellers" — who have changed their names often — who have sold illustrations from catalogs as genuine stamps. If you are lucky you are slow paying and they have fled before your money arrives.

Unfortunately, being an international group we aid and abet the forgery and fraud. We like every government, club, dealers association, members association — where these last two aren't the same thing, e.g. APS of the US — can't or will not do anything about bogus deals or scams. Even the UPU

has thrown in the towel on mail fraud between nations.

How about the guys who claim no two packages alike? This has proved both in covers and stamps as well as stamp packets to the barest shadow of truth. Their explanation for the lack of "fraud" usually comes out something like "it can never be 'exactly' alike, then the same stamps would have to be in two places at once."

One of the values of an auction has been that the article passes through the hands of an auctioneer. Whether expert or not he does provide the assurance that the item is a stamp, and after some time (that's why dealing with an established firm is so worth while) some degree of safety. But eBay, which calls itself an auctioneer or auction site, is misusing the term. The only thing they do that is auction-like is collect fees. A classified ad service, a flea market, a catch all of some kind yet to be named, but not an auction.

---

Continued on page 8

---

## Swap Circuit News

Continued from page 4

### Canadian Postage Rates to Increase

Bill Silvester (#1058), manager of the CTO circuits and the Super circuits, has informed me that Canadian postal rates will increase on January 1, 2004. For a one-ounce mailing (covering CTO circuits), rates from Canada to the USA will increase from the current \$0.65 rate to \$0.80. The same mailing going overseas will increase from the current \$1.25 rate to \$1.40. It is expected that rate increases will be similar for two-ounce mailings (covering the Super circuits).

Because of this postage increase, the last person on each CTO and Super circuit will now need to include more mint postage when returning circuits to Bill. If this increase poses a difficulty for you, please contact me. (Contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.)

### Stamp Fee Monetary Equivalent Raised

Speaking of increases... For the past few years, participants of the Swap Program have had the option to either send stamps or a monetary equivalent in lieu of stamps when paying their

annual Swap Program fees. The money gathered from the fees is used to purchase additional stamps for the circuits as well as purchasing postage, reimbursing managers for their expenses, etc. Because prices for purchasing quality stamps have gone up, effective immediately I am increasing the monetary equivalent for stamps from \$4.00 per 100 stamps to \$5.00 per 100 stamps.

### Renewal Forms to be Mailed

Current Swap Circuit participants will automatically receive 2004 renewal forms in mid-January. Current participants are encouraged to wait for this form to arrive prior to submitting their Swap Circuit fees for 2004 as several participants will receive credits for overpayment of 2003 fees, poor J-Z Regular Circuit service, etc. ISWSC members not currently participating in the Swap Circuit program are encouraged to join the program by completing and returning the form found elsewhere in this newsletter.

My thanks to current managers Scott Sadger (#882), Bill Silvester (#1058), and Ken Wills (#2150) for their hard work and for all ISWSC members who participant in this wonderful program!



# Whatzit?

by John D. Pruitt (#121)

Our September/October Whatzit asked for help with an item showing earth-moving equipment. Only one reader responded, noting the letters were mainly in Hebrew. This prompted me to ask a contact in Israel for help. From him I learned its source was the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayameth Le'Israel - the "KKL" at the bottom).

From the Web site of the Sol Singer Collection of Philatelic Judaica at Emory University I obtained



further information: the Fund "was established in 1901 by the Fifth World Zionist Congress to purchase land in Zion for a Jewish state. By the time the State of Israel

was founded in 1948, the JNF owned 12.5 percent of the land." Since then the Fund has provided national, charitable and educational services.

"The JNF began printing stamps in 1902 as a concrete symbol of the Jewish state envisioned by the Zionist leadership, as a way to publicize JNF ideology, and as a way to raise the needed funds. During the past 100 years, over 4,200 stamps have been issued. In 1939 the 21st Zionist Conference required that all national Zionist organizations place a JNF stamp alongside the required postage on all official correspondence. When the State of Israel was established in 1948, JNF stamps were used as regular postage for a few weeks until official Israeli stamps could be printed."

Since then they have apparently served as charity seals. This one promotes development of the Yatir area.



Back in July/August 2002 this column showed a Chinese stamp with Sun Yat-sen and asked for reader help. None was forthcoming. Recently I asked Dr. Danny Ko of the China Stamp Society, and he kindly replied that it was a postal savings stamp issued in Kiangsi



Province. Chinese postal savings stamps often show up in mixtures.



Here's another stamp that lacks a country name. It is a military stamp from Finland and listed in Scott.



Note the symbols of the sword and the posthorn.

Last time we showed a Tannu Tuva stamp that was not listed in Scott. I understand the new 2004 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue

contains the Tannu Tuva issues from 1934-43 for the first time. Presumably this means these stamps will also be listed in the regular Scott Catalogues in 2005.



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

John D. Pruitt (#121)

1151 George Road

Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1109

jdpruitt@comcast.net

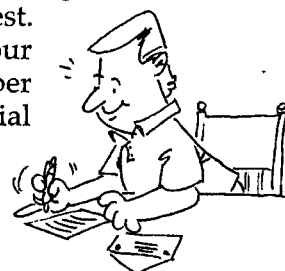
Fax: 215-947-7305



## Articles Needed

We need you ... to submit an article or item of interest to *The Circuit*!!! As an ISWSC member, you are encouraged to contribute to *The Circuit* because each member has his/her unique perspective to collecting worldwide stamps. Please consider writing an article about your specific area of interest.

Be sure to include your name and member number when sub-mitting material for publication in the newsletter. You can contact the editor at the address listed on page 2.



# W2006 Goal: One Million Stamps

**A** two and a half year drive to collect one million stamps is being organized by Washington 2006, the international philatelic exhibition scheduled for May 27-June 3, 2006 in Washington, DC.

The show's Youth and Beginners chairman, Nancy Clark, and committee member Joan Bleakley are in need of US and worldwide kiloware both on and off paper to distribute to thousands of visitors to the show and to use during demonstrations and seminars.

Begin by cutting stamps from envelope corners, leaving about ¼ inch of paper all the way around, and removing the paper flap on the back. Discard damaged stamps, those with tape on them, and those on colored paper of any kind. Then separate them into US and non-US piles. Do the same for any donations of off-paper

stamps.

Place these in envelopes and mail them to  
W2006 Stamp Zone  
c/o Joan Bleakley  
15906 Crest Drive  
Woodbridge, VA 22191 USA

These can be sent at any time. Include an email address to be notified when your shipment has arrived.

Donations of any size would be appreciated towards the effort.

See further details about Washington 2006 on the web at <http://www.washington-2006.org> or write to: PO Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006 USA.



## Computer Fraud

Continued from page 6

I would like to point out that the existence of hundreds of full sheets of stamps providing ample opportunity for "over-printing". Creating "new" finds! Most of these can be accomplished with a good inkjet printer. Some with a perforation machine... I recall a sheet of Czechoslovakian stamps perforated with the state of New Jersey perfin "S N J" in two lines (S on top) and sold as a special government perfin like the "O.S." on British stamps. Notification to eBay draws no response or "we can not authenticate items put up for sale."

I heard many other stories especially from APS members. There must be some "back door" or way into the APS because almost every one of these thieves showed an APS member number that checked out. And after the problem, all the APS had to say was that they are "aware of the problem."

One of my all time favorites are the guys who perforate the stamps of Argentina diagonally, creating a new "class" of Bisect Forgeries of real stamps. I guess they technically aren't "forgeries" until they put them on envelopes and cancel them as if they were valid postage. And I guess you can include them in your collection as stamps of Argentina.

Still another "scam" is the sale of a study lot. The seller assembles a number of the same stamp. The lot includes reperfs, over prints, and cancels with a variety of colors, as well as attempts to change the color of the stamp to create a "group" worthy of

study. There might possibly be some real rarity here to be found.

By and large, most of the collectors here have learned these lessons either directly or indirectly over the last few years. However, most papers, magazines and other publications will not accept criticism of the "internet." This has only lead to even bigger and better frauds, not to better collecting or stamp purchasing. The ease and slickness of the process has blinded many to possibilities of misuse and abuse.

As a substitute for mail — such as catalogs, picture post cards, lists of stamps available and several other things — the internet has been and continues to be effective. But as an impersonalized, faceless or masked face of scammers it has provided new and vastly different opportunity for the nefarious.

One explanation I heard compares the use of the computer to the use of credit cards: once you start, it is so-o-o-o hard to stop. I guess until there is an organization to help you out of the pit you dig with either credit cards or computers, it will not be recognized as a disease. (I think that has happened for the credit cards... can computers be far behind?) I worry that when it comes to forming the computer group, no one will be able or willing to do so. What other way is there to make money through computers anonymously?

I would like to conclude with something like "happy hunting" the ever optimistic reply of the eager geek. But realize, you, I am the hunted!





# The Plebiscites of Post WWI Germany

by Erk Tomsen (#2356)

*Currently a member of the ISWSC, Erik is also president of the Junior Philatelists of America (JPA) and is spending this school year in Switzerland on an exchange program through the Rotary. This series of articles first appeared in The Philatelic Observer, newsletter of the JPA. Preprinted with permission.*

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with the plebiscites that formed on German territorial borderlands following WWI and the Treaty of Versailles. This article is intended to provide the introduction to the German plebiscites and explain what they were and why they were significant. Future articles will focus on the individual plebiscites and detail chronologically the events that took place leading up to and after the vote.

After the Central Powers' defeat in WWI, Germany was in a state of chaos. The allied nations, including Britain, France, and the U.S. among others, felt bitter about the war and wanted to punish Germany to the full extent possible for its involvement. The Treaty of Versailles, which was concocted by the allied nations after the war, imposed harsh terms on Germany.

The harsh terms were literally forced upon the Germans, who had little say in the matter. Included

in the treaty were \$33 million dollars in reparations payments for Allied war costs, demilitarization of the German-French border, (including the Rhineland,) reduction of the German military to only to a "token force" complete loss of all overseas German colonies, and redistribution of lands formerly belonging to the German and Austria-Hungarian Empires, (the Central Powers in WWI). Most humiliating of all to the German people was an acknowledgement of complete responsibility for the war including all losses and damages incurred by the Allied powers.

This was demoralizing and the German people felt it. It is said that not a single German thought that their country was solely responsible for the war. These emotions would continue to shape Germany in the years to come.

A main point of the Treaty of Versailles had been the redistribution of land belonging to the Central Powers. Whole nations were carved out of the former empires; for example,

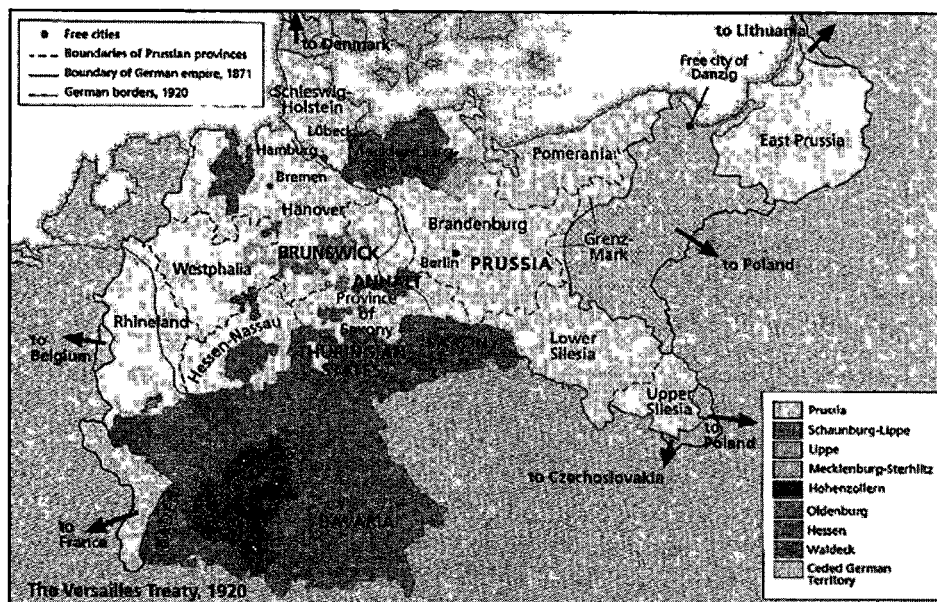
Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. All of these newly formed nations began to issue their own stamps. Many new border regions were also formed on the frontier territory of what was to become the new Germany.

Many of these regions were placed under the mandate of the League of Nations, (a conglomeration of the developed countries formed by the Treaty of Versailles, which was a forerunner to the United Nations). These regions would remain occupied by allied forces for a predestinated amount of time before a plebiscite vote was to be held.

I shall explain what a plebiscite vote is and why they were held in the German border territories after WWI. Webster's Dictionary defines plebiscite as; "A vote by which the people of an entire country or district express an opinion for or against a



*Stamps from the nation of Czechoslovakia created by the Treaty of Versailles after WWI.*



*Map of post WWI Germany and which regions split which way.  
(Note the nations of Poland and Czechoslovakia.)*

**Continued on next page**

# Membership Update

## NOTE:

Many memberships expire with this issue — please check the expiration date on your address label for this issue. To keep your membership up-to-date, send in your dues if your's has expired. Thank you!

### New Members

**2397 Stanley A Elman** (Exp 09/30/04)

430 East Olive Ave Apt. A  
Monrovia, CA 91016-3512  
stanelman@aol.com

*A,D,Int(65), E,7(Poland),L(Pol) will translate*

**2398 Alexander, Nides** (Exp 09/30/04)

110 Whitney Ct  
Tyrone, GA 30290-2149  
anidea@aol.com  
*B(to 1940),D,Int(18),DD*

**2399-U Paul, Bingaman** (Exp 09/30/04)

PO Box 3  
Butte, MT 59703-0003  
*A,G,Int,EE,7,Top(trees,fruits,veggies)*

**2400 Susan, Scarcliff** (Exp 09/30/04)

350 22nd Ave #4  
San Francisco, CA 94121-2154  
sgscarcliff@yahoo.com  
*A,G,Top(Africa),Beg(2),C,8(ww) non-exchanger*

**2401- C Nyumbani Stamp Club** (Exp 09/30/04)

PO Box 21399  
Nairobi, KENYA  
styne2000@yahoo.com

**2402 Renata H. Thompson** (Exp 11/30/04)

241 Beachers Brook Ln  
Cary, NC 27511-5506  
bandart@intrex.net  
*A,G,Int(45),EE,1-3,6,7,9,L(Ger) will translate*

**2403 Myron N. Wambold** (Exp 11/30/04)

E&M Etcetera  
PO Box 2563  
Inverness, FL 34451-2563  
eandmetc@tampbay.rr.com  
*A,F,Int(20+),DD,Top(flags,pandas,cats),1(USA),7(Aus,US)*

**2404 W. Garry Clay** (Exp 11/30/04)

99 Tower Rd  
Brookfield, CT 06804-3652  
garryshenorock@cs.com  
*A,E,Int(50),EE,7(Thai,Por,Spa,PNG,NZ,Gre)*

**2405-U J. Douglas Lepter** (Exp 11/30/04)

*USA B(to1960),G,Int(15),DD,1-2-6 non-exchanging*

**2406-AM Wilson W. S. Yeung** (Exp 1/31/05)

AGL Trading

Shop C19, San Po Kong Pl

33 Shung Ling St

San Po Kong

Kowloon HONG KONG

*A,G,Adv(20),CC,1,2,3,6,10(IRC's,postal vehicle photos),Top(seashells,airliners),L(Chi,Mandarin) will translate*

### Reinstated (formerly dropped)

**#228 Schwartz**

**#296 Polchinski**

**#808 Luong**

**#960 Haddock**

**#1196 Snyder**

**#1658 Udeh**

**#2232 Maiorana**

**#2348 Stecker**

### Temporarily Away, Contact HQ

*None*

### Address Changes/Corrections

**#231 Brightman**

Pennswood Village M-211  
1382 Newtown-Langhorne Rd  
Newtown, PA 18940-2401

**#498 Cervenka**

5000 Joe Ramsey Blvd #2215  
Greenville TX 75401-7876  
Email: carol.cervenka@sbcglobal.net

**#641 Kehoe**

307 Dwyer Ave Apt. 224  
San Antonio, TX 78204-1137

**#886 Kolesiak**

550 W Baseline Rd #102-146  
Mesa AZ 85210-6031

**#986 Burda**

440 Simcoe St Ste 928  
Victoria, BC V8V 1L3  
CANADA

**#1246 Baumert**

1168 Chambers Pike E  
Bloomington IN 47408-9231

**#1540 Newton**

1114 Nokomis Ave S  
Venice, FL 34285-3819

**#1600 Stevens**

3128 207th Place SE  
Bothell, WA 98012-1405

**#1822 Engman**

202 Bayview Pkwy  
Nokomis, FL 34275-3907

**#1877 Walker**

(temporary add.)  
85 Reineke Rd

Lake Hammock Village  
Haines, FL 33844-2866

**#2126 Crump**  
4708 Palm Aire Cir  
Sarasota, FL 34243-4938

**#2371 Garcelon**  
11526 Willowood Ct  
Moorpark, CA 93021-2428

**#2376 Berg**  
418 Highway 96 W Apt 114  
St Paul, MN 55126-1997

**#2380 Balander**  
1606 Sunnyvale St  
Austin, TX 78741-2552

### Returned Mail - Unknown Address

**#2232 Maiorana**

### New/Changed Email Addresses

**#913 Ware** r81175age@yahoo.com  
**#2355 Rosenblatt** philrosenblatt@comcast.net

### Bad email addresses/Returned emails

(email right one to Tom Fortunato:  
stampmf@frontiernet.net)

### Resigned

**#2347 Aragona** unspecified  
**#2359 Sarlo** unspecified  
**#2379 Dudley** deceased

### We Need Your ZIP+4 Number:

**#181 Sandholt**  
**#626 Shupp**  
**#635 George**  
**#1877 Walker**  
**#2226 Derks**

### Dropped - Dues Expired in May

**#764 Tunncliff**  
**#938 Bray**  
**#1134 Williams**  
**#1375 Kinney**  
**#1419 Menzies**  
**#1568 Muniz**  
**#1694 Nechamkin**  
**#1782 Johnson, MSG (Aus)**  
**#2202 Raymond**  
**#2243 Nwaoduah**  
**#2351 Pegram**  
**#2352 Laurence**  
**#2353 Defelice**  
**#2354 Novitski**  
**#2356 Tomsen**  
**#2357 Sailey**  
**#2362 Romo**  
**#2363 Veverka**  
**#2364 Chin**  
**#2365 Grivas**

### #2393 Brown

### We need to update our records!

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

Tom Fortunato  
42 Maynard St,  
Rochester, NY 14615-2022  
USA  
Email: stampmf@frontiernet.net



## The Plebiscites of Post WWI Germany

Continued from page 9

proposal, especially on a choice of government or ruler."

In the case of the German border territories, the plebiscite was used to determine which nation the inhabitants wished to become part of. Various territories over the many different German borders were put to plebiscite votes. The regions included the coal rich Saarland, (on the French border), the cow pastures and dairy farms of Schleswig, (on the Danish border), Allenstein, Carinthia, Eastern Silesia, Marienwerder, and Upper Silesia all along the newly formed Polish border. Many of these territories issued stamps in the in term period before their votes were to take place.

The country of Poland had been created in 1919 by the allies from large tracts of German and Russian land. German land that was forfeited to Poland included West Prussia (or "Posen" in German) and a strip of land known as the "Polish Corridor," which connected Poland to the Baltic Sea. This separated Germany in two, cutting off Eastern Prussia from mainland Germany. This corridor caused major disputes and led to future aggression in the region.

To be continued in the next issue...



*A stamp from  
Poland.*



# ADVERTISING

## Classified Rates Per Insertion

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1. NOTE: State abbreviations = one word; P.O. Box 1234 = 2 words; ZIP code = one word. make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor (address on page 2).

**ADVANCED COLLECTOR NEEDS WORLDWIDE** singles for his collection, 1840-1968. Prefer to buy at 1/3 Scott, but trading is possible. Write or e-mail for 22,000 item list. Mark Copp (#2394), Box 102, Whitesville, NY 14897; mcopp@whitesville.wnyric.org. [1-2/04]

**SELLING GRANDFATHER'S COLLECTION:** U.S. covers from advertising to WWII — 115 covers \$50. Worldwide covers, many countries, multiple stamps — 125 covers \$50. Worldwide official embassy covers — 100 covers \$49. Stamp collections and U.S./worldwide postal history covers; U.S./foreign stocks available. Many collectibles! Approvals available. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave., Downey, CA 90241; (562) 861-5958. [7-8/04]

## STAMPS OF THE WORLD AT 40% OF CATALOG!

PRE -1960 (NO U.S.)



## San Pedro Stamp & Coin

P.O. BOX 1619  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90733-1619

(310) 832-4330

email: [spstamp@earthlink.net](mailto:spstamp@earthlink.net)

Web site: [www.spstamp.com](http://www.spstamp.com)

ESTABLISHED IN 1950 MEMBERS: APS ISWSC

*We also Buy*

[7-8/04]

SEND \$25.00 TO \$200.00 MNH in complete sets worldwide stamps for equal catalog value of mine. Collect regular postage, semi-postal, air post, souvenir sheets, booklets. Use 2004 Scott's Catalogue. SASE required. Chuck Wilkie (#2236), 1798 Myles Way, Carson City, NV 89701-4867. [3-4/04]

## VP for Charitable Services Moving

**E**ffective in January 2004, Mike Crump, the ISWSC Vice President for Charitable Services, will have a new address in Florida. All mail, including stamp dues should be going to: ISWSC, 4708 Palm Aire Circle, Sarasota, Florida, 34243-4938.

Mike's e-mail address remains the same. He can be contacted at: [StampGuy47@aol.com](mailto:StampGuy47@aol.com)



## Where to Send What

### Membership Renewals, Applications, Changes in Mailing Address, Etc:

Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)  
P.O. Box 15047, Lufkin TX 75915-0407  
[zolloam@lcc.net](mailto:zolloam@lcc.net)

### Annual 250 Stamp Donations:

Mike Crump (#2126)  
P.O. Box 57, Yorba Linda CA 92885-0057  
[StampGuy47@aol.com](mailto:StampGuy47@aol.com)

### Payments for Advertisements:

Jennifer Arnold  
310 NW Juniper Ln, Albany OR 97321  
Ph: 541-967-7043; Fax: 541-967-9515  
[pizzazz@cmug.com](mailto:pizzazz@cmug.com)

### Roster Changes:

Tom Fortunato (#379)  
42 Maynard St., Rochester NY 14615-2022  
[stamptmf@frontiernet.net](mailto:stamptmf@frontiernet.net)

### Auction Bids & Lots and Payments:

Everett King (#1389)  
P.O. Box 127, Whitethorn CA 94586  
[stamps@whitethorn.com](mailto:stamps@whitethorn.com)

### Text for Articles for *The Circuit*, Corrections for Articles:

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