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The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

HOLOGRAMS AND STAMPS

by Tom Fortunato (# 398)

Are you looking for a new area of philately to collect? Holographic stamps and postal stationery have been around only a few years, are few in number, and are still inexpensive. Their 3-D imagery is fascinating and interesting to collectors and non-collectors alike.

Holograms are rather complex to make. The item to be "pictured" is placed at the end of an array of mirrors. A laser beam is split by the mirrors, which are angled in such a way as to record on a special film the illuminated subject. This master laser transmission hologram is the result of two combined images, one from a direct beam, the other from a reflected beam. By viewing the hologram through another laser set-up, a 3-D image appears. It seems to move when seen at different angles because holograms have a horizontal and vertical parallax.

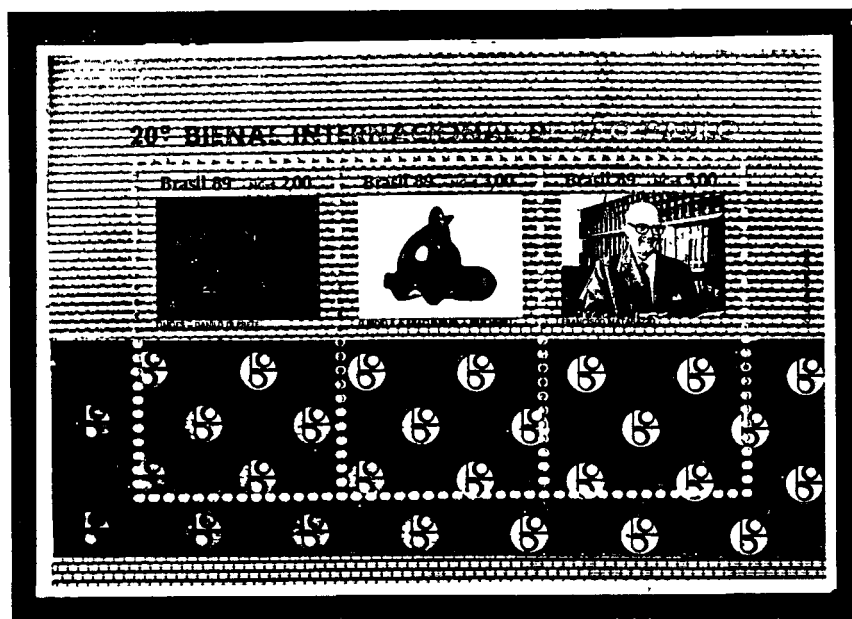
A mold is made from the original. Interference patterns made up of tiny ridges are developed through a photo-resist emulsion. Nickel particles deposit on the ridges by electrolysis. Holographs found on stamps are copies of the mold made on thin sheets of plastic with an aluminum coated background. Light passes through the plastic and reflects off the interference patterns and silvery coating.

Austria was the first country to combine holograms and stamps. Issued on October 8, 1988, in sheetlets of 8, the 8-schilling stamps were an instant success. Reports had them sold out in days. Commemorating Austrian exports, the design features a square holograph with the "Made in Austria" symbol and a cubed box in the background. The box shows the 3-D effect. Complete sheets are now rather scarce, selling for around \$20.00 when available. Scott lists this stamp as Austria # 1441.

Brazil's entry into holographic stamps was a souvenir sheet honoring San Paulo's 20th International Art Biennial. Issued on October 14, 1989, it displays various works of art as the upper half of three stamps. The lower half of the stamps is the holographic part, depicting the show's emblem and alternating 3-D "20's." The holograph extends beyond the stamps into the sheet's salvage on either side. The stamps have values of 2, 3, and 5 cruzeros and the souvenir sheet is listed in Scott as # 2210.

Next came a postal stationary envelope from the U.S.A., Scott # U617. The 25-cent envelope was issued on December 3rd during the 1989 World Stamp Expo. Holographic foil is glued inside the envelope and is visible through a die-cut window, exposing a space station in lunar orbit with the Earth in the background. Space shuttles and astronauts floating in space are also in the design. Each envelope sold for 30¢ which included 5¢ for the #9 size envelope itself.

Finland issued a pair of holographic stamps a month later

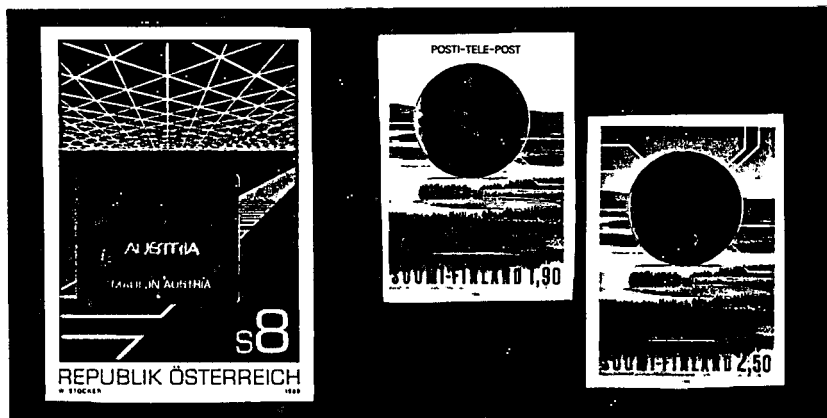


on January 19, 1990. The circular holographs display the symbol of the newly incorporated State Posts and Telecommunications Services. The main design is a scene of Lake Paijanne along with a denomination of 1.90 or 2.50 f/m. One million of each value was produced in sheets of 20. These are Scott # 810 and # 811.

Then another U.S.A. envelope made its debut. Listed as Scott # U618, the 25¢ American Football commemorative depicts three football players, a crowded stadium and the Super Bowl trophy. It was issued on September 9, 1990, at the start of the fall football season. Like the earlier U.S. envelopes, 30¢ was the selling price for a #10 size envelope.

In 1991, Poland issued a philatelic tribute to the Philanippon '91 International Exhibition in the form of a 15,000 zloty souvenir sheet. The stamp portion features a butterfly holograph which "flutters" as you view it. New issue dealers in the U.S. sell it for around \$6.00.

January 22, 1992, was the issue date for another U.S. holographic envelope in the denomination of 29¢. The same space design was used for the (Continued on page 2)



General Collector (Continued)

previous 25¢ envelope. However a larger format was used, a larger #10 size envelope, and the color of the indicia indicating the value was changed to green.

Finland again issued holographic stamps on May 8, 1992, honoring Finnish technology on a set of three. Designs featured motifs on nature as it relates to the high tech world of today.

Copies of these holographic stamps and stationary in black and white don't do justice to their beauty. They need to be seen first hand to be appreciated. Mint examples of all the holographic issues to date can still be found for a total cost of \$10.00 or so. That's quite a bargain in philately today! And keep your eyes open for more of these beauties from more countries in the next couple years. ... *(These gorgeous philatelic items are an area of philately that may readily excite the interest of young children, the future collectors. ...The Editor)*



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISWSC provided philatelic support to library summer programs and for the first time to 4-H Clubs. Among the states represented this time were Vermont, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Florida. With our many new members, there is an adequate supply of stamps on hand. Please remember, with the renewal of your dues to send me your stamp donations. The word is spreading that our Society helps youth programs and we don't want to let anyone down.

I am often asked what type of stamps are appropriate for the Youth Program donations. When a parcel is sent out, it is usually in response to a request just for "stamps." Hopefully, there will be someone in the group who will find something that suits his or her interest. For some new collectors, perhaps a starting point for the basis of a collection is provided. The method used is to place all donated stamps into a box and mix them up as they are removed for a parcel. In that manner, a variety is sent. Stamps on paper are kept separate when possible and U.S. are kept separate from foreign when received that way. Off paper stamps are preferred, rather than on paper, in order to minimize postage costs for

all concerned. Packets of topicals are maintained when received already sorted and are sent that way. Commemorative stamps are preferred over definitives as these capture the interest of children quicker. However, definitives are needed to complete country collections so they are always included in the parcels along with commemoratives, covers, or anything else of a philatelic nature that you have donated. There is no specification for stamps of a certain period, as it is not reasonable to expect that each stamp received gets identified and sorted.

One last word: I try to remove badly damaged stamps (torn or heavily cancelled) when I see them. I know how easy it is for them to slip by, but please try to avoid sending damaged stamps.

I am still not sure what to do with the one baseball card that I received recently.

A special note of appreciation to those members who have made donations in excess of the 250 designated as part of your annual dues. Whether 10 more or 1000's more, everything donated helps the kids and they keep our hobby alive. Happy Collecting!

... Ken Costilow (#142), Vice President

Australian First Lady Blasts Post's Olympic Stamps

The wife of Australia's Prime Minister, Mrs. Annita Keating, has criticised the Australian Post for not depicting any female athletes on the set of three Olympic stamps recently released. The stamps, one 45¢, and two different \$1.20 values evoke the Olympic motto of "Faster, Higher, Stronger" by depicting cycling, high jumping and weightlifting.

Mrs. Keating has been an outspoken supporter of women in sport since moving into "The Lodge," the Australian equivalent of the White House. She said women had won 11 out of 14 gold medals for track and field events since 1948. A spokeswoman for the Australian Post said the designer, Mr. Garry Emery, was asked to include at least one female, but didn't.

... Kevin Crowe (#459)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I had a great time at the big Oakland STAMPSHOW in August. We had several members there, and a number of prospective joiners, at least 3 of whom are already on board. Fellow members in attendance were Ron Thurner (#17), George Land (#241), Joanne Berkowitz (#98), Kathleen Cesarz (#729), Michael M. Ercolini (#662), and myself for a total of six, but a couple others came and went without me finding out who they were.

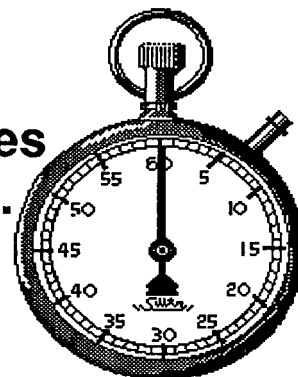
I ran into an old acquaintance, Bob de Violini, Chairman of the APS Affiliate Coordination Committee, who has given ISWSC and *The Circuit* a kind mention in his column on more than one occasion. To return the favor, I'll plug a publication being produced by Bob and his wife Lois, namely *The Computatelist*, which is all to do with computers and software programs for stamp collectors. This is an in-depth look at programs for inventorying your collection, creating your own album pages, graphics, etc. The copy I was given has 24 pages of very detailed coverage on this subject of growing interest. If you are interested, send a #10 SASE to PCSG, Box 5025, Oxnard, CA. U.S. subscriptions are \$10; Canadian \$12.00 and Overseas \$17.00.

Other miscellaneous news: I learned that the USPS has apparently dropped its support of the Ben Franklin clubs and we will be hearing lots more of that issue. Noted the revised APS Stamp Identifier is not available and bought a copy for \$2.00. It is fine - but brief.

I promised you a few glimpses of life in the south central Pacific as described in the Pitcairn Island newsletter titled *The Pitcairn Miscellany*, but I am going to keep this real short this time in order to help the editor make an ambitious publishing schedule. I'll try to include something next time. The November-December issue should be out shortly after this one and contain our proposed new By Laws for your voting.

... Dave Nelson (#25), President

Time to
pay
your dues
for 1993.
Don't
forget !!



SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Early fall has not been as hectic as summer, but still quite busy here at ISWSC offices. Another forty-one members since the last issue of *The Circuit*, and two former members have rejoined. Welcome back Philip Mazzano (# 249) and Mark O. Bakker (# 507). Their addresses and several change of addresses are listed with the new member roster. I hope you'll make them feel welcome, too.

I don't know who the kind person is who wrote to the Postal Administrations of several South American countries to request information in my name, but my mail has certainly contained some gorgeous flyers regarding new issues. I've passed these along to our editor, and you may see some of the information in future issues of *The Circuit*, space permitting.

Once again it is dues renewal time for 291 ISWSC members whose dues expire at the end of October. Sending postcards to each of you will cost ISWSC \$55.29 in postage to say nothing of the time it will take to get all of the notices out. PLEASE check your membership cards NOW, and send your dues in pronto! If you are one of the 26 members whose dues expire in November, sending your dues in now will keep the notice from getting mislaid in all the Holiday mail. We ask you to add a cash contribution to help with postage costs of mailing the Youth Program parcels, if you can. Don't forget to send your 250 different stamp donation to Ken Costilow (# 142).

Please delete the following members from

your Rosters for nonpayment of dues: Bacon (# 473) and Spencer (# 547). The following members will be dropped from the rolls and become ineligible for participation in ISWSC's programs if their dues aren't received by October 31, 1992: Conde (# 430) and Balonescu (# 540).

A rather serious complaint has come from one of our Australian members. He has received stamps from a man in Romania who says he is ISWSC member # 1996: (We ARE growing, but we aren't THAT big!) The trade requested is most unfair and it will cost our member far more than it is worth even to return the stamps. He indicated this is not the first time this has happened. Please do not send stamps to members unless you have first determined that the member is willing to trade with you. If you do not have this assurance, the member should feel no compulsion to return your stamps to you. Many members are on Social Security or pension and the cost of mailing and insuring expensive stamps from one country to another can really dent the budget.

If you know of anyone representing themselves as an ISWSC with a number over 1000 they are flying false colors! I'm not sure what can be done beyond alerting the membership, but I'm open to suggestions as to remedies.

DON'T FORGET TO MAIL YOUR DUES IN NOW !! ...

Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBER CODES:

538 Stamenov	A, C, DD, 2, 3, 50, 83(French)
545 Dorries	A, H(Christmas, Olympics, Transportation), X(40), DD, 1a, 6, 7(Orient, US, Can, Philippines, India), 50, 80
546 Buetler	A, D, H(ducks), X(6), DD, 7(US, UN, Austral, GB, Can, NZ, Channel Is), 50, 60, 80
548 Edmonds	A, X(49), DD
552 BourgoIn	G, DD, 7(Br Comm, Iceland), 50, 80
557 Ligbb	D, X(42), DD, 3, 4, 5, 7 (Can, Newfound, Scand), 80
630 Jirman	A, G, X(38), EE, 7(Can, Israel, Austria, BrOceania), 50, 80
636 Zdanowitz	A, G, DD, 7(Israel, PNG, Den, Swe, Jap, China, Fin, Bermuda, Bahamas), 50, 60, 83(some French)
729 Cesarz	D, X(20), DD, 4a, 50, 80
733 Starodubtsev	A, G, H(various topicals), X(25), CC, 1, 2, 7(Pacific, PNG, Austral, WEur, US, Jap), 50, 60, 80a
750 Casey	B(to 1940), G H(Netherlands, Dutch E Indies, US Definitives), X(12), DD, 1, 4a, 6, 50, 80
765 Liggett	A, G, H(revenues, Cinderellas), X(34), DD, 2, 50, 60, 83(German, Hebrew)
778 Grimes	A, G, X(58), EE, 1, 2, 4, 6, 50, 70, 80

USPS DOES GOOD: Harold J. Humm (# 678) has written to recognize and applaud the gracious service of the Field Division Office in Jacksonville, Florida. Last spring he sent back to Jacksonville an envelope with a block of four of the 30¢ cardinal that had been cancelled twice there, the second time it was blacked, despite the fact that the first cancel was quite adequate. They replaced the block with a neatly cancelled one and the manager of Consumer Affairs and Claims, Melissa G. Kovalaskas, wrote him a very nice letter apologizing for the double cancel that messed up his original block. (Kudos to Ms. Kovalaskas - the USPS needs more employees like her!) ...

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Public Relations Report

Public relations begins with you! A recent letter clearly illustrates the point.

I heard from a non-US member who declined to renew his membership based on some bad experiences he had through correspondence. Other ISWSC members frequently mailed him stamps, unsolicited, insisting on starting up an exchange. One member even asked that he be sent 18 mint sets of every new issue from the now non-member's country. I doubt if any collector is interested in such an offer.

Be considerate with your requests. Never send stamps or other philatelic items until exchange rules have clearly been agreed upon by both members. A stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard (or International Reply Coupon for overseas reply) should be included with your offer to exchange. A complete code of trading ethics is being adopted by the ISWSC. Hopefully it will appear in *The Circuit* soon.

We are also preparing new By Laws and they will be ready for the next issue of *The Circuit*. It is hoped you will take time to vote. As our Society grows, we need to conform with IRS standards for future consideration as a tax-exempt, not for profit organization. New By Laws is a step in that process, as is our incorporation. We'll also be asking you to answer a few questions to help guide the Society and better serve the membership's needs in the future. ... Tom Fortunato (# 379), Public Relations Officer



The "Rochester" untagged error



Columbus' coat of arms

He was made a nobleman by the Spanish rulers

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.



OWN A MODERN ERROR !! →→→



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Each cacheted cover bears the World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 untagged error with a ROPEX show cancel. The stamp does not glow under ultraviolet light as normal stamps do. Only a few sheets of the error were discovered, first in the Rochester, New York area. All proceeds will go to the ISWSC. There are 3 different cachets with 3 dated cancels — Only 32 sets were created. Donation: \$10.00 per cover or \$25.00 per set of three postpaid. Send orders to Carol Cervenka (# 498), Secretary/Treasurer, Rt 1 Box 69A, Caddo Mills, TX 75135 USA. ...

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT THE HOBBY

The article written by Albert Feinberg (#361) in the Jan-Feb 1992 issue of *The Circuit* is one of the finest I have seen in recent philatelic publications, as far as I'm concerned. It addresses the concerns of many average collectors and also reflects the feeling amongst collectors, that for the hobby to survive, we must continue to promote the fun aspect of stamp collecting and buying them to please ourselves.

There is one thing all stamp collectors have in common: they all look at stamps, whether they specialize or not. But *how* they look at stamps is a different matter. Some of them are 'reverse' stamp collectors, that is they look at the back of the stamp, not only to detect thin spots and flaws, but also to determine gum and paper varieties, watermarks and perforation marks. Others concentrate on perforations, while still others are interested in the way a stamp has traveled (postal history), cancellations, flaws, forgeries and fakes. While none of these are my primary reason for stamp collecting, I recognize that each collector has his or her own special reason for that facet of stamp collecting. Maybe they have become tired looking at their completed collections, built over a lifetime and want to do something else, or maybe they like to play around with perforation gauges, watermark detectors, black lights, etc., as long as they do it for fun, that is what our hobby is all about.

As for me, after many years of stamp collecting, I am still the old-fashioned type of trying to fill in the blank spots, to obtain stamps I haven't got and look at each new acquisition as if it is the priceless one,

(Continued on Page 7)

CLASSIFIED ADS

APPROVALS: Get a 25% Discount off my already low prices. ISWSC members only. Worldwide used singles, Mint complete sets, Topicals, Mixtures, Want Lists. Terry Collins, 127 Benkard, Newburgh, NY 12550 (2/6)

FREE PRICE LIST. Over 6,000 worldwide sets and singles every-month at 20% to 50% of Scott. H & I Stamps, Box 720185, San Diego, CA 92172 (2/2)

RETIRED COLLECTOR SELLING collections and accumulations at deep discounts off '92 Scott. Austria, France, Colonies list now ready - free. Darrell L. George, 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212 (1/3)

MANY HIGH VALUES in our collection of singles, sets, souvenir sheets: Over \$50 current Scott for just \$10. Please include long SASE. Wright, 4424 Skyline Drive, Bluff Point, NY 14478 (1/1)

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:

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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. Send payment along with copy to the Editor.

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NEXT ISSUE
NOVEMBER 20th,
1992**

**If your copy is not received
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An Alligator in Every Mailbox?



by Tom Fortunato (#379)

Which of the following live animals are not allowed to be mailed under U.S. Postal System rules: earthworms, mice, salamanders, scorpions, leeches, alligators, bees, snails. Congratulations if you chose mice as the only animal on the list that is not mailable.

A look at Section 124.63 of the Domestic Mail Manual, listing mailing rules and regulations, is quite revealing. Baby alligators under 20 inches long may be mailed, as can "small, harmless, coldblooded animals (except turtles and snakes) which do not require food or water or attention during handling in the mail and which do not create sanitary problems or obnoxious odors . . .".

Live day old chickens, turkeys, ducks, and other poultry can also be mailed, but only in their original unopened hatchery box. Their hatching date and hour must be on the box, as they cannot be over 24 hours old. I have seen postage meters used by hatcheries which use the slogan area to denote this information.

Adult poultry can only be sent by Express Mail to insure next day delivery. Warm-blooded animals such as cats, dogs, mice, hamsters, rabbits, parakeets, and canaries cannot be mailed.

Packages of live animals which can't delivered or returned to sender within 3 days of mailing may be "disposed of" - treated as a perishable item. A postmaster is allowed to sell them, deduct 10% of the sale as commission, and forward the remaining funds to the sender in a postal money order, with an explanation on Form 3820. ...

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Pasay City 1300
PHILIPPINES

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181 Jim Sandholt
2-3-18-71 Nishi Waseda
Shinjuku-Ku, 169 Tokyo
JAPAN

354 Ray Kerstetter
Luray-Belmont Company
6038 Richmond Hwy #405
Alexandria, VA 22303
USA
Codes: A, F, X(28), 7(Mex, Can, UN, GB,
Ger, Aland, Tokelau, St. Pierre,
Fr. Andorra, Aruba, Aust, Faroes,
CIS, Russia, Baltics), 50, 60, 80

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LA4 5SE
ENGLAND
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butterflies, flowers, WWII, Titanic,
FDC, postcards), 50, 60, 70, 80

788 Lawrence Scott No
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789 Dan Hazzard Yes
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Oakville, Ontario
L6K 3B1
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Xmas), 50, 80

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792 John E. Rollo Yes
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Forest Hills, NY 11375
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Codes: B(to 1973), D, X(30+), DD, US to
present, 7(Scott Vol 1), 50, 80

793 Alphonso Bravo Monarrez Yes
P. Sanchez # 6
47910 La Barca, Jalisco
MEXICO
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Conservation), X(10), 1(no FDC),
50, 83(Spanish)

794 Walter S. Williams, Jr. Yes
1111 La Vista
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USA
Codes: A, F, X(55), EE, 50, 80a

795 Francois Lamontagne Yes
43 Beloeil
Montreal, Quebec
H2V 2Z1
CANADA
Codes: A, F, X(1), CC, 7(Thailand, Far
East), 50, 60, 70, 83(French,
Italian, Thai)

796 LTC(Ret.) Alan T. Horwedel Yes
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797 Matthew T. Adrian Yes
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798 Robert C. Ziehe Yes
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olympics), X(25), DD, 50, 60,
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425 Benedict Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074
USA
Codes: A, G, X(60), EE, 50, 83(Polish)
- # 808 John Luong ?
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USA
Codes: A, E, H(USA), X(6), BB, 50, 60, 70, 80
- # 809 Gerald E. Fosbroke No
P.O. Box 283
Falmouth, MA 02540
USA
Codes: A, F, X(65), EE, 7(Br & Scand Areas), 80
- # 810 James H. Bridgers ?
50 Wellesley Drive #317
Newport News, VA 23606-4049
USA
- # 811 Mark L. Hamburg ?
P.O. Box 2501
Riverside, CA 92516
USA
Codes: B(varies), G, H(counterfeits), X(39), DD, 1, 50, 80
- #812 Hillel Shnaps ?
Kibbutz-Ma'agan Michael
D.N. Menashe 37-805
ISRAEL
Codes: A, D, H(Churchill, WWII, patriotic covers), X(20+), DD, 1a(patriotic), 3a(WWII), 7(Scand), 50, 83(Hebrew)
- # 813 Jing-Chau Wang ?
2F, 37, Lane 151
Sec. 4, Zeng-Ai Road
Taipei
TAIWAN
Codes: G, H(paintings, architecture, Christianity), X(3), CC, 50, 70, 83(Chinese, Japanese)
- # 814 Melvin E. Grossman ?
2200 East 4th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223
USA
Codes: B(to 1971), G, X(50), EE, 1, 2, 7(US, GB & Empire, France, Benelux, Ger), 50 70, 80

- # 815 Vicki Filleman ?
3640 Clifmar Road
Baltimore, MD 21244
USA
Codes: A, X(15), CC, 50, 60, 70, 80
- # 816 Jack T. Scott ?
Rt. 4 - Box 290
Siler City, NC 27344
USA
Codes: G, X(40), DD, 7(Europe, Brazil, Austral, NZ, Japan Scand), 50, 80
- # 817 George E. Kuhn ?
46 Tulsa Drive S.
Barnegat, NJ 08005-2525
USA
Codes: A, D, X(10), EE, 50, 80
- # 818 Robert J. Behnke ?
1027 Purdue Street
San Leandro, CA 94579
USA
Codes: A, X(15+), DD, 7(Czech), 50, 70, 80
- # 819 Richard Pauls ?
1314 Twisted Oaks Drive
Duncan, OK 73533
USA
Codes: A, D, X(5), CC, 50, 60, 80
- # 820 Kenneth J. Thompson ?
220 Pueblo Road
New Britain, PA 18901
USA
- # 821 John L. Vickers ?
P. O. Box 3962
Missoula, MT 59806
USA
Codes: A, F, X(50+), DD, 50, 80
- # 822 Terence Lyons ?
19 Birch Hill Grove
Onchan
ISLE OF MAN
Codes: G, X(50+), DD, 6, 7(USA & Terr., Can, Austral, NZ, GB, Falkland Is, China, Hong Kong, Is of Man), 50 70, 80
- # 823 Kurt Schau ?
P.O. Box 659
Petaluma, CA 94953
USA
Codes: Stamp Dealer-Brit Emp, US, Some W. Europe
- # 824 Dean M. Ryder Yes
P.O. Box 924
Burlington, VT 05402
USA

- # 825 Gretchen Dinin Yes
158 Imperial Circle
Rochester, NY 14617
USA
- # 826 Martin H. Feibusch ?
316 N. El Camino Real #202
San Mateo, CA 94401
USA
Codes: G, H(Hindenburg mail, US se-tenants), X(65), EE, 83(German)

Look at Hobby (continued)

which has always eluded me before. I am not concerned how other collectors like the stamps I prefer and therefore I am not less interested in Sand Dune CTO's or wall-paper stamps, as some have described them, than any other, as I often find them more beautiful and interesting than the ones which are priced much higher in the catalogs. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

Of course, I expect investor-types to disagree with these remarks. They obtain stamps only to turn them into a profit later. Once they have purchased their high priced and rare items, they hide them in a bank vault, safe from theft and damage. The prices that these rare items realize will probably always be out of reach of the average collector and they turn from one investor to the other. Investors do not attend stamp shows or auctions, they have dealers or agents do it for them; they don't belong to stamp clubs and I am sure do not sit up all night as I have done many times, working on my average stamp collection and gathering up all the stamps strewn all over the house. Investors are missing all the fun and I would not swap my collection for any of the stamps they have so carefully hidden in their bank vaults. On occasion, people ask me what my collection is worth. I always respond, "If you offer one penny for it and I accept your offer, that is what my collection is worth. But if you offer me one hundred thousand dollars now, I would not sell it to you, because to me, it is worth a great deal more than that." Of course I know full well, that is something would happen to me and I cannot continue my stamp collecting activities, my wife would have a hard time convincing dealers that the collection is worth more than \$100.00.

You see, there is a buying price and a selling price, but more importantly, a hobby price, which exceeds both previous ones. It is not included in any of Scott's catalogs, because as valuable as they are, there is no way for any philatelic expert to evaluate the many hours of pleasure stamp collecting has brought to each collector. The time and money I have spent on my hobby I have never regretted and I believe, many average collectors can say the same.

... Mark O. Bakker (# 507)

First Day Issue of Pledge Definitive at Rome, New York

by W. R. (Bill) Reynolds (# 683)

September 8, 1992 - the day after Labor Day, was a windy and cloudy day; the day that the 29¢ Pledge of Allegiance postage stamp was to be reissued during the 11:00 A.M. ceremony at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York.

Although this stamp honors the pledge, it makes no mention of the author, who grew up in Rome, New York. They didn't put Francis Bellamy's name or likeness on the stamp, much to the disappointment of his supporters, but at least the United States Postal Service (USPS) chose Rome as the First Day site.

Bellamy was born in nearby Mt. Morris in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. As a boy, he and his family moved to Rome. Later he worked as a journalist before moving to Boston, Massachusetts, where he was editor of *Youth's Companion*, an educational magazine.

Bellamy wrote the pledge for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, and according to history, the original twenty-three word pledge was first recited by school children on September 8th, 1892.

Since then the pledge has been altered twice. In 1924, the words "my flag" were changed to "the flag of the United States of America". The words "under God" were added by Congress in 1954.

A stage had been erected on the grounds of old Fort Stanwix, and the ramparts were decked out in festive array of the flags of the fifty states. Stamp dealers and clubs were hawking their first day cacheted envelopes. The USPS had a mobile unit and were selling the pledge stamps in books of ten or twenty, that would not be sold at any other location until the following day; and were affixing the standard first day cancellation. No pictorial hand cancel had been approved for this issue.

The ceremony opened with patriotic music by the Griffiss Community Band. The Colors were presented by the Fort Stanwix Garrison, the Griffiss Air Force Base Honor Guard and several veterans' groups, and the national anthem was played. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from the New York State School for the Deaf and the Rome Free Academy Select Choir.

Guest speakers were William T. Johnstone, one of the new Assistant Post Master Generals; Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, New York State's first lady; and U.S. Congressmen from New York, the Honorable Frank Horton and Sherwood L. Boehlert. Mrs. Cuomo chaired the committee which worked long and hard to get this stamp issued.

Honored guests were Peter Bellamy, grandson of Francis Bellamy; Colonel Michael

PRICING FROM A COUPLE VIEWPOINTS

Harold Humm's discussion on stamp values (May-June 1992) triggered recollection of some correspondence I had with a well known mail dealer. I withhold his name because I don't have his permission to quote him, but see no harm in using some of his words.

The dealer had written to his customers: "We have not yet seen the 1992 Scott Catalogue but we understand that Scott is now setting a minimum price of 15 cents per stamp. While this new policy . . . may be controversial among collectors, we feel it is a step in the right direction to compensate the dealer for his time and to establish fairness for both the dealer and collector"

"We may receive in the same mail an order for some 100 stamps averaging 10 cents and another order for one set, selling for close to \$100. We can easily spend an hour serving the first order (counting the time it takes to screen, grade, catalog, place into stock, retrieve and bill) and perhaps 10 minutes servicing the latter. It can be seen that the dealer, if he counts his time, is losing money on the nickel-and-dime items."

I responded: "I agree with your point that a dealer's time is valuable; he can't afford to do a conscientious job of filling an order restricted to nickel (or, as I well remember, two-cent) stamps. There is another side to the subject, however, which I suspect most dealers overlook.

"Many collectors, even the well-heeled, are involved in stamp exchanges. They hope to pick-up that random item that none of their dealers have; and they hope to pay for it with some of their duplicates.

"When the catalog says, in effect, 'Any stamp is worth at least 15¢,' it equalizes the value of a fairly decent stamp - say, a used Mozambique - with an item of kids' packet junk, like the German inflation issues. I'd have been happier if Scott had kept some sort of price structure for common stamps and carried a notice - on each page, perhaps - that a collector should expect to pay at least 15¢ when buying any minimum value stamp.

F. Loughran, Commander, Griffiss Air Force Base; William Jackson, Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument; and B. A. (Sonny) Viverito, Postmaster, Rome, New York.

Other activities of the day long celebration included the Dedication of a stained glass window depicting the original pledge, at the First Baptist Church (where Bellamy attended services); Open House and a Reception at the Rome Historical Society; bus tours of Rome historical sites; a Ceremony at Bellamy's burial site in the Rome Cemetery; and at dusk, music and a fireworks display at Fort Stanwix. ...

"We may be entering an entirely new phase of the hobby, when the kids collectors are discouraged from getting into it at all. In the fairly short run, loss of 'new blood' could be detrimental to dealers and collectors alike."

To this, the dealer responded: "You are raising some valid arguments. This still leaves wide open the problem of what a dealer is to do with those people who order only those labor-intensive cheap stamps for which they will never pay full catalog value, let alone more than full catalog value.

"Believe me, I would find it no problem to give away the cheapies (whose 'cost of materials' is practically zero) to the people who give me decent orders for better stamps. It is utter frustration to have to spend hours on orders that consist of only cheap items that, in the aggregate, do not cover minimum wage - and we get many of these!

"These same people would never buy a stamp that catalogs 5¢ for 15¢ - at a whopping 300% of catalog value. What, then, is the solution? It is certain that there is no single solution that pleases everyone. Surely, Scott's new policy interferes with people that exchange stamps. Maybe the best compromise would have been for dealers to agree on an industry-wide basis to a minimum price per stamp, and to let the catalog continue to track the values in the classical manner. However, this is not Utopia." ... Dave Park (# 747)

¿Whatzit?



Tom Fortunato has been unable to solve the mystery of this series of stamps. Each variety is the basic 30¢ blue airmail stamp (Scott # C42) of Columbian issue from 1923-1928. The overprints are black, about 10mm high (except the lower case U). The other letters are B, E, H, I, and EU (both letters on this stamp are 10 mm high). All of the stamps appear to be postally used. I suspect these may be some form of governmental department overprints for official use, but I have no way of confirming this. If anyone out there can help Tom and our fellow member, please write the editor. Many thanks. ...

ESTATE SALE

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The following offerings are part of an estate I must sell. Any item may be purchased separately. The first dollar figure is the cost of the item, the second is the postage charge. If you buy several items, shipping may be appropriately reduced. All items are in mint, clean, desirable condition unless otherwise noted. Everything is subject to prior sale.

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Face - \$225.00. Full sheets, original gum, pristine, SPECIAL.
- 40.00 / 3.00 As above except all airmails; Scott #C68, 69, 70, 74, 76, 84(2), 85, 86. Face - \$44.00.
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- 5.00 / 1.00 National Audubon Society Wildlife Conservation - 4/26/91, Hawks.
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- 50.00 / 3.00 Set of 50 FDC State Birds and Flowers w/write-up on each special book, pristine, a work of art, unaddressed.
- 13.00 / 3.00 In 3-ring binder mounted in acetate mounts on black paper, MNH plate block numbers and matched corners (4): 3¢ Texas, 3¢ Calif., Banker, Armed Forces Women, Wildlife, Religious Freedom- 3 corners, 3¢ Wisc., 3¢ F.S. Key- 2 corners, 3¢ Blue Washington. ditto diff. #'s; 3¢ US Pavilion, 5¢ Hull, 8¢ Goddard, 15¢ Airmail IPC, 1¢ Jefferson, 8¢ Einstein. Neat, clean, fresh.
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Also available: Mint sheets from the 60's, 70's and 80's, plus mint plate, zip and slogan blocks and FDC's from the same period. Please send a long (# 10) SASE for personal reply. Call (414) 324-5753 if any questions.

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

There is another side of our hobby that I find fascinating. I think most of us who collect stamps have some sort of secret desire to learn the history and geography of foreign countries. As we sort and admire our stamps, we envision ourselves visiting all these wonderful places that are shown on our stamps. As we go through our albums we are taking imaginary trips to some countries that we probably never heard of before. Countries where the people look different than ourselves and speak languages that we don't understand. How many times have we day-dreamed of being in one of these countries and wonder what it would be like to have friends there who could show us around? They could introduce us to their friends, explain the ways of their people, introduce us to new friends, and see all of the interesting things in their country. To most of us these dreams are far-fetched but in reality we can do the next best thing -- get a penpal in the country of your choice who is also a stamp collector, giving you some common ground to start corresponding.

I've done this in many cases. One of which I'd like to tell you about in this column.

I correspond with a 17 year old young man named Xing. He lives in Datong, Shanxi Province in the People's Republic of China. We have been corresponding and trading stamps for about two years. I have learned so many things from Xing about China that you don't usually read in the newspaper and I get all the information first hand.

To start with, Xing writes nearly perfect English. He translates our letters to Chinese so the rest of his family can read them. They are extremely interested in learning about America and our ways. They are particularly interested in things to see in America, our schools and the way we raise our children.

Xing tells me that teachers in China are sort of looked down upon and apparently not too happy. He said they stay up till midnight marking papers and a good bit of them would like to change their profession. The school children in China are similar to our school children. They form

opinions of their teachers before they get to know them, just as ours do. He tells me computers are not too popular in China, but that interest in them seems to be growing. English and math are important subjects to the Chinese children. He finds that corresponding with Americans helps him immensely in his English. Xing tells us that in order to go to college one must have extremely high grades; he was third in his class but felt that he was letting his parents down by not being first. He entered college in Beijing last month.

I learned that Datong is known for its long history. It was the capitol of North Wei Dynasty (A.D. 386-534). It was one of the three Grottos of China. He said a lot of foreigners come to visit it. He would love to have us visit China and he volunteered to be our guide. Datong lies on the Loess Plateau and is about 40 degrees north latitude, and it rather cold all through the winter. The temperature drops below 16 degrees celcius and the northwest wind is strong.

Xing talks about the Great Wall of China, the Five-Sacred Mountains, and West Lake. History of the Great Wall goes back twenty centuries. The first part was built during the spring and autumn 770 - 460 B.C. During the warring states period (475 - 221 B.C.) more walls were put up to defend the borders of the different kingdoms. Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China had all the walls joined up to become the Great Wall. It was very difficult to build over wild country since they had no machinery to do the heavy work.

Some of the highlights from Xing's letters: The earthquake at 2:04 A.M. on March 26, 1991, with a magnitude of 5.8 on the Richter Scale and the panic it created. In October 1989 another earthquake, magnitude of 6.1, occurred, destroying many homes. School hours in China start at 7:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. with a break for lunch and rest. It starts again at 2:30 P.M. and lasts until 7:30 P.M., six days a week. Teenagers have no dating privileges. Parents do not watch television while the children do homework and study so as not to distract them. The younger generation in China has much respect for their elders. Their families are close-knit. He tells me that most people in China feel as we do; the average Chinese have the same desire for peace on this earth but similar to us, there's not much they can do about politics. Because of our ideological differences, we try not to discuss politics. That could lead to dissension. He asked if I could send him some stamps with Lenin's picture on it, since they are rather scarce in China. He's interested in space theme stamps from around the world. I could go on with interesting things that I've learned about China.

You too can experience the pleasure of corresponding with collectors anywhere in the world. It's easy and fun. So come on Beginners, get yourself a penpal. ... Mildred Feinberg, wife of Albert (# 361)

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TERMS: Successful bidders will be notified. Please send your telephone number so that we may phone you if necessary. NO BUYER'S FEE. Payment must be received before lots are shipped. Payment must be by check, bank draft or money order. We reserve the right to withhold shipment until personal checks clear. Postage & insurance added to all orders, at our cost. Include your street address for shipping. Stamps in this sale are duplicates of the 100,000+ different stamps in my personal collection. Payment must be sent within seven (7) working days of notification. For guidance purposes, prices of similar size lots sold by major dealers are given. For example, HAR=\$50 means H.E.HARRIS sold similar lot for \$50. (KEN=KENMORE STAMP CO.) (SUB=SUBWAY STAMP CO.) MB=Minimum bid which will be accepted. WW=worldwide.

- | LOT # | Description |
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| 17 | SCOTT 1983 CAT., Vols. 2, 3, 4 (A-Z). Good shape. MB=\$10 for set of three. |
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| 35 | DANZIG: 102 different. Scott pages. HAR=\$76.50. Minimum bid = \$17.50. |
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 B Collect worldwide (date/period)
 C Collect mint only
 D Collect postally used only
 E Collect Used (incl. CTO's) only
 F Collect mint or used (incl. CTO's)
 G Collect mint or postally used
 H Also specialize in (subject or topic)

 X Have been a worldwide collector (____years)

 AA Age - under 15
 BB Age - 15 to 21
 CC Age - 22 to 40
 DD Age - 41 to 65
 EE Age - 66 and over

 1 Also collect covers
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 2 Also collect postal stationery
 2a " " " " USA only
 3 Also collect postmarks, cancels, etc.
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 6a " " " " USA only
 7 Especially like stamps of (country, countries, area).

 50 I want to trade/exchange with other members
 60 I want to correspond with other members
 70 Write first
 80 I read and write English ONLY
 80a I can also read some Spanish
 81 I read and write Spanish ONLY
 81a I can also read some English
 82 I read and write (_____ language) only
 83 I read and write English and the following
 (language(s)_____)



SAMPLE: B(to 1940),D,X(15),CC,4a,7(France),50,80

Means: I collect worldwide to 1940, postally used, and have collected for 15 years. My age is between 22 and 40, I also collect US precancels, like stamps of France, want to trade, read and write English only.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS PAGE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE CODES OF OTHER MEMBERS! Thanks!!!

STAMP LOTS

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Hello, Below are listed some stamp lots I thought us Worldwidere would be interested in. You may call to reserve lots if you wish pending arrival of your check or write but alternates are appreciated as all lots are one of a kind and postpaid in USA. All lots are returnable (15 day limit) if you are not happy. No COD's credit cards, or postage please. David L Creson (#170) POB 391 Medford, OR 97501-0027; Telephone me at; 503-776-5729. If you get my machine LEAVE A NUMBER. I'll call.

- #1 FRANCE in TWO LIKE NEW Scott specs. pages to 1990 (In good and like new binders). Material very scattered but better. Net \$100.
- #2 Scott Specs. album (Like new) mostly empty to 1990. Includes Aland, Denmark (Some good material), Fargo, with like new binder. Net \$50.00
- #3 Scott Spec. Album (like new) mostly empty to 1990. Includes Iceland Greenland, Sweden (w some material). In like new binder. Net \$50.00
- #4 W/W Junker collection to 1940 or so. 200-300 stamps. Cheap, Net 13.00
- #5 Cigar Box lot of older W/W rather sorted. 100's of stamps. Net 18.00
- #6 Scott catalog 1929 One volume (Of course) Good shape Net 26.00
- #7 H/B Book 1941 "Hand Struck Postage Stamps of the (British) Empire" W/ small interesting supplement. a plus for your library. Net 26.00
- #8 USA mailclippings About 1/4 LB, many better Net 5.00
- #9 Safe Perfo meter & Sunrise 30X light scope. 40.00 retail. Net 15.00
- #10 USA album with a few stamps (50-75) mostly cheapies. Net 7.50
- #11 Kiloware, about 2 kilos of Scandinavia (On paper). Net 35.00
- #12 Box of Philatelic odds and ends, No FDCs or Sand Dunes. Net 20.00
- #13 About 400 stamps stripped from W/W (to 1920) coll. Messy Net, 10.00
- #14 World Wide Estate (About 1/3 USA). Owner took USA Face. Includes four Small USA and Foreign colls plus Pounds of older material in envelopes, glassies and the like. Mostly common but has some better. Real value potential. Unpicked. Net USA ONLY. \$150.00
- #15 France NH on counter pages. a little used etc. not counted. SC# 835//1950, B86//B452, 2N1-10. Near no Duplication, beautiful material. Scott 1991 catalog 206.40. A steal at Net \$60.00
- #16 Scott catalog 1942 light stain and scuff, useful, Net \$5.00
- #17 14 approval books, Empty; Like new, 16-30 pg. ea; 3 are APS. Net 10.00
- #18 A small box of better material. Stamps in glassies, counter sheets, S/S, a few covers, some duplicates. Common of course but also many better Total very high CV. Net 40.00
- #19 W/W 1903 Scott album collection remainder. Very sparse but better. Some material if not fakes catalog 2.00-40.00 each. Net 20.00

I view myself NOT as a real dealer, but a very active collector who sees a lot of material. I also have many dealer friends who from time to time ask me to move something for them. This is, to me, really another part of being a world wide collector that I take pleasure in and develop many new and interesting friends. If you would like to see more flyers of mine as they come out drop me a line and I will send them to you at no cost. If you have material to sell I would also be interested, as long as it is priced so I can move it along to another collector who want it. _____

(OVER please)

The following lots are all collections on leaves or stock pages, very little duplication unless noted, 1992 Scott catalog used, (Not 1988 as some still do). As they are collections expect a few faults but majority are fine or better. Mint and used. Some is VERY difficult material to find. 1//RA4 means where collection starts and ends per Scott.

#M2 ANGOLA, 1//RA4 mostly used coll. CV 102.94	Net 17.50
#M5 ANGOLA, 3//RAJ4 collection. CV 115.89	Net 18.50
#M167 ANGOLA 1//34 . Diff. to find CV 48.44	Net 17.00
#M394 FUNCHAL 1//31 Diff. to find CV 7.50	Net 5.00
#M396 FUNCHAL 3//34. 26 stamps CV 54.02	Net 19.00
#M447 KIONGA (yes kionga!!) #2 used pulled perf	Net 5.00
#M448 KIONGA 2//4 (3 Stamps) all w/rounded corners CV 47.50	Net 10.00
#M452 LOURENCO MARQUES 1//P1 collection CV 115.75	Net 21.00
#M454 LOURENCO MARQUES 2//P2 collection CV 202.36	Net 36.00
#M455 LOURENCO MARQUES 3//157 CV 19.00	Net 5.00
#M761 MOZAMBIQUE collection 1//386 (24 stamps) CV 197.36	Net 30.00
#M761a MOZAMBIQUE coll. (223 stamps) 1//RA3 CV 139.00	Net 24.00
#M762a MOZAMBIQUE coll. (182 stamps) 1//RA20 CV 82.90	Net 11.00
#M763 MOZAMBIQUE coll. (290 Stamps) CV 110.05	Net 16.00
#M918 MOZ. COMPANY 1//P1 (213 Stamps) CV 103.25	Net 27.00
#M1035 NYASSA (PRETTY MATERIAL) Coll. CV 134.95	Net 37.00
#M1036 NYASSA Mint over 70% complete! 1//RA3 CV 165.60	Net 50.00
#M1039 NYASSA 2//J9 CV 80.30	Net 16.00
#M1041 NYASSA M/U 4//RA3 few dups CV 158.86	Net 40.00
#M1155 PONTA DELGADA 1//31 (14 stamps) CV 13.67	Net 5.00
#M1156 PONTA DELGADA 1//34 (28 stamps) CV 156.02	Net 30.00
#M1592 PORTUGUESE CONGO, 2//P1 most used CV 144.30	Net 30.00
#M1596 PORTUGUESE CONGO, 4//98; (32 stamps) CV 64.35	Net 21.00
#M1652 PORTUGUESE GUINEA 8//J44 CV 414.67 (15%!! 1992 CV)	Net 62.50
#M1655 PORTUGUESE GUINEA 10//RA3 CV 94.83	Net 16.00
#M1656 PORTUGUESE GUINEA Mostly used, 10//RA7 CV 204.70	Net 38.00
#M1805 PORTUGUESE INDIA, 56//RAJ3 CV 389.39 A real bargain	Net 52.00
#M1811 PORTUGUESE INDIA, Small collection	Net 4.00
#M1826 PORTUGUESE INDIA, 162//RA17 CV 204.00 Bargain!!	Net 26.00
#M1832 PORTUGUESE INDIA, 174//RAJ3 CV 133.31	Net 17.00
#M1989a QUELIMANE, Difficult to find!! 4//39, M/U, CV 65.25	Net 25.00
#M2012 St. THOMAS & PRINCE, 1//J51 CV 127.85	Net 24.00
#M2162 TETE!!! Check your collection! 6//39 CV 61.25	Net 16.00
#M2182 TIMOR seldom seen 5//RAJ3 CV 153.22	Net 30.00
#M2263 ZAMBESIA 3//107 CV 195.50 Check your collection!	Net 46.00

That is it folks. Look it over good as this is the first list I have put out in over 5 years but I hope to mail out or put in our CIRCUIT more collections. Don't forget to drop a note at least so you will get the future flyers of collections and lots us Worldwidiers love to dig through. Have fun.....Dave Creson (#170) Phone 503 776 5729