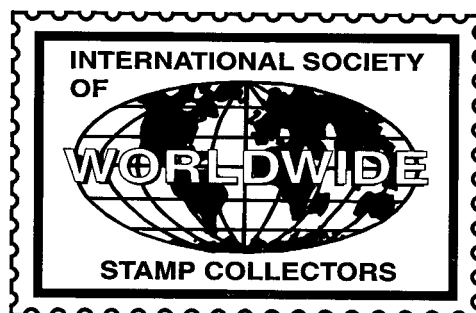


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The Circuit

March/April 2004 • Volume 22 No. 2



Affiliate of: APS (#151) & ATA (#89)

www.iswsc.org

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

ISWSC Now Offers Online Dues Payments

by Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)
ISWSC Executive Director

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (ISWSC) will now accept payment of dues and other fees online thru PayPal (www.paypal.com).

This new service will allow members and new applicants with Internet access to pay their dues and fees with a PayPal account, or with a credit card. It will also allow non-US members and applicants to pay in their local currency and have the payment converted to US dollars.

ISWSC membership dues are currently \$12 dues per year (for up to 3 years in advance). However, if you renew more than 30 days prior to your expiration date, you will be entitled to a \$2 per year discount and the annual dues will only be \$10 per year.

There will be a surcharge for online payments of \$1.00 for a one-year renewal, \$2 for a two-year

Then use the ISWSC's email address (iswsc@hotmail.com) to make your payments.

In addition to online dues and fees payments, we offer members the following methods:

1. A check/money order drawn in US dollars sent to our address: ISWSC, PO Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 USA
2. U.S. Cash sent to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

3. U.S. mint stamps (any combination to be used for postage — duplicates okay) with \$10 U.S. face value, to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

4. Mint stamps of their country (all different commemoratives and full sets only — no duplicates so they can be sold to collectors) with face value equivalent to \$12 U.S., to our address in Lufkin, Texas USA

5. Check, money order or cash from their country sent to their regional representative (not available in all regions).

Also, please remember, renewal requires either a Youth Program donation of 250 different large stamps per year of renewal (should be sent to

*To use this service, simply go to
PayPal at www.paypal.com
and sign up for a free account.*

Renewal Period	Renewed > 30 days from expiration date	Renewed within 30 days of expiration date
1 year	\$11 (\$10+\$1)	\$13 (\$12+\$1)
2 year	\$22 (\$10+\$10+\$2)	\$24 (\$12+\$10+\$2)
3 year	\$32.50 (\$10+\$10+\$10+\$2.50)	\$34.50 (\$12+\$10+\$10+\$2.50)

renewal and \$2.50 for a three-year renewal (see box).

To use this service, simply go to PayPal at www.paypal.com and sign up for a free account.

Mike Crump, 4708 Palm Aire Circle, Sarasota, Florida, 34243-4938) or a cash donation sent to me with your dues.

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*Phone or send your
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Please include a
self-addressed stamped
envelope or IRC for a
reply.*

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

*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!*

Come to Sacramento!

Once again the ISWSC will be hosting a membership meeting during Stampshow, the annual meeting of the American Philatelic Society.

This year the show is being held August 12-15 in Sacramento, CA. Typically our hour long meeting has been on Saturday afternoon. Details will appear in the next newsletter.

Sorry, there's no guarantee that Governor "Arnold" will make a guest appearance!



ISWSC Elects New Officers

The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors has elected its slate of officers for a two year term from 2004-2005. They include:

- Randy Smith
President, Egan, MN
- Mike Crump
VP Charitable Services, Sarasota, FL
- Joanne Berkowitz
Secretary, Sacramento, CA

They join two Directors at Large on the ISWSC Board:

- Richard Simpson
Romley, WV
- Kenneth Wills
Grapevine, TX

Along with:

- Executive Director Tony Zollo
Lufkin, TX
- Past Secretary Dalene Thomas
Lakewood, CO
- Board Advisor Tom Fortunato
Rochester, NY.

The ISWSC has over 400 members in 16 countries who enjoy collecting "the world."

Membership is \$12 per year and includes a bimonthly newsletter, several sales and swap options, and regular auctions.

For details, write to ISWSC, PO Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 or see the society's web site at <http://www.iswsc.org>.



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.

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.

Response to Internet Article

by Dave Nelson (#25)
Past President

The Circuit doesn't have a formal Letters column but I felt a need to present the pro-internet story, in response to the article by Paul Jackson in our latest issue. Perhaps this can be used on an "equal time" basis.

For those who didn't see it, Paul makes the argument that we should all unplug our computers because — despite the advantages he lists — it delivers "complications." He cites internet sellers who change their names and sell forgeries, or advertise lots dishonestly, and he accuses eBay of not being a true auction and not being responsive to people who have gotten lousy lots.

He gives us a useful list of recent philatelic scams and fakes (without telling us why the computer makes them more risky than good old fashioned sales by mail). Lastly, he compares people's addiction to the computer to the over use of credit cards, without explaining the logic of that comparison.

I would like to respond in several dimensions.

To take his last point first; a better analog for the explosive growth in computers would be the telephone, not the computer. Just 100 years ago we had a VERY apt precedent as those new fangled telephones began to proliferate in our towns and cities. Some people indeed felt they were just a fad; finding them to present technological "complications." They held out subscribing, terribly inconveniencing their family and friends who had to hitch up the buggy to go give them the simplest message while most others could be contacted by phone.

Computer fans will accuse me of understating the value of the internet since the telephone analog only addresses one feature, the email. All told, the internet is your telephone & answering machine, the public library and all its reference contents, the greeting cards you used to send, a stereo and VCR, the local shopping mall, all your maps, magazines and newspapers, the friendly neighborhood card game AND your long gone local stamp dealer to name just a few things that it is rapidly supplanting.

True, not all of these changes may be good, and we don't want to replace any of those completely. But to think anyone is going to "unplug" from modern life is very naive.

It is often said that stamp collectors, as a community, have been slow to adopt the internet. It is true that a given collector group may have rather few computer users, while in the general US

population usage exceeds 75%. I spent my career with a statistics company and know a little about "correlation" and it is my opinion that the mind-set of stamp collectors is actually the intellectual, curious sort that loves the internet.

To get a true comparison one has to make an age adjustment. We all know the population of stamp collectors is aging considerably; what was once the most popular hobby in America has given way to many other pursuits (such as the new #1, on-line genealogy). Simultaneously, younger families are adopting the internet much faster than their parents (true of almost all technology innovations in history). Hence, it is quite unfair to judge the popularity of computer usage by polling your local stamp club. But, having statistically adjusted for age differences, I believe you will find us collectors are actually in the forefront. (I am 63 if anyone cares).

As a significant stockholder in eBay, as well as a buyer/seller with over 1150 different satisfied eBay business relationships, I must jump on the comments about that company which is much bigger than all other on-line auction services combined. Paul makes some valid points about a good stamp auction house previewing the material and pulling out the obvious fakes.

But, if it is not their own item, the most they can do if you buy something bad is to attempt to get your money back from the consigner. They do not offer free expertizing or money back guarantees on every item sold and they certainly do not give you any information about the reliability of the consigner. Most large collections are sold "as is."

Paul's comment that eBay is not a true auction house is simply not valid. Meg Wilson did, in fact, invent it to start with as a way to host a big yard sale, but the format does involve competitive bidding which is the essence of the term "auction." When I am buying a one of a kind postal history item with no way to catalogue its value, it makes me feel VERY much more secure in knowing that others also feel it is worth the price I am bidding (as opposed to paying whatever price the dealer felt like putting on the item).

More importantly, eBay posts the positive ratings of it's buyers and sellers and if you buy something you don't like, you are free to put in a Negative rating. Dealers HATE to get a negative, and if they get many they are done for as an eBay seller.

I will admit that there are lots of ways a marginal dealer can take advantage of internet buyers,

Continued on page 6

ARGENTINA

19°	LH	\$3.75
22/6°	H	\$2.45
22°	sm. HR	\$0.50
37°	H	\$0.75
38-9	M/U, H	\$1.20
41°	LH	\$0.40
44-5°	H	\$2.45
44a°	HR	\$1.10
45a°	LH	\$2.20
51°	LH	\$1.65
52-4°	LH	\$0.55
56°	LH	\$0.35
58*	MLH	\$3.00
64A*	MH	\$3.60
64B°	H	\$0.50
65°	HR	\$0.65
66°	MHR, F	\$2.50
67°	HR	\$2.15
81*	MLH	\$1.50
82*	MLH	\$4.50
90-1(*)	M/U, H	\$2.75
98°	H	\$3.00
101*	MH	\$3.75
408**	MNH	\$1.75
414-5*	MLH	\$0.65
416-7*	MLH	\$0.75
436°	NH	\$0.60
C101-4**	MNH	\$2.00

AUSTRALIA

1-2°	VLH	\$1.10
20°	H	\$0.45
36°	VLH, Perfin	\$0.90
72°	VLH	\$3.50
191-5°	VLH	\$0.35
247*	MVLH	\$0.55
261°	VLH	\$0.35
267-9°	HR	\$0.60
288-90*	MH	\$0.50
466-7°	VLH	\$0.90
467*	MLH	\$0.90
468-70°	LH	\$0.30
472-3**	MNH	\$0.45
474-5**	MNH	\$0.90
477-82°		\$1.05
483-6*	MH	\$0.10
491-2*	MHR	\$0.45
493-5*	MHR	\$0.60
500-3**	MNH	\$1.15
504-7°	VLH	\$0.40
508a-g°	LH-H	\$0.80
519/22*	MNH	\$2.45
520-2°	OP	\$2.10
530°	OP	\$1.20
532-8**	MNH	\$1.70
550-1°	NH	\$0.90
568-71°	NH	\$0.75
574**	MNH	\$1.00
575**	MNH	\$0.90
576**	MNH, Blk. of 2	\$3.50
577-9°	LH-H	\$1.95
582-3*	H	\$0.90
C4°	LH	\$0.90

AUSTRIA

5°	HR	\$3.00
21°	HR, Sm. stain	\$2.50
25°	HR	\$0.75
31°	H, F	\$0.50
51-8°	LH-H	\$1.20

AUSTRIA

62°	LH	\$0.70
65°	LH, faulty	\$2.75
66-8°	HR, faulty	\$0.15
70-7°	LH-H	\$0.60
80°	H	\$0.75
81°	HR	\$1.05
110-24°	LH-HR	\$1.70
181/96°	LH-H	\$2.05
200-18*	MNH-HR	\$1.35
219/48*	MLH-HR	\$0.60
238-47*	MLH-HR	\$0.65
238-47°	LH-HR	\$0.60
250/87°	LH-HR	\$4.00
303/23°	LH-HR	\$1.60
323°	LH	\$0.45
354-70°	LH-H	\$1.30
385-7°	H	\$1.05
481°	LH	\$0.60
497°	NH	\$0.85
521/55°	LH-HR	\$2.25
556°	LH	\$1.50
B268°	NH	\$0.55
M22/41*	MNH-H	\$1.55
NJ8/13*	MHR	\$0.90
NJ11°	HR	\$0.45
P29/46*	MLH-H, Imperf.	\$1.60

TURKISH OFFICES

7a°	NH, rip corner	\$9.75
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CANADA

New Brunswick:		
10°	HR, F	\$7.50

Regular Issues:

604vi**	(Unitrade)	
	MNH	\$24.50
14°	LH	\$15.00
15°	LH-H	\$7.50
25°	LH	\$7.50
35°	LH	\$0.30
36°	NH	\$0.55
37°	NH	\$0.90
38°	H, F	\$2.70
41°	NH	\$0.25
44°	LH	\$1.30
51°	HR	\$2.80
53°	LH	\$0.60
66-8°	H, F	\$1.50
66*	MLH, NG	\$2.30
67°	H	\$0.35
68°	LH	\$0.50
70°	HR	\$1.75
74-9°	LH-HR	\$1.50
74°	LH	\$0.50
79°	NH	\$0.50
91°	LH	\$1.05
93°	HR	\$2.10
97°	H, F	\$0.55
98°	HR	\$0.40
104-22°	LH-HR	\$13.30
110°	H	\$1.05
113°	VLH	\$1.05
114°	H	\$2.65
116°	LH	\$0.45
117°	NH	\$0.55
118°	NH	\$0.55
119°	NH	\$0.45
120°	NH	\$0.80
125°	VLH	\$0.45
131°	H	2.65

CANADA

134*	MLH	\$2.30
135°	LH	\$0.35
138°	VLH	\$2.80
141-5°	LH-H	\$4.45
141°	NH	\$0.35
143*	NH, F	\$0.45
144°	NH	\$0.90
146°	LH	\$0.70
147*	MVLH	\$2.80
148°	LH	\$2.10
155°	LH	\$0.35
156°	LH	\$1.95
157°	LH	\$3.50
162/77°*	M/U, LH-HR	\$17.15
168°	HR	\$1.75
169°	LH	\$1.25
172°	H	1.25
173°	NH	\$0.30
174°	H	\$1.60
184*	VLH	\$1.40
192-4°	LH	\$2.20
193°	LH	\$0.70
194°	LH	\$1.75
195-201°	VLH	\$4.20
201°	LH	\$0.75
202*	MVLH	\$2.00
203°	VLH	\$3.50
204°	HR	\$0.95
205-7°	VLH	\$1.20
208°	VLH	\$0.35
210°	HR	0.50
215°	H	0.70
222°	H	\$0.50
223-5°	VLH	\$0.45
241-5°	VLH	\$4.00
244°	LH	\$1.60
245°	VLH	\$2.10
254a°	VLH	\$0.90
255*	MVLH	\$0.65
258-62°	H	\$3.75
258°	HR	1.05
262°	VLH, crease	\$1.20
263-7°	VLH	\$1.00
268-73°*	M/U, LH	\$24.35
269*	VLH	\$0.70
288*	VLH	\$0.40
294°	H	\$0.35
296*	LH	\$0.35
298°	VLH	\$0.35
302°	VLH	\$3.50
311-2*	VLH	\$0.70
321*	MHR	\$3.35
405a**	MNH	\$1.95
544a**	MNH	\$0.80

600-1**	MNH	\$2.90
C1°	LH	\$1.25
C3*	MVLH	\$2.45
C5-9°	M/U, NH-LH	\$1.55
C5/9°	LH	\$0.60
CE1°	NH	\$0.60
CO1*	MH	\$3.15
E2°	VLH	\$2.80
E3*	Small HR	\$5.25
E9**	MNH	\$2.30
E10-1°*	M/U, LH	\$1.15
J8*	Small HR	\$5.25
J28-36**	(J36a)MNH	\$1.20
MR6-7°	VLH	\$3.00

CANADA

O12-15A°	LH	\$0.95
O16/24°*	M/U, H-HR	\$5.00
O33-8°	LH	\$0.70
O38**	MNH	\$1.75
O39**	MNH	\$0.30

ETHIOPIA

1°	HR	\$1.00
4-6*	MLH-HR	\$2.90
4-5°*	M/U, HR	\$1.95
5*	MLH	\$1.00
102°	HR	\$1.40
108/14*	MVLH	\$1.40
108/13°	VLH	\$1.05
118-9°*	M/U, H	\$4.75
120/30*	MLH-HR	\$1.95
120-29*	MLH-HR	\$1.15
131°	LH	\$0.65
140*	MH	\$0.35
151*	MH	\$0.70
155-60°*	M/U, LH	\$0.60
168*	MHR	\$0.45
175°	VLH	\$0.50
177*	MHR	\$0.50
180-5°	LH	\$0.55
210-6*	MHR	\$2.05
215*	LH	\$0.55
225°	VLH	\$0.35
230°	VLH	\$0.45
232-7* (236°)	MH	\$0.50
232-6*	MH-HR	\$0.40
244-6*	Small HR	\$2.50
268-72*	HR, Never Issued	\$0.45
292A-4°	LH-HR	\$0.60
297/301**	M/U, LH	\$2.40
369-74°	LH	\$0.70
N17°(N7°)	M/U, H	\$6.15

As all items are unique, please reserve stamps ahead of payment.

All Stamps listed as Scott #'s.

Want List's are welcomed.

Albion Stamps

3334 Long Beach Rd. #149 Oceanside, NY 11572 USA

For more items, please visit: www.AlbionStamps.com

Info@AlbionStamps.com

Shipping is as follows:

\$2.00 for \$5.00 - \$49.99
\$3.00 for \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$4.00 for \$100.00 - \$299.99
\$5.00 for \$300.00+

* = Mint

** = Mint Never Hinged

° = Used

F = Faulty

NG = No gum

LH = Lightly Hinged

H = Hinged

OP = On paper

HR = Hinge Remnant

V = Very

Response to Article

Continued from page 4

especially in the subjective two tier condition rating system that prevails (i.e. condition is one notch higher when they are selling than when they are buying).

But, in general, junk sellers have LESS success on-line than they do in mail sales for reasons I don't have space to list I have in fact made several purchases on line that seemed to me to be not as advertised. This is a higher percentage than I have had with any other types of purchases. BUT, in every single case I was satisfied with the seller's response, refunding or supplementing my purchase until I was pleased with it.

Perhaps someone should offer a fuller article on Buying Stamps on Line but I will offer the briefest check list of do's and don'ts to make your on-line collecting enjoyable and safe.

- DO buy via eBay from sellers with say 25 or more positive ratings and no significant negatives; Do NOT bid if the seller has shady sunglasses (i.e. recently changed their name) or a tiny number of reviews.

- DON'T expect eBay or other seller to respond to your concerns if you are not the final buyer; if you ARE then they have many layers of protection for

you.

- DO buy directly from dealers you have heard of with a professional home page, even if you don't have specific references, as they will be very protective of their reputation in case of a dispute. This is exactly the same as buying from someone with a display ad in Linns.

- DO read the sales ad or auction listing in detail and very carefully. And look for what they DIDN'T say as well. If they don't say the unused item has gum, don't assume it does, etc.

- DON'T be afraid to ask the seller to send you more pictures or details of the item.

- DO pay by credit card if you can, as if the seller does cheat you will be able to get the card company to recover or eat the charge for you.

In postscript: I would not have bothered to even write this comment if it weren't for the fact our editor has email, similarly, there is an advertiser in the latest Circuit selling grandfather's collection and I had an interest in that, but didn't respond because he didn't give an email address.

Once you have weaned yourself from "snail mail" you don't want to go back. Email, it's what's for dinner.



Letters of Century Book Review

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

Other than working on my stamp collection, one of my favorite ways to kill a few hours is to wander through the aisles at a local discount book store. Upon entering, I always start the same way – turn left and proceed directly to the Collectibles section! Each time I decide to drop in, I wonder what those shelves (ok – shelf!) might hold for me.

Over the years, I have picked up several books to add to my stamp reference collection. Many are in pristine condition – some are even brand new, offered at steep discounts from the original sales price. While I'm pleased to find such offerings, I'm really always holding out hope that I'll find some stamps tucked into an outdated catalog or some old dingy book will turn out to be a long forgotten stamp collection. (Finding a set of the high value Graf Zeppelins would be fine with me...)

The closest I've ever come to finding something valuable was the time I visited the store and found a few copies of the US Post Office's commemorative stamp yearbooks sitting on the shelf. Naturally I had

to page through them – and I was awarded by finding one book with the mint stamps still neatly mounted on each page! The face value of the mint stamps alone was more than the purchase price of the book, so naturally I snatched it up.

A few months ago, my mission at the store was to find a reason to use the 50% off any one item coupon I had received in the mail a few days earlier. Once I satisfied myself that the Collectibles section didn't contain any items of interest, I began to wander through the rest of the store, looking for nothing in particular, but always ready for something that might catch my eye. (Yes, I love garage sales and flea markets, too!)

Just when I was about to give up hope of being able to use the coupon, I found Letters of the Century, edited by Lisa Grunwald and Stephen J. Adler. What really caught my eye was the jacket cover – it pictured many different USA stamps. Anything with stamps on the cover just had to be good, right?

Paging through the book, I was immediately

Continued on page 8

Swap Circuit News

by Randy Smith (#1111)
Swap Circuit Coordinator

REGULAR MANAGERS ANNOUNCED

I'm excited to announce that new managers for the Regular Circuits have now been appointed!! (Actually, if you were paying close attention, the cat was let out of the bag on page 2 of our last issue...)

Joining long-time Regular circuit manager Scott Sadger (#882) are new managers John Seidl (#1646) and John McArthur (#768). John and John are both veterans of the swap circuits, having participated for several years. Thank you to both for agreeing to serve the ISWSC in this capacity! Regular circuit participants should already be seeing the first of John and John's circuits in their mailboxes.

REGULAR ASSIGNMENTS CHANGED

Although most (if not all!) of the current A-I participants will remain with Scott, as part of the reorganization of the Regular circuits, the assignment of participants to managers by last name has been dropped. This change allows much greater flexibility in managing the work load of the Regular circuit managers and also provides participants with a greater number of swap partners.

NAMES CHANGED

In the past, the titles "Regular circuit" and "Large circuit" have been used interchangeably to describe the circuit type which allows only stamps larger than 1" x 1.5" (approximately). This "dual" name has led to inconsistency in how the circuit type is described in ISWSC literature and has been the source of some confusion to new and old participants alike.

To help alleviate this, the Regular circuit will now be called the Large circuit. With three people currently serving as managers, the circuits will be referred to as Large I, Large II, and Large III (Sadger, Seidl, and McArthur, respectively).

During the past year, members of the Small circuit (sometimes also referred to as the Definitive circuit) experimented with allowing not only small stamps (stamps measuring less than 1" by 1.5"), but also definitive stamps of any size. This change allowed a greater range of material to be swapped in the circuit and was well received by the participants. This change will now be a permanent feature of the circuit type. To help reinforce the type of stamps allowed in the circuit, the Small circuit will now be called the Small/Definitive circuit.

USA CIRCUITS CREATED

One of my goals as Swap Coordinator has been to establish additional circuit types to add to the current offerings of Large, Small/Definitive, CTO, and Super

circuits. I am pleased to announce that a USA circuit (containing only USA stamps) has now been created and that Andrew Titley (#2366) will manage the circuit.

To begin, this circuit will contain any USA stamp — commemoratives, definitives, airmail, revenues, etc. — all in the same circuit. Based on participation level and feedback, the USA circuit may ultimately be divided into separate sub-circuits for commemoratives, definitives, back of the book, etc., but for now all USA stamp types will be acceptable in this circuit.

Annual fees for participation in this circuit will be 100 USA stamps (or \$5.00). (ISWSC members not currently participating in the swaps must also pay the \$2.00 monetary fee.) Anyone interested in participating in this new circuit type should contact me (see page 2 for contact information).

RENEWAL FORMS

By now, current Swap Circuit participants should have received their 2004 renewal forms in the mail. (Renewal forms were not sent to participants who had sent in their 2004 fees prior to Feb 1.) As in previous years, all swap fees should be sent to me, not to the individual managers.

Current members who have not renewed by March 15 will be dropped from the circuits until their fees are received. If you have not yet received a renewal form, or if you are interesting in joining any of the Swap circuits, either contact me and I will send a form to you or you may use the form which appeared in the last edition of this newsletter.



Book Review

Continued from page 6

struck with the book and decided to purchase it. The book consists of over 400 letters written from 1900 – 1999. The letters range from such famous people as Mark Twain, Charlie Chaplin, Albert Einstein and Bill Gates to people you've never heard about or whose identity is not revealed. The artful selection and arrangement of the letters captures in words what our collections capture in stamps: a wonderful portrait of notable people, issues, and events throughout history.

I recommend that you read this book – and browse your local discount book store for any bargains that might be hiding on the shelf!



The Plebiscites of Post WWI Germany

by Erik Tomsen

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. Reprinted with permission.

Schleswig is a region in Northern Germany and Southern Denmark occupying the southern part of Jutland. It was first recognized as a province in 1115 when the Duchy of Schleswig was formed. King Waldemar III soon signed a charter whereas Schleswig would remain independent of Denmark. This treaty had good intentions for the independence of the duchy, but would prove hard to enforce in the years to come.

In 1386 Schleswig was awarded to the Court of Holstein, its southern neighbor. This union between the two regions would endure for centuries to come. In 1460 both regions came under the Danish crown, but by the agreement it was strictly a "personal union." Both regions remained under Danish rule, but not a part of Denmark, up until the 19th century.

Large ethnic German populations lived in both duchies, and the regions close ties to Denmark became an explosive issue. Under the pressure of Danish nationalists, King Ferdinand VII of Denmark announced the full incorporation of Schleswig into Denmark in 1848. The German populations in both duchies revolted and a provisional government was established in the city of Kiel on March 24th. The German Confederation quickly occupied both duchies in support of the rebels.

A short period of British intervention brought a cease-fire to the German-Danish fighting. In 1849 the war was resumed and in 1850 a peace was signed between Prussia, which the German Confederation had commissioned to fight on their behalf, and Denmark.

Stamps were first issued on

November 15, 1850 by the provisional government. These stamps bore proof to the western powers that the duchies independent from Denmark. The succession of the duchies became a fiery issue that was resolved by the Treaty of London. Under this treaty the duchies were returned to Denmark with the status of a "personal union." Danish stamps went into use on May 1, 1851 in Schleswig and on July 1, 1853 in Holstein.

In 1863 a new Danish constitution was drawn up with the intention of the inclusion of Schleswig under complete Danish incorporation. The Danish King Christian IX enraged the Germans by signing this constitution. In February 1864 Prussia allied with Austria and declared war against Denmark.

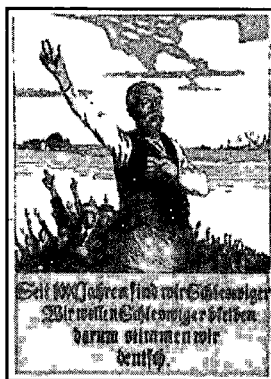
The larger Prussian and Austrian armies effortlessly defeated Denmark. Denmark was forced to renounce its claim to the provinces, and in early



A German Propaganda card which reads, "I am German."



A propaganda card stating, "Must Schleswig really be split up?"

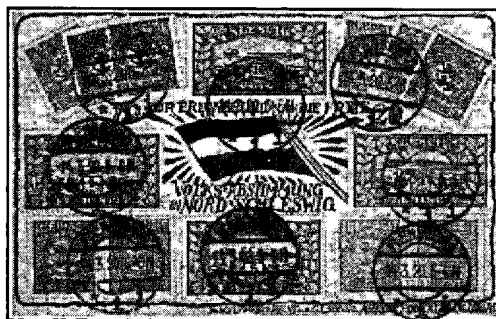


Pro-German propaganda urging citizens to vote to remain German. The card states, "For 1000 years we have been Schleswigers. We want to remain Schleswigers therefore we vote German."

1864 Danish stamps were withdrawn. Stamps were issued for both duchies independently at first, followed by a combined issue.

Each duchy continued to use their own stamps, however.

In 1865 the Treaty of Gastein was signed between Austria and Prussia, which divided the region, placing Schleswig under Prussian administration and Holstein under Austrian administration. Austria was not pleased with this treaty and soon invoked in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. In only seven weeks the Prussians had reached a decisive victory.



A card featuring the stamps of Schleswig.

Continued in Next Issue

Membership Update

New Members

#2407 Frederick J. Contursi (Exp 1/31/05)

1222 North Country Rd
Stony Brook, NY 11790-1906
fredcontursi@earthlink.net
A, G, Beg(2), EE, 6, 8

#2408 Patricia Maki (Exp 1/31/05)

3453 Haller Rd
Eveleth, MN 55734-8521
pmaki@uslink.net
A, D, Int(40), DD, 7(BrC), 10(Ger, Fra, W Eur)

#2409 Glen D. Fellows (Exp 1/31/07)

191 Carriage Way
Macon, GA 31210-8629
gdfellows@cox.net
A, G, Int(4), DD

#2410 Bradley A. Hooper (Exp 1/31/05)

4717 W Addison
Chicago, IL 60641-3708
A, G, Adv(?), DD, 7(BrC)

#2411 Robert Wiltenburg (Exp 1/31/05)

6157 Kingsbury Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63112-0000
rewilten@artsci.wustl.edu
B, F, Int(20), DD, 7(Den, Ice, Nfld), 10(US to 1940)

#2412 Joseph Mersol (Exp 1/31/07)

1505 W South Range Rd
North Lima, OH 44452-9536
josko@aol.com
A, F, Adv(66), EE, 7, 8, L(Ger, Slov, Croat, Rus) will translate

#2413 Harry P. Bain (Exp 1/31/05)

75 New Paltz Rd
Highland, NY 12528-1014
hpb1212@yahoo.com
A, E, Int(40), DD

#2414 Sid Rosenwasser (Exp 1/31/05)

269-25A Grand Central Pkwy
Floral Park, NY 11005-1013
A, F, Adv(70), EE

#2415 Dennis J. Donohue (Exp 1/31/05)

43-12 56th St
Woodside, NY 11377-4739
A, C, Adv(25), Top(stamps on stamps), 1-3(USA), 6(USA)

#2416 Russell A. Abramson (Exp 1/31/05)

PO Box 31607
San Francisco, CA 94131-1607
russ2rose@aol.com

#2417 Norman Roberts (Exp 1/31/05)

1208 Cache River Rd North
Little Rock, AR 72116-6386
nromroberts@arisottle.net
B(to 1940), G, Int(40), EE

#2418 Jean-Francis Savard (Exp 1/31/05)

3012 de Louvigny
Saite-Foy, PQ G1W 1B1

CANADA

jeanfsavard@hotmail.com
A, F, Int(35), DD, L(Fr)

#2419 Wayne Berthn (Exp 1/31/05)

3030 Beach Dr
Victoria, BC, V8R 6L2
CANADA
wberthin@realtyserver.com
A, D, Int(40), DD

#2420-U (Exp 1/31/05)

ptownstamps@aol.com
D, 10(GB, Fra, Ita, Spa, Scand, Ire, Can, Aus), Int(50), DD, L(Fr, It, Sp)

#2421 Wilbur D. Ramey (Exp 1/31/05)

Rt. 2, Box 2395
Birch Tree, MO 65438-9220
bldr@socket.net
A, F, Int(51), EE

#2422 Eric Bruth (Exp 1/31/05)

92 Rue Maurice Arnoux
F-92120 Montrouge
FRANCE
eric.bruth@freesbee.fr
A, C, Int(5), CC, Top(frog, rugby, sci-fi), 1, 8, L(Fr) will translate

Reinstated (formerly dropped)

#764 Tunncliffe

#1782 Johnson

#2354 Novitski

#2363 Veverka

#2393 Brown

Temporarily Away, Contact HQ

None

Address Changes/Corrections

#159 Smith

25 Lindale Rd
Dover, DE 19904-1354

#181 Sandholdt

zip: 59901-3506

#195 Wilhelm

9562 Spanish Moss Ln
Sun City AZ 85373-1742

#449 Burge

302 N William St
Ludington, MI 49431-1678

#498 Cervenka

5000 Joe Ramsey Blvd E Apt 2215
Greenville, TX 75401-7876

#523 Bernstein

1400 Geary Blvd Apt 608
San Francisco CA 94109-6554

#641 Kehoe

307 Marshall Apt 111S
San Antonio, TX 78212-5013

#886 Kolesiak

1509 W Silver Keys Ct
Gilbert, AZ 85233-6143

#1134 Williams

4900 Telegraph Rd Apt G26
Ventura, CA 93003-8126

#1323 Goodnow

365 Seclusion Loop
Grants Pass OR 97526-9683

#1658 Udeh

PO Box 7622
Oakland CA 94601-7622

#2217 Alemen

655 Mulford Rd
Wyncote, PA 19095-1109

#2126 Crump

4708 Palm Aire Cir
Sarasota, FL 34243-4938

#2232 Maiorana

change address to 112 (not 1122) Ashmore Rd

Returned Mail - Unknown Address

#1877 Walker

New/Changed Email Addresses

#524 Hendriks hendriks15@chello.nl
#669 Roderick RdJnrod@aol.com
#913 Ware r78l72age@yahoo.com
#1292 Lord frrolo@aol.com

Bad email addresses/Returned emails

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

None

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.

**Resigned**

#399 Curtis financial restraints
#2209 Kemp no longer collecting

We Need Your ZIP+4 Number:

None

Dropped - Dues Expired in May

#1276 Warmboe **#2328 Andrale**
#1375 Kinney **#2367 Pascal**
#1822 Engman **#2368 Watson**
#2294 Cilander **#2372 Becker**

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



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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]

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]

TRADE YOUR SURPLUS GB mint 1971-on (some damage OK but must have gum) in face-value trade for my U.S. postage with gum. Chad Neighbor (#510), 28 Relugas Place, EDINBURGH EH9 2PY, Scotland. [5-6/04]

PLACE YOUR AD in the Circuit classifieds to buy, sell, or trade with your fellow ISWSC members. See page 3 for ad rates and other information. The next deadline is March 20, 2004.

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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.



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

Annual 250 Stamp Donations:

Mike Crump (#2126)
4708 Palm Aire Cir., Sarasota, FL 34243-4938
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

Roster Changes:

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

Auction Bids & Lots and Payments:

Everett King (#1389)
P.O. Box 127, Whitethorn CA 94586
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.