

## The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

## WORLDWIDE - 1840 to 1940: A LIFE OF ADVENTURE & TRAVEL PROMPT THIS COLLECTOR'S SOLUTION TO COLLECTING WORLDWIDE STAMPS

Beginning my collection in a *Scott's Imperial* junior album in 1925, at the age of 12, and gradually advancing through the *Modern* one, and finally through the *International Junior*, in two volumes, up to World War II. My collection was stored in the early 1940's as I went off to war.

In Europe, and later Japan and Washington, D.C., I continued accumulating stamps, specializing in Japan and Japanese occupation issues of Southeast Asia and a small collection of Yemen, started in 1931 with my two-volumes still in storage.

Moving to Lebanon and the Arab world in 1950, after finishing my war service in the Pentagon, I purchased a later volume of the International in order to attempt to keep up with the enormous worldwide output of the late 1940's and early 1950's, but soon came to the realization that the task would be out of my means, with a new album necessary every year or two! As my specialties, Japan, Yemen and Hawaii, together with my worldwide postal stationery, would have been sufficient to keep me philatelically occupied the rest of my life, even if I left the worldwide scope dormant, I seriously considered that solution. But, what about my extensive U.S. collection and worldwide issues going back to my 1925 beginnings?

While pondering these questions in 1962, in Beirut, the Yemen civil war broke out, and, as I had become a Yemen citizen in 1958 and was a personal friend of the new king, Mohammed al-Badr, having known him since a preliminary Yemen trip in 1953 and during my 1956-60 residence there, I accepted his request for me to return to Yemen as an officer in the Royal Army, which I carried out until the end of the war in 1970.

Very early it became evident that someone would need to organize and administer the Royalist Yemen postal services, continuing the issues of the Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen, which had begun in 1926. The governmental ministers concerned prevailed on me to assume the task in addition to my military, publicity, and other duties. Accordingly, by November 1962, I was able to issue the first sets of the old Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen stamps overprinted in Arabic and English: "Free Yemen Fights for God, Imam and Country", prior to definitive and commeorative issues of the new kingdom in its half of Yemen.

My general and specialized collections again had to be stored "for the duration" (which lasted 8 years), but during this time I had the time of my philatelic life with regular and philatelic issues, running from revalidating overprints on consular stamps, Royalist surcharges on captured "Yemen Arab Republic stamps of the Nasserist Egyptian regime, issuing imperfs and provisional overprints, printing stamps on colored paper, devising postal cards and aero-

grams, printing all types of postal forms, preparing First Day cachetcancels and attractive regular cancels for all post offices and laying aside extra copies for my collection and for trading.: I also arranged lists of postal and governmental employees to whom were distributed copies of all our new issues, gratis, and maintained postal relations with friendly countries' postal services, going to Britian to coordinate our issues being printed by Harrison and Sons and other British stamp printers and also having some done in New York, Budapest, Warsaw, Bucharest and other countries, including Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

On the conclusion of hostilities in 1970, by which time I had reached the rank of Major General and Communications Ministry Advisor, I retired to my old moorish house in Spain, got my albums and stocks, on top of a mass of Royalist Yemen issues, original covers and postal history of the war.

It now became evident that my problem of the 1950's, after the eight year war delay, never having brought my two original albums from America, and with very little accumulated in my post 1940 album and with international issues increased overwhelmingly, had come to a head and needed solution.

My final decision, adhered to from 1970 to date, was to confine my worldwide collecting to the issues between 1840 and 1940 only, with slight exceptions made for Yemen, etc. In the meantime, word was received from the states that my general collection, except for a pack of loose-leaf album pages containing between 1,000 and 2,000 stamps waiting integration into new post 1938 pages and rearranged earlier ones, had been stolen and irrevocably lost.

But I still had the specialty albums, a U.S. mint block album, the whole of the postal stationery items and considerable material accumulated during the two wars and subsequently. So I took the 1938 album pages, with their expectant transfers (including some choice items of my early collection, particularly of 1925), sold my Japanese stocks (for \$31,000, as I had purchased at least a hundred souvenior sheets of all Japanese issues since 1945 until my emigration to Yemen in 1956, including Ryukyus), and had been searching the auction markets for a fairly good pre-1940 collection.

Thus, on emigrating from Spain to Morocco in 1980, I had my pre-1938 pages, two new *International* albums, with their flags, arms and personalities common to Scott albums prior to 1950—labelled: The First Hundred Years of Philately, 1840 - 1940, great quantities of items collected in envelopes during and after the wars, an accumulation sent from my unmounted stamp stocks in America in 1980, and, at last, an old general collection, mostly before World (Continued Page 2)

#### Worldwide 1840 - 1940:

War I, including many of the old Victorias of the British Colonies (and "Penny Blacks" and "Two Pence Blues").

Within less than ten years, the new collection grew to more than 20,000 different 1840-1940 stamps, surpassing what I had lost in the 1978 robbert and satisfying me by leaving the remains of the beloved collection of 1925 plus all the other old favorites down to 1940, with my want lists coming and going and my eyes alert for convenient pre-1940 offers.

Together with my postal stationery (mostly 19th Century) and Yemen Kingdom specialties, I found the 1840 - 1940 collection a satisfying solution to worldwide collecting without attemptoing to keep up with the many unnecessary and speculative items which increasingly appeared in new stamp issues throughout the world after 1940. My new system of collecting satisfied my love for all the old favorites and offered an unending search for fill-ins.

Following my original desire not to insist on expensive full sets or completeness, but to try to have at least something from each stamp-issuing entity after 1840, and something of each country's principal sets, I find myself almost up to date with all but a handful of minor states.

Fùrthermore, as it is a study collection, I am not insistent on having everything in perfect condition, as long as the stamps are facially presentable. The entire collection is hinged, so that never hinged mint is no problem, but rather, a bit of a nuisance; averted when possible.

Although some of the items in the pre-1940 (actually pre-World War I) collection, including a number of Cape of Good Hope triangles and some elegant early mint U.S. items, catalogued in the hultdreds of dollars, individually, it is not an investment collection, and I have: willed it to the Philatelic Library of the American Philatelic Society for the amusement and instruction of the younger recruits to our hobby.

I thought myself a "lone wolf" until last year, when a few paragraphs of philatelic news in the American Philatelist and Stamp Collector, respectively, alerted me to the growing interest in worldwide collecting through the ISWSC, and I offer the 1840 - 1940 solution as one of the many ways to make this a practicalbe and enjoyable facit of our hobby. ••• Bruce Conde` (#430)

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Several large donations of stamps have been received from both old and new members. ISWSC greatly appreciates the extra effort!! I have been able to fill requests from Ben Franklin units and also to send parcels to youth group leaders as recognized in articles in *The Circuit, Linn's Stamp News* and the *American Philatelist*. Secretary Holland has just forwarded a request to me from a stamp club in Brazil for help in their kids program, which would provide an incentive to national and global philately.

Letters and notes included in the donated stamps are appreciated. I strongly agree with a comment made by a new member recently: ... "we need to get the young people's interest in stamp collecting - not only for the future of the stamp hobby but also to help fill the time they so often complain about having nothing to do." Of course, there are many other benefits that evolve from our youth's interest in stamp collecting, but that is one that had not come to my attention. ••• Ken Costilow, (#142) Vice President

#### SECRERARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

In the last issue I mentioned that we were starting a system of regional secretaries for our non-U.S. membership areas. I am now happy to announce that our first one is now officially operational. Karl Steinberg (#416) and Allen Soule (#417) are now our Australia co-regional secretaries. The address for both or either will be Karl's: P. O. Box 12017, A 'Beckett Street, Melbourne - 3000, Victoria, Australia. In contacts with any of your collector friends in Australia; or even New Zealand, about membership in ISWSC, tell them to contact Karl or Allen.

Speaking of Ne Zealand, Manuel Domingo (# 375) has offered a New Zealand 1988 Stamp Pack (Cat. \$20.09) to the first member who recruits a new member from New Zealand. Thank you, Manuel.

And speaking of Manuel, he is going to be our regional representative for Latin America, as soon as your "always behind" sec'y gets the new roster format, including coding member's interests, accomplished and published. (Eve got to quit traveling so much!)

It is with regret that the club ammounces the death of one of our charter members: Sid Nielson (#29). Sid was a personal friend of mine, a great guy, an incredible collector, and a most generous person. We will miss him very much. (See additional item elsewhere in this issue.)

If any of you want copies of our brochure for distribution at stamp clubs or shows or to give to collector friends, please contact our Publicity Chairman, Dave Nelson (#25). He holds the main supply of these.

When Walter Johannsen (# 172) sent me his dues some months ago my desk was piled even higher than usual. Unfortunately, therefore, his envelope slipped down behind and out of sight and I did not know about it. Thus my error in the last issue when I dropped him for non-payment of dues: So, I now apologize profusely and please, all of you, reinstate him on your rosters. Walt is one of our best members! I'm sorry, Walt.

Happy to announce that Dalene Thomas (# 101) has rejoined us after a short absence. Be sure to add Dalene to your roster again. Glad to have you back, Dalene!

It is with thanks that we acknowledge the following donations:

Johannsen (# 172) \$10.00 Schatz (# 362) 5.00 Valencia (# 447) 1.00

Please note address changes and new member listings elsewhere in this issue. And lastly, with regret, the following members are dropped for non-payment of dues: (# 44) Metcalf • (#149) Siler • (#166) Smith • (#332) Campbell • (#337) Gifford • (#341) Frola • (#350) Socrates.

I close by wishing "Happy Stamping" to you all.

••• Herb Holland, (#31) Sec'y-Treas.

#### DEATH OF MEMBER REPORTED

I wanted to pass on to you the news that Sid Nielson (# 29), one of the Club's founding members, died suddenly on April 8, 1990. Sid was a life-long collector of everything that bore a cancellation and had a super collection until arthritis affected his ability to deal with hinges. He was a fine, gentle person and a close friend for more than twenty years. I and other ISWSC members will miss him and his cheerful letters. ••• Dr. Jerome H. Farnum (# 143)

Page 3

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

In mid-April I attended ARIPEX 90 in Pheonix, Arizona. There was a diversity of exhibits and a good number of dealers. I was only there for one day so I was kept busy attempting to see all the stamps on exhibit, buy all the stamps from the dealers (according to my wife, Maxine), and still have time to talk to friends and members that I see once a year or so at stamp shows. Included in that category are two of our members, Joe Foley (# 308). President of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and John Hotchner (#62), a member of our board of directors and the same position with the APS. I hope all of the APS members read Joe's column in the American Philatelist. We got a really good plug for worldwide collecting. I left about fifty brochures of our organization with membership applications at various tables at the show. They were nearly gone when I left, so hopefully we will get a few responses. One of the busiest tables at the show was the one for 15 year olds and under. It was attended by a couple of adults to answer questions and several large penny boxes, were kept occupied by youngsters. I did notice that I did not get nearly so many strange looks or comments from dealers as I used to when I told them I collected the world.

By the time you read this I will have been to ROMPEX in Denver, Colorado, in mid-May and hopefully have met several more of our members from the Denver area.

Bob de Violini, Co-ordinator of APS Affiliates, told me at ARIPEX that ISWSC will be featured in his column "Our Active Affiliates" in the American Philatelist in the near future. Watch for it.

The representative from the US Postal Service at ARIPEX got a lot of flak at the APS spring meeting concerning the cancellations his organization has been putting on your covers. Philatelic or not, it should not be necessary to have it delivered looking like a truck had driven over it.

Now I'll quit so Rita will have room to put important things in *The Circuit*. Have a stamping good summer.

••• Ken Jenkins, (# 15), President

## TIME TO ORDER 1991 SCOTT CATALOGS

The new catalog season is here and the release dates out of Scott Publishing. Members who are interested in using our program to buy the 1991 Scott Catalogs can order them again thru Nordic Stamps (William Radford - # 413).

Release dates are as follows:

Volume # 1 - US/UN/Brit. Commonwealth	June
Volume # 2 - Countries A through F	Aug
Volume #3 - Countries G through 0	Sept
Volume # 4 - Countries P through Z	Oct
Volume # 5 - US Specialized	Nov

The price is \$20.95 POSTPAID (Scott Retail \$26.00). To receive each volume as soon as released, order and pay in advance of release dates. We will order as we hear from you, so Scott will ship to Oshkosh and we will reship immediately.

••• Tom Ginsberg (# 70), Catalog Coordinator, 1041 Bowen Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901

#### SCOTT-BASHING --- A FINAL WORD (?)

I have followed with some amusement the current uproar over the Scott pricing policy and offer a 'cold shower" to all those, dealers and collectors alike, who do not like the prices listed in the Scott catalogs.

Wake up - all of you - prices in any catalog are basically fictious. We, the dealers and collectors, live in a world of supply and demand, where the price of every stamp offered for sale is either acceptable to a buyer, in which case buyer and seller haggle out a different price (did you ever refer to the catalog when haggling?) or there is no sale.

True prices occur and fluctuate daily whether in an auction, mail sale, dealer's table or between two collectors. No stamp is worth more nor less than what a buyer is willing to pay for it at any given time.

The Scott's Catalog's true value is twofold - we all have a common standard of reference as to what stamps exist (what it there were no catalogs at all?) and a rough sense of price range that establishes the arena of negotiation in bidding and buying.

By the very nature of our hobby, I doubt any catalog could comprehensively provide accurate price data even if it were an online computer system.

In closing, I must say that the Gibbons, Michel, and Yvert systems of cataloging with regular, semi-postal, airmail, etc., issues comingled (by date of issue) does make more sense to me than Scott's segregated format. ••• Ralph R, Chapin (# 158)

## Deadline Next Issue July 7th

#### ISWSC MAIL SALE # 2 - POSTSCRIPT

Mail Sale # 2 is now history. 280 lots were offered; bids were received on 195 lots; ninè lots were returned by the winners, leaving 186 lots sold. Total of all winning bids was \$1,177.05. Of this \$1085.00 was for regular lots and \$92.05 was in donation lots with all proceeds to ISWSC. 'The ISWSC Treasury received a total of \$309.05.

There were 36 bidders from 3 countries and 32 of them secured at least one lot (89% success rate). The average lot sold for \$6.33. The highest bid was \$114.00 on lot # 181, reduced to \$94.50, the highest selling price. The lowest bid (and lowest winning bid) was \$0.10 for lot # 254. The average successful bidder got 6 lots for about \$40.00. Nine lots had tie bids, going to the earliest bidder.

What seemed to be most popular were mixtures, packets and foreign classics - 19th Century. The most popular lots were the last two, both worldwide mixtures of over 10,000 stamps — months of pleasure but not many valuable stamps. In the Mail Sale last year, the most popular lots were the full sets of Scotts Catalogs (1989); a similar lot in this sale failed to attract a bid. This may reflect the extreme price change from 1989 to 1990 in the Scott's Catalogs. What did less well was U.S., including airmails and "Back+of-book", covers, philatelic literature (though that did well in Sale #1); damaged or faulty stamps.

Prices Realized Listings for Sale # 2 are elsewhere in this issue; likewise, instructions for submitting lots for Sale # 3.

••• Wallace D. Johnson, M.D. (#212)

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7.	1.60	62.	.70	115.	.nb	173.	17.50	231.	3.00
8.	15.00	63.	2.00	116.	4.25	174.	2.25	232.	3.00
9.	15.00	64.	3.75	117.	:nb	175.	.nb	233.	2.50
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23.	15.50	77.	19.75	131.	13.00	189.	.60	247.	11.50
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36.	.nb	90.	.60	144.	4.25	202.	4.25	260.	
37.	.nb	91.	2.25	145.	2.50	203.	.nb	261.	
38.	12.00	92.	2.25	146.	3.00	204.	2.50	262.	
39.	12.25	93.	1.50	147.	3.75	205.	2.25	263.	
40.	.nb	94.	2.25	148.	3.25	206.	3.25	264.	1.00
41.	2:75	95.	T 1.00	149.	T 4.25	207.	.nb	265.	
42.	1.70	96.	4.25	150.	4.00	208.	1.25	266.	
43.	.nb	97.	13.00	151.	.nb	209.	3.00	267.	
44.	.nb	97A.	5.75	152.	10.00	210.	2.00	268.	
45.	4.50	98.	.nb	153.	.nb	211.	15.50	269.	
46.	9.50	99.	4.00	154.	4.25		.nb	270.	
47.	2.25	100.	3.50	155.	.nb	213.	.nb	271.	11.00
48.	5.25	101.	15.00	156.	.nb	214.	1.10	272.	
49.	20.00	102.	8.00	157.	20	215.	.nb	273.	
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#### CLASSIFIED

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STAMP COLLECTING IS EDUCATIONAL & FUN

#### SOME THOUGHTS ON C.T.O. STAMPS

I have followed the pros and cons of allowing Cancelled-To-Order (CTO) stamps into ones collection. The argument seems to break down into a "yes" - "maybe" - or "no way" belief. What I would like to do is present a few thoughts that I believe should be added to the yes (for children and elderly) - no, never argument.

To the collectors who take the rock solid no to CTO stamps, I can only hope that your stamp budget keeps expanding because mint stamps have become so expensive that the number of collectors in this area are being priced out of the hobby. I realize there is a certain snob appeal to being anti-CTO. There is also an argument for mint stamps as portable wealth. Because we live in a stable economy, American collectors do not enter the portable wealth argument but many collectors outside the U.S. do.

To the collectors who take the yes-maybe stand, the general feeling is that CTO's serve a "purpose" and so its okay to collect them provided you replace them as soon as possible with a "real" stamp. The argument always ends with CTO's are needed so children can afford to collect stamps. This argument also has a certain snob appeal since it says "I really don't want them so I replace them as soon as I can and then give them to children."

Now I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but I believe that over half the stamps in a used collection are CTO's and the collector isn't even aware of it. The CTO's I'm speaking of are not the nice theme stamps produced by Eastern Europe and other Third World nations, but stamps from the "more desirable" countries like Commonwealth "Fly Speck" Islands, Western Europe and Scandinavia.

Have you ever purchased, let's say, "Postally sealed boxes" of stamps from such countries as Iceland, Belgium, etc.? I contend that these stamps are carefully crafted CTO's. Carefully crafted by the post office of the country so that the stamps do not lose their value as they might if they were cancelled-to-ordered as full gummed sheets. Instead, they are placed on envelopes, neatly cancelled with the desirable circular date stamps and then neatly cut and packed (double paper, of course) into postal boxes to be offered for sale. These stamps are not cheap. But as CTO's there would be a real revenue loss for the country. As "postally used" we collectors pay the higher price.

Before you flood me with "You're nuts" mail, think about it for a moment. Consider the size and population of a country like Luxembourg or Iceland, for example. Maybe 100,000 more or less. (This is an example number, not the correct population.) Now, how many letters would each citizen have to write in order to fill a 200-250 gram box. I figure that 100 stamps to the ounce times 8 will come close enough for our purposes...(250 grams = 1/4 kilo which equals @ 1/2 lb. US.) Using this formula our population needs to write at least one letter to another person within the country to fill a thousand boxes. The rub is that all countries pfint many different stamps per year. Iceland had about 17 different in 1988 so each Icelander had to write at least 17 letters. The country would also need to collect each and every stamp used within the country to offer 17,000 such boxes. Now its very possible that Icelanders did indeed write 17 letters in 1988 to other Icelanders and that the government was able to obtain each and every one, but I doubt it.

Using the same formula (not numbers) and applying them to the Islands or to those countries with low literacy rates — in the majority of the African countries, only 5 percent of the population is literate

#### MAIL SALE #3

Lots will now be received for Mail Sale # 3. I should like to hold two sales per year, one in the Spring, the other in the Fall. Some rule changes, prompted by suggestions from members, will be made:

- . Send all lots to: Wallace D. Johnson, M.D.
  - 806 Overlook Drive Beckley, WV 25801-9234
- Lots should be received by August 15, 1990.
- 3. List of lots due to *The Circuit* by September 1, 1990.
- 4. Last day for bids is November 10, 1990.
- 5. 1990 Catalog Value or estimated value of lot should be \$5.00 or more. If not, lots may be combined.
- 6. Minimum bid on any lot will be \$0.50.
- If only one bid is received on a lot with a minimum, lot sold at the minimum bid.
- 8. Minimum bids may be set by owners but should be reason able. In general, minimum bids over 50% of 1990 catalog are not recommended, though exceptions are possible for premium material. ••• Wallace D. Johnson, M.D. (#212)

#### DR. JOHNSON'S SERVICE APPRECIATED

I think ISWSC members owe a vote of thanks to Dr. Wallace Johnson (# 212) for a job well done in the big mail bid auction., It required a lot of time and effort and I, for one, certainly appreciated it. ••• James L. Burt (# 189)

# ISWSC SALES CIRCUIT WRITE FOR A SAMPLE SELECTION OR INFO TO SELL YOUR DUPLICATES

#### **CONTACT:**

ISWSC Sale Circuit • Bruce C. Negrycz (#331) 33 Franklin Ave. • Clifton, NJ 07011

— how are the collectors to obtain used copies of their stamps? The solutions are to either buy mint, greatly restrict our collecting areas and interests, obtain a trading partner in each and every country (very difficult and expensive), or accept with grace and respect the CTO's. I choose the last option. My collection includes all three and my pride and joy in my collection keeps growing with each new addition.

I can only suggest that more collectors stop buying into the sales pitch of dealers (including the MNH bit) and renew their original purpose of collecting stamps, enjoy mint of the hobby.

Now having said all of the above, I would like to offer any members interested in a CTO deal. I have a limited amount of Japanese CTO commemoratives, about 30 packets of 125 different and will trade them one to one for any CTO commemoratives you have. Happy Stamping. ••• Doris Schatz (# 362)

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S COLUMN

just kidding... there is no "P.R. Column," but the two Ken's and Herb get to put their words of wisdom in regular columns so maybe I can slip this one past the editor.

The geographical sort of our membership list in the previous issue of *The Circuit* got my attention; a close look tells us a little something about who we are. Firstly, we are not as "international" as we would like to be ... only 10 countries in all, with several represented by a single member. Some years ago I wrote to major club newsletters in scores of countries but have no idea how many printed them. We did at one time have more members outside the U.S. and Canada but I think it may be more difficult for them to participate in certain benefits like the exchange and sales circuits. Now we have created some regional secretaries and that should help. Anyone have any ideas how we can increase overseas membership? If so, our International Foreign Secretary would probably appreciate the suggestions. Right now we have one member on the European continent (not counting you folks from the U.K.).

I also did some tallying of the U.S. listings — 43 states and D.C. -gives us a B+ for diversity there. But look at those cities!! ISWSC is a collection of largely non-urban philatelists, perhaps many of whom do not have a local club to attend. In California we have as many members from Shingle Springs (1) as from L.A. and San Fransisco combined! Barefoot Bay, FL (1) exceeds Miami (0) and Meadowbrook, PA (1) ties the membership total of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia all together. Not one member from Chicago proper! Not one from Detroit or Boston or St. Louis or Minneapolis of New Orleans or Seattle. Westerville, Ohio, has a member, which is more than the combined total from Cleveland and Cincinnati. True, many of these cities are present in the name of suburban addresses, but never the less, this is a pretty incredible demographic. The only explanation I can think of is that in the bigger cities there are more clubs and dealers and shows to engage collectors, while those of us in places called Petaluma have fewer such choices. Anyone else have a better theory?

In the March-April issue, Rita's editorial castigated the U.S. Postal Service for intimidating charity groups who save and distribute stamps, because it encourages washing and improper re-use. Maybe I could have seen at least a little sense in this policy if it hadn't been that the editorial was located right above the 25¢ stamp used to mail the newsletter to me...uncancelled! I don't know about you, but I see more and more uncancelled stamps coming in the mail. If the USPS is too busy/lazy/near-sighted to cancel stamps why would I have to bother washing off the ones they do strike? While on that subject by the way, the reason for the 25¢ stamp referred to is that the press of business forced Rita to be a bit late in mailing The Circuit so she paid for the upgrade to 1st class out of her own pocket. "Over and above the call of duty," Rita, but we all thank you.

Ken Jenkins' mention that Scott used values are for CTO sent me rushing off to read the rules again . . . after all, he had to be wrong, didn't he? Well, no, not technically. I even checked older issues of the catalog but it hasn't changed. What you do find is a very confused set of references in two places in the front and in various boxes throughout. Most of these references say things like "CTO items generally are worth less than postally used...," yet in countries that sell a lot of CTO they do state the used value column is for CTO (See Czechoslovakia - 1950, for example). Seems like more of

#### New Zealand Mixture Evaluated

Mixture: 2 Lbs New Zealand Office Mix Source: House of Stamps (in New Zealand)

**Price:** \$ 17.00

Ad: Linn's in early December 1989

Sent: Mid -December Received: Mid-January Contents: (Approx)

> 1000 large blue duck 1000 small brown kiwi 1000 Misc. - Variety

I was pleased and surprised with the speed of receiving this mixture. I trade by mail with two people in Australia and it generally takes two months (one month there and one month back). But this mixture from New Zealand took only one month there and back. Since the two countries are in the same general area, I wonder why it takes twice as long from Australia?

This mixture was a pleasure to work with, taking stamps off paper. Mostly single paper and not too many damaged. Ran into one problem because some backing paper leached out some red and stained a few stamps. I generally soak about 500 at a time. Solution? Take stamps off the paper as soon as possible (working with smaller batches of stamps) and place them in another container of cold water. After doing this, I had no leaching problem.

As you can see there were many duplicates, but in that 1000 miscellaneous there was much "Gravy" - much variety with 12 stamps cataloging at least \$2:00 each. There were between 175-200 different, including a few B.O.B. health & insurance stamps. There was a tremendous catalog value, particularly considering the price of almost 2 for 1¢. I will trade off the surplus duplicates to a packet maker and re-order next year, if the mixture is again available.

••• S. E. RUTXIM

### **OMNI EXCHANGE**

"The Official ISWSC Exchange"



Write to:
OMNI EXCHANGE
Tom Allison (# 42)
Box 252
Wilmette, IL 60091



#### NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Anumber of our members/dealers pay for ads in *The Circuit*. Try them, you might like what you get. If you do, a note to the editor will be appreciated by the balance of the membership and also by the dealer.

Scott's waffling to me. Try to sell or exchange a CTO at full Scott value sometime! Hah!

••• Dave Nelson, (# 25), Public Relations Officer

## Hints • Tips • & Other Brainstorms

#### STORING DUPLICATES

In the last newsletter Herb Holland asked how folks arrange and store their duplicate stamps. I'd like to share my system although I know it may not be suitable to everyone. I have found it very successful for the past 18-20 years and it doesn't cost a cent, just a bit of time.

I take regular size (# 10) envelopes (mostly return envelopes from junk mail) and seal the flap. I then cut them in half lengthwise and put a staple in the middle to form two pockets. You can staple in two or three places to form several smaller pockets. This makes a container similar to that of a stock book pocket. By turning the back side of the envelope to the front, there is ample room for writing country and catalog numbers, etc. I was fortunate enough to find boxes from a local department store that are about the size of these envelopes and about 3 inches high.\* When enough pockets are filled and placed in the box, it is very easy to access them all.

I file them alpha by country and within each country the stamps are in order by Scott number. It makes it very easy to find any given stamp at any time. People with specialized collections may be able to adapt this to their needs. Being a worldwide collector, I do not worry about topical subjects nor do I segregate the very high values because I don't have any. If you want stamps from certain time periods, it is easy to find then because they're listed by Scott numbers.

••• Al Degenhart (#92)

\* Editor's Note: Check with local printers for their spare #10 envelope boxes to use with above pockets. For glassine storage askfor#6-3/4envelope boxes. Most printers can order stationary or envelope boxes for you at reasonable prices if they have no spares. Or ask a friend who works in an office to save their boxes once the envelopes are gone.

if I'm trading with someone who collects only to a certain year, a glance at the catalog will give the corresponding data. This is the method I've found to be most useful to my style of collecting and trading. As the guy on television has been heard to say, "It works for me." ••• Raech (# 363)

## STORING DUPLICATES - ONE GUY'S ANSWER

In response to Herb Holland's question about storing duplicates, for what it's worth, here's how I do it.

I use #4 glassines. I don't write on the glassine I'm cheap and use them over again). I use a paper filler, cut to fit, which I place in the glassine. I write the country name and Scott number in the upper left hand corner, entering the Scott catalog edition (year) just below. The Scott catalog value (CV) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the filler. If I have both mint and used copies of an item, I enter both values, M for mint and U for used (brilliant!). As'I said before, I'm cheap so I use each filler slip four times while the glassine is used over and over again. Well, you get the idea.

If I have more than ten of a kind, I use a #1 glassine for each ten and place these inside the #4. They fit just right. I don't update the CV every year, but I do change both the CV and the catalog date whenever I add more duplicates.

A lot of work? Too costly? Maybe so, but I think the system has its advantages. If I used stock books or stock sheets, I'd have to shift the stamps everytime I found a number in between the others, resulting in a lot of shifting and damaged (bent) corners. Too many stamps in the pockets tends to spread the pocket and out come the stamps. Using stock sheets means I'd have to use binders ot file folders to hold them. Stock books will only hold so many stamps and them you need another stock book.

Oh! The glassines are stored in the proverbial shoe boxes.\* A lot of them are just right. Another reason I prefer this method of storage is that "the whole ball of wax" is identified, cataloged (even if not every one is up-to-date) and is ready for sale as "dealers stock". I've heard you can get a little more if you sell this way. I don't intend to sell just yet, but, at least my heirs will have something to work with when that time comes.

In answer to some of Herb's other questions, I only store stamps with a CV of 10¢ and up, because the exchanges I'm involved with have a 10¢ minimum CV for stamp entry. I don't categorize by topic, except for trains, so I'll let someone else answer that. Time spent cataloging is not too much once you're up and running; a lot,however, if you're just starting up. As for cut-off dates,

## STORING DUPLICATES AND TRADING

I seperate my duplicate stamps by country into glassines and paper envelopes. Canada is arranged by Scott numbers. My USA, and Great Britian are kept in stock books. I like to trade with foreign penpals stamp for stamp. It saves a lot of time. I get rid of many of my common duplicates and often get recent from such places as Indonesia, etc.

After doing the work of taking stamps off paper, the cost is miniscule per stamp, Postage is approx. 78¢ with 100 different stamps of one country, I figure the total cost is \$1.00-1.50, plus my time. One asks for all different used in return. I am not set up to service topicals & regretfully disengage from trading with topicalists.

A lot of my trading partners catalog themselves what I send them, return what they don't want and give equal catalog in say USA se-tenants, etc., used, for what they take.

I even trade with a few dealers. We exchange 10 x 10 of our overstocked items and pass duplicates off to other traders. Saves that precious commodity - time.

I trade mostly used stamps byecasue better mint stamps cost too much. I use older postage on philatelic covers and hand stamp them myself. Usually I get nice covers back.

••• Len Attwool (#359)

The World Almanac and Book of Facts contains color pages of flags of the countries of the world and also color maps. In the map section is a small inset map showing Africa in 1939, with the colonial name's while the larger map has the present day country names. For a stamp collector, this is a very good feature. In the Information Please Almanac, the map section is essentially the same, but there is not a flag section. Other useful and interesting sections are those of political, geographical and historical information about the countries of the world, i.e. a veritable treasure of trivia! An inexpensive way to buy either or both; is at a public library book sale where they are selling off older material, or at a used book store.

••• Joe Palko (#421)



#### NARROW MINDED VIEW IN LINN'S SPARKS REPLY FROM MEMBER

To the Editor, Linn's Stamp News

I'm sure Ron Rampolla's letter (March 1990) has brought a flood of critcal replies. I hope mine is one of the first. I recently served for a brief time as editor of *The Circuit*, bi-monthly journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors. Most of the 300-plus members prefer used stamps.

The statement of Ron' Rampella certainly represents a most narrow-minded point of view. He said, among other nonsense, that souvenior sheets should be kept as souveniors, not used as postage.

He uses only the most common stamps for postage, thus denying other collectors the pleasure of retrieving the better stamps for their collections.

To say, as he does, that "A real stamp collector would never even think to use a souvenior sheet for postage," os heresy. "Real" stamp collectors want real stamps that have been and can be used for postage, not a bunch of wallpaper printed to sell to collectors.

Ron apparently does not recognize one of the basic tenets of philately, that everyone should be allowed to collect his or her way. Certainly there are a great many collectors who prefer used stamps, as in postally used, and want nothing else in their collections.

And real stamp collectors will tell you very quickly and emphatically that (1) anybody with the price can acquire new, unused stamps when they are issued, but it takes a "real" collector to find, salvage, and make a collection of used stamps in fine condition, and (2) there would be a lot less wallpaper offered to collectors is only postally used stamps went into collections." • James Burt (# 189)

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#### THE EDITOR WRITES:

Thanks: I wish to thank all who have sent so many interesting articles and ideas for our newsletter. I tried very hard to get everything on four sheets of paper, but just could n't do it without the print becoming too small to read comfortably. During my first stint as editor, other than the officers' columns and a couple letters each issue, I had to write numerous articles to fill the space; it certainly is a delight to have enough to fill each newsletter. I really appreciate your help. As you often hear on the television, "Keep those cards and letters coming, folks!"

Another Thank You: A great big Thank You to Dr. Wallace Johnson, M.D., (# 212) for the super job on the last mail auction, which netted a tidy sum for ISWSC and a nice bit of change for the sellers. All the results are published in this issue and Dr. Johnson advises that it's time to send in your lots for the next auction this fall.

Special Thanks: We are all indebted to member Joe Foley (# 308) for the lovely things he wrote about worldwide collecting and ISWSC in his column in the recent APS journal, *TheAmerican Philatelist*. Several ISWSC members wrote to advise me of the APS article and I thank them. I ,for one, think it's just super-duper to have an APS President who is interested in worldwide collecting. Thanks, Mr. Foley, for advancing our cause.

Introduction: The lead article for this issue was submitted by a new member (# 430), but a longtime philatelic writer, so many of you will recognize the name of Bruce Conde'. He has been writing for philatelic publications for about 40 years. You've seen his work in such publications as Mekeel's, Linn's, (Western) Stamp Collector, Collectors, Club, Stanley Gibbons, and many other specialized journals. I hope you enjoy his article as much as I did and I surely hope he will grace our pages with many more articles. He has led a very adventurous life, particularly in the Middle East, an area of the world that few of us know much about and I would enjoy learning more about his escapades as the head of the postal services for Royalist Yemen. Thank you, Mr. Conde'.

New Column: One of the members has volunteered to write an occasional column evaluating different mixtures that this member purchases. Only the Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor know, the identification of this member. I have named this person S. E. Rutxim - mixtures spelled backwards. If other members would like to send in such an evaluation from time to time, we'll be happy to shield your identity.

CTO's: Just as Doris Schatz (# 362), I collect CTO stamps. Of course, we'd all like to be able to afford either mint or real used stamps. But as Doris points out, most of us simply can't afford that, so we either have many bare album pages waiting for used stamps or settle for CTO. I know that many of the better countries issue CTO's and have been doing so for a long time; I have a set of Belgian semi-postals from the early 1900's that is CTO and so noted in Scott's Catalog. I have gotten CTO stamps from Austria, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein with full (mint) gum on the back.

However, the stamps that Doris described in her article may actually be used. I can not speak for all the Western European countries but I do know that most of them are more socialistic than the United States, thus in many, the government owns such things as the power "companies", telephone services, water departments, etc. In West Germany, for instance, the government owns the power and

Continued Page 10

#### ROSTER ADDITIONS

- #437 Tromp, Robert L. 9 Mar 90 Yes Both 6285 West 33d South Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
- 438 Dickinson, Marsha P.13 Mar 90 Yes Both6639 Blucher AvenueVan Nuys, California 91406
- 439 Mayes, Robert F.4416 Walbridge TrailDayton, Ohio 45430
- 440 Carroll, John E. 28 Mar 90 Yes Used 831 Adams Avenue # 1 El Centro, California 92243
- 441 Duval, Yves 28 Mar 90 Yes Both 16830 Ventura Blvd # 330 Encino, California 91436
- 442 Mines, Rev. Marshall13 Apr 90 Yes Used1420 Maple StreetLakeland, Florida 33809
- 443 McKown, Cornelius J. 14 Apr 90 Yes Both460 Orlando AvenueState College, Pennsylvania 16803
- 444 Overmoe; Brad 30 Apr 90 No Used 3108 Ivy Lane Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
- 445 Transue, Alan 30 Apr 90 Yes Both 4280 S. W. Averio Lane Lee's Summitt, Missouri 64082
- 446 Gawith, J. H. 30 Apr 90 Yes Both 19 Seddon Street Timaru, NEW ZEALAND
- 447 Valencia, Marlyne 30 Apr 90 No Both (withheld by request)
  Illinois
- 448 Perez, Luis O. 2 May 90 Yes Both 8024 Southside Blvd #85 Jacksonville, Florida 32256
- 449 Burge, Agnes C. 3 May 90 Yes Both 910 E. Mitchell Street
  Ludington, Michigan 49431

#### POSTAL TRIVIA:

On November 5, 1639, Richard Fairbanks of Boston was appointed postmaster of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, thus beginning the first public postal service in America. ••• Arlene Futrell (# 2)

#### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

- 359 Attwooli Change to: 338 Malaga Road #5 Oshawa, Ontario, CANADA L1J 1N7
- 370 Muszynski Change to: 1039 Dilley's Road Gurnee, Illinois 60031

#### DON'T GET CAUGHT IN SEMANTIC TRAP

One of the most simplistic and asinine arguments we have seen in a long time was contained in a letter to *Stamp Collector* in which the writer tries to define the beginning and ending of decades and centuries. We won't embarass the writer by revealing his name.

"It's easy," he says. "If the last numeral is '0' you start a new decade—the end of a decade (or century) always is in a year ending in '9'—1989 is the last year in this decade!"

Nonsense! The truth of the matter is that ANY period of ten years is a decade, no matter when it starts. And ANY period of a hundred years is a century. Look it up in any dictionary.

As for that zero business, that's the reasoning of computer buffs. Computer counting starts with zero as the first figure. Before computers, and that certainly includes the time when the calendar was invented, all counting started with the figure one. There is no year '0' and never has been. January 1st of the first year After Christ (A.D.) was the first year of year 1.

It is spurious reasoning, indeed, to say that the first year of either a century or decade must begin with zero. It is done with decades merely as a matter of convenience so a name like "the 80's," etc., can be hung on them. Start from the beginning and count every year and you will find the first century, the first hundred years, ends at the stroke of midnight between 100 and 101. The other method gives you a 99-year first century.

Again, ANY 10-year period is a decade, and ANY 100-year period is a century. ••• James Burt (# 189)

#### Whatzit?



ID # 90-1: This stamp was found on a blank page in a very old album. The yellowish paper is watermarked with a Great Britian watermark # 33. The cancellation mark is purplish-blue and unreadable except an "M" over a line with the number "1." beneath. Had it not been for the watermark, this would have been discarded as mere junk. Does anyone know what this "stamp" is?

For the newer members, this occasional column is for those curous bits of paper that resemble stamps, but we can't seem to find readily in a catalog. If your have a stomething that you can't identify, send a good photocopy to the editor and it will be published for other members to help identify it. If you have information on a published item, send your answer along with the ID # to the editor.

#### **Editor:**

telephone services and these bills are paid through the postal service. This could be the source of many of the used stamps on actual envelope corners these governments sell in their offically sealed boxes. We're just so used to sending our bills to four or five different companies that if I hadn't had first hand knowledge of West Germany, it would never have occured to me that the post offices would get a lot of used stamp envelopes from bill payers. So you may have more used stamps than you think, Doris.

ISWSC: Public Relations Chairman, Dave Nelson (#25) made some interesting points in his article on the demographics of our membership, noting the few number of countries represented. The Australian writer, Ronald Wickens, for Stamp Collector recently (May 19,1990) wrote an excellent column on collecting worldwide and the problems of completion, penpals, societies, exchange clubs, etc. He indicated he has had great difficulty finding contacts and penpals in many countries. He thinks part of it stems from the differences in population and points to the fact that there are far fewer Australian collectors interested U.S. stamps than vice versa. And in some countries there may be only a handful of collectors - and none of them may be interested in collecting anything but their own country. I think some collectors only collect stamps from their own country because of economic reasons.

Having actively collected for 25 years or so, I've found that once a collector finds a good contact in the country/countries interested in, the tendency is to drop out of the exchange club,

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society or organization. I find this particularly true in countries where incomes are small; they can't afford the continuing annual dues - just to be a member. I made contact with a wonderful elderly couple in New Zealand through an exchange club (no longer in exiistence). They collected the U.S., U.N., and British Colonies and since I collected New Zealand and the rest of the world, they found me an ideal partner and we exchanged stamps for many years. Once we hooked up, they dropped their membership in the exchange, to save the money for stamps. (The wife eventually had to quit collecting after her husband died as her pension check was greatly reduced.) We here in the U.S. sometimes don't realize how much expendable income we have in comparison to many collectors in other countries.

Earth Day Postscript: It dawned on me the other day that those of us who collect used stamps are Recyclers!! We've saved all these stamps from the ignoble garbage heap and we've been doing it for a long time! Rah! Rah!

Enjoy the summer outdoors, but on the really hot days, sit down to relax with your beloved stamps or write an article or just a note. Let us hear from YOU!! Enjoy!! ••• Rita Kallal (# 26), Editor

4 88 Vi

MORE TRIVIA: In 1898, the first "omnibus" issue (one design used by more than one country) was issued by Portugal and its colonies to hail the 400th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of an ocean route to India.

Herb Holland, Secy-Treasurer 825 E. Torrey
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