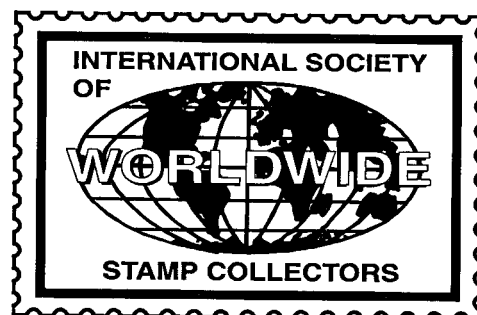


# The Circuit

May/June 2004 • Volume 22 No. 3



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

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## President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)  
ISWSC President

I need some volunteers! Since January, the position of Vice President of Public Relations has been open. Tom Fortunato (#379), past vice president, has graciously continued to serve in this capacity, but unfortunately he is ineligible to continue in the post because he has already served two consecutive terms in the office.

While Tom can provide more details concerning the duties he has performed, the basic duties of the office are to promote the ISWSC, monitor and assist the ISWSC Regional Representatives, and annually secure an Elections Chairperson. Other volunteer opportunities (at-large Board of Director candidates and an election chairperson) are described elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would be interested in serving the ISWSC in any of these capacities, or if you would like more information about the positions, please contact me.

Occasionally, a chain letter or two momentarily crosses my desk. I say momentarily because as soon as I see what it is, the letter is deposited in my garbage can. While I don't believe in superstition or any of the threats of ill that will come if I break the chain, others are deeply bothered by such letters. E-mail chain letters are particularly popular, but I still occasionally see the kind that comes in the mail.

Recently, another ISWSC member received a "forever stamp exchange" chain letter, requesting the ISWSC member send a certain quantity of stamps to the first name on a list, add their name, then send duplicate lists to several other "friends". The ISWSC member asked me what should be done. My response – throw it away! While members are free to decide on their own if they wish to participate in such letters, please do not include them in any ISWSC mailing, such as in a Swap Circuit, OMNI circuit, or sales circuit. Those who choose to participate in such chain letters do so at their own risk.

I continue to be concerned over the decline in our

membership. After a steady decline, our membership stabilized recently, however this past month saw another drop as several members did not renew and were subsequently dropped from our roles. To address this decline, I am looking to you for ideas on how to retain our current members and/or how to encourage new members to join. In a future column, I'll discuss the various ideas submitted. If there are some especially good ones, I may even announce a brand new membership initiative!

Until then, Happy Stamping!



## SAFE: Stamp Hats!

by Randy Smith (#1111)

In this issue of the newsletter, I'm beginning a new column entitled "SAFE" – Stamp Activities for Everyone. The purpose of the column is to share stamp project ideas that can be enjoyed by everyone – young or old, novice or experienced. It is a column that will (hopefully!) be written by you, the members

of the ISWSC, through your submission of ideas for SAFE projects. If you have an idea for a SAFE activity, please contact me!



I have never liked throwing a stamp away – even a damaged one. But what can you do with a bunch of damaged

stamps? One option is to send them to a charitable organization such as Stamps for the Wounded, but here's another use that just might get a youngster interested in our hobby – create a stamp hat!

Continued on page 3

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**DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
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**MAY 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!*

# SAFE: Stamp Hats!

Continued from page 1

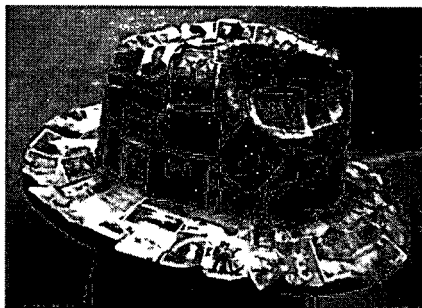
While this project takes several hours to complete, it can be done in stages and only a few items are needed:

- Plastic Hat
- All Purpose Craft Glue
- Damaged Stamps
- Tongs (optional)

To prepare for the project, visit a local party or fabric store and purchase the desired number of hats. I found an all-black hat with a simulation velvet finish for around \$2.00. Don't forget to also pick up some craft glue for attaching the stamps to the hat. (I used Allene's Tacky Glue, but any general purpose craft glue will work.)

Now it's time to move on to the damaged stamps! If you have children working with you, allow them to pick out stamps that they would like to have on their own hat. Or, if the hat is to be a surprise, you can pick stamps that would interest the recipient – stamps depicting

a particular topic, stamps from one country, stamps of all one color – use your imagination! Young children can use their fingers, but older children should



be encourage to use tongs to select their stamps – this will allow them to practice using tongs without risking injury to quality stamps!

Once a number of stamps have been selected (a few hundred stamps are needed to cover an average hat), begin gluing stamps to the hat. (Young children will need assistance with this!) Spread a small amount of glue on the back of a stamp (don't use too much glue or you'll have a mess!), then position it on the hat. Put glue on another stamp, then position the stamp next to the first stamp on the hat. Repeat the process until the hat is covered in stamps. Hint: By carefully selecting stamps of various sizes and shapes, the entire hat can be covered with very few gaps showing. Using a black hat also made gaps less noticeable.

Allow the hat to dry, then wear in pride! My children wore their hats to a local stamp show and became the hit of the show. Dealers knew they were interested in collecting and several gave them free stamps for their collection. Other adults in attendance even wanted their own hat or one for their grandchildren!



## 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

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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.**

# Stamp and Cover Preservation

by Arlene Sullivan

RPSC, BNAPS

wakarchuk@bc.sympatico.ca

(Note: The author has a B.Sc. in biology from Simon Fraser University and recipes listed are proven effective and safe!)

It isn't only the moneyed collector of classic stamps and rare covers that needs to be concerned about the proper handling and storage of his collection. No matter what kind of philatelic material appeals to you, there are a couple of things that you can do to ensure that your stamps, postcards and souvenir sheets will last in good condition for many years.

I found a couple of books (check your local library) that provide good general overviews of how to look after paper artifacts. The first is *An Ounce of Preservation — A Guide to the Care of Papers and Photographs* by Craig A. Tuttle, Rainbow Books, Inc. (ISBN 1-56825-021-5). This paperback is a nice introduction to care and preservation of your paper collectibles, not too technical but a useful overview of topics such as paper, inks, recognizing deterioration, how to store paper, and simple repair techniques.

The second is a much more technical book oriented toward the conservator of books, but it is worth a read particularly for those storing and displaying classic stamps. The information I give below on deacidification of paper comes from this volume. It is *The Practical Guide to Book Repair and Conservation* by Arthur W. Johnson. Published 1988 by Thames and Hudson, London (ISBN 0-500-01454-X). This is a good read for the chapters on Materials, Adhesives, and Chemicals alone.

Information on the chemistry of stamp "oxidation" and its reversal come from an excellent article in the first quarter 1998 issue of *BNA Topics*, the journal of the British North American Philatelic Society. "Rejuvenation of Stamp Colours with Hydrogen Peroxide" written by L. Kruczynski is a very readable report on Mr. Kruczynski's investigations into some of the mechanisms of stamp discoloration and how to reverse them.

## WHEN YOU BUY

### Mould and Mildew

Preservation should start from the moment you inspect potential purchases. Look closely — do you see any signs of staining, mould or water damage? Does the album or cover have a musty or sour smell? Is the paper damp, and is it fragile and easily torn? These are signs that the material may be contaminated with mould or mildew, and while it may be a really good buy, think twice about purchasing; you may be taking home more problems

than the stuff is worth.

The main problem with albums and covers that carry fungal growths of this kind is that even with a good airing, a dry storage area, and careful handling, mould and mildew can spread to uncontaminated material in your collection and under the right circumstances can cause considerable damage. Fungal growth weakens paper, making it fragile and harder to handle, and can cause staining and color changes in stamps and paper. Under conditions of dampness and sluggish air circulation — basement or attic storage, for instance — fungi can spread incredibly quickly and cause the loss of a collection in a matter of weeks. So avoid purchases that show the signs of mould and mildew contamination. If you must buy, make sure that your purchase is given a thorough airing in a dry place, and store it well away from the bulk of your collection. Always wash your hands after handling these kinds of pieces to prevent spread of the fungal spores to uncontaminated material.

### Paper Condition

Especially if you are buying older material, carefully inspect the condition of the paper for pinholes, thin areas, and tears. Take a look at the color of the stamp, too; is it faded or darkened? These are signs of paper deterioration that could have occurred for a number of reasons - usually improper storage. Exposure to sunlight, cigarette smoke, emissions from automobiles or coal plants, and even handling of the stamps with fingertips instead of stamp tongs can cause changes in the paper that weaken the bonds that hold the paper fibres together. Pin holes and tears can then occur with even gentle handling. Exposure to even small amounts of acid from atmospheric pollutants or handling can cause "oxidation" of the stamp ink. Acidic compounds will also cause paper deterioration, so be aware that changes in ink color can mean changes in paper quality, too. Orange inks of the Victorian period seem to be particularly susceptible to this kind of color change — examples of the 3c small Queens of Canada, for example, can be almost black.

### Special Cases

It also pays to know something about the printing and gumming of the stamps you are purchasing. For instance, "Ostropa" souvenir sheets issued in 1935 in Germany (Scott B68) are often found mint without gum. A gummed sheet in this case is not a very good buy as the gum was formulated with sulphuric acid which over the years has caused the paper of gummed sheets to deteriorate. Collectors who knew

Continued on page 6

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# Preservation

Continued from page 4

this soaked the gum off of their copies to preserve the paper, making the mint no gum sheets the preferred collectible. Know your stamps!

## OK, MY STAMPS ARE HOME, NOW WHAT?

There are three simple rules to always remember when working with your collection:

1. Never used your hands to handle your stamps if you can use tongs.
2. Always use storage materials designed for use with philatelic material.
3. Don't smoke, eat, or drink around your stamps, or store them in areas where people are smoking, drinking, or eating.

Why tongs? Your hands may be clean, but even freshly washed hands carry traces of oils and acids given off naturally by your skin. Repeated handling of stamps with your fingers will leave residues on the stamps, and over time these will build up and cause paper deterioration and staining. The gum on mint stamps is also easily disturbed by finger tip pressure. Proper use of tongs prevents paper acidification and can save that valuable mint gum! (This also applies to handling covers. While most modern material is never going to be worth enough to really worry about, old and/or valuable covers should always be handled with cotton gloves to avoid contamination with oils and acids.)

And why not store your stamps in baggies and old vinyl binders? While this may be the cheap way to go, watch out for inappropriate materials that may come into contact with your stamps and covers. The vinyl on binders, for instance, can give off chemicals used in the polymerization process — chemicals that even in small amounts can dissolve some kinds of inks, trash paper, and cause ink and gum transfers to the vinyl surface. A similar problem can arise with photocopied pages that may be in contact with your mounted stamps. Be careful with any kind of plastic or chemically treated material, including paper, that is not sold by a reputable dealer for philatelic purposes; the added expense of purchasing good quality storage bags and pages is very small compared to the loss of your collection by improper storage.

As for the third rule, no, I am not trying to nag you into not enjoying a smoke while you sort those color varieties. Keep in mind, though, that cigarette smoke will discolor and damage paper eventually, and leave a smell that is impossible to get rid of. (Get a non-smoking friend to check your catalogues to see what I mean.) Try to limit exposing your collection to cigarette smoke and to any other kind of

atmospheric pollutant such as car exhaust, coal plant emissions, and industrial effluent. Not easy, I know, but even keeping windows closed (or open) can help. Regular airing of your albums will also help to preserve them. Avoid eating or drinking around your stamps, too. Grease spots and pop stains are not only unsightly, they also attract insects that can destroy an album in a surprisingly short time. Spilled coffee can also turn those expensive mint unhinged stamps into landfill in only a few seconds of inattention. Better to keep the food and drink in the kitchen.

## STORING YOUR COLLECTION

The enemy of stored collections is water in the atmosphere — either too much or too little. Depending on the kind of climate you live in, you may need to either increase or decrease humidity in the room where you store your collection. Generally homes in temperate climates that use central heating provide good conditions for storing stamps. If you are comfortable, your stamps probably are too. It may be worth investing in air conditioning, a humidifier, or a de-humidifier if your budget warrants to maintain a suitable environment in your home. Be especially careful if you are storing your stamps in a basement or shed, or in an attic. If there is any hint of dampness, or if the temperature is high, move your collection to another space. Make sure your family is aware of this, too; I would guess more collections have been destroyed by inappropriate storage than by any other cause. Take the time to go through your albums and boxes once every few months even if you are not currently using them. This allows the stamps to air, and gives you the chance to inspect them for any problems that may be developing.

## FIRST AID

The following "recipes" are supplied for use in arresting or reversing some common problems that may arise with stamps or covers in your collection. NOTE WELL: If you are not willing to lose the stamp or cover, DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH IT! IF WHAT YOU HAVE IS PRECIOUS OR VALUABLE, PLEASE LOOK INTO PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATION.

I would tend to try and preserve only those covers and philatelic items that will die an imminent death anyway. The German "Ostropa" sheet cited above is a case in point; the gum is so acidic on these that if they haven't rotted away already, they are darn close. These recipes are all water based and non-toxic, but please observe some basic precautions. If you have the faintest doubt that anything on the cover or stamp may run in aqueous solutions (water), leave them alone! Ink can be tricky, as can cancellations. Watch also for wax seals and other attachments, as these too can come loose with handling combined with just

Continued on page 8



# Whatzit?

by John D. Pruitt (#121)

**W**hat a boon to collectors has been the Universal Postal Union's 1966 rule that all member countries must put their name in Roman letters on every stamp. Before that many countries used only their own language and characters.

We knew Iran as Persia until 1935, when the Shah asked the world to start calling it Iran. This was not a true name change as the people of the country had long called it Iran, with Persia being only a province. That year stamps that said "Postes Persanes" were overprinted "Postes Iraniennes." Those words were on their stamps until the World War II era, when they were removed, probably for political reasons, and the country name appeared only in Farsi.

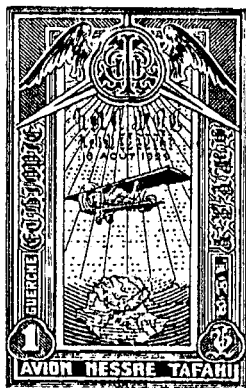


Iran #1100

After the war "Iran" was inscribed on all stamps (so far as I can tell) except the item pictured (Scott #1100), which for some reason does not bear any Roman letters except for the "R" of the currency (rials). This stamp shows a radio transmitter in the center, flanked by a modern house on the left and an old one on the right. It celebrated the 30th anniversary of radio in Iran. After the Shah was overthrown, the stamps began to bear the name of "The Islamic Republic of Iran" or simply "I.R. Iran."

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Sometimes the name in Roman letters is almost indecipherable, as in the case of Ethiopia #C11. You wouldn't see the country name at a glance, but it appears on the left after "Guerche" (their currency) written "Ethiopie" in all capitals using an ancient highly-decorated Roman script.



Ethiopia #C11

The stamp, according to Scott, shows "Symbols of Empire, Airplane and Map." The previous airmails commemorated the arrival of the government's first airplane on August 17, 1929. C11, issued in 1931, bears the date of August 18, 1929, one day later. Possibly this is the date the first airmail was flown. I had trouble with the inscription at the bottom. "Avion" of course is the French

word for airplane. "Tafari" was an earlier name of Emperor Haile Selassie. But I could not identify "nessre."

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Interestingly some countries do not follow the UPU rule to have their names on the stamps in Roman characters. The British, proud of the fact that they inaugurated prepaid adhesive postage stamps, have never put their name on a stamp, but the likeness of the monarch always appears. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had "K.S.A." on its stamps until 1982 when it was replaced by the Saudi emblem, a palm tree above crossed swords. Perhaps readers can come up with other examples.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

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# Where the Heck is Calf of Man

by William Silvester (#1058)  
ISWSC Canadian Regional Secretary

Every worldwide stamp collector comes across stamps of dubious origin in the course of their collecting. "Where the heck is that?" they wonder as they flip through their catalogue in search of the name and find no listing. These stamps, have a variety of designations, some find them intriguing and include them in their collection, others consider them fit only to line the bottom of their waste basket. Cinderellas, fantasy labels, local stamps, call them what you will they are an interesting sideline to world wide collecting. Whether or not they have a place in your collection is up to you, this column serves merely to provide more information so you can decide for yourself.

Off the south-west coast of Isle of Man in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland lies the tiny island called Calf of Man. The name Calf is derived from the Scandinavian word Kalfr, meaning a small island near a larger one. Slightly less than a square mile in area the island is a Manx National Trust bird sanctuary having been presented by the previous owner to the National Trust in 1939. In 1776 the owner, John Quayle, had stocked the isle with deer and other game to provide himself and his friends with targets for hunting. Today, its only inhabitants are birds and during the summer, nature wardens. Visitors are welcome any time of year except during nesting season.

Local stamps were issued between 1962 and 1973 to pay for the carrying of mail from the island to Port

St. Mary on the other side of a turbulent half mile strait called Calf Sound. Stamps of Great Britain were then affixed at the post office for forwarding to their destination. Many of these are readily available on cover with a cancel specifically designed for the stamps.

Most of the stamps were priced in "Murreys" with 24 Murreys equaling one shilling. The only exceptions were the stamps issued in 1971 that were denominated in pounds and pence. By the standards of most local posts, the issues from Calf of Man were moderate until 1972 when a virtual flood of stamps and souvenir sheets (over 100 in all) appeared over a 15 month period. It is almost as if the issuer wanted to

get as many stamps out as possible before he was told in stop. In fact, on March 31, 1973 the newly created Isle of Man Postal Authority prohibited the issuing of Calf of Man stamps and in July began issuing there own Isle of

Man stamps.

A total of 252 stamps were issued between September 1962 and March 1973. Including varieties and miniature sheets the number climbs to 376. The stamps were issued both rouletted and imperforate and came in a wide variety of designs. The first stamps showed the Manx coat of arms and from there ran a gambit of birds, maps, Churchill and Kennedy tributes, Manx Museum paintings, ships, scouts, flowers and Olympic games. As well as original issues there were numerous overprints and colour varieties.



## Preservation

Continued from page 6

a little moisture. When mixing and handling solutions, don't use kitchen utensils, as they may have traces of food or grease on them - invest in a few new, clean, spoons, containers and sprayers. Use distilled water; tap water may contain minerals or salts that will react with your cover or stamp. Use fresh solutions, too, as old solutions may not work (especially hydrogen peroxide). Spray solutions outdoors, or at least in a well ventilated area, and don't breath the spray in. And last, but very important, make sure your cover or stamp is dry before storing.

Checking Paper for Acidity

Determining the acidity of paper can be roughly tested by using bromocresol green, an indicator dye. Touched to the paper, the dye remains green if the paper is neutral, yellow if acidic, and blue if alkaline. This dye is in bottles or felt tipped pens through scientific or archival supply houses. Be careful, as this will stain.

### Deacidification of Paper

The chemicals used in these methods are relatively harmless (they are closely related to baking soda, and the active ingredients in proprietary antacids!) but as in anything be careful with the solutions, test them on something you don't want first, and make sure you follow the recipe. I imagine that a pharmacist or archival supply house might be

Continued on page 11



# 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.*

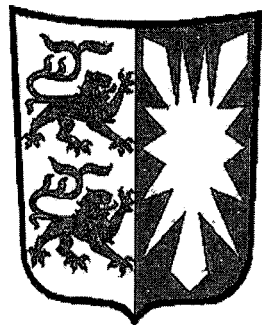
**Continued from March/April 2004 Issue**

In 1867 both Schleswig and Holstein were annexed to Prussia and became part of the North-German Confederation. Stamps of the North German Confederation were used in Schleswig-Holstein until 1871, when the German Empire was founded and a new postal administration was adopted.

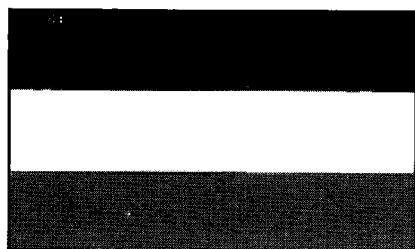


*4 Shilling stamp of Schleswig-Holstein issued in 1864*

Through WWI Denmark had remained neutral and was in a favorable position in the eyes of the Allies. Denmark pressed for the return of Schleswig and the Allies were partially receptive. A plebiscite was put forth in Schleswig to determine if the inhabitants would support a return to Denmark. Under the Treaty of Versailles the territory was divided into two zones: Zone 1 being the northern third, which was predominantly Danish, and Zone 2 being the southern two thirds, which was predominantly German. Stamps were issued for use in both regions on January 25, 1920 and would remain for sale until the plebiscite was determined.



That March 14th, the plebiscite was held; voters in Zone 1 elected for the return



*The flag and coat of Arms of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein*



*Stamps of Schleswig issued during the plebiscite period of 1920. Note the Zone 1 overprint for the northern zone.*

to Denmark whereas voters in Zone 2 choose to remain German. (If the votes had been tallied together Schleswig would have most certainly remained German.)

On July 9th, 1920 Zone 1 was fully incorporated into Denmark and Schleswig stamps were withdrawn from sale. Zone 2 was united with Holstein to form the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. The border between the two nations runs from the Flensburg Fjord west to the North Sea, just north of the island of Sylt.



*A stamp issued by the plebiscite region of Schleswig in 1920.*



*A two Mark stamp of Schleswig issued in 1920.*



*Map of Schleswig-Holstein.*

# Membership Update

## New Members

**#2423 Sara Lopez** (Exp 3/31/2007)

18009 Valencia Ave

Fontana, CA 92335-4139

*shaparra2002@yahoo.com*

A,F,Beg(1),CC,1,7(Mex,El Sal),8,10(1978 birth year),L(Sp)

**#2424 Steve Lajoie** (Exp 3/31/2005)

Claremont, Rosaire Ave

St Peter Port

Guernsey GY1 1XU

GREAT BRITAIN

**#2425-AM Richard T. Barnes** (Exp 3/31/2005)

11715 123 St

Edmonton, AB T5M 0G8

CANADA

*barnes@interbank.com*

A,F,Int(25),DD,2/4/5/8(Can,M East,N Afr),  
10(revenues,cinderellas)

**#2426 Dennis Sheridan** (Exp 3/31/2007)

602 Ash Ave

Tillamook, OR 97141-3663

*orred98@earthlink.net*

## Reinstated (formerly dropped)

**#1783 Norbert Hartig** (Exp 3/31/2005)

5483 Wildwood

Cres Delta, BC V4M 3S9

CANADA

*norbert@dccnet.com*

## Temporarily Away, Contact HQ

*None*

## Address Changes/Corrections

*None*

## Returned Mail - Unknown Address

*None*

## New/Changed Email Addresses

**#524 Hendriks** *t.hendriks15@chello.nl*

**#2380 Balander** *jbstamps@austin.rr.com*

## Bad email addresses/Returned emails

(email right one to Tom Fortunato:

*stampmf@frontiernet.net*)

*None*

## Resigned

**#751 Makarewicz** too few trader acceptances

**#1438 Zelenitz** no reason given

**#1464 Champaign** no reason given

**#2383 Hartwell** no reason given

## We Need Your ZIP+4 Number:

*None*

## Dropped - Dues Expired in January

**#15 Jenkins**

**#54 Cordrey**

**#68 Jones**

**#308 Foley**

**#830 Vihanto**

**#972 O'Hara**

**#1021 Topper**

**#1056 Easton**

**#1474 Mottola**

**#1505 Andrade**

**#1626 Ferry**

**#1645 Drake**

**#1888 Hammarkund**

**#2217 Almerinii**

**#2226 Derks**

**#2295 Lemmerman**

**#2297 Renn**

**#2301 Legere**

**#2376 Berg**

**#2377 Snider**

**#2378 Larson**

## 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,

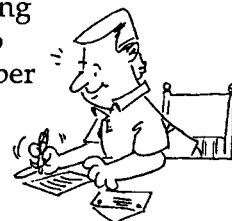
Rochester, NY 14615-2022

USA

Email: *stampmf@frontiernet.net*

## Articles Needed

**W**e 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. Be sure to include your name and member number when sub-mitting material for publication. Contact the editor at the address listed on page 2.



# Preservation

Continued from page 8

able to give you a supplier for these chemicals. If you can't find these chemicals, I see no reason why plain old baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) would not be a good substitute.

Recipe 1 - Make up a 0.12 percent solution of calcium bicarbonate in distilled water. Soak the sheet in the solution for half an hour, then remove, blot off excess solution, and dry between pressing boards. This process neutralizes the acid content and leaves and alkaline residue as a buffer against further contamination.

Recipe 2 - Make up a 10 g per litre solution of magnesium bicarbonate and use an atomizer bottle (spray bottle) to spray a fine mist of solution onto the paper. Do this in open air or a well-ventilated area. This method is preferred for fragile items that may not take much handling.

## Reversing "Oxidation" on Stamps

A gentle bath in a two to three percent hydrogen peroxide solution will restore the color in stamps that

have lead based inks that have darkened due to exposure to trace amounts of acid. If the color does not change after a half an hour or so, "oxidation" is not the culprit. This treatment works for restoring color to the 3c small Queens of Canada. By a different chemical mechanism it will also restore the color of the "muddy waters" variety of the Canadian 1898 Map Stamp. Research the stamp pigment before using hydrogen peroxide, as vegetable based dyes used in later years may be irreversibly bleached by this treatment.

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

They may be "just stamps", but even the most basic collection is worth handling properly. I hope these tips and recipes help you keep your collection in good condition. Remember, years from now a novice collector will appreciate a well preserved copy of even a common stamp. Good handling and storage techniques now will ensure a supply of quality stamps for the future.

*This article and others related to our hobby can be found at the Chapter Activities Committee of the APS website: [www.stamps.org/cac/index.htm](http://www.stamps.org/cac/index.htm)*

# Ad Cover Collecting

by Jeff Schumer (#2101)

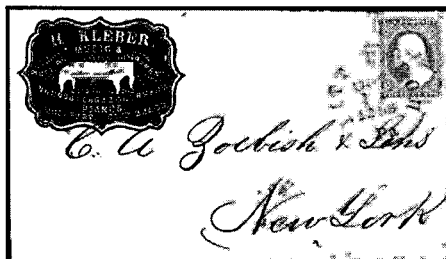
I've collected stamps since my childhood, and have enjoyed accumulating a wide range of stamps. As a teenager, though, I found a special interest - pre-1900 US advertising covers. The beauty for me is that a cover will have not only a stamp, but the advertising graphics, unique handwriting, the cancellation, various markings, and enclosures. Enclosures may include letters, invoices, circulars, etc. In other words, I got a lot of "bang" for my collecting "buck".

Keep in mind that early (pre-1900) ad covers were to some extent the radio and television of their day, an opportunity for businesses to make an impression. Therefore, many are quite beautiful, or have unique graphics or marketing approaches.



Of course thousands of such covers are extant, so it's best to have a specialty. As an active musician, I've found music-related covers most appealing. Further, by concentrating on music-related covers, I am able to follow the instrument manufacturers, retailers, and musicians of the past to better understand the history of the business of music. I see how a piano retailer moved up the street, a manufacturer

opened a new office, and how the style of pianos, organs, or trumpets changed. It's interesting to note that a piano during the 1880s might cost \$250, and violin strings were 7 for a dollar. It's fascinating to read a letter from a recent immigrant complaining about how hard it is to find students and asking "where's the Tannhauser and Lohengrin — too much Italian opera!"



## 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).

**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]

**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 May 20, 2004.

## Call for Nominations

**I**n accordance with our bylaws, it is time to call for nominations for our two at-large Board of Director positions! The principle duty of the at-large directors is to participate in the Board meetings (held via e-mail on a quarterly basis) by providing input to issues facing the ISWSC, setting policies, directing future activities of the ISWSC, etc. If needed, directors may also be asked to take on additional responsibilities (i.e. a specific project). All members of the ISWSC are eligible to serve on the Board.

Elections for these two-year positions will be held in November 2004, with both positions starting in January 2005. To express your interest (or to obtain more information), please contact Randy Smith (#1111), ISWSC President, or Tony Zollo (#856), ISWSC Executive Director. Nominations must be received by September 1, 2004.



## Election Chair Sought

**A**n Election Chair is needed for the ISWSC elections which will be held in November 2004. The duties of this person will be to receive written ballots by mail, tally the votes for each candidate and/or question on the ballot, and mail the ballots and final results to the ISWSC Secretary for verification. The name and postal address of the Election Chair will be printed on each ballot (postcard). No computer experience or access is required, however both may be helpful to record ballots, communicate with the ISWSC Board, etc. The person serving as Election Chair cannot be a candidate for office during this election.

If you would be interested in serving in this position, please contact Randy Smith (#1111), President of the ISWSC.



## 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  
1035 4th Ave. SE, 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.