

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND PHILATELY

by Allen F. Soule (# 417), Australlan Co-Secretary

Herewith some hints for those who collect Pacific Islands' stamps. Keep handy for future reference.

1. ISLAND PHILATELIC BUREAUS

The majority of Pacific countries do not have the sophisticated philatelic bureaus, computers, etc., one associates with America, Canada, Australia, etc. In most of these Pacific countries, the philatelic bureau is part of the normal postal system and connected with the main post office. Orders are all done manually. See list of island bureaus below.

Delays can occur with mail:

- The isolation of many countries with infrequent shipping or air service.
- Stamps may be printed in other countries and delivery delays occur (see a above).
- Facilities to change currency (especially large sums) are not available.

2. PACIFIC ISLAND STAMP ISSUES

Current issues are available from the each country's philatelic bureau. Older issues (usually over 2 years) are only available from stamp dealers. I have attached a list of dealers for your reference. (I do not get a commission if you write to any of these dealers, but it would be nice if you would use my name and ISWSC on your correspondence to them. Might get us some new members.)

a. Give as much detail of item desired as possible. Most dealers use Gibbons catalog for reference, but some do use Scott. If you know the Scott number, give it and the dealer may be able to cross-reference it to Gibbons. I would advise giving the following information:

Catalog #	Date of Issue	Country	Description
Scott #	Feb 19, 1992	Papua-NG	Bird of Paradise

definitives (include denominations, if known)

3. FINE USED COPIES

Often only available pre-1960 for most areas. Post 1960 are usually C.T. O. (Cancelled to order - stamp has original gum but postmarked - frequently on day of issue). Pre-1960 most Pacific island nations were dependencies, colonies, etc., of Britian, France, Australia, New Zealand; most islands had large ex-patriate populations, so the volume of mail to the outside world was reasonably large and used items were collected and passed on to dealers. Post 1960, many areas became totally independent and there was an exodus of ex-patriates.

In all Pacific areas letter writing is not a hobby like in the west due to:

- Many people are not educated.
- Wages in all Pacific areas are very low compared with those in Australia, Canada, USA, etc. One month salary in most countries would be equivalent to a few hours salary in western countries.
- Stamp collecting is virtually non-existent as a hobby, one's salary is utilized in buying food, etc.
- In each Pacific nation only a handful of post offices exist and the services provided are very basic.
- If a used set of stamps is required, it would be easier to purchase a First Day Cover and soak the stamps off.

4. STAMP PACKETS

Most dealers do not carry these countries in packet form. A few many be able to make a packet to suit your requirements.

5. ORDERS

For current issues, write to the philatelic bureau of the country/countries of your choice for information on stamps available. Check with currency requirements - some use their own currency, others use Australian or New Zealand currencies. For older issues, write to the stamp dealer(s) of your choice with queries, want list, etc., method of payment, etc.

The general practice here when one is making an enquiry is to include a stamp, self-addressed envelope, so perhaps a self-addressed envelope and a two International Reply Coupons would assist an earlier reply.

SOUTH PACIFIC STAMP DEALERS

- Pacific Stamps • P. O. Box 111 • Cremorne Junction, N.S.W. - 2090 Australia (*Specialist dealer for Pacific region - old & new issues. Has lists of countries, topicals.*)
- Max Stern and Company • Box 9974 • G.P.O. Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia
- Peter Strich • G.P. O. Box 216D • Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia
- Mr. T. Grimshaw • P. O. Box 291 • Norfolk Island - 2899
- Len Jury Stamps and Coins • P. O. Box 4400 • Auckland, New Zealand (*New Zealand Pacific Specialists*)
- Auckland City Stamps, Ltd. • P. O. Box 3496 • Auckland, New Zealand

(Continued on Page 2)

PACIFIC ISLANDS

(continued from page 1)

PACIFIC PHILATELIC BUREAUS

1. Papua New Guinea Philatelic Bureau • P. O. Box 1 • Boroko, Capital District, Papua New Guinea
2. Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. Box 24 • Funafuti, TUVALU • Central Pacific
3. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office (Philatelic Service) • Aitutaki, Cook Islands
4. Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. • Honiara, Solomon Islands
5. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Rarotonga, Cook Islands
6. Philatelic Bureau • G. P. O. • Suva, Fiji
7. Philatelic Bureau • Recente Principale • Service Philatelique • Papeete, French Polynesia
8. Philatelic Bureau • Bairiki • Tawara, KIRIBATI • Central Pacific
9. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Republic of Nauru
10. Philatelic Bureau • Office des P. T. T. • Service Philatelique • Noumena, New Caledonia
11. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Wanganui, New Zealand (Also stocks Tokelau Islands)
12. Philatelic Bureau • Niue Post Office • Alofi, NIUE • South Pacific
13. Senior Philatelic Officer • Philatelic Bureau • Kingston, Norfolk Island - 2899
14. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Penryhn, Cook Islands
15. Pitcairn Island (Use Fiji Address)
16. Philatelic Officer • Christmas Island • Indian Ocean - 6798
17. Philatelic Bureau • Cocos (Keeling) Island • Indian Ocean - 6799
18. Philatelic Bureau • Stamp Section, Treasury Building • Nuku' Alofa, Tonga
19. Philatelic Bureau • Post Office • Port Vila, Vanuatu
20. Philatelic Bureau • Bureau des Postes • Service Philatelique • Mata-Utu, Wallis and Fournuta Islands
21. Philatelic Bureau • Chief Post Office • Apia, Western Samoa
22. Philatelic Bureau • Australia Post • G. P. O. Box 9988 • Melbourne • Victoria - 3001 Australia ...

\$449 Catalog Value for Less Than \$23 Cash !

One member of the ISWSC added stamps worth \$449.90 in catalog value to his collection last year, for a total cash outlay of \$22.80! That's less than five percent of Scott value!

How did he do it? He is a member of the OMNI Exchange, the official stamp exchange of the ISWSC. His only cash expense was \$2.00 for six blank exchange books (they cost 3 for \$1.00), plus postage of \$20.80 for sending books back and forth for the whole year.

Totally, the 104 participants in the exchange obtained stamps worth a record \$18,738.80 in catalog value during the year - and average of \$180.00 per member, according to the annual year end audit from Tom Allison (# 42) the OMNI Exchange manager.

October 31, 1991, completed seven years of operation, during which its members have obtained stamps worth over \$70,000.00 in catalog value. Tom Allison reports that 980

books are currently in circulation with a total catalog value of \$52,524.91.

Here's how OMNI Exchange works: members mount their duplicate stamps in the official OMNI exchange books, which are then circulated to other members of the exchange. Owners receive 90% of the catalog value of stamps taken by other members as a credit to their account. The other 10% of catalog value traded is retained by the exchange. There is NO cash fee on stamps traded.

There are two branches of the exchange - the Pink Book division, where minimum value of stamp is 10¢ (20¢ is using 1992 Scott Catalog), and the Blue Book division where minimum is 50¢ per stamp. The Pink division has 67 participants in three sections, handled by Co-Managers Dave Paul (# 59), Dr. Isaac Tannenbaum (#163) and Jerry Gross (# 429). The Blue division has 37 participants and is managed by Tom Allison.

HINTS, TIPS & OTHER BRAINSTORMS

Does anyone have a good procedure for the removal of the adhesive from the plastic stamps (# 2475 & # 2522)? Is the plastic from which these stamps are made soluble in xylol? ... H. Humm (# 678)

Welcome to ISWSC, Mr. Humm. Have you tried using lighter fluid? I regularly remove adhesive from labels, etc., using Ronson lighter fluid. I have not tried it on these plastic stamps, but do know that it will not damage the plastic. So why not try it? I removed used US dove precancel stamps (#1552) from envelopes in this manner: I trimmed the envelope paper closely, then placed it on a saucer stamp down. I squirted lighter fluid until the envelope paper was soaked. I waited a few seconds then with sharp tweezers, pulled at a corner to see if the stamp was coming loose. If the stamp has not come loose before the fluid evaporates, wet with fluid again and cover saucer with Saran wrap to prevent evaporation and leave it for a couple minutes. Once the stamp is loose, remove it carefully from the envelope paper. Some of the adhesive will be removed with the paper, but usually there is still some gum residue on the backside of the stamp. Again lay the stamp in the saucer and squirt with lighter fluid. Begin immediately to gently rub your finger over the back of the stamp to loosen more adhesive. Squirt again and then begin blotting with paper toweling; repeat this process until the stamp doesn't feel sticky anymore. (Be sure to clean your fingers before the final towel cleaning so you don't transfer gum back to the stamp.) This is a tedious process and might not be as necessary for plastic stamps to be removed from envelope paper as they will not fox and spot from adhesive bleed-through like the dove stamps which were printed on paper. It probably won't be as easy to damage them with your rubbing and toweling, either. Does anyone have a better method? If so, let us know. Thanks ... The Editor

The OMNI Exchange is open to all ISWSC members whose dues are paid up to date. For more details and an application to join, contact Tom Allison, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091. ...

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recent mail to our house has been directed to a new family member **MRS. ISWSC**. In fact this person seems to be, possibly, the missing winner of \$10 Million that Ed McMahon's been trying to find. Amy says it isn't hers, so if you are Mrs. ISWSC, you could be a rich person. Let me know. [or is this just be some a mix-up connected to the fact that I ordered some address labels in the name of "ISWCS, Dave Nelson" ?...Nah, Ed would never make a mistake like that!]

The officers (me, Ken Costilow, Carol Cervenka) have elected P.R.O. **Tom Fortunato** and Canadian Rep., **Rima Carver**, to join us and **Ken Jenkins** and **Herb Holland** on the Board of Directors. Rules call for a Board of up to nine members, but with us so separated geographically a BOD of seven is more practical than a "full" Board.

Many thanks to those of you who wrote to me following last issue's column. **Pete Bialick** (#476) sent along some very useful ideas about by-law changes (e.g more discretion for elected officers; don't lock things in unnecessarily) and also wanted more Omni options, such as an all-mint circuit....any other takers for that idea might want to send a note to **Tom Allison**). My old trading partner, **Dr. John Pruitt**, M.D.(#121) wrote a bit shocked that he had momentarily been listed on our unpaid members list and suggested we send bills to remind members of the annual event. Sounds like a good idea to me as I know we do lose members due to simple oversight, but we will have to see if we can work out something that won't consume too much postage and volunteer labor. In any case, John more than offset any omission on his part by adding a generous \$10 donation to his yearly dues. **Len Attwooll** (#359), like many who wrote, favors keeping our member fees down if we can and liked the idea of paying for rosters instead of a dues change. **Joe Foley** (#308), immediate past president of APS also sent a long letter with some good advice about by-laws and foreign memberships. He is mentioning our group in various columns and articles, one of which I hope you will find in this issue.

Who I didn't hear from are any members volunteering to contact the Boy Scouts of America to assist in their merit

badge program, or anyone willing to offer themselves up as *The Circuit* Editor. As to the latter, let us all hope for the continued good health and good will of **Rita Kallal** who continues to serve the dual role of Editor and Publisher and without whom our only vehicle of society communication would grind to a complete halt.

I received a gratis copy of *Postcard Classics*, the sizeable periodical of the Deltiologists of America. Founded in 1960, they are an association of Postcard Collectors in case you didn't recognize the term. This is a very nicely done bimonthly newsletter and if you are into postcards you may want to join them. Dues are \$12 a year (SEE what a bargain ISWSC still is!), and you get a free 20 word ad in the newsletter, but the rules are a bit complicated so best you just write for an application form Deltiologists of America, Box 8, Norwood, PA. 19074. Tell 'em *The Circuit* sent ya'.

I have been reminded that member **Israel Bick** (#502), who was pictured with Postmaster General Frank in our latest issue, is doing business as the "International Stamp Collector's Society". Apparently he has at least 10 years head start on ISWSC for claim to the very similar name, so if irreconcilable differences result we may have to rename the Society. Wouldn't it be terrible to have to give up such a slick acronym as ISWSC? Hopefully we can co-exist, just remember that our Society does not sell stamps or endorse stamp dealers (and Mr. Bick, presumably, does not endorse stamp clubs.)

Woe of the Month: Is there such a thing as a good stamp finder on the market these days? I mean one of those little dictionaries that tell you that "AUNUS" printed on Finland stamps are from the Finnish occupation of Russia (yes, it really happened) or that "Baranya" on a Hungarian stamp refers to the Serbian occupation of same. As a Worldwider with uncertain memory skills I have constant need of something to remind me where to open my album for an item inscribed "K.S.A ." or "Nopto Mapka". Incredibly, (bit of nostalgia here) I am still using my dog-eared copy of *The Stamp Finder*, edition of 1954, price 25c, which was given to me by mom and dad when I started collecting at age 14. Can you imagine how many of

today's countries were not even existing when that went to press? Not only are there no Disney stamps indexed, but not even JFK was recognized at that time. Who can refer me to a modern and complete looker-upper? I am desperate. If there is no such thing then perhaps one of our members would like to start the project. I would help a lot, and an ISWSC backed worldwide stamp finder publication might be commercially viable.

I signed us up to participate in the 106th APS convention which happens to be across the bay in Oakland on August 27-30. I will help man an Affiliates table, go to the Affiliates luncheon, hand out some of our literature, and try to get a meeting room for existing and prospective members to gather in. I would have volunteered for a speaker's slot on basic philately but I never know when I may have to be overseas as my calendar is not fixed that far into the future. If I had a volunteer to take over in case I couldn't make it I might still try that. S.F. Bay area members PLEASE drop me a note and let me know if you can help out on this event! For that matter, at a national show, some of you may be planning to travel from well outside the area so don't be shy about helping out. It would be great if we could get a reasonable number of members to show up for our meeting.

... Dave Nelson (#25), President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It appears that ISWSC is still growing as new member stamp contributions for the Youth Program continue to arrive on a regular basis. Requests for assistance by Ben Franklin groups and other community related youth groups have been filled as requested. One request for stamps for a veteran's group was also filled.

I am happy to report that a home was found for the worldwide collection offered for sale earlier. Although the price desired by the seller was not obtained, the net result was a sizeable increase in the ISWSC bank balance, so I would like to express the appreciation of ISWSC to the seller, and the buyer as well. Happy Collecting!

... Ken Costilow (#142), Vice President & Youth Program Chairman

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S COLUMN

The first two months of my term as Secretary-Treasurer have been busy and very interesting. ISWSC has started the year off with 27 new members enrolled since January 15th, when Herb Holland transferred the books and records to me. Of the 27 new members, 11 have joined as a result of member referrals, 10 heard about us through the mailing to APS members, 2 joined after reading about us in the APS journal, *The American Philatelist*, gift memberships brought in 2 more members and the Australian and Canadian secretaries each sent in one.

A number of inquiries have been answered, and additional members may result from this source. Our best method of getting new members is still through member referrals; now that we offer a free year for every five members enrolled as a result of a member's referral, we hope you will contact all your stamp collecting friends and tell them about ISWSC. Don't forget that gift memberships count toward your recruiting total!

Two of the more interesting inquiries this past month have been from the Campbell-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, Vermont, wanting to set up a worldwide stamp collecting program for children, and a call from *US Magazine*, seeking information on potential sales of the Elvis stamp overseas. In each case, a variety of resources were given to the callers, and where appropriate, materials were also sent.

Each month ISWSC receives several letters from people around the globe. Some seek donations of stamps, some wish to trade or exchange stamps with members, but have not joined the society. If anyone is interested in exchanging stamps with these non-members, you'll find their addresses printed elsewhere in *The Circuit*.

The following members have been dropped from ISWSC rolls. These members have failed to send in their dues as requested in the last issue of *The Circuit*:

4 Krupa
63 Borkman
199 Futrell
210 Young
213 Holtz
293 Urdang
306 Mengert
314 Kirby
407 Jensen

415 Ryle
434 Clarke
440 Carroll
442 Mines
451 Wiskar
454 Lovell
456 Willis
472 Goldman
496 Asselin
497 Wood
500 Knudsen
505 McCann
508 Barclay
512 Peterson
514 Byrkit
515 Umlas

The following member has not paid dues to renew membership, and will be dropped if dues are not received soon:

340 Marcotte

If there has been an error, please contact me at once so I may restore your membership. The time from the printing of issue to the deadline of the next, is not always sufficient to allow me to remove names from the list. The above list contains names of members who had not contacted me prior to March 10th.

The club acknowledges the following donations:

# 26	Kallal	\$ 5.00
58	Sherwood	100.00 *
360	Matous	15.00

* Commission from partial sale of a collection

Many thanks to those members who continue to support ISWSC with your contributions as well as your dues!

Please make note of the following address change:

365 Maddock (Everett) change to: 969 Dowling St. # 502, Denver, CO 80218-3021 USA

Member interest codes have been arriving almost daily from the new members. Those of you who have not yet filled in your code page, please do so promptly, and send it on to me. A long list of Interest Codes are elsewhere in this issue.

I do hope you will write to me with your ideas, suggestions, comments and complaints. Currently we need the pro bono services of a lawyer to review the documents and file ISWSC's non-profit incorporation papers. If you can serve the club in this capacity, please contact me or President

ISWSC MEETING AT COLUMBIAN EXPO

Tom Fortunato reports the official ISWSC meeting at the 1992 World Columbian Stamp Expo has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, at 4-5 P.M. All ISWSC members attending the Expo in Chicago, are invited to stop in for the meeting. Tom has made arrangements with Tom Allison to have ISWSC brochures distributed during the show. For more info, contact the Public Relations Officer Tom Fortunato (#379). ...

More Scott Catalog Poll

Two more members have replied to the Scott Catalog Poll (Nov-Dec 91). One is a new member.

1. One favors the more realistic pricing but the other says no and comments that Scott's "realistic pricing" is dealer wishful thinking.

2. Both agree the 15¢ minimum is too high. One thinks this pricing is a ridiculous gimmick offered as a sop to dealers for lowering prices on higher value stamps. Offers the idea that these 15¢ values are useless in stamp trading.

3. One feels auction results should be used, using winning bids only, while the other thinks commissions should be included.

4. Both members asked the question, "What IS current price setting policy? One commented additionally: Scott doesn't set prices, collectors do.

5. Both think Scott should add dealers, collectors, and trade writers to their pricing panel.

6. The two disagreed on whether the catalog price changed the value of their collection. The member who said no, says, "What I pay for items is determined by how bad I want it. One of my principle specialties is Western Ukraine. Genuine, expertized copies are usually above Scott values, and covers are through the roof. The second member feels that it lowered the value of the collection and he/she still buys at one-quarter catalog value. ...

Dave Nelson as soon as possible. Your guidance and advice will be deeply appreciated. ... Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary-Treasurer

Officers, Chairpersons, Managers

President: Davis Nelson (# 25), 309 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952 USA

Vice President: Ken Costilow (#142), 621 Virginius Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 USA (Send Required Stamps for Dues for Youth Stamp Program to the Vice President)

Secretary-Treasurer: Carol Cervenka (# 498), Rt 1 Box 69-A, Caddo Mills, TX 75005 USA

ISWSC Archivist: Hal Erickson (#173), 217 Redstone, Las Vegas, NV 89128 USA

Editor/Publisher: Rita Kallal (#26), PO Box 1513, West Monroe, LA 71294-1513 USA

Youth Stamp Program: Ken Costilow (#142)

Public Relations Chairman: Tom Fortunato (#379), 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022 USA

International Foreign Secretary: Ray Compton (#73), Box 1772, Manassas, VA 22110-1772 USA

Australian Secretaries: Karl F. Steinberg & Allen F. Soule, P.O. Box 12017, A'Beckett St., Melbourne - 3000, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

Canadian Secretary: Rima A. Carver (#493), 80 Wellington St. E., Brampton, Ont., L6W 1Y5 CANADA

U.K. Secretary: Chad Neighbor (#510), 28 Relugas Place, Edinburgh, EH9 2PY, SCOTLAND, U.K.

Sales Circuit Manager: W. K. Dow (#418), 3337 Cesery Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32211 USA

Auction Manager: Dr. Wallace D. Johnson (#212), 806 Overlook Dr., Beckley, WV 25801 USA

OMNI Exchange Manager: Tom Allison (#42), Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091-0252 USA

Co-Managers: Dave Paul (#59), Dr. Isaac Tannenbaum (#163), & Jerry Gross (#429)

Board of Directors: Ken Jenkins, Past President (#15); Herb Holland (# 31) and the Elected Officers.

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	\$25.00
Half Page	10.00
Quarter Page	7.00
Per column inch	2.00

Classified Rates per insertion: First 30 words, including name, address, and zip code 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 all checks payable to ISWSC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

OVER 100.000 STAMPS READY TO SEND at half catalog or less. Majority British Colonials, many US Revenues. Why Pay more? Bill Kiepora, Soledad, Calif. 93960-0333. Selling fine stamps since 1937 (3/3)

LIQUIDATING MY PERSONAL COLLECTIONS and accumulations of Austria, France, Colonies and some worldwide. Fair prices. Free list. Darrell L. George (#635), 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212 (3/3)

FREE CATALOG OF WORLDWIDE PACKETS. Worldwide Collections, Thematics and quality Mixtures. Established 1929. Your business is sincerely appreciated. ISWSC # 484. Angela, 515 N. 7th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048 (2/2)

WANTED EXCHANGERS. TO TRADE worldwide stamps \$1.00 or more. No cash involved. Write for a free sample list and details. Allison, Box 252, Wilmette, IL 60091 (1/1)

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE

May 15th, 1992

If your copy is not received by the deadline, it goes in NEXT issue.

Join the ISWSC Exchanges

Great Promotional Idea - How About Starting One Where You Live?

A recent letter from Edward S. Wiley of Maryland to *Mekeel's Weekly*, tells of a great promotion idea for philately. A New Mexico collector Bob Hall, who has been collecting stamps since World War II, obtained approval of the New Mexico State Fair Commission to set up a philatelic exhibit at the fair. Three Albuquerque-area collectors served as judges in ten classes ranging from 19th Century US, commemoratives, topicals, Latin America and British Empire.

Thousands of fairgoers saw the exhibit in the fair's Creative Arts Building. In addition, the *Albuquerque Journal* ran a two-column story including a photo of Mr. Hall and his collection, which was read by thousands more.

Similar promotion of philately can be achieved in communities all over the US and in many foreign countries by exhibiting at such public events. Get your local stamp club, local dealers, etc., involved in broadcasting the message that stamp collecting is fun, educational and a great stress reliever.

... Submitted by Harold Humm (# 678)

ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT

TO BECOME A PART OF A SWAP CIRCUIT -
Send a SASE to:
Swap Circuit - Dalene Thomas
8612 W. Warren Lane
Lakewood, CO 80227

ISWSC SALES CIRCUIT

**Write
for a sample selection
or info to sell your
duplicates**

Contact:
ISWSC Sales Circuit • W. K. Dow (#418)
3337 Cesery Blvd • Jacksonville, FL 32211

JOIN OMNI EXCHANGE

**FILL EMPTY SPACES IN YOUR
COLLECTION WITH A
MINIMUM CASH OUTLAY
TRADE YOUR DUPLICATES**

FOR INFO WRITE:
TOM ALLISON, OMNI MANAGER
BOX 252
WILMETTE, IL 60091-0252

SEARCH FOR NEW EDITOR IN HIGH GEAR

A search is on for a new editor for *The Circuit*. As many of you know, I took over the Editorship of *The Circuit* quite sometime ago, on a temporary basis, until a new editor could be found. A diligent search was not undertaken, so it has taken on a permanent aspect. But I simply cannot continue as editor beyond the next issue or two. Financial circumstances require that I find at least part-time employment to supplement the income lost due to the military cuts which have eliminated the National Guard Unit my husband was in. Because there's a surplus of officers, he has been unable to find another unit that needs a Major. So our income has been decreased several hundred dollars a month. Working in the print shop I was able to set my own hours and work at home if I needed to. I will still be doing all the bookkeeping, payroll, etc., for the print shop, plus taking care of my home and another job. Also, ISWSC is not the only organization I am involved in. I have meetings to attend, etc. Plus I have a family (grown) and a social life. I am not so young anymore and don't have the energy or stamina to continue to spread myself so thin. I just cannot do it. Putting out the Jan-Feb 92 newsletter and roster was enough to give me burn-out.

I will continue as publisher, unless someone else would like the job. The job consists of getting the newsletter printed, keeping up the mailing list, printing labels, collating, folding, and inserting about 350-400 newsletters into envelopes. Applying labels to envelopes. And for all newsletters mailed out of the USA, weighing and applying postage stamps.

As for the editor—we need someone who can put together the newsletter whether on their computer, word processor, typewriter, etc. We need camera ready copy. If someone has access to a Macintosh computer and Pagemaker, it could be sent in ready on disk. We have several members who regularly contribute articles, so the main task is typing it up and laying it out. Please consider taking on this task for awhile. It is not difficult if you have the time to type the articles and lay it out. There are some nice benefits: I have gotten some lovely, interesting stamps from several countries on my mail. Several members have sent me gifts of stamps and covers. And you'll "meet" some really nice people!

If I had the time, I would continue as editor. I will help with articles from time to time as I have time. We have a backlog of interesting articles, so you wouldn't have to take over with nothing. Please volunteer for awhile. Because I am deadly serious about NOT continuing.

It seems some of you are quite impatient about the arrival of *The Circuit*. Some problems are the editors fault, but some blame lies with officers, columnist, advertisers and members who don't see to comprehend that each issue clearly states a deadline for inclusion in the next issue. Time & time again, stuff gets here after the deadline. In order to keep to a better schedule, I will no longer hold up for any late items. (No matter who it is!!) Read the deadline in each issue and make a note on your calendar.

Also I wish to point out that we print this newsletter and all other stuff for ISWSC at cost and have donated more dollars and hours than we can afford in an effort to help this club survive and grow. (None of which can be deducted from our taxes as charitable donations, because this is still not a non-profit corporation.) I do not point this out to blow my own horn, but to emphasize the fact that some of you seem to want to look the gift horse in the mouth. This not a big organization with lots of money. I wish we were flush with money then being editor would be a breeze. We could afford to pay the printer to typeset the newsletter and do all the mailing work. It is not a pleasant task to spend hours typing, collating, folding, stuffing, labelling, etc. - hours spent doing that means I don't get my house cleaned or spend any time working with my collection - and then have complaints because the newsletter is LATE!!

Perhaps you are not aware of all the hours I spend to save this organization money!! Take the Jan-Feb 92 newsletter, interest code sheet, and roster-- 6 page newsletter X 450; 14 pages for code sheet & roster X 600 - all of which I collated by hand, then folded and stuffed about 400 into envelopes to mail. Anytime you wish to take over the task, I'll be glad to relinquish it. I'm sorry that this doesn't all run smoothly all the time. I've begged for someone else with more time to take over the Editor job - until then, we will have to make do with what we have.

... Rita Kallal, Editor

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

I would like to talk about buying stamps. I'm sure everyone has their own favorite dealer but I would like to tell you about some of the ways that I buy that work well for me.

To get started in worldwide collecting, I think the best thing for the beginner to do is to buy the largest worldwide assortment of stamps, depending on how much you are willing to spend. You'll get a lot of enjoyment and knowledge sorting the countries. By the time you got through several thousand stamps in these assortments, you'll find it will become easier to identify countries.

The next step would be to purchase assorted stamps by country. For instance, you may want to buy a pack of 500 stamps from Germany or 1000 from Hungary, etc. At that point you start to fill in these countries. Then it won't be difficult to find a dealer that sends out lists of individual countries, again giving you the opportunity to buy the stamps you still need to fill sets. Another good way to fill sets is buying from a stamp club that sends out "circuit books of stamps" on approval. You buy what you need and return the rest. You'll be surprised at how fast your empty spaces vanish.

At this stage of collecting, I would consider you as an "advanced collector." You are now ready to accumulate some of the better sets of stamps.

There are several ways to do this. If you buy complete sets from dealers, you will find at times this can be very expensive.

Now comes mail bid sales versus public auctions. When you bid in mail bid sales, I find you can usually win the bid for mint or used stamps for about fifty percent (50%) of the 1992 *Scott's Catalog* value. If they are described as heavy hinged or short perfs, thin spots, etc., I usually bid a little less than 50%. I drop five percent (5%) for every flaw that is mentioned in the description.. If stamps are mint never hinged (MNH), in most cases, you have to bid sixty (60) to eighty percent (80%) or even one hundred percent (100%) of catalog, if it is a popular country. Since you're not bidding against "floor bidders," your bid is at the discretion of the dealer. If you are the only bidder and he want to sell the set, he'll let you have it at your bid; if not, he may just keep it for a future mail bid sale.

In public auctions, besides the mail bidders, you a bidding against "floor
(Continued next page)

Beginner's (Cont'd)

bidders." The stamps offered in these sales are usually much higher priced material and most of the time, high quality. When mailing in a bid at public auctions, bid the highest price you are willing to pay for the lot. In a many cases that can be very close to full 1992 catalog value and at times over it. Remember you get just one bid in a mail bid. The "floor bidder" can easily over bid you.

In a future column I'll give you some tips on accumulating better sets of stamps at the best prices. I'll explain a system that works for me. Meanwhile, keep collecting and enjoying our hobby.

... Mildred M. Feinberg, wife of Albert H. (# 361)

SHOULD CHILDREN BE THE FOCUS ?

(The following is a letter which new member Harold J. Humm wrote to *Mekeel's Weekly* in late 1991. He feels it is an appropriate response to Ken Jenkin's question in The President's Column in the Jan-Feb issue of *The Circuit*.)

The response to my letter in *Mekeel's* (Sept 27, 1991), was very good. It is true that we are thinking of different types of "beginners" in stamp collecting.

The reason I emphasize children as beginners is because I have the idea that most perhaps a significant majority, of dedicated adult stamp collectors started as beginners, not as adults.

While it is true, I feel quite sure, that most child collectors drop out of stamp collecting before they reach the age of 18 or 21, the great numbers of them are such that there are a lot of lifelong collectors recruited from the child collector group.

I wonder if there are data on the percentage of lifelong collectors who began as a child versus those who began as an adult. If there are not, then that kind of data should be gathered.

We need to know if one group is significantly more important than the other so that recruiting efforts can be directed effectively and logically.

I began collecting stamps at age 10, back in the days when most collectors were general collectors because it was quite feasible. You had to be a general collector in order to get stamps new to your collection often enough and without overspending

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC REGION

My apologies for being late in preparing news of events "Down Under" but due to ill health this has been impossible till now.

Like the US, and many other countries for that matter, the Australia Post continues to issue numerous stamp issues. Perhaps in one way good for the collector but, oh, the expense and with the recent rise for domestic letters here the change has brought about a new range of values, as well as other related material.

At the time of writing, our latest release honours "Australians Under Fire," consisting of (5) values ranging from 45¢ to \$1.20, commemorating significant battles of 1942 where Australians came under fire in World War II, as well as the highest value relating to the Battle of El Alamein. This set of stamps should be of special interest to US collectors, those who were involved in the war.

Prior to this issue, a quite attractive set was issued in connection with Australia

Day, consisting of (4) values plus a miniature sheet. Also, after some delay, the Threatened Species stamps were finally released. Perhaps they would have looked better in a larger format.

With the economic recession very prevalent over here, and I understand the same applies in the US, too, recruiting new members is a problem due no doubt to lack of funds with collectors pulling in their belts. However, we don't expect this to last once the present situation has been reversed.

My Regional Co-Secretary Allen Soule shall be writing an article or two for publication in *The Circuit* shortly, which I am sure will be of great interest to all as Allen spent some years in the Pacific island of Papua New Guinea - a very beautiful place and their stamps just works of art.

Until my next memo, my best wishes to all members and Happy Collecting. ... Karl F. Steinberg (# 416), Regional Co-Secretary

your budget to that your interest in collecting stamps remained high. Collectors who, for one reason or another, can't get new stamps for their collection, frequently become dropouts. If buying from "approvals" is their only source, then they are highly likely to quit stamp collecting.

In my 60+ years of stamp collecting, I have known very few collectors who began as adults and became serious, dedicated collectors. Most of those I know who began as adults are what I call "stamp savers," not collectors. They don't patronize dealers.

I suspect that there are those who begin as adults, are enthusiastic collectors for awhile, then quit. There are people who do patronize dealers and often spend a good bit of money, sometimes unwisely, while they are active. This group may be important to dealers, but are they to stamp collecting as a whole?

Stamp collecting is fundamentally childish in nature, some aspects of it much more so than others (such as unaddressed FDCs, duck stamp FDCs, etc.) I suspect that all lifelong stamp collectors have a permanent childish element in their constitution that is too elusive to be recognized by psychologists but is essential to the development of a lifelong collector, a philatelist. So, if a stamp collector didn't begin as a child, then why didn't he?

... Harold J. Humm (# 678)

INTERNATIONAL ALBUMS

In February, member Peter Bialick (# 476) wrote a letter to Scott Publishing Company complaining about the inadequate information in their sales literature (1989) for the Scott's International Albums. His particular complaint relates to the fact that no where does Scott tell a prospective buyer that these albums are far from complete, requiring the collector to purchase many blank pages for stamps not included in the International Albums. (Many high value stamps of sets are not included; inclusion of BOB material is poor; countries such as Mongolia, Red China, etc., that were embargoed by the US government for years are not included, etc.) Peter was a novice collector and relied on this literature for his decision to spend over \$1000 on these albums. It was after purchasing a country collection housed in a Minkus album that he became aware of how woefully incomplete the International Albums are. Peter acknowledged that the literature did not say they are complete, but feels the omission of wording telling the collector that these albums are incomplete, implies completeness. In March, he received the following letter from Scott, which he thought you might find of interest:

Dear Mr. Bialick:

(Continued Page 8)

MAIL SALE # 5 RESULTS

Abbreviations:

n.b. = No Bid;

T = Tie;

T/3 = 3 Way Tie;

1. \$27.00	53. 12.00 T
2. n.b.	54. n.b.
3. 30.00	55. 4.00
4. n.b.	56. 6.00
5. 4.50	57. 4.25 T
6. 3.00	58. 10.00
7. 5.50	59. 10.00
8. 11.00	60. n.b.
9. n.b.	61. 8.50
10. 1.50	62. n.b.
11. n.b.	63. 25.00
12. 3.50	64. n.b.
13. n.b.	65. 25.00
14. n.b.	66. 12.00
15. 2.50	67. 17.00
16. 4.00	68. 6.00 T
17. n.b.	69. 3.00
18. 8.00	70. n.b.
19. 8.00	71. 3.50
20. n.b.	72. 8.50
21. n.b.	73. 8.00
22. 15.00	74. 7.00 T
23. n.b.	75. n.b.
24. n.b.	76. r.td
25. n.b.	77. 3.75
26. 9.00	78. 4.25
27. 49.50	79. 2.00 T/3
28. 2.50	80. 2.25
29. 11.00	81. 19.00
30. 11.00	82. 5.00
31. 11.00	83. 1.75
32. 3.00	84. 5.00
33. n.b.	85. 3.76
34. n.b.	86. 1.50 T/3
35. 95.00	87. 3.75
36. n.b.	88. 20.00
37. 6.00	89. 4.25
38. 38.00	90. 5.00
40. 4.50	91. 2.25
41. 6.00	92. n.b.
42. 6.00	93. 4.50
43. 11.00	94. 7.00
44. 5.50	95. 10.00 T
45. 3.00	96. 21.25
46. 3.50	97. 35.50
47. 9.50	98. 12.00 T
48. n.b.	99. 16.00 T/3
49. 10.00	100. 12.00
50. n.b.	101. 5.00
51. 3.00	102. 41.00
52. 3.25	103. 7.50
	104. 10.00 T
	105. 16.00

79 of 105 lots sold = 75% sold. The average price of a sold lot was \$11.00. Thirteen lots had tie bids, including 4 with a three-way tie. Thirty-eight members bid in this sale; 36 from the USA and 2 from Canada. Thrity of the 38 bidders (79%) won atleast one lot. Total of all prices realized is \$880.26. (Not all bids had been paid the time I had to get this to the editor.)

Don't Forget to Send in your Lots for the next sale. Lots are being accepted anytime now and the next sale will be held as soon as we have enough lots to hold a sale.

Mail Lots to:
Dr. Wallace D.
Johnson (# 212),
806 Overlook Drive,
Beckley, WV 25801

International Albums (Cont'd)

I am sorry to hear of your disappointment with our International Album Series. You are correct in that we have never marketed the set as being 100% complete, nor have we specifically stated that it is abridged. Instead, we tout it as the most comprehensive worldwide album available today, a description for which it most definitely qualifies.

In our sales literature, we have chosen to state that the album contains spaces for more than 220,000 stamps, and of course this number grows each year. Given that there have been more than 350,000 stamps issued since the invention of postage, there are obviously many omissions in the International Series.

If you are attempting to assemble a truly comprehensive worldwide collection, then you likely would be better served by more specialized albums. Unfortunately, there are some countries for which no album exists, making the assembly of a comprehensive worldwide collection within a series of specialized albbums impossible.

I do appreciate your thoughts regarding the marketing of the International Series. I most certainly do not want to mislead anyone in an album purchase decision. It is unfortunate that you were not aware of the extent of stamp collections when you made your purchase, but as always, the best buying decision is an informed buying decision. I will keep your thoughts in mind in future marketing of the International Series.

Sincerely, Jeff Lawrence, Director, Marketing and Sales. *Comments, anyone? I could give you an earful, but will let the members give their opinions. Thanks, the Editor ...*

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John Frierdich

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New Member Shares Love of Stamps

I am offering this introduction to members of the ISWSC so that my interests in the club will be an open book.

I am 74 years old, recently widowed and use stamp collecting as an escape from the usual boredom of old age. I am a member of APS (#158727) and several other philatelic clubs and I enjoy being a stamp dealer in a modest way.

My collecting interests are in USA, Germany, Finland, and Canada. I have started a youth stamp club in the Waupan school district in the fifth grade. We meet at school on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on Saturday at my home. I solicit donations for the youth such as used albums, tongs, stamps and other supplies.

As a dealer I offer collections of countries in albums, and a full line of albums, supplements, etc., at very fair prices. My normal price on albums and supplies (as offered by distributors) is on orders over \$100.00 retail for 30% discount and I pay the shipping. On orders less than \$100.00 retail, I can usually ship these at 25% discount plus postage. Overseas shipments are NOT solicited.

Others most welcome.

I don't issue price lists on single stamps, but will buy collections to fit customer needs after they have shown enough interest to warrant such a purchase. Then I offer some of these to be picked from, and others as a total purchase. Always with satisfaction guaranteed and full refundable.

... John E. Friedlich (# 679)



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MEMBER'S INTEREST CODES

26	Kallal	A, F, X (23), DD, 3, 4, 5, 7 (Germany, Japan), 70, 80
248	Warner	B, E, X (10), DD, 7 (W. Eur., So. Amer.), 50, 80
285	Shamel	B (to 1976), G, X (26), CC, 7 (Ger., Antiqua, Can., Fr., USSR, Poland), 50, 80
425	Wah	A, C, G, X (15), DD, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 50, 70, 80, 83 (7)
517	Olmstead	A, X (40+), DD, 7 (E & W Europe, Australia, Canada), 60, 83 (French)
524	Hendricks	B, X (4), CC, 2, 4, 50, 60, 70, 83 (German)
646	Merelaid	A, F, H, X (3), DD, 1, 3, 5, 6, 50, 83 (Estonian)
656	Headland	A, G, X (24), BE, 2a, 3a, 5, 6, 7 (GB, Empire, Commonwealth), 50, 80
658	Johnson	B (to 1980), G, H (German Local Covers), DD, X (50+), 7 (Scan., Japan, Korea, Swiss, German, Canada to date), 50, 80
659	Jones	A, X (6), DD, 1, 7 (Australia, Canada, NZ, Fr., GB, Greece, UN Germ., Swiss, Scan, Fin., Erit, Czech), 50, 60, 80a
661	Shew	A, G, H (gators/crocs on cover), X (20), DD, 1, 3, 5, 6, 50, 80
662	Ercolini	B (to 1940), D, DD, 1, 6, 7 (US, Russia, Germ, Col & Ofc abd, W. Eur., Thurn & Taxis, Canada, Canada, Cyprus), 50, 70, 83 (Spanish, Russian)
663	Galli	B (to 1960), F, H, (Liberia, Haiti, Australia, NZ), X (9), DD4, 50, 70, 80a
665	Newsome	A, G, X (15), DD, 7 (Fr. So. Pacific), 50, 80, A, X (15), DD, 7 (Greece, Canada), 50, 60, 80a
667	Baumgartner	A, F, H (Br. Comm., Fr. Cols.), X (20), EE, 7 (BC, Europe, S.A.), 50, 83 (some French)
669	Roderick	A, D, X (3), DD, 7 (Lux., Port.), 50, 60, 80 B (to 1940), G, X (50+), EE, 2a, 4a, 7 (Br., Fr., Scand., LA, Benelux, Aus., US), Do not wish to trade
674	Ferguson	A, G, H (many thematics), X (45+), DD, 6, 50, 60, 70, 80
675	Zelezny	A, G, X (60), EE, 1a, 2a, 80
676	Catania	A, G, X (2), DD, 2a, 6a, 7 (Japan, Canada, US), 50, 80
679	Griedrich	A, F, X (50), EE, 7 (Germany, Canada, US, Finland), 50, 83 (German - can get Italian, French & Spanish translated)
680	Mead	A, G, H (imperf., WW SON Cancels), CC, 1, 4a, 5, 7 (Japan, Saudi Arabia, GB Machins, Instan States, US PNC), 50 70, 80

DEATH REPORTED

Ken Jenkins reports that the husband of longtime member Ariel Poling (# 76) died in January. Allen Poling was a World War II veteran. We all send our sincerest sympathies to Ariel on her loss.

ROSTER ADDITIONS

Mbr #	Name & Address	Will Trade	Mbr #	Name & Address	Will Trade
459	Kevin M. Crowe P. O. Box 351 Brunswick 3056, Victoria AUSTRALIA	Yes	670	Floyd W. Rehling P. O. Box 5042 Santa Monica, CA 90409-5042 USA	Yes
555	J. P. Arnold 11-3049 Brittany Dr. Victoria, BC V9B 5P8 CANADA	Yes	671	Richard J. Hafey 3 Marshall St. Paxton, MA 01612-1233	Yes
660	Chris & Astuti Wright 4424 Skyline Dr. Bluff Point, NY 14478 USA	Yes	672	Corodon S. Fuller, Jr., MD Rt # 1 Box 61 Moravian Falls, NC 28654 USA	No
661	James E. Shew 5317 Dunsmore Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310 USA	Yes	673	Paul-Maurice LeMire CMR 453 - Box 157 APO AE 09146-0005 USA	Yes
662	Michael M. Ercolini P. O. Box 778 Daly City, CA 94017-0778 USA	Yes	674	Ralph Ferguson 15 Glenfield Crescent Mairehau Christchurch 5 NEW ZEALAND	Yes
663	Jeff Galli P. O. Box 748 Tonopah, NV 89049-0748 USA	Yes	675	Virginia Zelezny P. O. Box 37 Rollins, MT 59931-0037 USA	Yes
664	COL Larry R. Davidson Box 965097 Marietta, GA 30066-0002 USA	Yes	676	Tony Catania 686 Skyline Way Westminister, MD 21157-4635 USA	Yes
665	James A. Newsome 283 Heather Ct. # 5-C Templeton, CA 93465 USA	Yes	677	Richard A. Alexandre Alan Stamp Co. PO Box 1696 Encino, CA 91416-1696 USA	No
666	Wayne Briner 122 Second Ave. #101 San Mateo, CA 94401 USA	Yes	678	Harold J. Humm 13 Eastview Dr. Brevard, NC 28712 USA	Yes
667	Virginia Baumgartner 11196 Roman St. Spring Hill, FL 34609 USA	Yes	680	Leonard T. Mead 6-1/2 E. Peoria P. O. Box 6 Paola, KS 66071-0006 USA	Yes
668	Joseph M. Moricz 111 Cottonwood Ct. Coraopolis, PA 15108 USA	Yes	681	Kwoak Kabjin 57 Gyegog-Ri Cheong Ryang-Myeom Ulsan-Gun 689-860 REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Yes
669	Joan T. Roderick 12 Red Oak Rd. Asheville, NC 28804	Yes			

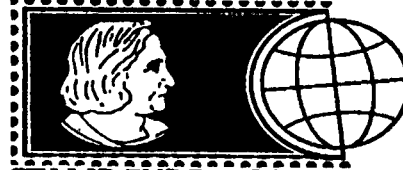
Whatzit?

A member has sent in the following three stamps. No indication of colors or paper types. If you have any clues, drop a line to the editor. Thank you.

92 - 1



WORLD COLUMBIAN



STAMP EXPO '92
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