

April - June 1986  
Volume 3 No. 2



Quarterly Newsletter of *The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors*

## Ordinary Spreadsheet Eliminates Need For Special Stamp Inventory Programs

by Rita J. Kallal

It seems everyone from the insurance companies to Uncle Sam is making it necessary these days to keep very accurate records. Without accurate records of what we own it may be difficult to recover the appropriate amount of money from our insurance company in the event of theft or a disaster such as fire or flood. And the United States Internal Revenue Service is requiring more and more records to substantiate what you own, when you purchased it and the original cost for capital gains and estate purposes.

Beyond these requirements, you might want to catalog your library of books or stereo albums. Perhaps you'd like to keep a reference list of magazines and journals in which certain articles appeared. For those of us who collect "things", whether stamps, antiques, coins, or other collectibles, it's necessary to keep a current list of these collections for both insurance and tax purposes.

Like many computer owners, I've considered purchasing the specialized inventory programs for stamps, but have run into a couple problems with these programs. First, most are written for the collector of United States stamps, which isn't very helpful for a worldwide collector. Secondly, more often than not, these stamp inventory programs are available for only a couple brands of computers and my computer brand is not one of them.

A good commercial data base program will handle any of the above-listed record-keeping tasks easily, but most data bases are very complicated and require the user to learn a procedural language to "program" them. Another drawback for the home computer user is the price of most data bases which usually cost several hundred dollars. (I am not talking about the simple mailing list data base, which for the most part is not sufficient to handle a complicated inventory list.) If you know how to program your computer, you can probably write a suitable inventory program yourself, although it will take

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## Chicago-area Member Volunteers to Host AMERIPEX Gatherings

Adolph Kubon (#8) has volunteered to co-ordinate and host get-togethers of ISWSC members attending AMERIPEX. The AMERIPEX philatelic exhibition is scheduled from 22 May through 1 June, 1986, and will take place in Rosemont, a Chicago suburb.

It appears that AMERIPEX will be quite an event, philatelically speaking. Those of you planning to attend, be sure to contact Adolph to co-ordinate meetings, etc. From his letters, Adolph seems very friendly and it should be a lot of fun meeting him and fellow worldwidors. You can write Adolph Kubon (#8) at 6026 W. Barry Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634.

## Presidential Report: Name Change, Election Results and Future Agenda

Officially, we are now, "The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors" with members on five continents (Antarctica is a tough one!). Thank you for returning us to office, and although the dues increase was overwhelmingly favorable (95%), it fell short by thirteen votes of the number necessary for approval (60% of the full membership).

I would like to share with you some of the agenda items presently being considered by the officers. Your input and participation are very welcome. We hope to extend members' services by establishing a stamp sales circuit and a mail auction to afford members an opportunity to dispose of (or purchase) their philatelic items. We are planning to conduct a nationwide (whoops! an international!) search (ccr.test) to find an appropriate logo!!!

An application to join the American Philatelic Society (APS) as an affiliate organization is being processed. (Non-APS members of ISWSC will. (Continued on Page 2)

## Presidential Report:

not be required to join APS.) Membership in COPO (Council of Philatelic Organizations) is also under consideration.

Plans are also underway to increase contributions of worldwide stamps to young collectors, a promotion in keeping with our by-laws. By-law changes will be proposed to give our organization more flexibility. Hopefully, with a dues increase, and increased services, we would like to increase the quarterly newsletter to a bi-monthly publication.

At this time there is urgent need for your involvement - your experience and thinking to better enable us to reach these goals. Your suggestions and ideas are essential to our growth.

As a final "appeal," if anyone has had legal experience in regards to the laws of incorporation (non-profit), we would be pleased to hear from you. We are also looking for someone who has a connection with the printing business who could help us with brochures, stationery, etc., once our logo has been selected. All in all, it would seem to point to a good year. May it be a good year for you. Make this your year to become involved and meet some of your fine fellow members. \*\*\* Aubrey Dunne, President (#1)

## Vice President Reports on Varied Subjects

I have had a number of questions, comments, etc. included with the stamp donations sent to me as a portion of dues for new and renewal members. I am choosing this method of responding to most of these because of postage costs and time consumption of answering each individually.

First, what kind of stamps do we want? Answer --- any kind. On or off paper, U.S. or foreign. Just remember though, your dues are being used to send all that extra paper weight that comes with those on paper. Also, please leave out all those common definitives. Any youngster can find an ample supply of those.

I have also received a number of letters containing information about your collections and collecting interests. Please send this information to the newsletter editor if it is for inclusion in the newsletter. I will not just forward it to Rita unless told to as it may not be intended for publication and getting permission would require another exchange of letters.

A third item -- I have had a number of questions and comments indicating that the membership is not very friendly and communicative because no one has written to them. My suggestion would be to initiate the correspondence. Remember, you get out what you put in. If you write someone and they do not answer, that person might be labelled unfriendly, but also keep in mind. (Continued of Page 4)

The opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily represent those of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors, its officers, advertisers or any other member.

## Secretary - Treasurer Reports on Election Results, Renewals and More

Hi again Worldwidars!! Lots of news, so listen up!

First the results of our January election. As usual, good news and bad news: the good news is that your officers were overwhelmingly re-elected. The bad news is that the vote for a by-law dues change fell through. Only 94 of the eligible 178 members voted, 13 short of the required 60%. So the dues continue to be \$6.00 and 250 stamps for two years. Ironically, 89 of the 94 voted for the proposed dues increase. Since we need it and it is, as shown by the vote, supported, we will have another vote soon. Can't go to six "Circuits" a year without it.

Now on the vote for club name. Of those voting, 49% cast their ballot for ISWSC, so effective immediately our club name is officially "International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors." The old club name (WCC) received 20% of the vote with 31% scattered among the other choices, none receiving more than 7 votes. Our thanks to the 94 members who voted. We appreciate your interest and support.

Of our 78 Charter Members, two are deceased and 51 have renewed their membership. Twenty-five (25) did not send in their dues (though 4 of them voted - of course, not counted). Therefore, these former members are dropped from our roster: 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 20, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 60, 61, 71, 74, and 78. Of course, their membership will gladly be re-instated upon receipt of their dues of \$6.00 and 250 stamps to Ken Jenkins. Some of these lapsed dues are probably just oversights.

The club acknowledges with thanks the following donations:

Poole #33	\$4.00
Sherwood #58	\$4.00
Nelson #25	\$4.00
Kallal #26	\$12.75

**Important\*\*\*\*\*** It's membership renewal time for those who joined May through early July 1984: #79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90. Please send your \$6.00-renewal to Herb #31 and your 250 stamps to Ken #15. \*\*\*\*\***Don't forget to renew!!**

Mail has been returned from Stewart #45. Does any member have a new address for Pat?

Many members have commented on the New Braunfels cancels on outgoing club mail. An explanation is in order. For as much club mail as I can, I go to the post office window for hand cancels. If I did not, it all would be cancelled at least once, maybe more, in the San Antonio post office machine cancellor -- which ruins all the stamps. Sometimes they run 'em through anyway - despite the hand cancels - but, you can't win 'em all. Anyway I try, though it does take considerable time and effort. (Note: members who aren't able to get their philatelic mail hand cancelled can position the stamp on the envelope where it will receive the circle date

(Continued on Page 5)

## ROSTER UPDATE:

186 Otto Voight Orchard Drive Chester, New Jersey 07930	13 Jan 86	WTB	201 Gerald A. Hallead 3821 Bunker Hill Rd. Box 426 Acme, Michigan 49610	14 Feb 86	WTU
187 Ellen E. Howell 37518 N. Laurel Park Livonia, Michigan 48152	15 Jan 86	B	202 Charles F. Tomala 175 Travis Dr. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236	14 Feb 86	WTB
188 Bruce Kellogg 1202 Half Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20024	21 Jan 86		203 R. E. Miller Box 24 Hampton, New Hampshire 03842	14 Feb 86	Part-time approval dealer
189 James L. Burt 324 S. Pauline St. Memphis, Tennessee 38104	22 Jan 86	WTB Parttime dealer	204 Lowell S. Stanley 800 Post Boy Court Towson, Maryland 21204	18 Feb 86	WTU
190 Andrew M. Zavada 32 Ackerson Ave. Pequannock, New Jersey 07440	24 Jan 86	WTB	205 Matthew A. Good 733 5th Street SW Vero Beach, Florida 32962	19 Feb 86	WTB Operates Exchange
191 Barbara Davis 38 Richardson St. Glens Falls, New York 12801	24 Jan 86	WTB	206 Egon Bodtker 1132 Newport Dr. SE Salem, Oregon 97306	22 Feb 86	U
192 Paul M. Marcus 1420 Forbes St. Falmouth, Virginia 22405	27 Jan 86	WTB	207 Barbara Mueller 225 S. Fischer Ave. Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549	24 Feb 86	B
193 Z. V. Jizba 1341 N. Rebecca Dr. La Habra, California 90631	27 Jan 86	WTU	208 George W. Thomas 118 Du Bonnet Dr. Depew, New York 14043	24 Feb 86	WTB
194 Gene McGlasson, Jr. P. O. Box 254 Canyon, Texas 79015	27 Jan 86	B	209 Albert H. Beauduy 3621 High Vista Dr. Dallas, Texas 75234	24 Feb 86	WTB
195 John H. Wilhelm 1120 Wishing Well Lane Naperville, Illinois 60565	11 Feb 86	U	210 J. A. (Jack) Young 210 Stratford Dr. Sommerville, South Carolina 29483	27 Feb 86	B
196 Edward J. Schmiedel 3902 Isbell St. Wheaton, Maryland 20906	11 Feb 86	WTU	211 Morris Ehrlich Tuscany D220 Delray Beach, Florida 33446	27 Feb 86	WTU
197 Frederick E. Ward 749 Tea Ticket Highway East Falmouth, Massachusetts 02536	11 Feb 86	WTU	212 Wallace D. Johnson, MD 520 South Fort Dr. Charleston, West Virginia 25314	3 Mar 86	WTB
198 Lew Scott 305 Caliente Dr. San Leandro, California 94578	11 Feb 86	WTU	213 Andrew G. Holtz P. O. Box 5430 Sta "A" Toronto, Ontario M5W 1N6 CANADA	4 Mar 86	Dealer
199 Eloise Futrell Rt. # 1 Box 361 Bethel, North Carolina 27812	12 Feb 86	WTU	214 John D. Hall 1410 Lake Geneva Dr. Lake Worth, Florida 33461	10 Mar 86	WTU
200 Lotte L. E. Bernsteil 113 W. Boyd Ave. Butler, Pennsylvania 16001	13 Feb 86	WTU	215 Ron Needes P. O. Box J Coram, New York 11727	11 Mar 86	WTB Dealer
			216 Bart Mass 340 Harvard Rd. Apt. #216 Burbank, California 91502	21 Mar 86	WTU

(More on Page 4)

## Spreadsheet Inventory:

considerable skill and time to write a very complicated one.

So if you don't own a data base or yours is too simplified, you don't know how to program a computer, and you can't find the appropriate inventory program for your computer, what are you to do on a limited software budget. Well, don't give up hope as you may already have the software to handle these tasks without spending a lot of money on a new data base program.

If you own an ordinary spreadsheet program, you may find it's all you need to handle these tasks. If you don't own a spreadsheet program, you may find it would be worthwhile to purchase one because they are very versatile and useful to the home computer user. Surprisingly enough, you can do a lot more with a spreadsheet than financial analysis and "number crunching".

Once you are familiar and comfortable with your spreadsheet program and understand its commands and operations, you should find it fairly easy to experiment with new concepts and learn to utilize the spreadsheet in creative ways to solve your inventory problems. By using the hundreds (or thousands, in some cases) of cells in the spreadsheet to store bits of information (data in computer jargon), you can turn it into a very handy data base. The first hurdle to leap is the mental one of seeing the spreadsheet only as a big ledger page. Instead try to think of it in data base terms ..... with the rows as records and the columns as fields.

If you own the VisCalc spreadsheet, you'll find it's not suited for use as a data base because it doesn't allow easy manipulation of records. Other spreadsheets such as Lotus 1-2-3, Multiplan, Jazz, Crunch, Symphony, Excel, Framework, etc. are more advanced and offer data base functions which allow easy record manipulation and give the user the ability to sort alphabetically or numerically, count records, find and extract specified records, average numerical records, and much more. Figure 1 below is a short example of a stamp collection inventory done with the Apple Macintosh computer and the Multiplan spreadsheet by Microsoft.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1			JAPAN	COLLECTION		
2						
3				Date		Current
4	Scott #	# of Stamps	Condition	Purchased	Cost	Cat. Value
5						
6	403	1	MNH	July 1975	\$0.20	\$0.70
7	405	1	MNH	Dec 1973	\$2.00	\$10.00
8	408	1	MNH	June 1980	\$0.10	\$0.50
9	409	1	MNH Imperf	Aug 1972	\$0.35	\$1.50
10	413	1	used	1971	\$0.03	\$0.10
11	424	1	MNH	Feb 1974	\$0.75	\$2.75
12	425-7	3	used	1971	\$0.09	\$0.20
13	433-4	2	MNH	1972	\$4.00	\$31.50
14						
15	TOTALS	11			7.72	47.25

Figure 1 Sample Inventory

Keep in mind that using your spreadsheet as a data base does have its limitations. Since most spreadsheet

programs reside entirely in RAM (Random Access Memory), the number of records you can store in a file will be limited to how much memory is left after the program is loaded. On some computers this can be remedied by adding more RAM via memory expansion boards. Otherwise you'll have to experiment with different methods for keeping your files within your computer's RAM requirements. For instance when doing a stamp collection inventory, you could inventory each country as a separate file and large countries such as Russia, might be divided into several files by catalog numbers or time periods.

Although it is an often repeated warning in the computer world, it bears repeating here again ..... "save" your work often as you progress. This is particularly important for those with computers that have a small RAM; you don't want to spend a lot of time typing in data only to use up your RAM and not have enough left to save the work you've already done.

Although many spreadsheets with advanced functions have the capability to program macros to link files, it can be a very complicated procedure to do so. So if you want to set up a data base with very complicated operations covering many sorting and counting routines and linking numerous files together (relational procedures), you'll probably be better off buying a good relational data base program.

If however, you just need a fairly straight-forward inventory-type data base covering catalog number, number of stamps, date of purchase, condition, cost and/or catalog value and the ability to add or delete items ..... your spreadsheet should be able to perform very well as a data base for you.

\*\*\* (I am interested in hearing about your results and experiments with doing a stamp inventory on your spreadsheet and computer. ... Rita Kallal)

## More ROSTER UPDATES:

217 Bud Wheeler 24 Mar 86 B  
456 Bennett Pkwy.  
Hornell, New York 14843

218 Bruce Ruffing 25 Mar 86 WTB  
401 4th Avenue SE  
Wells, Minnesota 56097

## ROSTER CHANGES:

73 Ray Compton: Change to Box 1772, Manassas, VA 22110

79 J. F. Graham: Change to 2965 1/2 Clairmont Dr.

114 James Hanley: Change to 1700 Pennrock Rd., Wilmington, Delaware 19809

## OMNI Exchange Plans to Add Another Exchange Circuit

The OMNI EXCHANGE, the official exchange club of the ISWSC, is alive and well stocked with about \$25,000.00 catalog value of worldwide stamps. We have 35 - 40 exchangers in two circuits. We welcome new members.

The present exchanges are from 10¢ value and up in books of 10 pages (140 stamps) with a minimum value of \$22.50 per book. Rules and applications for the exchange can be obtained from Hal Clarke (#47) by writing OMNI EXCHANGE, P. O. Box 353, Sharon, Tennessee 38255.

We are planning another exchange for stamps to 50¢ catalog value and up. These will be mounted on sheets of 25 stamps with a minimum catalog value of \$15.00 per sheet.

The primary requisite for either or both exchanges is membership in good standing in the ISWSC. For information on this new exchange contact the above address.

\*\*\* Hal Clarke (#47) and Tom Allison (#42)

## Unique Stamp Discovered by Schoolboy

In 1885 a school boy discovered a unique yellow 1855 Swedish 3 skilling-banco stamp on an old letter belonging to his grandfather and got 7 kronor from a skeptical dealer who even dipped it in water to check the ink. The dealer sold it 9 years later and it brought 4,000 gulden.

1938 - 1986

One of America's Oldest active  
Stamp Exchange Clubs

General Collectors  
No dues to pay  
No fees to join  
Catalog Basis

Two Plans Available:

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#2 \$5.00 & up per stamp

For full details  
Send  
Self-addressed Stamped  
Return Envelope

MATTHEW A. GOOD (#205)  
733 5th St. SW  
Vero Beach, FL 32962

## Sec'y - Treasurer's Report:

cancel rather than those lousy killer bars.)

Now, regrettably, a sour note. We are, as you know, a friendly informal club. That is, 99.99% of the members are. However, one member sent a very unpleasant reply to another of our members when a fun stamp circuit was received. The club's apologies and our sincere hope it will not happen again.

A reminder -- Please use your club number when corresponding with other members. Our roster is in numerical order and this facilitates quick reference.

A couple comments from members:

Poole #33 runs a worldwide exchange for 15¢ and up Scott's CV stamps. Has 60 active members.

Tomala #202 would like to trade with youngsters to help them get started.

Hyde #157 feels that the dues for members living in countries outside of North America should be the same as for other members, even if this means higher dues. He believes this would promote worldwide collecting.

Mike Morrill's (#90) articles on worldwide collecting in "Stamp Collector" have generated many inquiries to the club and quite a few new members. Our thanks to Mike.

We have just enrolled member #220 and so as of 6 April '86 have 193 active members. Treasury balance is now \$669.86.

My thanks to all who used the new stamp collecting booklet stamps on their mail to the Sec'y. Aren't they "sumpin"!! \*\*\* Herb Holland, Sec'y-Treasurer (#31)

## Member's FORUM:

Dear Circuit,

I am a new member. I have collected stamps for 10 years. Mostly collecting U.S. stamps in the beginning. After getting the affordable U.S. stamps I began buying worldwide stamps. With foreign pen pals in Singapore, France and Ireland I got stamps and postcards from them. I keep becoming more and more interested in world stamps. Especially New Zealand and Australia.

I ordered some stamps from dealer Ron Needes. In writing to him I mentioned wanting to get into worldwide collecting. So he gave me Ken Jenkins (#15) address. I am really looking forward to being part of your club.

I want you to know I liked the articles in the WWCC (Jan.-March) very much. The idea of drying stamps in a microwave is great. I can't wait to try it! I will be ordering stamps from one of the advertisements in the WWCC and I won't forget to mention that I saw the advertisement in the WWCC. I will be punching holes in my WWCC newsletters to put them in a loose-leaf notebook - that is for sure. Happy collecting to all!

\*\*\*Barb Davis #191

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE ... 15 JULY

**Officers and Chairpersons:**

President: Aubrey Dunne (#1)  
 Vice President: Ken Jenkins (#15)  
 Sec'y/Treasurer: Herb Holland (#31)  
 Public Relations: Dave Nelson (#25)  
 Editor: Rita Kallal (#26)  
 Membership: Herb Holland (#31)  
 Youth Stamp Programs: Ken Jenkins (#15)  
 Omni Stamp Exchange: Hal Clarke (#47)  
 and Tom Allison (#42)

**Advertising Policy:** 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 (8-1/2 X 11)	\$25.00
Half page (8-1/2 X 5 1/4)	13.00
Quarter page (3-3/4 X 5-1/4)	7.00
Per column inch (3-3/4 wide)	2.00

Make checks payable to ISWSC.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**Classified Rates Per Insertion:** First 30 words, including name, address, zip, are \$3.00. Additional words are 20 for \$1.00. State abbreviations are one word. "P.O. Box 12345" is two words. Zip Code is one word. Make checks payable to ISWSC.

**\$3.00 for postage brings you a** whole year of monthly listings containing hundreds of worldwide lots priced \$1.00 and up. Satisfaction guaranteed. APS# 63428. Robert Gesell, PO Box 8248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

**UNCOMMON STAMPS** and souvenir sheets from my 50-year accumulation, individually priced. Also groups of unmounted stamps at 5¢ or 10¢ each. You are sure to find some useful material here! Return postage paid. WWC #189, APS #81950. James L. Burt, 324 S. Pauline, Memphis, TN 38104.

**MIXTURES BY THE STAMP!** Get good trading material without the junk. Buy better stamps only - priced individually - 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, etc. Introductory offer - Take 1/3 OFF first \$15 - save \$5. Len Bland (#23), 10711 Braewick Dr., Carmel, IN 46032

**OUR INTERNATIONAL** General Club helps wile away those cool spring days. Also receive discount on supplies. Ron's Stamps, 149 Avon Beldon Rd., Avon Lake, Ohio 44012

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
**Make someone's -  
 life better today  
 ... tell them about  
 the joys of stamp  
 collecting!**  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

HI !

My name is Ron Needes, and I guess I'm one of your newest Members, #215.

I'm primarily a collector, but I also enjoy "dealing"

I have a room full of stamps and work mostly off "want lists", (Scott #'s or countries).

To members, I send on 10-day approval. Many of my customers are now my friends ---- I like that.

Most of my stuff is for beginners and intermendiate collectors, but I luck-out once in a while on the elusive "wants" of the advanced.

My prices are reasonable and all is guaranteed.

I'm heavy in US, Germany, and Canada --- though I just bought a substantial accumulation of British Empire. In general, I try to handle the world.

To any member that writes, a free U.S. mint # 948 sheet ..... no strings. SASE appreciated. OFFER ENDS 5-31-86.

HAPPY COLLECTING .....

RON NEEDES

P. O. BOX J

CORAM, NY 11727

## Vice President's Report:

mind that they may be unable to answer at that time because of travel, illness or some other legitimate reason. Try someone else. Your membership list includes the information as to whether the member is interested in trading and the type of material.

My supply of stamps is in good shape because of the number of renewals and new members. I have sent out three and a quarter pounds since last report to fill six requests. Members are also eligible to receive stamps if they are working with kids. Just send me the name of the group, the number and age range of the youngsters involved and I will get some stamps off to you.

The first weekend in March I attended ARIPEX in Phoenix. I left some of our information letters and membership applications at the entry table and also at the kids table. I have already received one response from there and filled a request for information and stamps. Maybe we will get a few new members and also get the word out to non-members just what our objectives are. It would be nice if one of our members with a little talent for writing and drawing would work up a small brochure that could be printed up and distributed at shows. In this newsletter we will find out the election results and the new name of our group.

I met with President Aubrey Dunn at Sandical and direction for the organization was discussed. His column will give the details of our talks and present some of our ideas for improvement and further services to our members.

The mail bid auction plans are temporarily on hold unless a new volunteer steps forward to organize and conduct it. Our previous volunteer had a forced change of jobs and relocation so is unable to continue with organizing our auctions. Any volunteers?

Below is a portion of a newsletter that is written by our member Eduardo Jacinto (#168) of the Republic of the Philippines. As you can see, we are getting publicity in a number of far-flung locations. Senor Jacinto is also very active in working with youngsters and we have sent him stamps for distribution. \*\*\*\*Ken Jenkins, VP (#15)

### From the PAAP Newsletter (Sept-Oct 1985):

Exchange Center Update: August was a "lean" month at the Center, with just 3 letters received. It was, however, back to normal in September with us handling the requests that came with ten letters. We shall soon be hitting the 5,000 mark for stamps handled.

American Donation: We are glad to report that, in response to a request we made on behalf of our organization, the Worldwide Collector's Club in the USA (more about them below) sent us around 500 stamps, more than half of which are USA issues. These will form part of our stock, and will be distributed to our members as requests come in.

Incidentally, we now have quite a number of American stamps, and a good opportunity is offered to those who might be interested in forming a USA collection. US stamps are well-designed, and for several years now, they have gone "topical".

COLLECT THE WORLD! More than 6,000 different

stamps are issued by postal administrations throughout the world each year and the flood of emissions is still rising. In fact, new stamp issuing entities continue to be added to the already long list. Starting in January 1986 ARUBA will be issuing her own stamps. Because of this, most collectors prefer to limit their collections to certain topics or countries.

Despite the seeming impossibility of "going the whole world," there are still people who believe in doing the impossible. They find joy in every new stamp that comes their way. They have banded together in order "to actively promote the collecting of postage stamps of the world."

The WORLDWIDE COLLECTORS CLUB was founded in 1979 and as of today, it has more than 165 members worldwide. Membership is open to all who believe as they do. (Editor's Note: This nice write-up was followed by addresses and requirements to join. Thanks Ed Jacinto. Incidentally, our membership now over 220!)

## Collecting Worldwide Brings Many Rewards

By Rita Kallal

I began collecting stamps worldwide when I was eleven years old. It was a hobby I selected all on my own as there had never been anyone in my family who collected. In fact I didn't know a soul, friend or foe, who collected stamps. But I chose to begin a collection at that tender age because the many unusual pictures on the stamps and in the albums at the dime store fascinated me. So I spent my hard earned baby-sitting money on a small hardback album produced by H.E. Harris Co.; it was by necessity the cheapest worldwide album available at our local Woolworth's. I could have gotten a cheaper album if I'd wanted to collect only U.S. stamps, but they didn't interest me very much; perhaps because I was familiar with them on our mail or the subject matter was familiar to me.

Since I didn't know anything about stamp collecting, I will be ever grateful to the kind clerk behind the stamp counter who was thoughtful enough to explain that I would need hinges with which to "mount" my stamps. Without her guidance, I would in all likelihood have ruined a good many stamps by glueing them into my album with mucilage.

Inside the album I purchased was a card offering to send me a free book about stamp collecting and how to identify stamps. I mailed off the card and after what seemed like forever, the booklet arrived along with a bunch of "approvals". I bought a couple of packages and sent the rest back. Then another bunch arrived and I didn't have any money at the time. I sent them back without a purchase. And some more arrived. Finally I went to my mother about what to do as I didn't have enough money to buy all these stamps and I had buy postage to keep sending them back. My mother wrote them a letter explaining that I didn't have enough money to get stamps all the time, so I would continue to buy them at the dime store counter whenever I had some money. (Either way, H.E. Harris had my business!!)

(Continued on the Mailing address page)



## Editor's Notebook .... News, Views and Gremlins!?!

First thing I must apologize for *The Circuit* being so late this issue. For some reason, all my efforts to get it out in a timely manner have been subverted. I was making fairly good progress, when some gremlin addressed the envelope containing Pres. Aubrey Dunne's article to North Hollywood Dr. Thinking it had been delayed by the heavy mailings of income tax returns, we waited several more days. Aubrey mailed another copy and a few days later he received the first envelope back.

That wasn't too serious and I again was speeding along when some gremlin got into my page layout program and caused it to "crash." At the time it crashed, I was nearly done with the newsletter. Oh well, the best laid plans!! When it crashed, to add insult to injury, I discovered some of the "stuff" had to be completely retyped because the software gremlins completely garbled it. Computers do save a lot of time when they work right and I wouldn't want to be without mine ever again, but they can be a real "pain" when you lose several hours of work. Since this is a sparetime task, I often have to squeeze it in, particularly if things get off schedule. I'm one of those people who always schedules more projects and activities than I have sparetime; thus my sparetime is to a large degree scheduled! So I hope you'll understand and forgive the tardiness this issue. (And if anyone knows how to rid one's world of these pesky gremlins, please contact the editor!)

Speaking of gremlins ..... it seems a few gremlins have been playing around in the USA stamp printing plant. First we have all the missing black errors on the AMERIPEX stamp collecting booklets and then the announcement recently of a full sheet of Americana one dollar stamps with a real invert error. It's kinda fun to anticipate opening a stamp booklet or buying a sheet of stamps at the post office and finding an error, huh? I just hope the gremlins stay at the BEP and leave me alone!

I thank all of you who wrote such complimentary letters about this editor's first issue. It's very nice to know my work is appreciated and I'm pleased that so many of you were pleased enough to take the time to write. I do enjoy writing, working with my computer, computer graphics, etc., so it certainly isn't like hard work.

I received a nice letter from Adolph Kubon (#8) about the AMERIPEX International Stamp Show. I really wish I could go; I hope some of you will be able to attend and tell the rest of us about it. Do contact Adolph if you're planning to attend. Thanks, Adolph, for participating.

Participating .... that makes it a lot more fun. I was absolutely delighted to see a new member "jump right in" and participate ... Barb Davis (#191) wrote a letter to us and it appears in this issue. We'd like to hear from some of the rest of you .... tell us: about your collection; why you collect worldwide; how you got started; your favorite stamp, set, subject, or country; an old-time collector or collection you've known; etc. One of my favorite philatelic writers is Pat Herst because he knows so many "stories." You know some "stories", too .... and I, for one, would like to hear

them. Let's make this a forum for everyone and for sharing; don't let it become the voice of a few.

Looking over the membership roster, it's obvious that used stamps are popular with worldwide collectors. Mike Morrill (#90) mentioned in one of his *Stamp Collector* columns about the difficulty of obtaining used stamps from "CTO countries." In response, one of his readers sent him information about the Cover Collector's Circuit Club. Mike in turn is passing the information along to the membership for those who might be interested. Mike indicates he knows nothing about the club, so he can't give any details or recommendations. The application states a lifetime membership fee of \$3.00, so one isn't likely to lose much in trying it. For details contact: Cover Collector's Circuit Club, Ed Weine, Managing Director, P.O. Box 416, Gladstone, OR 97027 (USA). Thanks, Mike, and thanks for your SC column, too.

Member Charles Baker (#88) edits *The Philatelic Observer* which is the bi-monthly journal of the Junior Philatelists of America. This organization for junior collectors (must be under the age of 21 to join) has been around for a long time and many of you are familiar with it, but I thought I'd mention it for any new collectors who may not be aware of its existence. If you or a young friend are interested, contact Charlie (#88).

Also Charlie (#88) recently purchased a used Commodore 64 computer and he would like information on a good program that would allow him to keep a number of demographics on the JPA membership and then be able to utilize that list to print selected names and also print mailing labels. I know the type of program that Charlie needs is a data base, but I'm not familiar with what's available for the Commodore.

Hyde (#157) wrote to Herb Holland suggesting that dues for all members should be the same to promote worldwide collecting. It is a fine idea as long as we have so few foreign members, but airmailing newsletters at 44¢ per half ounce adds up really fast. Perhaps a better solution would be to offer the option of airmail subscriptions to foreign members for a higher dues rate; otherwise, the newsletter would go seamail. (I pay airmail postage rate dues in two foreign philatelic clubs to which I belong.) How about some feedback from the membership on the dues dilemma?

Until time next, check those stamps from the post office ..... you just may find a "gremlin issue."

\*\*\* Rita Kallal (#26), Editor

**Philatelic Phun & Games for Youth Stamp Clubs:** The following is a sample of a fill-in-the-blanks game that can be used to interest kids in stamp collecting and teaches them how to use the Scott's catalogs. Used as contests, encouraging the kids to use the catalogs at the public library before the next meeting and philatelic prizes awarded for correct answers.

When John was a Sierra Leone #451, he wanted a Gr. Britian #839, but his family hadn't much Malawi #22 so his father made a Singapore #107 and some wooden Iraq #RA22 for John. His mother cooked a USA #1362 while the family put up the Canada #679. Later USA #1472 left a Gr. Britian #851 for John and a South Africa #373 for his sister. It was a very happy day.



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## Many Rewards of Collecting:

I purchased Harris packets at the dime store stamp counter whenever I had some money. I also saved stamps from our mail, but having no one to whom I could turn for assistance in philatelic matters, I removed the stamps by carefully peeling them from the envelope paper. Naturally, a good many refused to peel off without tearing the back side of the stamp. I was amused years later to see my crude handiwork.

Although I didn't actually realize it at the time, collecting stamps was helping give me a better understanding of geography, peoples, costumes, religions and customs than the other kids in my junior high school geography classes. At the time, it seemed to me that geography was one of those subjects that was very easy for me to learn without much studying, whereas algebra was difficult and required hours of study for me.

By the time I was a freshman in high school, I had other priorities.....the latest clothes, going to the movies, having a Coke after school, buying rock and roll records, and BOYS!! Collecting took a real backseat for about fifteen years while I finished school, got married and had children.

It was after we moved from my hometown to the cold arctic weather of Minnesota that I resumed collecting stamps again. My husband travelled a great deal, so with my good friends left behind, I found myself wanting some kind of solitary hobby besides reading. An ad in a

magazine caught my eye and proved to be the spark that rekindled my passion for stamp collecting. I collected through the mail for a few months, dealing with the "biggies" who advertised "100 or 500 FREE stamps with approvals." It was not until I attended my first stamp show in Minneapolis that I became aware of the stamp journals, Scott's catalogs and realized the prices of stamps were so much less than I had been paying. In fact, I saw many of the stamps that I had paid 5¢ each for from the mailorder dealers in the penny boxes at the show. It was at this show that I also learned that stamp dealers who had stores sold "cheap" stamps, too. I had the mistaken idea that stamp stores only sold rare and expensive stamps.

At my first stamp show I met several local dealers and obtained my first copies of the philatelic journals *Linn's Stamp News* and *Western Stamp Collector*. I later spent hours pouring over all the articles and ads. My mind was whirring with all the facts to learn. I'd had no idea of the scope of stamp collecting. The more I learned the more interesting it all became. I began doing business with the local dealers and several dealers that advertised in the journals and was astounded at the reasonable prices in comparison to the prices I had been paying. Oh, I was a little angry to find out that I'd paid 5¢ each for stamps that other dealers were selling for 1¢, but upon reflection I realized that if it hadn't been for those "biggies" I might never have discovered stamp collecting.

(To Be Continued)

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