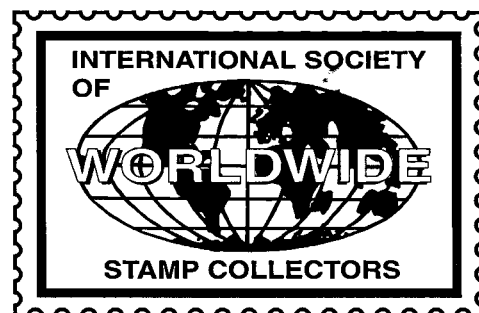


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# The Circuit



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

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

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## President's Column

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)  
ISWSC President

Aside from Washington 2006, the summer has been a quiet time for the ISWSC. We are really pleased with all the new members that have joined. We welcome you all and encourage you to participate in the various activities we have to offer.

Thanks to all the members who have been talking about us, handing out brochures and otherwise publicizing our existence. It is paying off. If anyone would like membership brochures to take to their local show or clubs, we can send them to you as an email file or already printed. But brochures left on a table don't get many members. Personal contacts do.

For those of you that participate in the Exchange and Sales Circuits, please be sure to wrap your parcels securely, use heavy Kraft envelopes and put the booklets in a plastic bag — the ones that you get at the grocery store produce department work fine. It is preferable to take your envelopes to the post office to mail but please, use stamps, not a meter!

We had a mailing get "eaten" in a mail sorting

machine and many of the stamps inside were damaged. I'm not sure this can be prevented, but had the booklets inside been wrapped in a plastic bag, they may have avoided some of the damage.

The Sales Circuit is back up and running with John Baumert as manager. Thanks to John for taking this on and thanks to Jim Gaul for the years that he ran the circuit. You can contact John for sales booklets or to receive Sales Circuits.

Today (July 23rd) the thermometer hit 111 degrees here in Sacramento. That makes it a perfect day to stay inside and work on stamps. By the time you read this, hopefully the weather will be cooler. I'm off to Ireland this week. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.



### Candidates Needed!

See page 11 for more information.

## Washington 2006

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)  
ISWSC President

Wow! What a show! Washington 2006 is over and done and it was a marvelous experience. The exhibits showcased the best that philately has to offer and it will be a long time before such an amazing and expensive bunch of stamps is all in one room again.

We signed up about a dozen new members and I hope to see many more from the brochures we handed out and the people we talked to. There really

are a lot of worldwide collectors out there and I hope we impressed some of them enough to join us.

Thanks to John Seidl, Duncan Koller and Terry Myers for taking some time in the booth. I enjoyed talking to people about their collections and about how ISWSC could help them expand their inventory and rid them of unneeded duplicates. I was delighted to meet many of our members and former members. Several former members rejoined on the spot.

I spent about two hours looking at the collections

Continued on page 3

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**DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
NEXT  
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*Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit.  
If you have any questions about your Circuit mail service,  
please contact Terry Myers. Thank you!*

# ISWSC Meets at Washington 2006

by Duane N. Morrison (#2496)

**W**orldwidewiders saved the best for last at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. Saturday, June 3rd, found seven ISWSC members in room 158B for an hour long open forum to discuss their favorite topic: collecting with a unique obsession for everything from everywhere.

Mr. Duncan Koller hosted the meeting at the Washington Convention Center on the last day of the Exhibition. Discussions included how to organize a WW collection, hinges on the market today, albums and album pages, how to find stamp traders, and the quality of stamps in the swap circuits.

Mr. Koller made a pitch for recruiting new members and handed out membership applications to all in attendance.

The following members were in attendance:

Bob Armstrong (#1393)  
Virginia Randolph (#116)  
Duane Morrison (#2496)  
Duncan Koller (#2154)  
Richard Simpson (#1703)  
Jeffrey Hayward (new)  
Tadas Osmockis (new)



## Washington 2006

Continued from page 1

of Varro Tyler, which were being auctioned off in 61 lots. His meticulously annotated forgery collection is a true jewel and this was certainly reflected in the bids, which were two to three times the estimated value in the auction catalog.

The dealers' booths were mobbed, especially the first days of the show. I heard talk that opening day saw up to 10,000 attendees. The line for the U.S. Postal Service often stretched over a block long and on the day that the duck stamp was released, that line was probably two blocks long. The sheet sold out by 1:30pm and by 2:00pm, there were buy signs in the dealer booths offering over \$100 for a sheet!

The next international show will be in New York in 2016, so mark your calendars and maybe we'll see you there.



## Dues/Advertising Policy

### Dues Information:

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

\*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for up to three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, 9463 Benbrook Blvd. #114, Benbrook, TX 76126, USA.

### 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.**

# USS Constitution (Old Ironsides)

by Roger Boneham, PhD (#436)

The 1947 USS Constitution stamp (Scott 951) commemorates the 150th anniversary of the ship's launching (Figure 1). For the next four years, she patrolled the western Caribbean and southern coastline of the U.S. In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson sent a squadron of naval vessels lead by the USS Constitution to patrol the north African coastline, known as the Barbary Coast. This was in response to pirates having captured more than a dozen American merchant ships and demanding ransom for more than 100 crew members.

For the next few years there was little pirate activity, but the question of tribute was not resolved. In 1805, a small force of marines went ashore at Alexandria, Egypt, and recruited a number of Arab horsemen and mercenaries as a land force to march against Tripoli, in modern Libya, one of the main ports of the Barbary pirates.

The marines led this small band across 500 miles of desert to the port town of Derna near Tripoli, where they won a bloody battle aided by the guns of the USS Constitution and two other warships from the Mediterranean squadron. The ruler of Tripoli then signed a peace treaty on board the Constitution, the first treaty ever signed on a US warship. It is for this victory at Derna that the Marine Corps were allowed to put *To the Shores of Tripoli* on their flag. The phrase was later incorporated into the *Marines' Hymn*.

The Constitution next saw action after the United States declared war on Great Britain in June 1812. Captain Isaac Hull sailed the USS Constitution out

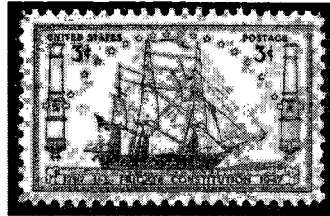


Fig. 1: U.S. Scott # 951. Naval Architect's drawing of the ship.

of Boston harbor on August 2, 1812, north into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the main entrance into Canada for British ships. On August 16th he sighted a British frigate, HMS Guerriere, off the coast of Newfoundland. Both ships began firing at around 5 pm. During the battle some of the Guerriere's cannon balls bounced off the sides of the Constitution and a crew member shouted "the ship has sides of iron." Within two hours the Constitution had shot away all three of the Guerriere's masts. At this point the British ship surrendered and the Constitution had a nickname as "Old Ironsides" (Figure 2).

## OLD IRONSIDES

Ay, tear her tattered ensign down!  
Long has it waved on high,  
And many an eye has danced to see  
That banner in the sky;  
Beneath it rung the battle shout,  
And burst the cannon's roar;—  
The meteor of the ocean air  
Shall sweep the clouds no more.  
Her deck, once red with heroes' blood,  
Where knelt the vanquished foe,  
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,  
And waves were white below,  
No more shall feel the victor's tread,  
Or know the conquered knee;—  
The harpies of the shore shall pluck  
The eagle of the sea!  
Oh, better that her shattered bulk  
Should sink beneath the wave;  
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,  
And there should be her grave;  
Nail to the mast her holy flag,  
Set every threadbare sail,  
And give her to the god of storms,  
The lightning and the gale!

Oliver Wendell Holmes  
September 16, 1830



Fig. 2: Marshall Islands Scott # 642. USS Constitution under full sail.

The Constitution was refitted and Captain William Bainbridge sailed her out of Boston late in October 1812. On the morning of Dec. 29, 1812, off the Brazilian coast, the Constitution sighted the British frigate HMS Java. A battle began around 2 pm. After an intense two hour battle, three of the Java's masts were shot away and the ship surrendered.

In the summer of 1813, the British blockaded Boston Harbor, trapping the Constitution. Finally, on the morning of December 18, 1814, with no British ships in sight the Constitution sailed into the open Atlantic. Two months later, two British ships were sighted near the northwest African coastline. A battle ensued and the Constitution prevailed against both the HMS Cyane, a 34-gun frigate, and the HMS Levant, a 24-gun corvette. This was

the last battle of the USS Constitution.

From 1815 to 1821 she was on patrol duty in the

Continued on next page



Fig. 3: U.S. Scott # 2277. Earth from space.

Atlantic Ocean. In 1821, the Constitution was again designated the flagship of the Mediterranean Squadron, and she patrolled the Barbary coast for another seven years, returning to Boston in 1828. Shortly afterwards, some newspapers reported that the Navy planned to scrap the Constitution. Oliver Wendell Holmes, a 21-year-old student at Harvard, read about

the plan and wrote a poem, *Old Ironsides*, which was published in the paper the next day. Other papers reprinted the poem, and soon most of the nation had read it. Holmes did not plead to save the ship, on the contrary, he said go ahead and destroy this symbol of American independence, asking who needed it to remind us of what freedom has cost us. Oliver Wendell Holmes went on to become a doctor in Boston. His son, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., became a well-known Supreme Court judge.

The poem prompted a public outcry to save her, the Navy rebuilt the Constitution and she returned to active duty. In 1844-46 she made a 30-month voyage around the world

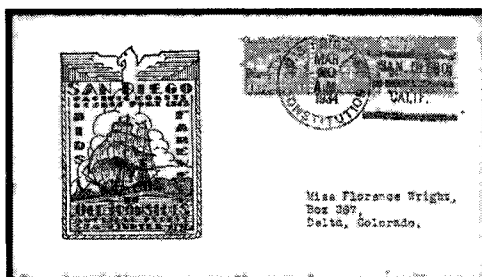


Fig. 4: Cover with cachet from the 1930's tour of the U.S. ports.

(Figure 3). In the 1850's she patrolled the west African coast to stop any slave ships she might encounter. Although slavery was still legal in the United States, our government had agreed with most of the world's governments to stop the export of slaves from Africa. The Navy began replacing wooden ships with iron-clad, steam ships after the Civil War and the Constitution was taken out of active service.

In the early 1920's the Constitution needed a major restoration, so a public fund drive was authorized by Congress by 1929 the fund total was \$148,000. Congress then passed legislation to pay for the rest of the restoration. From 1931-1934 the newly rebuilt USS Constitution toured the three coasts of the US, visiting 76 ports (Figure 4). More than 4.6 million people toured the ship. She returned to her berth on the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts where she remains to this day.

The Constitution is taken out into the Charles River several times a year, turned around and redocked so that both sides of the ship receive equal

## An Offer

by Bill Kiepura (#503)

I love to go through collector-built collections and through the surplus stamps from that collector. You never know what you will find. Most collectors have little research material, so unusual items can be overlooked.

Recently, while going through a lot, I came upon a single stamp from the last issues from the Spanish Philippines with what appeared to be a U.S. military cancel. Later on, I found several more items and was able to build up a block of 4 showing the complete cancel.

This probably has no value to anyone but a Philippines collector, but it is interesting. How did it come about? Hard to say. Probably a collector came on to some "liberated" stamps and had access to the U.S. postal canceller. So to make an item for his collection, he canceled several of the blocks of 4. In time, the blocks were broken up and what you see here is what is left.



I am offering the reassembled block to the club member who brings in the most new members in the next two months. Officers of the club are excluded from this contest. To the person who wins it, enjoy it.

amounts of sunlight. This keeps the paint and rigging from weathering unequally. A lottery is held several times per year, and each winner along with one guest, are allowed onboard for the turnaround. You may apply for a ticket to the random drawing on line at the USS Constitution's website.

You will find more information at two very good websites, [www.ussconstitution.navy.mil](http://www.ussconstitution.navy.mil) and [www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org](http://www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org).

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# Surveying the Classics: Questions of Value

by Sandy R. Stover (#2325)

Continued from the July-August issue of *The Circuit*

## Surveying the Realm of Rarities

**B**efore proceeding to the *total value* question, a brief look at the right side extension of Chart 1 [see July-August 2006 issue of *The Circuit*]. I refer to: (1) *rarities*, valued \$1,000 to 9,999, (2) *super-rarities*, \$10,000 to 99,999, (3) *super-duper rarities*, \$100,000 to 999,999, and (4) *singularity*, \$1,000,000-plus. Again, the estimation is limited to major listings. (Readers can contact me at [kwesters@comcast.net](mailto:kwesters@comcast.net) if they would like an inventory of all major listings valued \$1,000 and over, based on the Scott 2005 edition. Readers interested in a list of worldwide super-rarities, valued \$10,000 and above, but also including minor listings, pictures and auction prices, should check out [www.rarestampexchange.com](http://www.rarestampexchange.com).)

There are an approximate 2,270 classic major listings with one, or both, versions valued at \$1,000 or above. If listings are counted twice when both the unused and used versions meet this \$1,000 standard, the total then goes to approximately 3,040. When this total is distributed over the four rarity ranges and three hypothetical collection types, the result is Table 1.

Some readers may question why there is only a *single* "singularity." It is Mauritius 1847 1p orange, *unused*, \$1,100,000. British Guiana 1856 1c *black/*

*magenta, used*, is not assigned a value in the Scott 2005 edition, although [rarestampexchange.com](http://rarestampexchange.com) lists the catalogue value as \$1,000,000. The 2007 Scott edition will undoubtedly report multiple singularities, given a recent record-setting auction of United States 1867 1c blue Z Grill, *used*, which is currently included in Table 1 as only a super-duper rarity (at \$935,000).

Table 1 reveals that even a Type 3 collection would need 1,085 rarities, each valued somewhere from \$1,000 to \$9,999, in order to contain all major listings valued under \$10,000. In such a realm of rarities, even at this lowest of its four ranges, the average worldwide collector can only do surveys — seldom, if ever, to be an owner. How might the surveyor bring some bit of solace to this moment of obvious philatelic truth?

Consider Table 2. It lists those issuing entities that are *laden* with rarities, but also those which are *barren* of rarities. In this latter group are philatelic regions ripe for completion. The list is, of course, a very rough gauge of complete-ability. An entity issuing large numbers of classic stamps, but without any rarities (Yugoslavia for example), may present a greater completion-challenge than an entity issuing a small number of stamps, even though one or two minor rarities are included (Gilbert and Ellice Islands for example). Still, the sheer size of the rarity-barren group — 141 entities, or almost 40% of the total — might very well inspire a new effort by an old collector.

TABLE 1 – Estimated Number and Percentage of Classic Stamps (Major Listings)  
Valued at \$1,000 and Above, by Value Range and Collection Type

COLLEC- TION TYPE	RANGES WITHIN THE REALM OF RARITIES								TOTAL	
	\$1000 – 9,999 (RARITIES)		\$10,000 – 99,999 (SUPER- RARITIES)		\$100,000 – 999,999 (SUPER- DUPER RARITIES)		\$1,000,000 + (SINGU- LARITY)			
	# STAMPS	% TOTAL*	# STAMPS	% TOTAL*	# STAMPS	% TOTAL*	# STAMPS	% TOTAL*	# STAMPS	% TOTAL*
TYPE 1 (Unused, etc.)	1,801	2.2%	295	.4%	24	—	1	--	2121	2.6%
TYPE 2 (Used, etc.)	1,212	1.5%	190	.2%	18	--	0	--	1420	1.7%
TYPE 3 (Lesser, Unused/ Used)	1,085	1.3%	172	.2%	17	--	0	--	1274	1.5%

\* Percentage of total classic major listings

— Less than .1%

Estimation by enumeration

Source: Scott 2005 *Classic Specialized Catalogue*

## Sobering Numbers

**A**s for the *total value* question: Chart 2 suggests that if I were ever to achieve an entire Type 3 collection of classic major listings, all catalogue valued at less than \$100 per stamp, all meeting the catalogue's standards for stamp *condition* at that level of value, and such collection consisting of approximately 76,000 stamps and reaching to 92% of the entire classic

Cont. on page 9

TABLE 2 – Stamp-Issuing Entities with the Highest Numbers of Classic Major Listings that are Valued at \$1,000 or Above—and—All Entities with No Such Listings

<u>Ten Most Rarity-Laden Entities:</u>	<u>Number of Rarities (All Ranges)*</u>
United States, including Confederate States of America, Canal Zone, Guam and Hawaii	341
Italian States/Italy	103
German States/Germany	85
Great Britain	75
France	57
Mexico	47
Spain	47
Switzerland	45
India/Indian Convention and Native Feudatory States	44
Ceylon	38
(Remaining Number of Rarities, Issued by <u>190</u> Entities)	(1,385)

Rarity-Barren Entities (Total = 141):

Aden	Far Eastern Republic	Moheli	Senegambia & Niger
Aguera, La	Fiume	Mongolia	Serbia
Aitutaki	French Equatorial Africa	Mozambique	Singapore
Alaouites	French Guinea	Mozambique Company	Slovakia
Albania	French India	Nauru	Solomon Islands
Alexandretta	French Oceania	Nepal	Somaliland Protectorate
Algeria	Funchal	Netherlands Antilles	Southern Nigeria
Allenstein	Gambia	New Guinea	Southern Rhodesia
Andorra	Georgia	New Hebrides, British	South Russia
Angola	German New Guinea	New Hebrides, French	Spanish Morocco
Anjouan	Grand Comoro	New Republic	Spanish Sahara
Annam & Tonkin	Greenland	Nicaragua	Surinam
Armenia	Guatemala	Niger	Tanganyika
Azerbaijan	Hatay	Nigeria	Tannu Tuva
Bahrain	Indo-China	Niue	Tete
Barbuda	Inhambane	Northern Nigeria	Thrace
Brunei	Inini	Northern Rhodesia	Tibet
Burma	Ionian Islands	North Ingermanland	Timor
Cape Juby	Iraq	Nyassa	Tonga
Cape Verde	Italian Colonies	Oltre Giuba	Transcaucasian
Castellorizo	Italian East Africa	Papua New Guinea	Federated Republics
Central Lithuania	Jamaica	Penrhyn Island	Trinidad & Tobago
Chad	Karelia	Pitcairn Island	Tristan Da Cunha
Cochin China	Kionga	Portuguese Africa	Tunisia
Cook Islands	Kuwait	Portuguese Congo	Turks & Caicos Islands
Corfu	Latakia	Quelimane	Ubangi-Shari
Dahomey	Latvia	Rio de Oro	Ukraine
Dalmatia	Lebanon	Rouad, Ile	Upper Senegal & Niger
Danish West Indies	Leeward Islands	Ruanda-Urundi	Upper Silesia
Eastern Rumelia	Lithuania	Ste.-Marie de	Upper Volta
Eastern Silesia	Lourenco Marques	Madagascar	Vatican City
Ecuador	Maldiv Islands	St. Thomas &	Wallis & Futuna Islands
Elobey, Annobon & Corisco	Manchukuo	Prince Islands	Yemen
Epirus	Marshall Islands	Salvador, El	Yugoslavia
Estonia	Mauritania	Sarawak	
Ethiopia	Mayotte	Saseno	
	Middle Congo	Schleswig	

\* Listings with both versions valued at \$1,000 or above are counted only once.

Estimation by enumeration

Source: Scott 2005 *Classic Specialized Catalogue*



# Stories Behind Stamps: *Marquis de Pombal*

by William Silvester (# 1058)

In 1925, Portugal and ten of her colonies issued sets of postal tax stamps to raise money to pay for a Pombal monument. Who was this Marquis de Pombal that he deserved such a consideration?

On May 13, 1699, a country squire, Manuel de Carvalho e Ataíde and his wife Theresa de Mendonça e Melo presented the world with Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon. He was raised in the fashion of the times and later attended the University of Coimbra and did a short stint in the army. He married Theresa de Mendonça e Almada against her family's wishes and sent to live on his estates in Pombal when his in-laws made their lives unbearable. His wife died in 1737.



Angola (RA1)  
Marquis de  
Pombal.

In 1738, Sebastião de Melo was appointed Ambassador to London and in 1745 was given diplomatic duties in Vienna. A favorite of Maria Anna of Austria, consort queen of Portugal, he soon found himself married to the daughter of the Austrian Field Marshal Daun. He returned to Portugal in 1749 and following the death of King John V, who was not fond of him, and the coronation of Joseph I, who was fond of him, he was

appointed minister of foreign affairs.

His rise to power was very rapid and by 1755 Sebastião de Melo was prime minister of Portugal. His rule of strict and fair, imposed upon all classes whether rich or poor. He successfully implemented English economic measures in Portugal, abolished slavery in the colonies of Portuguese India, ended discrimination between various Christian sects, restructured the country's tax system and reorganized the armed forces. Such sweeping changes soon won him a number of enemies, especially amongst the nobility who regarded him as an upstart.

The incident for which he is best known to philatelists occurred on November 1, 1755. A disastrous earthquake, estimated at 9 on the Richter scale, struck Lisbon. The city was razed to the ground and 90,000 people killed from a population of 275,000. A tsunami followed and fires burned for five days destroying 85 percent of the capital. Sebastião de Melo and the royal family were out of the city at the time and though damage was widespread along the Portuguese coast they escaped

injury.

De Melo swiftly took control of the situation. "What now?" he was asked. "We bury the dead and take care of the living," he replied. His first actions were to put out the fires and bury the corpses. This latter action saved the city from the epidemic that usually followed disasters in those times. Within a year reconstruction was well under way. Downtown Lisbon was specially designed by architects and some of the first earthquake resistant buildings in the world were constructed there. To test the new concepts, models were built and troops marched around them to simulate earthquakes.

Sebastião de Melo's power increased after the earthquake to almost dictatorial proportions. His unpopularity with the nobility increased reaching a climax in 1758 when an attempt was made on the life of the king. De Melo's reaction was swift and terrible. The Duke of Aveiro and the Tavora family were accused of attempted regicide and executed. Jesuits had their assets confiscated and were expelled from Portugal. Every person involved in the conspiracy was prosecuted. His swift actions crushed all opposition and his grateful king named him Count of Oeiras in 1759.

For the rest of his reign, Sebastião de Melo was without opposition. He was created Marquis de Pombal in 1770 and continued to rule Portugal until the death of Joseph I in 1779. His fortunes changed abruptly then for the new ruler, Queen Maria I, who had never forgiven him for his destruction of the Tavora family, withdrew him from political office. Her hatred of him was so intense that she would have tantrums at the mention of his name. She even issued a restraining order against him that did not permit him within 20 miles of her royal presence.

Despite suffering royal disfavor, the Marquis de Pombal died peacefully on his estate in May 1782 at the age of 83. He is regarded as one of Portugal's greatest statesmen and in 1925 efforts began to raise funds to erect a statue to him.

Portugal and ten of her colonies issued postal tax stamps at 15 centavos each which were obligatory on mail on specified days of the year. Three common designs were released both as postal tax stamps and postal tax due stamps. The latter were inscribed "Multas." A total of 66 stamps were issued.



Angola (RA2)  
planning the  
reconstruction  
of Lisbon.



Angola (RA3)  
Pombal  
Monument – it  
stands today in  
Marquis de  
Pombal Square  
in downtown  
Lisbon.



# Surveying the Classics

Continued from page 6

production, it would have a total *catalogue* value of approximately \$540,000. It is impossible to translate that number into *cost* without setting off an endless collector debate, but anything over \$100,000 — as surely the cost would be — is still sobering indeed. (At auction, such a collection would no doubt sell for far less than \$100,000. But accumulated over time, its cost would certainly rise above that amount.)

Thus: *The Dilemma of the Worldwide Classic Collector!* Certainly I should switch my collection strategy from a limit of \$100 (catalogue value) per stamp to a limit of \$10 per stamp. Reaching 77% of the classic production seems improbable enough—at a total value of approximately \$112,000. Besides, apart from questions of money, who has the *time* to album-arrange even 63,000 stamps? Still, reducing one's goals — from a "Level 3" to a "Level 2" collection — is not without its tinge of regret. (Notice that in Chart 2 each "level" of collection-completion has been assigned a number, from one to eight.) Purchasing only lower priced stamps, moreover, is not well suited to my earlier inspiration toward the completion of rarity-barren entities. Nor could I likely resist the filling of empty spaces with an occasional \$10-plus APS sales circuit item. What to do?

My own modest goals and dilemma aside, what

gives genuine pause for reflection is the "comparison of halves" that is implicit in Chart 2. Recall that for a Type 3 collection, 50% of that collection (approximately 41,000 stamps) catalogue at less than \$1.50 per stamp. Total catalogue value for such a collection is approximately \$20,000. The *other* half — at \$1.50 and above — is valued at over \$14.5 million. The lower half has less than 1/5 of one percent of the value of the upper half!

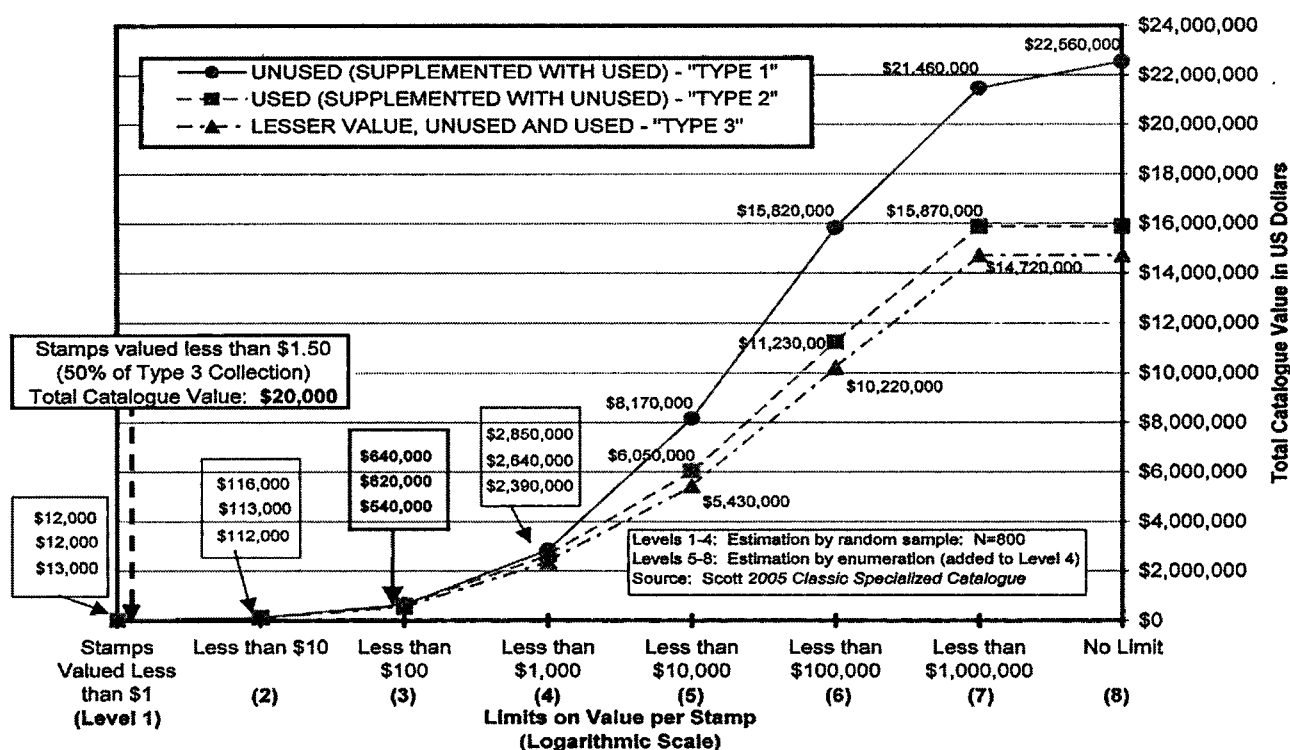
## Final Question

I leave the reader with one question: What is the highest level of "completion" achieved in any currently existing single collection? (Obviously, real collections are not formed according to hypothetical types. Achievement of a particular level of completion simply means that the collection has all of the stamps represented by a hypothetical Type 3 collection for that level, even though some stamps may be the version of greater, rather than lesser, value.)

It is certain that there is *no* existing single collection at either Level 7 or Level 8. It also seems certain that there *are* collections at Level 4 — perhaps owned by readers of this article. I go out on a philatelic limb with two guesses: that Level 5 collections *do* exist, while Level 6 collections *do not*. What does the reader think?



CHART 2 - Estimated Total Catalogue Values of Complete Collections of Classic Stamps (Major Listings) at Various Limits on Catalogue Value per Stamp, by Collection Type



# Whatzit?

by Richard Barnes (# 2425)  
Whatzit? Coordinator

I received a stamp (fig 1) asking if I could find out what this stamp is. Long before I was interested in stamps I was a military history buff.

In my opinion the most dynamic and important period of the 20th century was the decade following WW I. This time included the period of the Bolshevik expansion. The Russian communists, by 1920 were fighting to reoccupy the Russian Empire and trying to follow the old established Imperial dreams of greater expansion.

As part of this dream the Russian Bolsheviks fomented a separatist rebellion in northern Persian (now Iran) province of Gilan and Mazandaran. This revolt was lead by Mirza Kuchik Khan. The rebels succeeded in taking the city of Rasht (Recht) which they used as their headquarters.

No two sources can agree in the details of this revolution. The poor communications within Persia and being a back water of world kept this local conflict out of world news. This is a classic case of the writer making the history. There is not even agreement about when the revolt started and ended. Most sources have this revolt starting in 1920. Philatelic evidence definitely has the rebels occupying Rasht in 1921. The Imperial Persian forces under Reza Khan (later Reza Shah Paahiavi I) retook Rasht in October 1921. The end of the revolt and the "romantic" death of Mirza freezing in the Masouleh mountains may have been as late as 1922.

Initially the new government put a hand stamp on captured stamps (fig 2) interpreted as "the mail of the Government of the Soviet Republic of Iran dated 1299).

Unfortunately I have not yet seen one of these overprinted stamps. In 1921 a 5 stamp set was issued: 3s light brown and yellow, 6s blue and yellow, 9s green and ochre, 12s blue and yellow and 24s brown and light brown. All stamps have the same figure holding a red flag.

These stamps are either rough perforated about 11 or imperforated. This set of stamps either commemorates the rebels linking with the Red Army



Fig. 1

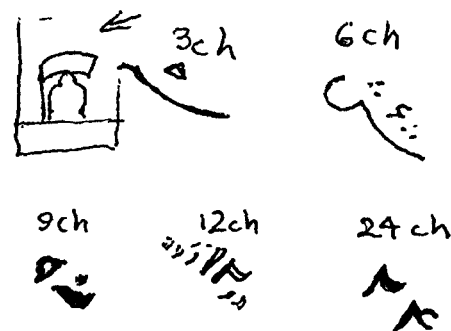
"پست دولت جمهوری شوروی ایران"

Fig. 2

or portraits the ancient blacksmith Kaveh holding a Communist flag. You have to choose which source you like. I have copies of these stamps that vary in size. I do not know if this is a factor of

inking or there is yet another problem with modern forgeries of classic Iranian stamps. If any member has more information would he please share it with us.

For a Occidental like myself determining the values of these stamps can prove difficult. The numbers are written out in the upper right hand of the stamps. Mr. Miller helpfully provided a sketch of the numbers ( fig 3).



1920-1 Gilan Rebellion Issue

Fig. 3

\*\*\*\*\*

Fellow members are requesting your assistance to identify the following stamps. The Dewas State, one Anna stamp (fig 4) is a brown purple stamp. Dewas (Madhya Pradesh) is a city and district in north-eastern India. Is it a revenue? How many in the stamp set? Any further information?

Another unknown; China stamp (fig 5) has been submitted for assistance.



Fig. 4

We cannot identify the overprint on this Scott #498, A62. This orange and red label (fig 6) was found in a Mexican stamp collection. The right-hand side reads " F O U N D A T E U R D E S M I S S I O N N A I B E S O B L A S T S D E M I ". The internet says that Eugene de Mazenod was Bishop of Marseilles. Pope John Paul 11 canonized him on 12/3/95. There is a statue of him

at the Blesses Sacrament Chaplain at the Oblate - owned by Loures Grotto of the Southwest in San Antonio, Texas. Is this an American Label? Mexican?



Fig. 5

Continued on page 11

# 390 Worldwide Collectors

by John Rose

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Over the Memorial Day weekend the Pittsburgh Folk Festival had its 50th anniversary. Ethnic foods, costumes, customs and dancing continued for three days, and for the fifth year worldwide stamp collecting was part of the activities.

Before opening to the general public, the Festival offered "a trip around the world" to busloads of almost a thousand students. Part of the Friday morning program gave students choices among half a dozen cultural activities. 180 students chose to make a Festival souvenir by hinging stamps from 16 featured countries onto a newly designed card. The back of their card listed the 193 counties of the world, including newly separated Montenegro and Serbia.

Friday afternoon the Festival opened to the general public with an area for worldwide postage stamps. Volunteers passed out hinges, thousands of stamps on plastic plates and an album designed for the Festival,

Continued on page 12

## Whatzit

Continued from page 10

Who? Why was this label issued?

The last two Whatzit columns did not result in any member scending a informational response to the unknown stamps. This column is built upon member participation. I need suggestions, comments, something to get member participation. Without member input this column can not function. We need your input. Share your knowledge and experience.



Fig. 6

\*\*\*\*\*

Richard T. Barnes

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CANADA

Or via e-mail at [barnes@interbaun.com](mailto:barnes@interbaun.com)



## Candidates Needed!

In the next issue, elections will be held for two Director At-Large positions on the ISWSC Board of Directors, for two-year terms beginning January 2007. The positions are open to any ISWSC member in good standing.

For more information or to nominate someone (even yourself!), please contact Joanne Berkowitz or Randy Smith. (See page 2 for contact information.) Candidates will be asked to submit a short biography for publication in the next issue. Act today!

## Membership Update

### New Members

#### #2505 Pedro Viera Hernandez

P. O. Box 2315

C.P. 10020

Havana 2

CUBA

Interests: B(2000-2006),C,Adv(25),DD, Western Europe, fauna, trains

#### #2506 Richard/June Carter

46 Orleans Road

Valley Stream, NY 11581-3420

USA

[NYNAPE@aol.com](mailto:NYNAPE@aol.com)

Interests: A,G,Int, trains, Disney

#### #2507 Nestor Moreno Domenech

P. O. Box 18002

Havana 18 – 11800

CUBA

Interests: A,D,Int(9), CC, San Marino, trains

#### #2508 Joel Kaufman

4830 Cloister Drive

North Bethesda, MD 20852-3361

USA

[coughdrop@verizon.net](mailto:coughdrop@verizon.net)

Interests: B (1841 to 1980), F, Int(35), DD, US covers, Israel Max cards, space

#### #2509 Daniel M. Tourtellot

P. O. Box 143

Fort Plain, NY 13339-0143

USA

Interests: A,F,Int,US precancels, ww cancels, perfin, postcards



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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).

**BREAKING UP 60-YEAR ACCUMULATION.** Let me send you a stuffed envelope of old, new, mint and used, etc. Pick what you want at 1/3 SCV and return the balance. Gelfman (ISWSC #1849), Box 315, Old Bethpage, NY 11804 USA. [7-8/08]

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**SEND YOUR GB MINT STAMPS** with gum (hinged OK) 1971 - on as trade for my U.S. mint at face value. Chad Neighbor (ISWSC #510), 28 Relugas Pl., Edinburgh EH9 2PY SCOTLAND. [9-10/06]

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**FOR SALE:** Mint recent Italy and San Marino, stamps received as dues payment by the club. Packets of \$15.00 USA face value, the club has 4 or 5 available, first come, first served. \$15.00. Mail to Terry Myers, ISWSC Executive Director, 9463 Benbrook Blvd. #114, Benbrook, TX 76126 - USA [9-10/06]

**HAVING TROUBLE** finding newer used and those elusive common stamps? Free lists. Darrell L. George (ISWSC #635), 19410 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72223-4422 USA. [1-2/07]

**100,000 DIFFERENT WORLDWIDE SETS** Available! (mostly mint and complete) Best personal approval service, discounts, bonuses and specials. Walter (ISWSC #477), POB 1466C, South Bend, IN 46634 USA. [9-10/06]

## 390 Collectors

Continued from page 11

"Postage Stamps from the Countries of the World." 148 albums were given out over the three day period. Young and old, families and singles kept the chairs filled most of the weekend.

Ideas for the album came originally from Carol Cervenka, well-known ISWSC member. It has been perfected over the years and is used in a number of schools. Teachers can obtain originals for making the albums by searching the internet for ISWSC, publications.

For preschool and Kindergarten, a Continental Collecting Card was designed for the Festival. This map of continents has pictures of twenty stamps from 11 countries. Each child is given a pack of the 20 mint stamps and they match and lick. Forty cards were finished by proud 4- and 5-year olds.

It all added up to 390 collectors in three days. Ten thousand stamps were given out, donated for youth programs in Pittsburgh by more than 100 collectors.

The idea of adding stamp collecting to the Festival came from Mary Doreeza, honorary board member. She came to WILKPEX in 1996 and suggested the idea.



## Where to Send What

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

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TMyers6497@aol.com

### Annual 250 Stamp Donations:

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Gaithersburg, MD 20879-4626 - USA  
poly76ce@netscape.net

### Payments for Advertisements:

Jennifer Arnold  
2390 Willow Street, Lebanon OR 97355-3064  
Ph: 541-990-9686; Fax: 541-259-4658  
pizzazz@cmug.com

### Auction Bids & Lots and Payments:

Everett King (#1389)  
P.O. Box 130, Whitethorn CA 95589  
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.