

# Special STaMpsHOW '92 Issue



## The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of  
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society.

Volume 25, Number 3, Whole Number 97. Third Quarter 1992.

### Everything About Judging Philatelic Literature

By Charles J. Peterson

When Ken Lawrence asked me for an article on judging philatelic literature, I posed the normal writer-to-editor questions: How long an article? Any particular slant? What aspects do you have in mind? His guidance was "however long you need, but just cover everything—with examples."

Right! And for your next exam question, write a concise but comprehensive history of the universe . . .

Title of article notwithstanding, what follows is merely one person's guide to the philosophy and some of the practicalities of philatelic literature judging. It includes my opinions, biases,

and crochets (labeled as such, where I have sufficient insight to recognize them for what they are). It is *not* a re-hash of the literature judging chapter in the *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*<sup>1</sup>, to which I refer anyone who wishes a more formal and technical discussion.

#### The Rationale for Exhibiting

Reasons for exhibiting philatelic literature are varied, and depend heavily on one's point of view. (Some folks are opposed

►► Everything . . . page 66.

### Judging Stamp Columns in Non-Philatelic Newspapers

By Ralph Mitchener

The judging of philatelic literature at stamp exhibitions may at first thought seem to be an esoteric topic, of interest to very few, yet without philatelic literature our hobby would be in sad shape.

Having been asked to be a judge at two national-level exhibitions that have literature sections, one of which includes a category for stamp columns in non-philatelic newspapers, I did some reading and subsequent thinking about the content of such columns.

In the January-February 1970 issue (Vol. 21, No. 1) of *The Canadian Philatelist*, Kenneth Rowe devoted an editorial to what should be the function of a philatelic column in a non-philatelic newspaper. It resulted from his experience as a judge of such columns at a philatelic literature competition in the United States.

He settled on four requirements "for an ideal newspaper column."

- A. Reports of new issues.
- B. Reports and announcements of philatelic events.
- C. Original articles either by the columnist or by invited contributors.
- D. Value to the junior or non-collector.

►► Judging . . . page 68.

### STaMpsHOW '92 Breakfast

The traditional breakfast of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit 30 at STaMpsHOW '92 in Oakland, California, will begin at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 30, 1992, at the Simmons Ballroom of the Parc Oakland Hotel.

The breakfast is open to all visitors to STaMpsHOW '92, and will include drawings for philatelic literature door prizes.

Tickets are available at \$14 each, and after July 31 must be purchased at STaMpsHOW '92. □

### STaMpsHOW Seminar

Ken Lawrence will lead a seminar, "You too can be a stamp writer," at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, in room 201 of the Oakland Convention Center at STaMpsHOW '92. □

Inside: Three views of  
U.S. Stamps & Postal History  
. . . page 59.

# The Philatelic Communicator

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All Writers Unit 30 business *except* editorial matter for this journal should be handled through the Secretary-Treasurer:

George B. Griffenhagen  
2501 Drexel Street  
Vienna VA 22180-6906 ..... (703) 560-2413

Editorial matters should be handled with the editor:

Ken Lawrence  
P O Box 3568  
Jackson MS 39207 ..... (601) 969-2269

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Officers of Writers Unit 30, a non-profit corporation, in addition to the Secretary-Treasurer and Editor, are:

Charles J. Peterson ..... President  
P O Box 5559  
Laurel MD 20726 (301) 776-9822  
Alan Warren ..... Vice-President, East  
P O Box 17124  
Philadelphia PA 19105 [Evenings] (215) 467-3730  
Robert D. Rawlins ..... Vice-President, West  
P O Box 981  
Healdsburg CA 95448 (707) 431-1109

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## NEXT:

### Serving Society Members Effectively

## DEADLINES

For receipt of copy by the editor

Fourth Quarter . . . September 10, 1992

First Quarter, 1993 November 20, 1992

## Literature Exhibition Calendar

September 10, 1992, is the deadline to enter the Lidman Prize competition for writers of philatelic articles published in non-philatelic publications. For information write to Council of Philatelic Organizations, P.O. Box COPO, State College, PA 16803.

### October 9-11, 1992

Sescal 92, Los Angeles, California. Information from James A. Bowman, 3459 Township, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

### October 9-11, 1992

Colopex 1992, Columbus, Ohio. Information from Gary D. Weaver, P.O. Box 1094, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

### October 30-November 1, 1992

Chicagopex 92, Rosemont, Illinois. Information from Chicagopex 92, P.O. Box A-3953, Chicago, IL 60690-3953.



### October 28-November 2, 1992

PhiLITex 92, New York, New York. Information from PhiLITex 92, c/o The Philatelic Foundation, 21 East 40th St., New York, NY 10016.

### April 3-4, 1993

Colopex 93, Columbus, Ohio. Information from Gary D. Weaver, P.O. Box 1094, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

### April 30-May 2, 1993

Royal 93 Royale at Orapex, Ottawa. Canada's Second National Literature Competition. For information write to Orapex, c/o R. A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1H 7X7.

### May 7-9, 1993

Pipex 93, Vancouver, British Columbia. For information write to William Davidson, 1502 Harbour Dr., Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 5V5.

### July 30-August 8, 1993

Brasiliana 93, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For information write to John E. Livesay, U.S. Commissioner, 20 Center Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

### August 19-22, 1993

STaMpsHOW 93, Houston, Texas. Information from American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

### October 1-10, 1993

Bangkok 1993. Bangkok, Thailand. For information write to Mary Ann Owens, U.S. Commissioner, P.O. Box 021164, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0026.

### October 8-10, 1993

Sescal 93, Los Angeles, California. Information from James A. Bowman, 3459 Township, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

### January 27-30, 1994

Hafnia. Copenhagen, Denmark. Details to come.

## President's Message

By Charles J. Peterson

Citing unexpected and heavy work demands, Steve Rod submitted his resignation from the office of Vice-President, East. We accepted with considerable reluctance and regrets. In keeping with our Bylaws, the Executive Committee named Alan Warren to fill Steve's unexpired term; Alan will keep the function of WU30 publicity director which he's been handling as a Council member. This leaves us a (theoretical) vacancy on the Council, since the Bylaws provide for "not less than four nor more than eleven" Council members, the number to be "determined by the Executive Committee from time to time." Since no specific duties fall to the vacant office, the Executive Committee felt it preferable to leave the position unfilled at present, pending general elections in 1993.

I've greatly appreciated Steve Rod's help and guidance, particularly his tactful candor. In fact, I value Steve's advice so much that I've appointed him—without bothering to get his consent—as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, said appointment to run to the expiration of his original vice-presidential term in 1993. That means he'll be on distribution for all Executive Committee correspondence; and knowing Steve, that's sure to result in his candid input wherever it continues to appear warranted.

The Danish Philatelic Federation has announced a specialized world literature exhibition, Hafnia 94, to be held in Copenhagen January 27 to 30, 1994. The exhibition will be the third such international event conducted under the auspices of the F.I.P., following Milano 82 (Milan, Italy) and Iphla 89 (Frankfurt, Germany).

Societies specializing in foreign stamp areas appear to be missing an opportunity to publicize the literature of their fields. They might consider organizing occasional showings of relevant literature in conjunction with their annual meetings, drawing not only on U.S. publications but also on those produced in their countries of interest and by their sister specialty societies around the world. The China Stamp Society, for example, could solicit entries from the PRC, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, as well as from the Japan Philatelic Society Foundation, the Hong Kong Study Circle, Germany's ArGe China-Philatélie e.V., etc. I'm sure U.S. members of the CSS would be delighted (and perhaps amazed) to see the wide range of publications available to support their collecting and research activities. Obviously, this type of event needs long-term planning and coordination to come off well, requires the support of the show committee hosting the annual meeting, and for best effect should coincide with a significant society anniversary. A competitive literature exhibition is probably the best vehicle, since it is likely to receive the best response from potential overseas participants. (For the CSS, 1996 might be a very good year for such an event, since it marks the 30th anniversary of their *China Clipper*.)

The International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP) has approved a change in statutes that opens associate membership to organizations. The British and French philatelic writers' associations have expressed interest, and WU30 is also waiting to see how events develop. There's potential benefit in an international organization dedicated to the interests of philatelic authors and journalists. However, we're still waiting an answer to the questions "What does it cost?" and "What do we get for our money?" I'll report again as soon as there's something specific to discuss.

WU30 Executive Committee/Council efforts generally are carried out in the background, with little to show the membership. One major exception is carried in this issue of the *Philatelic Communicator*: a major revision of the WU30 Bylaws. One significant change involves the formal institutionalizing of a Philatelic Writers Hall of Fame Committee; I've appointed Barbara Mueller as the first chairperson of this new committee. Another is the elimination of the (previous) requirement that candidates for the WU30 presidency must have served a term as an elected officer.

I talked with a number of members while I was at the World Columbian Stamp Exhibition. The great majority expressed a desire for more "how to" articles in the *Philatelic Communicator*, and less coverage of "what's new" and "who's who." Some specific topics called for (with my parenthetical thoughts on potential authors): photo-journalism (Barbara Mueller); society publications/publication committees, with all the warnings and guidelines that experience brings (Dan Barber); desk top publishing, particularly with data base material (Gary Van Cott). Further subject suggestions are encouraged, and manuscript submissions are always welcome. □

## Editor's Bulletin Board

By Ken Lawrence

*Congratulations to our president, Charlie Peterson, recipient of the Distinguished Philatelist award bestowed by the United States Philatelic Classics Society on May 30 at World Columbian stamp Expo!* In his role as president of FIP's literature commission since 1973, Charlie has written all the rules for international (and national) literature exhibitions. Thus he has "made the most significant impact of any member of his generation on philatelic literature at national and international levels," according to the June 1991 *American Philatelist*.

*George W. Brett and Hubert C. Skinner* were also honored as Distinguished Philatelists at the same ceremony, thus giving first-rank stamp writers a clean sweep of the awards. Well done, gentlemen! The winners were chosen by a committee chaired by Ernst M. Cohn.

*Les Winick* praised Charlie Peterson and the WU30 literature critique service in his June 22 "Insider" column in *Linn's*, which also lauded Steve Esrati's many years of stamp journalism and included a photo of a very young Esrati.

*John Dunn* used to be skeptical about U.S. plate number coil collecting, viewing it as a passing fad. Evidently he's seen the light. A new PNC column by Al Cibulskas, a dealer esteemed for his integrity, made its debut in the July 17 *Mekeel's*. Congratulations, Al! Thanks, John.

*Arthur Morowitz* will not be giving away free condoms at ASDA's Mega-Event in New York. Just because ASDA's full-page ads said the Mega-Event would include PhiLATEX is no reason for the unhappy folks in Chicago to spread raised-eyebrow rumors about their New York rivals.

*The Philatelic Foundation* sent out a release noting the changed dates for PhiLITex, now scheduled for October 28 to November 2 to coincide with ASDA's Mega-Event. The envelope it came in advertised the *old* dates.

*World Columbian Stamp Expo* president Charles Berg sent a memo to stamp journalists on June 18, 1991, that promised weekly releases and a monthly newsletter in the runup to the big show. Also, "We will issue press passes for WCSE '92, which will entitle the holder to use the press room at WCSE '92." None of that materialized, and I for one wonder how much the

absence of a press room and the lack of media access to information hurt the show's attendance, especially after Memorial Day, when local coverage could have done wonders for attendance.

Despite some unfortunate problems at WCSE, Mark Isaacs's charge of anti-Semitism leveled against the Chicago group in the November-December 1991 issue of *The Indo-China Philatelist* and reiterated later was entirely groundless.

Randy Neil "squeezed in between a mother and her son who were marvelling at Suffet's strange cover that was franked with a counterfeit from the 1954 Liberty series" at ARIPEX last January, according to his report in the maiden issue of *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* (affectionately dubbed *Red Star Stamp News* by admiring insiders, for its 1960s-style banner logotype). The trouble is, Steve Suffet sold that cover to Bill Dunn three years ago. Reporting 101, Randy?

Herman Herst Jr. needs to buy a good encyclopedia. In his July 11 *Stamps* column, he repeats the Postal Service's mistake in designating Belva Ann Lockwood as the first woman nominee for U.S. president in 1884 as candidate of the Equal Rights Party; actually, Victoria Woodhull was first, in 1872, with Frederick Douglass as her running mate on the People's Party ticket. But not even the Postal Service can be blamed for Pat's assertion in the same column that Joel Chandler Harris was African American.

"Only 250 were printed," said the ads, but 3,000 sets of St. Vincent Locomotives progressive proofs were sold. That's just one tidbit from the British fraud trial of Clive Feigenbaum and his associates, accused of having deliberately created and marketed stamp "errors" and unauthorized varieties through the now-defunct Format International Security Printers and other firms controlled by Feigenbaum. Our stamp papers haven't been carrying this news, an indication of how much we've missed since Edgar Lewy died.

*Censorship watch.* Hermann Walter Sieger, head of the world's largest stamp firm, has called on catalog publishers to avoid listing stamps he doesn't like. Meanwhile, the squad that monitors stamp-issuing correctness has fallen silent lately, except for a news release calling on catalog publishers not to list an anti-Semitic stamp of Iran.

FIP president D. N. Jatia attempts to reassure readers of the March 1992 *Flash* that philatelic judging at FIP-sponsored international exhibitions is fair and objective. Writing in the same issue, George G. Lindberg offers a less lofty view: After receiving the list of entries and entrants, "most members of the jury start a feverish search in order to find out which medals the exhibit has been awarded at earlier exhibitions. Many jury members are so foreseeing that they have their own records, with details stored in a computer." The wonders of cybernation never cease.

Robert W. Richardson, who edited *Linn's* in the 1930s, is now a resident of State College and a frequent visitor to the American Philatelic Research Library.

Ken Lake has told *The Philatelic Exporter* he won't be writing any more. He's leaving Britain for a two-year trip around the world. It's too bad that the most pungent and insightful writers move on (but Ricky Richardson did make an appearance in *Linn's* not long ago), while blandness becomes the rule.

*New Stamp Publication 1.* The New York Precancel Stamp Club has begun a newsletter, *New York Precancel News*. For information write to Robert Fifield, 65 Churchill Lane, Smithtown, NY 11787.

*New Stamp publication 2.* From the Emerald Isle comes *Super Stamp Club Magazine*, slanted toward young collectors. For information write to Super Stamp Club, 5 Whitechurch Dr., Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, Ireland.

*New Stamp Publication 3?* The BNAPS Literature Study Group publishes *Philography Canada*, formerly *Philateliography Canada*. For information write to Paul M. Burega, Box 15765 Merivale Depot, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2C 3S7.

Jeff Segal sent a clipping from the October 21, 1991, *Business First*, a Louisville weekly—an extensive look at the stamp hobby that warns against stamps as investments, but has a friendly sidebar on Artmaster, a local firm. The opposite view will probably creep back into the business press, now that Salomon Brothers once again tracks stamps in its annual investment survey.

*Philatelic Literature Collectors* (yes, they do exist) should note that *Stamps* published two versions of its March 7, 1992, edition. The regular one, mailed second-class to subscribers, has the usual "At a Glance" abbreviated contents box at the top left on the front page. The version mailed third-class to APS members substitutes a "Dear APS Member" box, and has a smaller banner.

Critics who regard some of my writing as "negative" should read Dane Claussen to get a dose of the real thing. Here's a passage from the May 1992 International Philatelic Press Club *Report to Members*: "If poor content were a major factor, *Stamps* would have been out of business a long time ago, *Global Stamp News* wouldn't be growing by leaps and bounds, and the ATA (with its deadly dull *Topical Time*) wouldn't have as many members as it does (which is a lot less than it should have)." He also took a poke at yours truly. But Dane is fulsome with praise for publications that carry his name on the masthead, currently *U.S. Stamps & Postal History*.

*The Scoop They All Missed.* Hammacher-Schlemmer, the home of conspicuous consumption in Beverly Hills, Chicago, and New York, is selling a framed set of two 1937 covers commemorating the marriage of Edward, the Duke of Windsor, to Wallis Simpson, for \$99.95.

*Airmail writers take note:* Your Graf Zeppelin stamps and covers don't exist. "All that is left of the great age of the rigid airships are the giant buildings they left behind them, sprinkled across the globe from Bedfordshire to California like the footprints of some extinct species." So wrote Martin Pawley of the authoritative *Manchester Guardian* in "White elephant of the air," May 17, 1992.

Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon Jr. has canceled plans for the USPS to sponsor future Olympic Games, and rolled his eyes when *Washington Post* reporters asked if he planned to attend the Summer Games in Barcelona this year. The 18 USPS employees in the Olympic marketing department will be seeking other posts.

*Private-sector stamp printers* may be affected by developments not directly related to stamps. If plans to replace \$1 bills with \$1 coins go forward, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will be producing a lot less currency. Meanwhile, its new web-fed currency presses are a lot more productive than the old generation of sheet-fed presses. With reduced orders for paper money and increased intaglio productivity, the Bureau may well be able to underbid its rivals, and bring back the stamp orders.

*Computers 1.* The April 1992 issue of *Compute* ran a handy glossary, "PC Jargon Made Easy," that helped me considerably to decode my conversations with several WU30 enthusiasts.

*Computers 2.* I would welcome an informational article on

the ins and outs of computer insurance. A couple of years ago our hobby lost a talented writer, Bob McDonald, thoroughly discouraged after the theft of his uninsured computer.

*Correction 1.* Keith Wagner has pointed out that the APS bylaws do not forbid a stamp dealer to become president of APS. The specific restriction that I garbled in my recollection reads, "Not less than six of the ten elected officers shall be stamp collectors who are not dealers classified as such by the Board of Vice Presidents." I apologize for any misunderstanding I may have caused. Except for that, I stand by what I wrote in my Second Quarter article about *U.S. Stamps & Postal History*. For an opposing opinion, see Randy Neil's letter on page 56. Also see the three reviews of *USS&PH* that begin on page 60.

*Correction 2.* My apologies to Gini Horn, her name as she prefers to be known, not Virginia Horn.

*Serving society members effectively* will be addressed in our Fourth Quarter issue. If you have ideas to contribute, send them in.

*Deadlines.* Fourth Quarter, September 10, right after STaMpsHOW. First Quarter 1993, November 20, 1992, before Thanksgiving. □

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### Henry W. Beecher

The death of Henry Beecher has left a void in our hobby that no one else can fill. In a world that has no indispensable people, he was the exception. No one alive today can match his knowledge of United States postal rates or worldwide postal regulations.

Henry found more mistakes in my writing than all my other critics combined, and I treasured every correction he sent. Most other stamp writers can say the same, except those who are too proud to be criticized. He was among the very few who criticized me from the left, and the following message on a March 19, 1988, postcard in response to something I published in *Linn's* remains my favorite Beecher text:

"Tsk! I'm surprised to see an old anti-imperialist saying Palau became an independent republic. It's about as independent as Bophuthatswana, one of the differences being that the U.S. has never declared that Palau was independent."

It's worth writing an occasional careless phrase when you're assured of such flattering scrutiny by a devoted reader. The great tragedy is that Henry Beecher's own most important work was not brought to completion and published in his lifetime, the complete book of U.S. postal rates that he began writing more than 15 years ago.

A team is now being assembled to finish and publish the book, and it promises to be the most fitting permanent memorial that Henry could have. Adequate financing has not yet been secured; those who wish to contribute to this project may contact the editor for details. Ken Lawrence □

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### Where Does the Truth Lie?

By Stephen G. Esrati

Washington officials love to rant against "the media," which they usually make into a singular noun.

These officials like to accuse us of distorting the facts, taking things out of context, almost anything short of calling us liars.

At World Columbian Stamp Expo I spent some time with Gordon L. Morison to apologize to him because I had called him a liar—in print. But I had been lied to myself.

In that instance Morison had told me the reason plate-activity reports had not been distributed was because USPS had not received the data from the printers. I had been reassured by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing that BEP sent such reports to USPS monthly. Morison denied it. But I had been lied to.

I had to eat my words when BEP retracted, telling me that it had changed that schedule to quarterly because of "personnel changes."

Someone was lied to again after the 10¢ value of the Columbian souvenir sheets and the 10¢ Red Cloud stamp appeared untagged, but we still don't know for sure where the truth lies.

I called the Office of Communications of the Postal Service to inquire whether the policy of leaving stamps untagged up to the value of 8¢ had been changed. The first person I spoke to was Valerie Welch. She asked: "What does tagging mean?"

When I explained, she switched my call to Joe Peng in the Office of Stamp Manufacturing. Peng assured me that the policy had not been changed and that 10¢ stamps were not being left untagged on purpose.

I went to press telling my readers that the untagged 10¢ Red Cloud was an untagged error. I did not include the 10¢ Columbian because American Bank Note had assured me they had been left untagged at USPS insistence.

Meanwhile, Wayne Youngblood went to Washington and was told that the policy had indeed been changed to include 10¢ stamps and that there should now be four versions of the Red Cloud: block tagged, overall tagged, prephosphored, and untagged.

No policy statement had ever been distributed to "the media." Which version is true?

Joe Peng told Youngblood that it was possible that in addition to the Red Cloud, the 10¢ Canal Boat may also have been printed untagged.

But that was still not all the lying. Ken Lawrence wrote an article in *Linn's* in which he quoted Ira Polikoff of BEP as saying that BEP had refused to print rolls of 10,000 of the 5¢ Circus Wagon.

I was curious about the story because—under the agreement between BEP and USPS—BEP was not supposed to print any stamps in rolls larger than 3,000. I called the Office of Communications and got a flat statement from Robin Minard that "We never asked BEP to print them."

I wrote that for *Stamp Collector*, effectively calling Lawrence a liar. I have to apologize to him, too. But in this instance I had been more careful. Before the *Stamp Collector* story appeared, I checked with BEP and was told that there had been no refusal to print.

Part of the confusion may have been because I had referred to a coil of 12,000 that USPS had confirmed to me for 1993, whereas Ken had written about a coil of 10,000.

On another matter, Lawrence was told by Richard Johnson, a partner in Stamp Venturers, that his firm was now printing an unidentified coil stamp on which the gummed side shows accounting numbers.

Just before I went to press with the July issue of *The Plate Number*, I was told by Sandra Lane, a spokeswoman for the firm, that no stamps showing such numbers were in production. Fortunately, I forgot to include her denial in my magazine, so, at least, I neither called Lawrence a liar nor denied what he had reported.

But I can't help but think that this medium (stamp journalism, which is one of "the media") is getting a bum rap. We're being lied to. If we are then accused of getting it wrong, who is to blame?

Oh, sure. Blame "the media." □

## Dave's Top Ten List of How to Get More Things Done

By David A. Kent

Well, I'm not *that* Dave, but I do feel that some comments that have appeared in these pages recently were directed towards me. I am an officer or director in six different philatelic organizations, write the weekly stamp column for a large newspaper, contribute regularly to at least four philatelic journals, and publish about 100 articles on philately each year. Recent comments asked, "How do you do that?" John Hotchner has already given you some valuable insight into his personal guidelines for success. This is my own "top ten" list of how I do it.

10. *Get Organized.* An obvious answer, but harder to practice than it sounds. John gave you some good ideas, which you should consider. My own style of organization is to keep a calendar, a big monthly one with a large square for each day. I fill in deadlines, events I must attend or at least take action on, and reminders of things I must do.

It takes most of New Year's Day each year to fill out the calendar for the year, and I add to it constantly during the year. (Actually, I have three different calendars, for different phases of my personal and philatelic life.)

I also keep important documents in file folders, which I buy by the hundred. They are filled with press releases, correspondence, forms, and other papers that would pile up hopelessly if I didn't keep them organized. Old papers end up in file cabinets, to keep them out of the way.

You may have other methods of keeping organized. If they work for you, they are the right ones. Stick to them.

9. *Throw Things Out.* There is an obvious hazard for a collector to try to keep everything that comes his or her way. Learn when you will no longer need something, and throw it away. Don't spend time sorting through papers and other stuff that you may never use again. If by chance you do discard a clipping or press release and find that you need it again, make a friend of Gini Horn at the APRL. She can probably get you a copy by return mail.

8. *Stock Your Office.* You waste time using inadequate tools and makeshift supplies. A little money spent on quality equipment and office supplies is worth it. Don't waste your money in one of those full service (*i.e.*, costly) stationery stores. There are many wholesale office supply stores and even mail order outfits that cater to the home office, and that is what you are running.

7. *Figure Your Own Postage.* Don't you dare waste your time standing in line at the post office to get a letter weighed. You are an expert on postal rates. Buy a postage scale, get a chart, and figure out the postage yourself. For that matter, don't waste your time in line at the post office to buy stamps. You certainly have enough old ones around to make up odd amounts.

Buy new issues at the stamp shows where you spend so much of your time. Most show stations have a good stock, and your purchases will help to increase total sales so that the Postal Service will be encouraged to return to the show again next year.

6. *Leverage the Power of Technology.* Get a computer, or at least an electronic memory typewriter. Don't tell me all those horror stories about computers. Someone recently wrote in these pages that some type of error "never happened before computers." What a scurrilous lie! The old-fashioned linotype machine

could, and regularly did, produce some of the worst garbage in the history of human communications.

Computers are just machines, and you are intelligent enough to learn how to use one. Talk to the salesman at a computer store. He will tell you that many of his customers are retired people who are buying one for the first time, and have no problem in learning how to use them.

If you are a journal editor and already use a computer, badger your contributors who use computers to send you their material on disk. It will save you hours of time by avoiding retyping manuscripts, proofreading, and correcting articles. It's worth the effort to learn about compatible formats and file conversions.

5. *Build a Reference Library.* You undoubtedly have a good philatelic reference library for your specialty, but as a writer you need general references, too. That old dictionary you used in college is outdated by now. Only two dictionary publishers, G. & C. Merriam Co. and Simon & Schuster, both of which publish dictionaries with "Webster" in the title, have full-time staffs and issue new printings regularly with updated words and definitions. Buy a recent edition of one of those.

If grammar is a problem, buy a usage manual. Strunk and White is popular, but there are others. You will also need a good atlas—a new one each year, at the rate things are going—an almanac, and a book of quotations (nothing marks you more as a fool than misquoting a famous saying).

Yes, all of these books are available at the library. Save your library trips for the expensive and out-of-print references. If you are a really serious writer, you will have a much larger library. My own includes the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Grove's Dictionary of Music*, the eight-volume *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, four different atlases, the full set of *Stamp Specialist* books, and all of the general references published by the APS, ATA, *Linn's*, and Van Dahl, along with several hundred additional specialty books. While you are figuring out how much that set me back, I can tell you that the custom-made, built-in bookcase alone cost \$1,500.

4. *Avoid Having a Family.* A wife/husband and kids can use up an enormous amount of your time and money. OK, if you already have a family and have grown to love them, it's too late now. It worked for me.

3. *Learn to Say "No."* As a writer and knowledgeable philatelist, you will be asked to contribute your time and effort to many worthy clubs and activities. It will be more than you can do justice to, and you will have to learn to say "no" to some of them.

When I realized that I could offer my services to the American Topical Association's 8,000 members in about the same amount of time I was spending on the local 25-member club, I quietly retired as an officer of the local club. It was the most effective way of using the limited amount of time I had available.

2. *Read the Newspaper.* Don't waste your time watching news on television. The primary purpose of a newscast is to get you to watch the commercials, which take up as much as 40 percent of the time. In a desperate effort to get you to watch them, television news spends most of its time on sensationalism and trivia.

In half an hour of selective reading, you can get much more useful information from a newspaper, and still have a few minutes left for the comics and Dear Abby (she's right over there, by the stamp column.)

*And the number one "top ten" way of getting more done:*

1. *Turn Off the Damn Television Set.* It's a waste of your time, and you know it. Its purpose, I repeat, is to get you to watch the commercials. Commercial television shows are aimed at children, who seem to control the dial in most homes. The quality of prime-time shows matches their mentality, and is abysmal—certainly not worth the valuable time you can spend on more significant activities.

Lest you believe that I am some sort of hermit who hates television and wouldn't have one in the house, I can tell you that I have a modern color set, expanded cable TV, two VCR's, belong to two public TV stations, and subscribe to five different television magazines. I need all of that to find just one program each evening that is worth my time. I search it out in one of the guides, set the VCR to tape it, and trundle off to my stamp den for an evening's work. At 11:15 I come downstairs for the weather, watch a few minutes of Johnny Carson for laughs, and turn on the VCR to see what I taped. The fact that I often fall asleep watching it tells you that even the best program of the evening isn't worth much.

If your spouse mistakenly believes that watching TV is a form of family togetherness, some education is needed. Sitting mesmerized in front of a talking box isn't togetherness at all. Real family "quality time" should be working together on philately, or just about anything else that accomplishes something worthwhile.

I once only half jokingly suggested that the Council of Philatelic Organizations could best spend its budget for promoting philately by hiring a terrorist organization to blow up every television transmitter in the country. Television is the country's worst enemy of volunteerism, hobbies, and achieving anything with your life. Don't let yourself be trapped into wasting your time on it. □

## Vendettas, Snoops, and Poison Pens

*By Herman Herst Jr.*

Pick up almost any stamp magazine from the last century and your hair will curl at some of the libelous statements made therein. Dealers used to take out ads, listing the names of collectors who had defrauded them. Since, in many instances, the magazine publisher was also in the stamp business, such names were given prominence.

While philatelic politics never came to the stage where duels might be fought, some of the accusations would have called for a meeting on the field of honor a half century earlier. But now the weapons were pen and pencil. The typewriter had not yet come into general use.

A few of the old timers carried on the custom to modern times. Stanley Ashbrook was never one to mince words. If he did not like someone, he did not save his rage just for letters to the object of his scorn. Almost every letter he wrote screamed for vengeance against the individual. Sometimes, the reason for his anger was a minor slip of the pen in an article the other philatelist had written, or even a mistake in a judgement on an item Ashbrook thought good or bad.

I had a rather extensive correspondence with Ashbrook over the years and when I destroyed the files of forty years of correspondence with prominent philatelists, prior to moving to Florida, I had a nostalgic time reading his letters. It served no purpose to preserve them; most of the individuals he wrote about had passed on.

Of course, the Philatelic Foundation is still with us. Ashbrook went wild when he disagreed with some of their opinions.

Elliott Perry immortalized the name of Henry C. Needham, not only in his conversation and letters, but in his *Pat Paragraphs*. When that series of his publication was reprinted, all references to the Needham feud were omitted. Needham had "done" Perry out of a commission on the sale of a collection and Perry never forgot it. He accused Needham of being an arch faker, with some truth, stating that Needham had deliberately created fakes for personal gain. (Needham, a millionaire several times over, did not need the money.)

Needham wrote the Local section in the Scott specialized catalog, thus making it difficult for dealers to sell genuine ones, because they did not agree with the photos in the catalog. On Needham's death, the section was entirely done over.

Stephen Rich had a sense of humor<sup>3</sup> that sometimes went beyond the humorous. In the course of a feud with a lady named Margaret Roselle, he went a bit too far and got himself into trouble with the authorities. Roselle was writing a *Postal History of New Jersey*; she was a resident of Lodi, New Jersey.

Rich found a stampless cover of Lodi, New York, a long established town. He deleted the "Y" of "N.Y." and skillfully inserted a "J." It caused Roselle many lost hours in research, since postal archives showed Lodi, New Jersey, as not even existing in stampless days.

She and Rich had a blistering correspondence, in the course of which Roselle suffered a complete physical breakdown, from which she died. But she did not leave philately before she brought formal charges to the postal authorities against Rich for allegedly counterfeiting a U.S. postmark. Rich came within inches of being tried for the offense.

Today, libel laws are such that most letter writers are hesitant to put things on paper that might later be the substance of a lawsuit. And now that we know that so many of the routine letters many of us have written, especially if on philatelic matters to overseas dealers, have been read and held up by the Central Intelligence Agency and its predecessors, even more circumspection in the future might be indicated.

Don't laugh, pray. The CIA did a better job than you might think.

During World War II, a stamp dealer in Bolivia was apparently suspected of being an agent for the Nazis. His mail was watched. There was no CIA as such at the time, for the CIA actually grew out of the World War II Office of Strategic Services.

This dealer in Bolivia apparently sent a price list or a communication of some sort to thirty or so stamp dealers in New York. The writer was among them. Each letter was intercepted and the names of the New York stamp dealers got into the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as individuals to be watched. The list reads like a *Who Was Who in Philately* in 1943. There were top names among them. The FBI was told that several of the names were definitely "suspicious."

How do I know this?

I read in the paper that one of the good things that came out of the Congressional investigation into the CIA snooping was permission for any citizen to write them, to find out what they had on file against him. I wrote and thus started a most interesting correspondence.

At first, they were reluctant to share the files, saying that by so doing it would invade the privacy of others. (The hell with the invasion of *my* privacy!) But I persisted, and accepted the right given to me to appeal. So now I know that a Bolivian Nazi agent had obtained a list of prominent New York stamp dealers and of those then in business in New York, several were definitely suspicious.

(If you were in business in stamps in 1943, I suggest you write Robert S. Young, Freedom of Information Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. 20505. You might find out that your privacy also suffered an invasion.)

I am still getting bad news from the CIA. When pressed for more evidence on my doings during World War II—that is, doings other than my officially commended efforts to sell bonds and to visit the hospitals in connection with Ernie Kehr's Stamps for the Wounded project—I was told that my mail on philatelic matters sent overseas was subsequently opened, photographed, sealed and sent on its way.

Well, I am still free, so I guess they never did find much illegal activity. But I wonder about those suspicious New York stamps dealers. To my knowledge, there was never a single thing to cast doubt on their loyalty to this country. But the FBI and the CIA looked upon everyone with suspicion.

We don't see too many poison pen letters these days, to return to the anonymous sort of stuff philately went through in its earlier days. But they do exist. It takes a special kind of coward to send an anonymous poison pen letter. He must be a kind of sadist, and his present hobby is no doubt a more mature version of the old juvenile pulling-the-wings-off-flies trick.

There is little difference between a mugger approaching a victim from the rear and strangling him and someone who makes an accusation against someone, refusing to dignify it with his name, so there can be no defense. Yes, there is a difference in degree of the crime, but the method is still there. □

*Editor's note: Surreptitious Entry by Willis George (D. Appleton - Century, New York and London: 1946) is the memoir of a U.S. secret agent during World War II whose duties included surreptitious mail surveillance. The book gives a detailed description of the techniques, plus photos.* □

## Philatelic Writing From the Inner Self

By Robert W. Everett Jr.

We are writers. Daily we deal with commas, periods, question marks, words, sentences, and paragraphs. Our success at writing hinges upon how we use these writing elements.

Too many words per sentence (more than 20) and we lose our readers. It is also true for lengthy paragraphs (more than seven or eight sentences). Keep them short and to the point.

We all learned our native tongue by listening to and imitating our parents' speech. Then we formed simple words and began to communicate. Our parents did not teach us how to speak.

Next we learned the laborious task of writing simple three-letter words. Later we grouped these words into sentences. But the main problem is that no single book can teach us how to write. Each writer must discover this for himself or herself, using many sourcebooks on the art of writing.

One of the finest books on writing appeared in 1938 and was republished in 1983. It is titled *If You Want to Write* by Brenda Ueland. This is one of those great inspirational books on writing and creativity.

The author clearly shows how many teachers kill rather than develop the creative writing urge in young students. Those of us who had positive rather than negative teachers luckily retained good levels of creativity.

One of the main lessons I learned from Ueland's book is contained in the following quote: "To have things alive and interesting it must be personal, it must come from the 'I': what I know and feel. For that is the only great and interesting thing. That is the only truth you know, that nobody else does."

I have always admired writing by Pat Herst. In the 1960s I met Pat through his excellent newsletter *Herst's Outbursts*. I have read his articles for many years and enjoy all he writes.

Why is his writing so successful? It meets Ueland's criteria that good writing must come from the inner self. Pat's many philatelic experiences have given him a storehouse of human interest stories. His writing is personal and it comes from the "I."

Brenda Ueland's excellent book taught me another trick about good writing. "The secret to being interesting is to move along as fast as the mind of the reader can take it in. Both must march along in the same tempo. That is why it is good to read your writing aloud to yourself. As soon as your voice drags, cross that part out."

A one-page article in the February 1990 issue of *The American Philatelist* meets Ueland's above criteria of good writing. It was titled "The Pith-Helmeted Collector" by Davis Keeler, a retired lawyer who travels and writes. His travel experiences are clearly evident in the article. This is one of the finest pieces of philatelic writing I have ever read.

I was so impressed by Keeler's one-page article that I wrote a letter to the editor (*AP* April 1990) titled "Gold-Nugget writing." I stated that Keeler knows the right questions to ask about our hobby. He asked, "Where else but stamp collecting can you purchase so much romance for a penny?"

His description of the value and romance of used stamps will warm any collector's heart. "The real thing may be poorly centered and dirty, but it's honest centering and real dirt—dirt from a mail pouch in the hold of a P & O steamer passing through Suez on its way to Brindisi."

From this delightful one-page article by Keeler we may learn to share with him the philatelic magic of those penny-box used stamps. As writers we may also learn from his magical style of philatelic writing.

Review all your philatelic writing. Pick out the article you consider your best effort. I predict that the article you selected was good because you lived it in real life or you lived it in your imagination.

The article I rate as best in my philatelic writing was based on my three months in 1944 stationed on Ascension Island. This was my first overseas training assignment as a communications officer with the Air Force.

This tiny 35 square mile volcanic island in the mid-Atlantic ocean served as a refueling base for our bombers flying from Natal, Brazil, to Africa. As a geologist I delighted in collecting volcanic rocks and shells on the beaches.

My article on Ascension titled "My Nostalgic Topicals of Ascension Island" was published by Glen Crago in the March-April 1989 *Topical Time*. I used a Darwin map of the island and 24 commemorative stamps to take my readers on a tour of Ascension.

Concerning my departure from this magical island I wrote, "As our plane gained altitude my eyes searched the island for one final look. I knew I would probably never see it again. There was towering Green Mountain where we spent many relaxing hours on Sundays. There were the small beaches which I combed for sea shells. I took one last look at the many volcanic craters where I collected and shipped home all types of volcanic rock.

"I could see Georgetown with its historic past dating back to 1815. The end of the runway pointed to the nesting area of the hundreds of Wideawake birds, for whom the airfield was named. There were many other familiar landmarks which I took away with me in my mind and in my heart."

I would like to end this article with one more quote from Brenda Ueland's book. "Everybody is original, if he tells the truth, if he speaks from himself. But it must be from his true self and not from the self he thinks he should be. If you speak or write from your inner self you cannot help being original. □

## How to Report a Philatelic Miracle

By Ken Lawrence

"Timing is everything," lamented Harry Hagendorf as he acknowledged his disappointment that no buyer had appeared to purchase the most celebrated philatelic item on the bourse floor at World Columbian Stamp Expo. "If Jack Rosenthal were still buying, this would have been sold by now."

Maybe, maybe not. Perhaps Rosenthal is as credulous as some of our philatelic editors, but I doubt it.

Hagendorf and I had been discussing the truly amazing item offered by his firm, Columbian Stamp Company, Inc., for \$100,000—a piece of old butcher wrap bearing a complete set of canceled 1893 U.S. Columbian commemorative stamps including one of each stamp from 1¢ to \$1, and multiples of the \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$5 values.

It made its dramatic appearance less than a year following the publication of a census that had reported no multiples of the dollar values on cover, but just in time to be offered for sale amid the biggest celebration of Columbus in 100 years—an astonishing coincidence!\*

Linn's had put the piece on its front page in color. *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* had run Hagendorf's ad depicting the cover opposite Steven J. Rod's cover story on the Columbians, plus publicity photos for Andrew Levitt's sale of Jack Rosenthal's Columbians, in lieu of items the author had provided as illustrations.

### Provenance Lost

If genuine, this wrapper is to U.S. philately what Emily Dickinson's poetry is to American literature, so the fact that it went unreported for nearly a century is poetic, to coin a euphemism. But to accept it as genuine, one must join the experts of the Philatelic Foundation in suspending disbelief.

In a world where *provenance* is everything, Hagendorf declines to give details of the wrapper's history, citing the previous owner's desire for anonymity. Jeff Purser, who is more cynical about these matters than I (one reason why I let him execute most of my bids at stamp auctions), remarked that if I have the \$100,000 in hand, I can find out where it came from.

Since my name does not appear on the very short list of potential buyers, I'll submit here some grounds for skepticism as my annual quixotic attempt to sharpen the sensibilities of our hobby's writers and editors.

### Credulity Retained

Despite the taint of recent scandals that included doctored certificates for Robert Wurdeman, unanswered allegations of self-certified doctored stamps for the Sachs Brothers, and the less-than-candid explanations for the departure of Peter Robertson and, most recently, Roberto Rosende, the credulity evoked by a PF expert certificate seems undiminished.

Majesty, not modesty, is its claim.

According to Hagendorf, PF researchers have established that the wrapper's \$49.34 postage covered an actual rate for a registered 30-pound, 8- or 9-ounce, parcel from Bangor, Maine, to Southampton, England, via the steamship *St. Paul* that set sail from New York on February 24, 1897.

### The Devil's Advocate

Not being an expert on 19th century Universal Postal Union rates or policies concerning registered mail, I cannot dispute this,

though Henry Beecher may be sneering from his grave. But anyone who believes the poppycock that this item conveyed a steamer trunk has never hefted even an empty one.

(More artful speculation might have proposed that the missing portion of the wrapper included a full pane of \$5 Columbians to cover the remainder of the trunk's weight and that of its contents. Perhaps that piece will debut at the 1893 Columbian set's bicentennial.)

Even if the rate is legitimate, and there really existed a parcel of the surmised weight, this is not the way anyone—even one stamp collector seeking to please another—puts postage on an item to be mailed. One begins with the high values, includes each of the desired stamps, and adds extra middle or low values to achieve the required amount.

Such a perfect coincidence as suggested by Hagendorf and the Foundation may occur in heaven along with other miracles, but on earth it is as rare as multiple dollar-value Columbians on cover. That two such miracles should coincide on the same cover may verify for Hagendorf that Providence smiles upon philately, and especially on his aptly named firm, but shouldn't someone be the devil's advocate at this beatification?

After all, if we are witnessing a true miracle, why is the wrapper franked entirely with bum stamps, including some that once might have been the upper (hinged?) portions of multiples that were broken up to yield never-hinged single gems for the insatiable bidders at Steve Ivy auctions?

The 1¢ value is a straightedge copy, as is the 50¢. All the denominations in between, and the \$1 stamp, are wretchedly centered except for the 30¢, which is torn. All three \$2, all three \$4, and two of the \$3 values are straight-edge copies, while the remaining \$3 and all four \$5 stamps have their designs cut by perforations. No miraculous stamps there, just off-cover space-fillers.

Besides those points, there are unusual inconsistencies in the script above the stamps.

The Philatelic Foundation has resisted advice to acquire modern scientific equipment that can positively identify modern alterations and fakes of classic materials, preferring instead the subjective opinions of its experts. My opinion, which is probably as good or as bad as theirs in a case like this, is that the writing on the wrapper doesn't display a century's worth of fading and browning.

Scientific examination at a qualified laboratory ought to be required, and even that is in addition to, not a substitute for, details of the wrapper's provenance.

The real story might be more interesting than the Foundation experts' speculation. After all, it's the story, not the stamp, that establishes a philatelic item's value. The Penny Magenta legend proved that a long time ago. □

\* We all know that big stamp shows bring forth miraculous philatelic discoveries, such as Jacques C. Schiff's discovery of the \$1 Rush Lamp invert just in time for Ameripex. I am not disputing this. □

## Computer Corner

### Some Windows (PC and Mac) on Word Processing

By Mark A. Kellner

So, you've unpacked the new computer that has been your dream for so long. Now, the question is: What word processor should I use?

A proper answer depends on which computer you've acquired. The overwhelming majority of new personal computers sold last year were IBM-compatible PCs and many of them will run the Microsoft *Windows* graphical environment.

The last few months have seen the introduction of two relatively new word processors for *Windows*: *WordPerfect for Windows* and Microsoft *Word for Windows* 2.0, plus version 3.0 of *Ami Pro for Windows*, which was first in the race, albeit not widely known.

*WordPerfect for Windows*, list price \$495, has been long awaited. When I saw an early version last summer, I was impressed; the shipping version does not disappoint. *WordPerfect for Windows* offers speed, ease of use, and the ability to switch between formats in a fast and easy to follow way.

It may be the most versatile of all word processors, working in a *Windows*-like graphical mode (select the Times Roman typeface and your copy appears on-screen that way) or a "draft mode" of white on blue letters, which will be familiar to many users of *WordPerfect's* DOS product.

*WordPerfect for Windows* takes full advantage of *Windows*: there are buttons and devices galore a user can designate to handle things such as closing and opening files, or counting the number of words in a document.

The program includes an incredibly easy way to create tables. Simply click your mouse pointer on the button, and select the numbers of rows and columns desired, say four by six. The same holds true for creating a multi-column layout of text—point and click.

Spell-checking with this program is brisk, and so is the built-in thesaurus. Users of DOS versions of *WordPerfect* can even tell the program to use the keyboard commands of that program while having the extra benefits of *Windows*. *WordPerfect Corp.* can be contacted at (800) 451-5151.

Microsoft *Word for Windows*, also \$495 list, is another recent addition to the WP scene. *Word* is the market leader in *Windows* word processors, although this may change with the *WordPerfect* entry.

*Word* 2.0 offers a number of refinements, notably a "toolbar" that contains "buttons" for creating envelopes, tables, and doing spell-checking, as well as a rather comprehensive way of creating charts. *Word* also lets you use *WordPerfect* 5.1 (DOS) commands and will allow you to drag various elements on a page (that table or chart you've created, for example), so revising layouts is a breeze.

In fact, the only thing I can say as a "negative"—and the quotes are there on purpose—is that the use of Microsoft *Word for Windows* may not be that prevalent on PCs, the user upgrading to *Windows* from plain-vanilla *MS-DOS* might well be tempted to jump into the *WordPerfect* fold.

But *Word* 2.0 will not disappoint most people who want a good word processor that runs under *Windows*. Microsoft can be reached at (800) 323-3577.

*Ami Pro 3.0 for Windows* may now be best known as the word processor made by Lotus Development Corp., itself famous for the 1-2-3 spreadsheet program.

What? A WP program from a *spreadsheet* publisher? Yep, and—surprise!—it works very well indeed.

*Windows* word processors, like the *Windows* environment, should be graphical. "What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get," or WYSIWYG, is the order of the day. *Ami Pro* takes this concept to new heights with two features. First, the program can offer a "clean screen" on which only the text, in your choice of fonts and layouts, is visible. Neither of *Ami Pro's* chief rivals offer as large a "clear" display of text for editing.

Second, *Ami Pro* offers a series of formatting options unrivaled in the field. I can select a text style—say "Bold Italic"—and then turn it into a paintbrush-like "wand" that applies the style to any portion of text I select.

Even the process of opening documents allows me to see

what I'm getting. *Ami Pro's* "File Open" command will let me select a "preview" screen that shows what a document will look like, formatted, onscreen. This, too, is fast and facile.

At the top of the *Ami Pro* screen is a series of small buttons, or SmartIcons, which can also reside on any side of the document, or "float" on the screen. These icons are easy-to-understand representations of commands for opening and closing files. Unlike the *Windows* versions of *Word* or *WordPerfect*, for example, you can fit as many as 24 such icons on *Ami Pro* 3.0's display and still be able to tell what they represent. There are seven different sets of icons available, from the "default" set to those for long documents, proofreading, and creating tables.

This pictorial representation of the program's functions will be welcomed by novice users, and even those of us with a few years at the keyboard. The SmartIcons are easy to understand and can be customized for various tasks. I particularly liked the one showing an envelope emerging from a printer, which triggers a "macro," or recorded series of steps, to handle one of computing's more daunting tasks.

Another plus in the office will be the extremely easy way you can set up a mail merge using *Ami Pro* 3.0. Just select the "Merge" option from the File menu, and the software prompts you to create (or specify) a mail merge file, create a merge document, and then print the results. This ease will astonish those who've experienced this task on *MS-DOS*-based programs.

In the course of text editing, *Ami Pro* offers several advantages for the end user, including "drag and drop" text editing. Here, I can highlight a sentence and then just click on it with the mouse pointer to drag it over to where I'd like to place the words. Using *WordPerfect for Windows*, I'd have to go through several keystrokes to cut and then paste the text.

It would take far more space than is available here to explore why I like *Ami Pro* in depth. Suffice to say that as much as I liked *WordPerfect for Windows*, *Ami* is my word processor of choice on the DOS platform—and likely will be for some time to come.

To get more information on *Ami Pro 3.0 for Windows*, which should be in stores as this article appears in print, call Lotus at (800) 831-9679.

*Macintosh* users face a different selection task. Here Microsoft *Word* is "king-of-the-hill," and the new version 5.0 promises even more functionality, but at a price: Those who've had an advance look say it will take up far more room on your hard disk than earlier versions, among other demands. Thus, the idea here may be to look for *Word* alternatives. (I'll discuss the verities of *Word 5.0 for the Mac* in a future article, since I've not yet had the chance to review the program hands-on.)

*Nisus*, from Paragon Concepts, is as detailed a word processor as I've ever seen. There are 300—yes, 300—levels of "Undo" available, and you can ratchet up that number to a higher point if desired. Multiple columns, inserting graphics into a document, and, of course, all the standard Mac features such as easy access to various fonts and styles are all there.

What I like most about *Nisus* is that you can open and "tile" multiple windows on screen very easily. This allows you to keep research or interview notes on one side, and then cut-and-paste needed data into the final document. What I like least about *Nisus* version 3.6—said by the publisher to be System 7 compatible—is that I seem to be able to out-type it by a few seconds. That may be less of a distraction to others, however.

*Nisus's* spell-checker is fast, and overall, the program works well and isn't too hard to learn. The program can be had from the Mac Connection (800)800-444 for \$245, a bargain price from a reliable supplier. Paragon is at (619) 481-1477, for more information.

*WordPerfect for the Mac*, however, excels in ease-of-use, formatting capabilities (including the placement and sizing of graphics) and compatibility with other word processing programs, including WP's IBM-compatible cousins. For those who tried version 1.0 of *WP for the Mac* and blanched, rest assured, this newcomer, released in the Spring of 1991, is the real McCoy.

In fact, it is very similar to the *WP for Windows* program, although without the DOS-like "draft mode" display. You will not go wrong with *WP for the Mac*, list price \$495, "street" price much lower; call Mac Connection for a price quote.

To reach WordPerfect Corp., use the same toll-free number for Mac products—(800) 451-5151—as you would to get information on the *Windows* version. □

## About Windows . . .

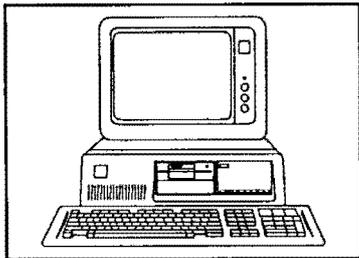
By Joe F. Frye

I have used *WordPerfect for Windows* for some trial printings, mostly of the "read me" files it brought.

I don't like the many differences in *WPW* compared to *WP DOS*. I have used *WP DOS* from the first computer-produced issue of our journal. It wasn't easy to learn. It is: fast (*WPW* is not\*), simpler ("cursor" in *WP DOS*, "insertion point" in *WPW*). Surely the originator of that greatly-expanded name for where you are in a screen must be related to the dreamer-up of six-line, 200-letter addresses for responses to coupons, contests, and the like.

\*I have much more memory of all kinds than the minimum requirements noted with *WPW* program, and a 80386 20mhz AT-clone. Granted, I could spend 3k (That's \$3,000, Ken) for a 80486-DX 60mhz new CPU, but I can't afford it.

I'll stick with *WordPerfect for DOS* for most work and play with *WPW* for special purposes and to learn more about it. □



## WU30 Breakfast at WCSE 92

By Alan Warren

A crowd of 42 people attended the sold-out Writers Unit 30 Breakfast at the spring meeting of the APS held in conjunction with World Columbian Stamp Expo in Rosemont, Illinois. President Charlie Peterson called the meeting to order Sunday morning, May 31, the last day of the show. After introductions of the officers and directors, others attending the meeting introduced themselves. One of the surprises for those present was to learn the identity of "The Old Sleuth" of *Stamps* magazine.

Charlie announced that Vice-President East, Steve Rod, had asked to step down due to pressures from his occupation and other philatelic activities. He was named member *ex officio* of the Executive Committee for the remainder of his term. Alan Warren was appointed as the new vice-president.

The format for the meeting was an open discussion on recommendations and concerns for WU30. Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen pointed out that a cap had been placed on costs for *The Philatelic Communicator*. Eighteen new members signed on in recent months and several former members have rejoined. Previous members may have their original membership number assigned to them again. Two members recently passed away—Henry W. Beecher and Susan M. McDonald.

Assistant Postmaster General for Communications, Deborah Bowker, was unable to accept the invitation to attend this breakfast meeting. She has suggested that the USPS might host

a breakfast meeting for interested WU30 members in the Washington DC area.

*PC* editor Ken Lawrence offered an official USPS plaque to the first member of the Unit who signs up 25 new members. Officers and Council members are not eligible. Ken also announced that Steve Suffet won the WU30 Contest Number One by correctly identifying the cover illustrated on page 32 of the Second Quarter 1992 issue of the *PC*. Steve was presented with a print by *New York Times* cartoonist Al Hershfeld of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, accompanied by a copy of the stamp and FDC.

Ken then auctioned off a cover bearing a 2¢ stamp with a "W.U." perfin, with proceeds going to the Unit's treasury. Charlie thanked Ken and Joe Frye for the bright new look of the *PC*, and recognized Bob de Violini for his efforts in reviving the *Computelist*. Congratulations were also extended to Randy Neil and John Hotchner for publishing the first issue of the journal *U.S. Stamps and Postal History*.

The second Canadian national philatelic literature exhibition, Orapex 93 was announced. The event is scheduled for April 1993 and will be held every two years. In 1994, Hafnia 94 will be held January 27-30 in Copenhagen's Bella Center, and will *not* be a stamp show but will be restricted to philatelic literature only. Charlie Peterson announced that Juhani Olamo of Finland has undertaken a project to index significant articles that have appeared in international stamp exhibition catalogs.

Otto Hornung, President of the *Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques*, announced that communications with representatives of the East European countries are changing rapidly with the dissolution of the Communist governments. The AIJP is offering individual memberships at little or no cost since governments no longer fund such activities. AIJP is also seeking affiliation by other national philatelic writers organizations. The maximum cost for WU30 to affiliate with AIJP would be \$75.

George Griffenhagen concluded the meeting with a series of door prize drawings. See you at the Writers Unit Breakfast in Oakland, Sunday morning August 29. □

## WU30 Contests and Auction

By Ken Lawrence

We received exactly two entries to Contest Number One, from Stephen L. Suffet and Kenneth T. Stewart. Ken Stewart gave a somewhat more accurate and detailed explanation of the cover illustrated in the Second Quarter *PC*:

"Farmingdale, Long Island, is the home of Fairchild, the builder of the A-10. After delivery by road to Edwards AFB, the first YA-10A flew on May 10, 1972, in fly-off competition against the YA-9A. I guess you could call May 10 the 'first flight' day and 1991 as the 19th anniversary. . . . Actually the cover looks more interesting than the prize."

Steve Suffet won the drawing at the WCSE Writers Breakfast, and got the Olympics print. Ken Stewart got the illustrated cover as consolation.

Kurt Lenz was the high bidder for the 2¢ Prexy cover with the WU (Western Union) perfin, the money going to our treasury. He promptly donated the cover back, so it will be auctioned again at the STaMpsHOW Writers Breakfast.

As for Contest Number Two, it looks like no one will take the prize at STaMpsHOW, although recruiting 25 new members isn't really a difficult challenge if members merely sign up the people who collaborate on their various publications. (Charlie Peterson proves that. He could walk off with that \$120 Olympics relief just by resigning as WU30 president.)

If no winner has qualified for the prize by the August deadline, we'll have a second chance contest, with the winner being the champion WU30 recruiter as of December 31, 1992, officers and Council members excluded. □

## Letters

From Randy L. Neil: When I was a 20-year-old stringer on the night-side for the *Kansas City Star/Times* in 1961, I was called to the city editor's desk late one night for what turned out to be a harsh, but enduring lesson taught to me by a man who was, at that time, an awesome and sometimes intimidating figure in my life. Though Don "Casey" Jones was a diminutive individual with a mild, soft-spoken manner, his legendary friendships with people like Ernest Hemingway (who'd gotten his start at the *Star*) and his involvement in the demise of the infamous Pendergast political machine made him a pretty tall figure in the lives of young pups like me who had been given the privilege of reporting to him.

I sat down at his desk and noticed right off that Jones was not in a friendly mood.

"Neil, I will not accept this piece you just turned in to me," he said after having stared at me silently for what seemed like 15 minutes. "Instead of reporting exactly what took place in that lecture hall at UMKC tonight, you have played footsy with the facts. The speaker said specific things, provided very detailed answers to queries from the audience, and yet, your story on his remarks tells me that you either weren't there . . . or that you just weren't listening! I know. I was there."

Jones had caught me flatfooted. He was right. I had left the university lecture hall early so I could turn in my story in time to make a date I had with a young lady later that night. I had played fast and loose with the facts to suit my own ends. And a respected journalist had caught me at it.

That I wanted to continue as a writer after that mind-crushing experience is more a tribute to Jones than it is to my then very dashed ambitions. "Neil," he said, "On this paper, you only get one chance to ignore the primary tenet of a good writer—that is, to get the facts straight before you write your first word. If you fail to learn this, then no matter who you write for in the future—for it certainly won't be us in that case—your work for them will not be credible."

It was a lesson I never forgot. Thankfully, Jones allowed me another chance.

With these well-remembered thoughts in my mind, I thus commend to you that after having read Ken Lawrence's "*U.S. Stamps & Postal History: Some Concerns*," in the spring edition of *The Communicator*, what I have deemed up 'til now to be one of our hobby's more credible writers must be, in this case, challenged. Therefore, part II of this letter:

Dear Ken: Your article "*U.S. Stamps*

*& Postal History: Some Concerns*," in the latest issue of the *Communicator* is sad and disappointing. Beyond that, I can truthfully say that, never in my 40 years as a stamp collector, have I ever read an article more torn from whole cloth and more filled with unsubstantiated "facts," distortions, and uninformed conjecture. Since your writings occupy no fewer than 175 column inches of the current *Communicator*, one might assume, from that, that you consider yourself a journalist. I suppose, though, that you didn't attend the kind of J-school I did where we were taught in Reporting 101 to check and verify facts before even a piece of *interpretative* writing goes to press.

I shall comment on your article in the order in which your points are stated:

1. "*Exaggerated boosterism*." You indict me for it, but in effect, you have coined something of a new term and fail to either define or document it. Mike Laurence has called me stamp collecting's greatest "*cheerleader*," but has never accused me of going beyond the facts. I might add that my "*boosterism*" has never been clouded by "*miscalculation or self-delusion*." My successes—the originating of the AAPE, the publishing of a major book, the founding of a "World Series" national show, and so on—have been well-thought-out projects based on equally well-thought-out calculation.

Further, you fail to take into account—probably because you have no knowledge of it—that my 28-year experience as a successful business person underpins this magazine project . . . as well as some of the other projects I've initiated for philately. Were you a qualified, experienced business writer criticizing our venture, I might have much more respect for your opinions and speculations.

2. In responding to our claim to produce a magazine with "*lively reader-involved features, columns, how-to-do-its, facts, and news that simply can't be found in the weeklies or narrow-interest journals*," you say, "*All right. Show me . . . Name one such fact or news event that someone tried and failed to get published in a weekly or society journal*." By the time this letter reaches print—if you choose to publish it, that is—you will have been shown. There is much new and heretofore uncovered information that has not been published. There are new "*slants*" to old forms of coverage, and most of all, you do not bring forth the fact that there are, very much, new ways of collecting and covering philately that have not been explored in depth. For instance, "*people*" and the news they make receives scant coverage in this hobby's periodicals.

3. "*Thwarted in their desire to take over the Bureau Issues Association*." What are you alluding to here? Aside from being a member of the BIA's Prexie Study Unit and a lone, rather inactive BIA member, I have never actively participated in the organizational framework of that group . . . beyond, this very year, my volunteering to run for a directorship. The BIA leadership, by the way, did not even respond to that minor offering of my services. John Hotchner was indeed proposed for the position of BIA chairman by Steven Rod, but he did not seek it.

4. "*. . . the lead claim in their January 10 news release is inexcusable . . . the first-ever national magazine devoted to the full spectrum of America's own stamps and covers*." Rejoinder: our magazine is exactly that. When have the 1861 "*Premier Gravures*" been covered in the *U.S. Specialist*? When has the Classics Society *Chronicle* featured Bureau precancels or PNC's? *Etc.* And "*who publishes a one-country exclusive stamp magazine*" . . . that embraces only a single country's whole philatelic spectrum? Try the venerable Great Britain Philatelic Society, for one.

5. "*The word on the street is that Randy has committed \$45,000 to the venture*." What street? Your street? As with much of your article's topics, you labor under unsubstantiated rumor. That figure is patently incorrect. What, one might ask, do you know, yourself, about the ins and outs of newsstand distribution? What wide experience do you bring to the table in order to make a remark like "*That isn't enough money to put a new magazine on newsstands in just one U.S. city*"? Our work on newsstand distribution is only now in the planning stages. News of it doesn't appear in our literature for one very good reason: plans for it, as yet, are not set in concrete. But are we planning to do it? Yes. When? When we're fully ready. Again, you distort your article by speculating without knowing the facts.

6. Our announcement to prospective advertisers contains two separate launch dates (May 5 and May 10) because, after we had printed half of that announcement package, we agreed with the suggestion of our early advertisers to get the magazine in the mail well before World Columbian Stamp Expo (May 5). Our basic display ad rate of \$425 per page is norm in the magazine industry for a "*targeted-audience*" periodical . . . and has been termed a bargain by many of our advertisers. Recently, a periodical in the comic book hobby was unveiled with an 8,000 circulation base, and with a full-page rate nearly twice ours. In the advertising industry, it is

considered foolhardy to compare one periodical's rate base against another purely on circulation figures . . . without taking into account factors such as demographics, format, and editorial content. Hence, the ad rates of *The Stamp Wholesaler* might seem, to some, inordinately high.

7. We're taking off at a time "when well-capitalized target-market magazines with competitive advertising rates are failing in record numbers." What you don't state is that there are also record numbers of target-market magazine start-ups. If you were privy to trade publications such as *Magazine Week* and *Folio*, you would know this. As with much of your article, you state the case as you, yourself, see it . . . and with scant attention to solid facts which are easily obtainable. I take vigorous exception, also, to your remark that there's a "lot of fanciful planning here with grounds for skepticism." A magazine being unveiled with six years of planning "fanciful"?

8. "Some naive thinking is shown in Randy's letter to prospective advertisers: 'Check this: in the first 15 days after announcement of USS&PH appeared in the philatelic media, we received more than 2,900 requests for a sample copy!' " No "surprise"? You weren't here when that mail (now approaching 6,000 such requests, by the way) was opened, Ken. Included in it were over 350 unsolicited subscription orders with payment . . . and hundreds of "requests" in which the writer had added remarks like, "Your magazine is long overdue . . . where do I subscribe?" The mail also included orders from dealers that amounted to our selling over 20 full pages of advertising. These are concrete results. In this instance, it was your remark that was naive, not our "thinking." Do you think that, if we are launching a magazine after years of planning, we did not know something about the kind of response we would receive to the announcement of our magazine?

In this regard, a better issue to address might be your remark about stamp collectors being notorious "freeloaders." Your opinion, no doubt. My own experience has not given me that impression at all.

9. Our corps of writers—all of them . . . and most of whom have the honorary title of Associate Editor . . . came on board enthusiastically even when we asked them to share some of the risk with us by not receiving an early stipend for their efforts. However, early response from collectors and dealers gave us a quick indication that the magazine may be heading for success and, weeks before your article was published, we announced to them that we

would begin paying all writers right from the first issue. We asked you to come in as a writer under these original conditions and you were the *only* writer in the hobby who refused.

This, clearly, is an indication to me that many good people want this project to succeed, believe it will, and want to be part of a project that has the potential to do enormous good for the hobby. They are good friends who volunteered to us unselfishly with the hope that their efforts might contribute, in some way, to the advent of a magazine that might provide something new and useful to philately.

Now I don't know about you, Ken, but to my way of thinking, when I see a good friend laying his time and money on the line to develop something that has good intentions, I'm someone who might volunteer to help. So what if it succeeds and my friend makes money . . . if in the long run, he's done something good and constructive for all of us? Your remark about the start-up costs being a "tax write-off" if we fail is a cheap shot. If tax write-offs were the issue here, I could easily find one that would require far less risk . . . and most of all, far less hard work.

10 "Conflict of interest" vis-à-vis our serving as officers of the APS. I am certainly willing to let the APS Board and membership be the judge of that. But if the APS disallowed individuals involved in the business side of philately—and who might be doing something that "competes" with an APS service, function, or product—from serving in office, much good talent would be lost to that organization. I might add that you must have a different set of APS bylaws than I do; for there is no prohibition against a dealer who might wish to serve as president. (Facts, Ken. Why aren't you checking them?)

Within many areas of that Board of Directors there are quasi-conflicts. You, yourself, are one of the highest-paid writers for *Linn's* and can attribute, I would imagine, a decent amount of your income to philately; thus, you might easily be construed as a "competitor" to *The American Philatelist*. Dan Walker derives his income from an APS service (insurance). I published a book . . . so does the APS. You sell philatelic material and so does the APS Sales Division. The bottom line is that non-profit service organizations depend, seriously, on qualified people who can bring relevant, valuable experience to the table at their board meetings. Quite often, they operate businesses that may be construed to be competing in some way with their organization's services.

Your criticism concerning "conflict of interest" leaves little or no room for the value one must place on the integrity of an

APS board member.

What we are attempting to do here is broaden—with the highest possible quality—the choices U.S. stamp collectors have to receive information, enjoyment, and further enhancement to their pastime . . . while at the same beginning, from scratch, a new vehicle for reaching out to the uninitiated and bringing them into our hobby. John and I have been "preaching" for years that philately needs to do this very thing. We have, thus, decided to put our energies and wherewithal where our mouths have been. And best of all, we're having a lot of fun—as are our many helpful writers, many of whom have said so—doing it.

I'll also say this. If in the future you wish to do a think piece on this magazine project, I suggest you do what any good reporter would do: contact the principals and get the facts straight before launching a speculative, largely unsubstantiated tirade. And in this instance, because of your obvious bias, you should, in good taste, assign the written review of our magazine, should you decide to do one, to someone else. Finally, might I ask what, no doubt, many of your readers might also be asking: *whose side are you on?* In a nutshell, it looks like you're definitely not on the side of two philatelists who are struggling like hell to make a good idea work to the benefit of this hobby. □

From Peter P. McCann: In reading your rather extensive article, "U.S. Stamps & Postal History: Some Concerns," which appeared in the Second Quarter 1992 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, I managed to distill it down to four primary points.

First, you imply that Randy Neil and John Hotchner may be starting up the magazine for negative reasons, *i.e.*, revenge against the BIA; second, you are not sure that U.S. stamp collectors will support the venture; third, Randy is not initially paying the announced "writing staff"; and fourth, because Randy and John are board members of the APS, their positions with the new magazine will put them in conflict of interest with *The American Philatelist*.

My own personal opinion and I suspect that of a number of other collectors is: 1) Even if your assessment is accurate, which I don't believe, I don't care why a new publication, society, *etc.* is formed. Things happen as a matter of normal evolution and frankly if this new magazine benefits philately in the long run, we all will benefit. 2) Your predictions are gratuitous. Either collectors will support the new magazine by subscribing or they won't. Only time will tell. 3) If Randy doesn't

pay his writers after an initial period, he won't have any more writers. Simple economics. 4) It is unbelievable to me that a conflict of interest could be ascribed to a financial interest in this new magazine and simultaneously being on the APS board., i.e., vis-à-vis *The American Philatelist*.

If you carry this logic to its extreme then you, Ken Lawrence, should not receive any stipends from any philatelic publication that could be seen as being in competition with *The American Philatelist*, or from *The American Philatelist* itself, since either would influence your votes and constitute a conflict of interest in your hat as an APS board member. □

**From Tom Current: *I Must Be A Lousy Editor!***

*The Philatelic Communicator* is of value to me chiefly when I learn something to help me as an editor (Great Britain Collectors Club), but I went into overload on the Second Quarter issue. I must be a lousy editor, in light of the standards indicated in the "how to edit" articles of editor Ken Lawrence and President Charles Peterson.

I already knew that I was inconsistent on things like abbreviations, and I have to admit I don't even know an en dash from an em dash. I'm totally in orbit over a three-em dash. I spell catalogue with the extra letters. We have some British authors and I copy their spelling for their articles because I realize their whole country makes those mistakes.

But my biggest failing, as I read President Peterson's article, is that I'm too obvious. If the editor's job is done properly, he says, "the editor is virtually invisible . . ." I have resolved to study how editor Lawrence manages so well on this.

But let's get to my fatal flaw. I can't bring myself to do what a good editor does, judging from our *PC*, and that is to go for the jugular. For example, I would have a hard time being nasty with John Hotchner, and even with Randy Neil.

They have their warts. John tends to be too serious and dedicated and Randy's forte is a degree of flamboyance. But, both are prolific workers in the philatelic vineyard and seem to be trying to fill a void with their new magazine for all the many varieties of collectors of U.S. philatelic material.

I figure that if Hotchner is willing to further neglect his family, job, collecting, and the sports pages, what the hey! Let him go to it. And if Randy is willing to put up \$45,000 (or sign for it, perhaps), it doesn't seem cricket to bat him between the ears for making an investment that might do better in a bank checking account.

Of course, if I were a professional I wouldn't have these doubts. I'm just an amateur who hasn't absorbed one of the lessons espoused by editor Lawrence. He wrote that consensus building "may be important to sustain a robust organization, but that is the task of other officers, not of the editor." That's taken out of context, of course, because he meant that you should seek diverse views.

But I'd hate to have responsibility for the equanimity and cooperation of the membership if I weren't the editor, who controls just about all that a member gets to see of an organization. But there you are—that amateurish concern for the fun and feelings of the members. I may get a subject and predicate into most of my sentences, but I'll never get the hang of being professional.

Fortunately, we probably have enough professionals in our philatelic editing community already. □

**From Janet Klug: Second Quarter *PC*** was the funniest thing I've read in a long time. Your Editor's Bulletin Board and Diana Manchester's article had me in stitches.

Now I have to write Frank Shively to see if I can get one of the Holland, Ohio, "test" spray-ons for my "special" collection. Good job. □

**From Fred Baumann: Balls!** □

**From David A. Kent:** I take exception to the quote in the Second Quarter *PC* to the effect that ". . . Mark Twain didn't feel deprived for lack of a laser printer."

Like many writers, Twain's first exposure to the publishing world was as a compositor and printer. In the 1880's he invested \$100,000 in a mechanical typesetting machine invented by James W. Paige, which proved a disastrous failure.

Twain was forced to sell his lovely home in Hartford, Connecticut, (which fortunately has been preserved as a museum), and went on an extended lecture tour of Europe to raise enough money to pay off his debts. The fact that he eventually succeeded in doing so, rather than stiffing his creditors through the bankruptcy court, made him somewhat of a folk hero.

The Paige Typesetter is still on display at the Mark Twain Memorial in Hartford.

It was, of course, the German inventor Ottmar Mergenthaler who eventually developed the successful typesetting machine. He called it the Linotype Machine because it cast a column-width line of metal type in one operation.

The Linotype Company is still in business, but the days of metal type are long gone. Today it manufactures laser printers. □

**From Joseph E. Foley:** I found the two articles on editing by yourself and Charlie Peterson in the latest *PC* useful.

As an amateur writer, I continue to have problems in proof reading. I can't argue with your statement "The least capable proofreader is the person who is most familiar with the copy . . ." However, sometimes that's all there is.

On those very few occasions where I have the luxury of time and I put something away for a week or ten days after I write it, I find I do a little better job of proof reading.

Other than that little glimmer of light, I find proof reading a necessary, but boring and frustrating job, and one that I don't do very well.

What all this is leading up to is a request for some guidance, tips, and help on how to effectively proof read in a future issue of the *PC*. □

**From Julius Grigore Jr.:** In the July-September 1991 issue of *Jack Knight Air Log and AFA News* my book, *NYRBA's Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers*, which received five philatelic awards during 1991, was given what I consider to be an erroneous and harsh critique. No doubt the reviewer's comments may have affected the sales of my monograph—into which enormous personal effort and expense was incurred—for he is a respected member of the aerophilatelic community.

Space from the *Jack Knight Air Log* was requested for a rebuttal. It was provided, even though the *Air Post Journal*, which published the same reviewer's comments in its July 1991 issue, has to date declined to acknowledge my request.

The editors of the *Jack Knight Air Log & AFA News* deserve the highest praise and mention for their formally opening the door for authors to rebut the usually cloistered critic. Perhaps you may care to include this unprecedented experience, and outcome, in an issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. □

**From Diana Manchester:** President Charlie Peterson has asked Jason and Diana Manchester to work on a literature exhibitions handbook. They hope to make it a comprehensive handbook for shows, literature judges, authors, editors—anyone who is interested in philatelic literature.

They have reports of past committees on the subject, but they need *your* comments and suggestions:

*To shows that host literature exhibitions:* What has your show done that you are especially proud of? What are your opinions on the display of literature? What do you do for awards—do you give a "best of category"? What perks do you offer exhibitors? What are your goals? Heart-

aches? Send us a prospectus and any other samples of interest (literature lists, programs, sample certificates, sample critique form, etc.).

*To judges of philatelic literature:* What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the current written guidelines? What additional guidelines do you believe should be included?

*To authors and editors:* What information would most benefit you in a critique of your efforts? What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the present 50 system?

*Input from everyone is solicited!* Jason and Diana Manchester, P.O. Box 3128, Columbus OH 43210. □

**From Ken Lawrence:** Back in March I had a major article in *Linn's* about the dry printed ½¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp in the U.S. Liberty series. Barth Healy sent a critical letter that makes points worth noting by every writer and editor:

"I have two 'editor's' questions. Why would the *Look* mailing room want to futz around with blocks of eight (or a 2¢ plus a 3¢)? Why not just use 4¢ stamps? And when the rate went to 5¢, (granted *Look*

liked multiples), why did the need for the ½¢ stamps end? Why not use blocks of ten?"

These are excellent points. Obviously I screwed up and so did my editor, in assuming the readers understood the very facts we needed to explain.

The use of multiple-stamp frankings on promotional mailings had been widely discussed in several stamp publications including *Linn's* before that article appeared, but the basics need to be reviewed each time, and we failed to do it.

Thanks, Barth. □

## Reviews

### Three Opinions of a New Magazine

*Without a doubt, the appearance of U.S. Stamps & Postal History is the biggest event in philatelic literature so far this year. Randy Neil had urged me to write it up in advance, and I did so last issue. That article was necessarily speculative, based on advance news releases, correspondence, and a sample print of the front cover. Now that the introductory issue is available, the stamp community has begun to register its first impressions.*

*Here are the reactions of three accomplished philatelic writers. Janet Klug's is adapted by permission from a review written for Stamp and Tongs. Steve Esrati's and Joe Frye's were solicited for this symposium.*

Ken Lawrence □

### Better than the Super Bowl

By Janet Klug

You know how it is in the weeks immediately preceding the Super Bowl? The event is so hyped up that by kickoff we're all sitting around expecting the Second Coming. And then sometime late in the first quarter, it begins to sink in that we're actually starting to look forward to the Bud Bowl and Coke commercials because they're a darn sight more interesting than the game.

So consequently I was not falling for the hype preceding the release of a new quarterly magazine called *U.S. Stamps & Postal History*. (The advertisements have been running for at least six months in the philatelic weeklies and several of the major monthlies.)

Nevertheless, I confess I did succumb to a plea for advance subscriptions, the first issue of which has now been delivered. My first impression is that it's a solid effort. Advanced collectors will be disappointed since there's little in the way of what philatelic literature judges call "scholarly articles." Intermediate and interested beginners are well served, however.

*U.S. Stamps & Postal History* is a slick, glossy magazine with full-color covers. The premiere issued numbered 64 pages. Some of the more interesting articles dealt with essays (preliminary designs for stamps that are now catalogued in Scott's specialized), the Columbians (America's first commemoratives), and an article called "From the Dealer's Side," which promises to be a regular feature.

I also enjoyed a column called "Philately's People," although I suspect would put off more folks than would be turned on by it. (How many times lately have I heard the complaint, "It's always the same names, the same people . . . I'm tired of the same five or six people running all the societies and writing all the articles"? Reading the list of associate editors of *U.S. Stamps &*

*Postal History* will certainly perpetuate this line of thought. But I digress.)

Another useful regular feature is a question-and-answer column called "The Clinic." The first installment deals with the tricky Washington-Franklin Heads. The response left a lot to be desired. My hope is that in future issues, this will be expanded and expounded upon. Yes, this series has been "done to death," but it continues to be the most asked-about series of stamps by members of my local club. I'd like to see an "if/then" sort of flow chart for Washington-Franklin Heads. In my opinion, it would be the best way to take the beginner by the hand and lead him/her through the intricacies of this issue.

Other things to wish for in future issues: more on varieties and how to tell them apart, articles on forgeries and how to tell if the example in your collection is genuine, a series on U.S. possessions, ditto for war correspondence, less of the non-stamp stuff (for example, a lengthy article on Aripex was unnecessary. I recall reading a similar and more timely account of the happenings in *Linn's*.)

Is *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* worth the subscription price? Yes! I recommend it. It's better than the Super Bowl. □

### Where are the Stamps?

By Stephen G. Esrati

Given the publicity that preceded its debut, I wondered what *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* would do to fulfill the claim that it was going to cover all aspects of U.S. philately in a way no other publication does.

It took a little from Uncle Harry Weiss's *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, added a touch of *Linn's* unsuccessful *Stamp World*, and borrowed a bit from some foreign stamp magazines that never did have a counterpart in this country. It is no *American Philatelist* and no *United States Specialist*.

There's some gossip, a lot about cover collecting, a fluff interview with Gordon Morison (in which no tough questions were asked) and very little on what most philatelists collect: stamps.

It does have a feature about unsolved mysteries that tries to be one of those new "news-like" television shows that are hosted by the likes of Geraldo Rivera, with such tantalizing bits as Thomas Jefferson's live-in slave/companion.

The only articles on stamps as stamps are Steve Rod's survey of the original Columbians and Les Winick's introduction to plate number coils (and I counted at least five major mistakes in it). As a matter of fact, I was surprised at the choice of Winick as the PNC columnist since Winick does not collect PNCs.

What I found lacking are straight expository pieces either on the story that stamps tell or on a really philatelic analysis of a

stamp or stamps. No, I don't want more on the Washington and Franklin Heads. But one might hope for stories on the long definitive series that began in 1923 and ran through several perforation and printing styles, or the 1938 Presidentials, which did not. (I learned the chronological order of the presidents from that set, the only one that ran the presidents in proper sequence.)

Instead, there were teasers for features I would not want to read: Was baseball first played in Cooperstown?

The magazine is stronger on postal history (which is the small-print part of its name) than on U.S. stamps (the big type). This, however, is one aspect of collecting and exhibiting that has always turned me off. I go to stamp shows to see stamps, not stampless covers that crossed the U.S.-Canadian border, not revenues, not rate studies, and not letters from children that get lots of postal handling and get returned to sender.

I would prefer more on stamps. □

## New Magazine for U.S. Collectors

By Joe F. Frye

The first look at the outer multi-color covers and a quick flip-through of the pages find a high quality, slick, all coated-paper new magazine. The illustration of two rare early U.S. covers on the outside back cover—including the 10¢ 1847, the 90¢ 1860 deep blue and one each brown and green 5¢ and 10¢ perforated stamps—is as beautifully photographed and printed as any cover illustration I have ever seen—and far better than the majority of such.

An interesting mix of two-, three-, and four-column format makes for an easy read, and the (approximately) 10.25-point font used is quite reminiscent of that you are now reading, though their usage shows two points of leading, rather than the one point usually used in *The Philatelic Communicator*.

Editor John M. Hotchner and Publisher Randy Neil are to be complimented for the excellence of appearance and production shown by this maiden effort.

The cover story of this issue tells of the 1893 Columbian issue of the U.S. and current commemoration of that event, "The Columbians," by Steven J. Rod, associate editor.

Twenty-three associate editors and two contributing writers are listed on the masthead page, along with 20 "Departments," the latter including "Letters," understandably limited to about a half-page in this first product of all this talent.

Nearly all the living individuals named in this issue, whether writer or text-identified, seem familiar as members of Writers Unit 30. If any are not, perhaps others can recruit them?

Now we have had our salad, let us look forward to—and report on—the *entree*, the dessert, and—of course—the after-dinner cigar and the bill.

I want to see issues two through four before giving a final opinion as to the apparently excellent journal being worth its cost and worthy of acquisition and study.

The text in this first issue is interesting and appears to be helpful. Not having been a student of U.S. stamps, I will not now comment on its originality or other attributes. □

## A Journals Databank

By Alan Warren

*Philatelic Periodicals of the United States and Canada*, by Gary A. Van Cott, 8½ by 11 inches, glued, 118 + vii pages, soft-bound, 1991. \$23.45 postpaid from Van Cott Information Services, Inc., Box 9569, Las Vegas NV 89191.

The author compiled this remarkable compendium of nearly 300 philatelic journals out of a frustrating need to find data on such publications for the purposes of advertising. Van Cott subsequently sent a questionnaire to publishers and philatelic

societies to obtain the information. The material found here includes name, contact person, and address for each organization; name, address, and phone number of the editor; journal title, price, frequency of publication, circulation, pages per issue, format, size, method of preparation and printing, initial year of publication, first issue of 1991; name, address, and phone number of the advertising manager, and advertising rates; and whether compensation is paid to contributors. A statement is included concerning the nature of each journal's content.

Van Cott describes the previous lack of a central source for this invaluable information and if the need continues, he will revise the book every two or three years. His book also serves as a model for desktop publishing. The layout is generally pleasing and the listings are easy to read with a variety of typefaces used.

In his introduction the author explains several uses for his book such as learning about specialty societies, finding out which periodicals pay their writers, and obtaining advertising rates. The second chapter shows graphically the cost of ads (per square inch) in relation to circulation, and tabulates the most expensive and least expensive journals to advertise in with respect to circulation. Eleven periodicals have a subscription base greater than 3500.

Another analysis shows that the bulk of journals appear quarterly and only about two percent are published more frequently than monthly. The oldest journal is *The American Philatelist*, which began in 1887, and a majority of the journals have come on the scene only in the last 20 years. The actual journals listings fill over 90 pages. A group of "mystery," inactive, and defunct publications follows the main listing, and a sample of the questionnaire used to compile the data is reproduced. This excellent book concludes with a brief general index and a detailed periodical index by subject and title.

Even though a computer was presumably used to prepare this book, there are several typos of the sort not found by spell-checking functions. Also, the author bounces back and forth between the spelling "specialty" and "speciality." One obvious problem with such a tool as this is the fact that the data changes rapidly, as indicated by an addendum sheet enclosed with the book. Although the title states the book lists only journals of the U.S. and Canada, there are several entries for items published in the U.K. Despite these minor points, Van Cott's book is a major contribution to the information needs of the hobby. □

## The Amazing Adventures of Stephen Datz, Stamp Dealer

By Myron Hill Jr.

*The Wild Side: Philatelic Mischief, Murder, and Intrigue* by Stephen R. Datz. 1990. 5½ by 8 ½ inches, 164 pages, soft cover. ISBN 0-88219-024-5. \$9.95 postpaid from General Philatelic Corporation, P.O. Box 402, Loveland, CO 80539.

*On the Road: the Quest for Stamps* by Stephen R. Datz. 1991. 5½ by 8 ½ inches, 163 pages, soft cover. ISBN 0-88219-025-3. \$9.95 postpaid from General Philatelic Corporation, P.O. Box 402, Loveland, CO 80539.

These books are collections of short stories dealing with the experiences of a typical (?) stamp dealer. Both books are entertainingly written by Stephen Datz, who has several other philatelic books to his credit, such as *Top Dollar Paid!* and *U. S. Errors*.

*The Wild Side* is divided into three parts: "Murder & Major Crime," "Mischief & Intrigue," and "Memorable Characters." These parts are subdivided so that there are 19 short stories related to philately.

The stories, mostly from the author's personal experiences as

a dealer, are written in a pleasant, informal style that is easy and enjoyable to read. Although there is a lesson on detecting regummed stamps, incidents are related for their entertainment value rather than for philatelic instruction.

A number of stories feature con men and their scams. Their operating methods, sometimes ingenious, show how easily traps may be set for the unwary. Credit card scams or the forging and negotiating of certified checks with stamp dealers is described and may educate collectors and dealers.

The final section contains stories of colorful people. This includes those who sell their stamp collections for various reasons or are wheeler-dealers in the philatelic world. The book concludes with a seance conducted by an advanced collector to expose a fraudulent mystic.

*On the Road*, as the title suggests, concerns the author's travels. The book contains 21 chapters, each with a short story, in which the author takes us on his philatelic trips to shows or to buy stamps. There is even a story about a man who sets up and sells entire stamp businesses at greatly inflated prices to would-be dealers. The stories about buying collections contain some incidental advice on how to collect, and what sells best. But the main interest is the way the expectations and emotions of the seller and the author in buying are described so as to bring the people to life.

The names of some familiar dealers will be found in the books, but the names of individuals and businesses are usually changed. It's not the story so much as how it is told that makes the difference and holds the readers' interest. Stephen Datz has a way of telling stories that makes the reader ask for more. While both books are recommended for light reading, *The Wild Side* has more interesting stories. □

## Christmas Worldwide

By Augustine H. Serafini

*Christmas Stamps of the World* by Everleigh W. Foster. American Topical Association, 1991. ISBN: 0-935991-14-X. 6 by 9 inches, soft cover, 192 pages, illustrations. \$17.00 from the American Topical Association, P.O. Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907.

A Christmas stamp is something eminently useful. Before we had them we often used Christmas seals to decorate the large volume of mail sent in that season. Though Christmas stamps are now commonplace, we will find the majority of holiday mail is franked with definitives, other commemoratives, or meters; some of the latter are Christmas related.

Christmas stamps have a great following. I know that from being editor of *The COROS Chronicle*, journal of Collectors of Religion on Stamps. In fact, their sheer numbers led to the formation of quite a sizeable group, the Christmas Philatelic Club.

As a stamp dealer, Ev Foster has devoted his entire energy to Christmas stamps and the compiling of a detailed chronicle of all Christmas issues both for the *Yule Log* and later also for *COROS*. Moreover, he supplied us well with all stamps needed to illustrate his popular columns.

*Christmas Stamps of the World* is a bare-bones checklist of more than 7,800 stamps from 1898 through 1990 that meet one of four criteria: 1) the word "Christmas" (or its equivalent in other languages) is part of the stamp design or official overprint, 2) stamps so designated by the issuing authority, 3) listing as Christmas issues in the major catalog, 4) postal tax stamps obligatory on all mail in the month of December.

The listing was done by country, year of issue, catalog number, face value, and subject. Only adhesive stamps and souvenir sheets have been included.

Descriptive headings are given for each issue, such as:

"Stained glass windows. Paintings by Albrecht Durer. Scenes from Disney's "Winnie the Pooh." Stylized drawings of the Christmas Story." Then follows the design identification of each value or the title of the artwork and artist. Further details, such as "detail," location, year, etc., are usually omitted.

Eight pages of illustrations have been inserted to break up the closely-set text and to show examples of various thematic approaches in the Christmas topic, such as The Annunciation, Candles, The Madonna and Child, Poinsettias, Santa Claus, and Three Kings.

Though the listing is intended to be all-inclusive (Ajman is listed by its Michel numbers), I cannot find Ras al Khaima even though I have been given Christmas stamps of that territory! Rondona's non-Scott-non-Gibbons issues are all accounted for (Scott since 1989) whether religious or Disney or vintage automobiles.

There remains the glaring omission of the annual Christmas issues of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta listed by Bolaffi-Sasone and Emmanuel Said. But I shall forgive my good friend Mr. Foster if he'll include them in his update.

This handbook is not meant to be entertaining reading. It is a necessary *workbook* for the numerous aficionados of Christmas stamps and all diverse related material. The immense number of stamps, not only Christmas and Holiday stamps, issued today makes it increasingly difficult to produce the encyclopedic tome required to cover all philatelic aspects of this favorite topic.

While on the subject of Christmas stamps . . . They are meant for high volume use at one particular season. In my monastery we purchase a thousand or more of the traditional or religious variety. With the exception of a block of four and a few blocks for overseas friends, we use them all for postage.

I have suggested to Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison both in writing and in person that these issues ought to be available in coil format. In a letter dated February 4, 1992, he indicated that because of present stamp manufacturing capabilities, commemorative coils are possible; that they do not have immediate plans to add a third configuration for Christmas stamps but . . . "will keep this in mind." I hope they do not forget; for I think the time for commemorative coils has arrived. □

## The History of a Wartime Airmail Route

By Kendall C. Sanford

*Wartime Airmails—The Horseshoe Route* by Charles Entwistle. Chavril Press, Abernethy, Perth, Scotland PH2 9LW, 1992. 24 pages, soft cover. ISBN 1-872744-06-0. Available from Aerophil, 4 Ave. General Guiger, CH-1197 Prangins (Vaud), Switzerland. US \$10.00 including surface postage (add \$2.00 for air mail).

This booklet gives a capsule history of the "Horseshoe Route," which was the alternate route for the British Air Services begun in June 1940 when Italy declared war and effectively closed the Mediterranean to civil aircraft.

The Horseshoe route extended from Durban, South Africa, north to Cairo and Iraq, then east to India, Burma, and Thailand, then southeast through Indonesia to Australia, ending in Auckland, New Zealand. The reason why it was called the Horseshoe route was that on a map it resembled a horseshoe.

Most of the book covers the non-postal aspects of the operation of the Horseshoe route, and a few brief paragraphs describe the postal rates, the airmail letter cards, the 3d post card rate, the Airgraph, the 6d air letter, and the routing of mail.

Unfortunately, no cover is shown that was carried on the Horseshoe route, which would have made the book much more interesting. The author has told me the reason was to keep the cost down. Nevertheless, the booklet puts together the basic information required for anyone interested in this interesting aspect of wartime history. □

## Brazilian First Flights

By Kendall C. Sanford

*Brasilien Erstflüge bis 1949, chronologisch geordnet nach: Fluggesellschaften, Abflugdaten (und) Abflugorten.* (Brazilian First Flights until 1949, Chronological list of: Airlines, Departure dates, and Places of departure.) by Karlheinz Wittig. Published by the author, Lohmar, Germany, 1991. 59 pages, soft cover, German language. Available from Aerophil, 4 Ave. General Guiguer, CH-1197 Prangins (Vaud), Switzerland. U.S. \$18.00 plus \$3.00 surface postage (\$5.00 air mail).

This is a basic chronological listing of first flights connected with Brazil, with values of most covers in German marks except for those listed and priced in the *American Air Mail Catalog*, where prices in U.S. dollars from the 1990 pricing supplement were used.

The prices seem to be fairly close to the current market. At the beginning is a preface in German, Spanish, and English which briefly describes the catalog's organization. It is followed by an index and an explanation of the abbreviations used.

There is a list of literature references on Brazilian first flights. The first section lists first flights by airline. The second section lists flights by dates, and the third section lists flights by place of departure. If you can't find a listing in one section, you are sure to find it in one of the others.

There is also a section listing 52 known accidents. However, covers from only eight of them are priced. In this reviewer's opinion, many more of them could have been priced, as there is currently an active market in South Atlantic crash covers, many of which were to or from Brazil.

The catalog does not show any cachets or postal markings. Nevertheless, the aerophilatelist interested in South America or specifically Brazil will find this a useful reference. □

## Mystery Markings of the Roman States

By Ernst M. Cohn

*I bolli a secco dello Stato Pontificio* (The Dry Impressions of the Roman States) by Paolo Vollmeier. 1991, 37 pages, 8 1/2 by 11 3/4 inches, illustrations, tables, saddle-stitched. From the author, Via Cortivo 22c, CH-6976 Castagnola, Switzerland.

Vollmeier is a well-known author, whose special publication *Forged Pre-Adhesive Postmarks of the Old Italian States* created a commotion in its English translation, published by the Postal History Society. Meanwhile, his findings have been accepted not only in Europe but in the U.S. as well.

Now the author has tackled another subject, one about which controversy has raged in Italy. During Italia '85, I heard Italian postal historians debate whether the dry impressions found on old folded letters from the Roman States are authentic and, if so, what their purpose was.

That last is still not clear. Clemente Fedele thinks they were tax stamps; Vollmeier thinks they were control markings for proper transport of the mail.

Apart from that uncertainty, Vollmeier has been able to determine, in most cases, which impressions are genuine and which are fakes.

He based his decisions on the examination of about 8,000 folded letters in his own hands, and on the location and appearances of their impressions: Since the letters were kept for centuries, dust has been deposited on them. The areas where genuine impressions were made are less dusty, hence whiter than the remainder of the top surface. When impressions are made later, *i.e.*, forged, the dust is compressed and the impressed areas look dirty. Dirty impressions can, however, also be due to other

causes, such as wetness.

If the impressions never show up on the second page and/or the back of a letter, the piece is suspect. It is, however, possible that a folded letter contained an insert that might have shown the impression but that had been removed. Again, a large number of covers, all or most with the same characteristics, will permit more certainty in the conclusions.

A paper strip used for sealing a letter may show a dry impression, but the dry impression cannot possibly be *only* under such a paper strip, except if it is a forgery.

The range of dates should also be examined. For example, if the impression normally occurs only during the second half of the 18th century but is exceptionally found on a letter dated a century earlier, it was presumably stamped on the wrong letter by the forger.

Then, too, the impression cannot occur in the fold of a genuinely stamped letter, only in that of a letter stamped later when it was opened up.

Vollmeier also found letters where the impression on the inside did not coincide with that on the outside, again clearly a forgery.

According to the author, his conclusions are still somewhat preliminary, because thousands of old letters are yet in the archives, waiting to be examined.

Interestingly enough, the late Colonel L. P. Herlant wrote about similar stamps, to be found on Belgian letters of the same era, for which he found no postal regulations or explanations. Vollmeier shows a page of those in his work.

Fifteen pages of his study contain tables of impressions, arranged by towns, time periods, types (according to two cataloguers) and comments as to whether they are genuine or forged.

The last 15 pages show excellent photos of examples of both genuine and forged dry impressions on folded letters.

The text is bilingual (Italian and German), except that the notes are given only in Italian; paper, printing, proof reading, and photographic technique are excellent.

Although the book is narrowly specialized, it is still highly recommended not only to the Italy specialist but also to all those postal historians who like a mystery, whether or not they wish to try their hand at helping with its solution. □

## Cleveland's Postmarks

By Ernst M. Cohn

*19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings* by Thomas F. Allen *et al.* Garfield-Perry Stamp Club 1991. vi + 122 pages, many illustrations, 6 3/4 by 10 inches, softbound. From the Club, c/o Holiday Inn-Lakeside, 1111 Lakeside Avenue, E 12th, Cleveland, OH 44114.

Editor/author Tom Allen was assisted by authors Richard B. Graham, Richard H. Parker, and Reg Morris, in the order in which their chapter contributions are listed in the table of contents. The book is dedicated to the memories of Paul T. Skove and Charles I. Ball. Some 29 others are named in the acknowledgments.

The result of this joint effort, part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Club, is not just what the title promises but a postal history of the city as well. In addition, there is considerable detail to be found about the history of duplex handstamps, machine cancels, and carriers.

The illustrations, both hand drawn and photographs of covers, are excellent, as is printing, paper, and saddle-stitching. Many tabular listings save a great deal of space and make the work compact and easy to peruse.

This postal microcosm reflects conditions and customs in the U.S.P.O. generally. Hence it is highly recommended not just for itself but also as an example of the development and range of 19th century U.S. postal markings in general and as an example of how to present similar information for other U.S. cities. □

## 19th Century French Overseas Mail

By Ernst M. Cohn

*Poste Maritime Coloniale et Méditerranéenne* (Publications de presse, 1979-1988). (Colonial and Mediterranean Sea Mail, papers published 1979-1988) by Henri Tristant. 1990. 369 pages (not numbered consecutively), illustrations and tables, 6¾ by 10¼ inches, hardbound, published by the author for private distribution only.

All the papers collected here were published in serials previously, to be re-published later for ease of reference. Since that was not done by the press, the author decided to put out a combined publication himself, which is not for sale. The contents are as follows (text pages only are counted below):

*La Poste Maritime Franco-Coloniale Sous L'Ancien Régime* (The French Colonial Sea Post Under the Old Regime), 182 pages.

*La Poste Maritime Française En Méditerranée Sous L'Ancien Régime, 1788-1789* (The French Sea Post in the Mediterranean Under the Old Regime, 1788-1789), 13 pages.

*Les Premiers Paquebots à Vapeur De La Méditerranée* (The First Steam Packets of the Mediterranean), 112 pages.

*Échanges De Correspondance Entre La France Et L'Algérie dans la période 1830-1848 Et Premiers Cachets De Bateaux-à-Vapeur* (Exchange of Mail Between France And Algeria 1830-1848 and First Postmarks of Steam Packets), 19 pages.

*Les Communications De L'Europe Avec L'Inde Par Les Premiers Paquebots à Vapeur 1829-1840* (Communications of Europe with India by the First Steam Packets 1829-1840), 9 pages.

It is worth noting that the last two pages contain a bibliography of Tristant's main publications from 1955 to 1991. His erudition, exemplified by extensive quotations from original documents, is well known and guarantees the originality as well as the correctness of his work. □

## Catalog Roundup

By Ken Lawrence

*Scott 1993 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*. Volume 1, including United States, United Nations, Canada, Great Britain, and the British Commonwealth. 52A + 1,227 + unnumbered advertising pages. ISBN 0-89487-178-1. Volume 2, including Countries of the World A-F. 51A + 1,299 + unnumbered advertising pages. ISBN 0-89487-179-X. 8¼ by 10¼ inches, soft cover. \$32 postpaid per volume from Scott Publishing Co., 911 Vandemark Rd., Sidney, OH 45365.

*Michel Deutschland-Special-Katalog 1992*. Schwaneberger Verlag, Munich. 1,473 pages. ISBN 3-87858-124-6. 6 by 7¾ inches, soft cover. \$59.50 from Lighthouse Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

*DNK Deutschland Briefmarken-Katalog 1992 mit Europa-CEPT*. Leuchtturm Albenverlag GmbH. ISBN 3-920548-01-9. 772 pages, 4½ by 6¼ inches, soft cover. \$13.50 from Lighthouse Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

*Sakura Catalog of Japanese Stamps 1993*. 239 pages. ISBN 4-88963-482-7. 5½ by 8¼ inches, soft cover. 600 yen plus postage from Japan Philatelic Society Foundation, Box 1, Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan.

*U.S. Official Mail: A Study of the Meter Types and Known Major and Minor Varieties* by Joel A. Hawkins. 1991. 127 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, three-hole drilled, loose leaf. From the author, 5215 Capon Hill Place, Burke, VA 22015.

*Postage Meter and 'Postage Paid' Machine Stamps of China* by Richard Stambaugh and Dee D. Drell. 1990. 85 + A4 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, three-hole drilled, loose leaf. From the China Stamp Society, Clarence S. Springstead, 1529 Hickory Lane, Bettendorf, IA 52722.

*Philatelic AIDS Handbook* by Phillip J. Stager. 1992. 68 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, photocopied limited edition (10 copies). From the author, 4184 51st Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

The continuing improvement of philatelic catalogs at every level of interest attests to the vitality of our hobby's scholarly standards.

Besides carrying forward its policy of adding all the previously unlisted stamps, Scott has begun rationalizing the listings, renumbering and regrouping where necessary. Adding the Wartime Channel Islands stamps of the German occupation is a long overdue reform.

The major additions, both of stamp-issuing entities such as Niuafu'ou (Tin Can Island) and of indexed subjects (birds and trains in 1993) demonstrate Scott's determination to meet the needs of topical/thematic collectors (and therefore writers).

To be sure, there are inconsistencies. Now that Barbuda is complete, Redonda ought to be listed too, since its stamps are valid postage throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

As always, the Michel specialized is the catalog of choice for writers on Germany. The entities are now in logical order, so that DDR follows Soviet Zone, and Federal Republic comes at the end, following British and U.S. Zone. But for writers who require less, the pocket-size DNK catalog with its full-color illustrations is the best in its class.

Of all the foreign color catalogs, the Sakura Japan catalog addresses the greatest challenge (by covering every category, including such things as prefecture stamps and postal stationery) yet it exceeds the quality of comparable catalogs in other countries that are not as comprehensive.

Not every writer needs to own all the meter catalogs, but we all should be aware that these detailed and well-illustrated works exist. Aside from those who specialize in the meters as such, their audience also includes serious topical collectors and writers.

The surprising thing about Phil Stager's AIDS handbook is that he hasn't yet included the stamps and associated first-day cancels, yet it's already a remarkable compilation. For writers it contains yet another lesson.

This handbook is an outgrowth of Stager's gold medal thematic Venereal Disease exhibit. If other topical exhibitors would follow up with publications like this, rather than mere checklists, everyone's knowledge would be enhanced. He has given us a new standard for this type of literature. □

## Literature Awards

### Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum 1992 Philatelic Literature Fair:

#### UNITED STATES — BOOKS

##### Gold

*Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library, The Printer's Stone.*

*The Congress Book 1991, Fifty-Seventh A.P.C., American Philatelic Congress.*

*Fundamentals of Philately, Revised Edition, American Philatelic Society.*

*The New York Postmaster's Provisional, Stanley M. Piller.*

##### Vermell

*Advanced Stamp Collecting, Barry Krause.*

*Colorado Post Offices 1859-1889*, Colorado Railroad Museum.  
*Dogs on Stamps*, Dogs on Stamps Study Unit.  
*The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-1878*, W. R. Weiss Jr.  
*Forged Postage Stamps of the Americas*, H. Bynof-Smith.  
*The Handbook of Basketball Philately*, George E. Killian.  
*The Micarelli Identification Guide to U. S. Stamps*, Scott Publishing Co.  
*National Air Mail Week, May 15-21, 1938*, Jon E. Drabek, NAMWHS.  
*Specimens of Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States*, John R. Weimer.

#### Silver

*Basketball on United States Postage Stamps*, James F. Danner.  
*The Bible Through Stamps*, Ord Matek.  
*Christmas Stamps of the World*, ATA.  
*Collecting Stamps for Pleasure & Profit*, B. Krause.  
*Facts, Fiction, and Philately, USA & Canada*, C. Murphy.  
*The Masonic Specialist, United States of America & Canada*, C. Murphy.  
*120 Years of Alaska Postmasters 1867-1986*, Alaska Coll. Club.  
*Paintings on Stamps, Vol VIII*, Fine Arts Philatelists.  
*Philatelic Periodicals of the U.S. and Canada*, G. Van Cott.  
*Postal Operations in the U.S. 1794*, R. J. Stets.  
*Stamp Collecting*, B. Krause.  
*The U.S.F. Constitution, Cachets and Cancellations of the 1932 and 1934 Transits of the Panama Canal*, CZ Study Group/Univ. Ship Canc. Soc.  
*United States Airpost, 1918 issue, Precancel Towns & Types*, J. Kirker.  
*Watercraft on Stamps*, ATA.  
*WW II U.S. Service Mail, Army-Air Force-Navy*, Robson Lowe.

#### Silver-Bronze

*How to Start your own Local Post*, E. J. Davis Jr.  
*Movies on Mail, the Handbook of Philatelic Flicks*, P. Wolff.  
*NYRBA's (IN, Rio & Buenos Aires Airlines) Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers and its Postal Markings*, J. Grigore Jr.  
*On the Road, the Quest for Stamps*, S. R. Datz.  
*Orchids on Stamps*, ATA.  
*Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine*, D. Puckle.

#### Bronze

*1991-1993 Membership Handbook*, Sports Philatelists Intl.

#### PERIODICALS

##### Gold

*Postal History Journal*, Postal History Soc.

##### Vermell

*Postal Stationery*, United P.S. Soc.

##### Silver

*The Alaskan Philatelist*, Alaska Coll. Club.  
*The EFO Collector*, EFO Coll. Club.  
*The Journal*, Conn. PH Soc.  
*Journal of Sports Philately*, Sports Philatelists Intl.  
*Philateli-Graphics*, Graphics Phil. Assn.

##### Silver-Bronze

*The Dossu Journal*, Dogs on Stamps Study Unit.  
*Mask Lore*, Mask Study Group.  
*Rhode Island Postal History Journal*, RI PHS.  
*S\*T\*A\*R\*S*, The Stamp Coll. Club for Screen, TV, Radio.  
*Yule Log*, Christmas Phil. Club.

##### Bronze

*PESG Expo*, Philatelic Exhibition Study Group

#### CATALOGS

##### Vermell

*Scott 1991 Federal and State Duck Stamp Catalogue*, Scott Publ. Co.

##### Silver

*Compex '91 Directory*, Combined Phil. Exh. of Chicagoland, Inc.  
*Hebert's Standard Plate Single Catalog 1992*, Trans-Pacific Stamp Co.  
*John F. Kennedy Memorial Stamp Issues . . . V. I, II*, K. Wenger.  
*Official 1992 Blackbook Price Guide of U.S. Postage Stamps*, 14th ed., House of Collectibles.

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES — BOOKS

##### Gold

*Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens*, Ian Kimmerly, Ltd.  
*The Encyclopædia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol. VI, Leeward Islands*, Christie's Robson Lowe.  
*For the Port and Carriage of Letters*, David Robinson.  
*German Submarine Mail of World War I*, Germany Phil. Soc.  
*Maria Di Nazareth Della Filatelia*, Padre Bonifacio Dalla Paola.  
*Mashonaland, A Postal History 1890-96*, Christie's Robson Lowe.  
*Philatélie a La Française*, Philatelic Foundation.  
*The Postal History of Hong Kong, Vol. I, 1841-1958*, E. Proud.  
*The Postal History of Tanganyika 1915-1961*, E. Proud.  
*Rare Collections of Chinese Stamps Kept By China National Postage Stamp Museum (The Qing Dynasty)*, China National Postage Stamp Museum.

##### Vermell

*Border Mail, Postal History and Markings of the War in Angola and along the Namibian Border*, Vols. I, II, III, G. Van Den Hurk.  
*Concise Guide to the Queen Issues of Labuan*, R. Price/Sarawak Spec. Soc.  
*Étude Tarifaire des Papiers Timbres Officiels de Demension de 1791 a 1960*, Societe Française de Philatélie Fiscale.  
*The Field Post of the Czechoslovak and Allied Forces in Russia 1918-1920*, W. A. Page.  
*Forged Postage Stamps of the British Empire*, H. Bynof-Smith.  
*Franco-British Accountancy Markings on Mails from the Indian Ocean 1843-1875*, Indian Ocean Study Circle.  
*Free French Censorship in Syria*, W. Robertson.  
*From Gibraltar to Spain 1850-1875*, R. Richardson.  
*German Postal Activities in China*, M. Mizuhara.  
*Germania-Farbuch, Farbtafel der Germania-Ausgaben 52-97*, P. Jaschke.  
*Great Britain — The Penny Lilac, Part 2*, The G.B. Phil. Soc.  
*Guatemala Philately, 1971-1990 Issues & Special Studies*, D. Jickling.  
*Handbook of Disney Philately*, Wonderful World of Stamps.  
*The Harris Index to Philatelic Literature 1879-1925*, J. Bendon.  
*The Imperial Post Offices of British India 1837-1914*, Vol. I, Phila Publns.  
*Manning's Place Names of South Australia*, G. Manning.  
*La Petite Poste a Lyon*, G. Chapier.  
*The Place of Stones*, J. Campbell.  
*Postage Stamp Catalogue of the Republic of China, Commem. Edition for 80th Year . . . of the Republic*, Dir. Gen. of Posts, Repub. China.  
*The Ring Stamp and Postal Stationery Centennial, May 1, 1991*, Scand. Phil. Foundation & L. Peltonen.  
*The Transorma Letter-Sorting Machine 1931-1981*, M. V-Oostra.  
*The Typographic Overprints of the 1919 Krakow Issues of Poland*, M. Melnichak.  
*La Veneta Repubblica e le vie Fluviali, Venise et les Voies Postales*, F. Rigo.

##### Silver

*Ancient Chinese Painting 'Peacocks' Postage Stamps Pictorial*, Dir. Gen. of Posts, Repub. of China.  
*British Greetings Telegrams and . . . Special Occasion Cards*, I. Wilkerson.  
*British Stamp Booklets, Part 6*, G.B. Phil. Soc.  
*A History of 'The Forwarding Agents of Gibraltar' 1750-1880*, R. Richardson.  
*Judaica Philately, Dr. Dagoni's Writings*, Haifa Phil Soc./Dr. E. Dagoni.  
*A Listing of Irish Postmarks in Gaelic From 1922*, Eire Phil Assn.  
*The Post Office on Prince Edward Island 1787-1990*, G. Murray.  
*The Post Offices and Datestamps of the County of Leitrim*, Eire Phil. Assn.  
*The Postage Rates of Germany 1906-1923*, Inflation Study Group, GPS.  
*The Postbox Cancells of Brisbane, Sydney, and Perth*, J. C. Smith.  
*Private Stadtpost Heilbronn*, Studiengruppe Privatpost.  
*Propaganda Postkarten No. 1*, F. Catella.  
*Propaganda Postkarten No. 2*, F. Catella.  
*Seychelles: Civil Censor Markings 1939-1945*, Indian Ocean Study Circle.  
*Territorial Post Offices of Canada*, W. Robinson/W. Topping.  
*22½ Year Anniv. of the Neth. Phils. of CA; Nethlds. Phils of CA*.  
*Uniform Fourpenny Post in Ireland*, Irish Phil Circle.  
*WHO on Stamps: European Region*, World Health Organization.

##### Silver-Bronze

*A Brief History of the General Post Office Dublin*, An Post.  
*The Cancel Used by the Corte Post Office Admin. on the F.D. of Circulation of the Bull's Eyes*, I. Rosario.  
*A Concise History of the GPO 'J' Type 1950-1990*, Enthusiast Publns.  
*The GB Officials*, T. Current.  
*Postart*, An Post.  
*Taiwan Stream Birds Postage Stamps*, Dir. Gen. Posts, Repub. China.

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES — PERIODICALS

##### Gold

*The China Clipper*, China Stamp Soc.  
*Holy Land Postal History*, Soc. P.H. of Eretz-Israel.  
*Mexicana*, Mexico-Elmhurst Phil. Soc. Intl.

##### Vermell

*German Postal Specialist*, Germany Phil. Soc.  
*The Israel Philatelist*, Soc. of Israel Philatelists.  
*The Mail-Coach*, P.H. Soc. of New Zealand.  
*Opal & Tughra Times*, Special issues 2, 3, Oriental Phil Assn London/Turkey Ottoman Phil. Soc.  
*Postal Service Today*, Dir. Gen. Posts, Rep. China.  
*The Trumpeter*, Croatian Phil. Soc.

##### Silver

*The Belize Collector*, Belize Phil Study Circle.  
*The Canadian Connection*, Canadiana Study Unit.  
*The Canal Zone Philatelist*, C.Z. Study Group.  
*Forerunners*, The Phil Soc for Greater Southern Africa.  
*Newsletter—Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail Study Group*, CSOAMSG.  
*Nicarao*, Nicaragua Study Group.  
*Philately in Japan*, Japan Phil Soc. Foundation.  
*Privatpost*, Studiengruppe der Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e.v.

**Silver-Bronze**

*Israitheme, Ayelet-Thematic Assn Israel.*  
*The 'J' Type News, 'J' Type Register.*  
*Judaica Philatelic Journal, Judaica Historical Phil. Soc.*  
*El Mensajero Filatelico, El Mensajero Filatelico.*  
*Old German States' Notes, Old German Enterprises.*

**FOREIGN COUNTRIES — CATALOGS****Gold**

*Antichi Stati Italiani Gegno di Vittorio Emanuele II Regno D'Italia 1850-1900,* Volumes I-II, 1992, Sassone Editrice.  
*Bale Catalogue of Israel Postage Stamps 1990,* M. H. Bale.  
*Catalogo Completo Dei Francobolli D'Italia E Paesi Italiani 1992,* Vols I-II, Sassone Editrice.  
*Catalogo Delle Specializzazioni E Varieta Francobolli Della Repubblica Italiana E Trieste 1992,* Sassone Editrice.  
*Catalogue Des Aerogrammes Du Monde Entier,* Reprint of 1949 Ed., Editions B. Sinais.  
*Catalogue Des Papiers Timbres Officiels De Dimension De 1791 A 1959,* Societe Francaise de Philatélie Fiscale.  
*Ceres Catalogue Timbres-Poste, France 1992,* Ceres.  
*Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Q.E. II Decimal Special Issues,* Second Edition, Stanley Gibbons.

**Vermell**

*Channel Islands Postal History Catalogue,* S. Gibbons.  
*Collect Butterflies and Other Insects on Stamps,* S. Gibbons.  
*Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps,* 8th Ed., S. Gibbons.  
*Danmark Frimærkekatalog 1991-92,* Aarhus Frimærkehandel.  
*Deportes Catalogo de Sellos,* 28th Ed., Filatelia Domfil.  
*Great Britain & Ireland, Travelling Post Office Postmarks,* Railway Phil. Group.  
*Great Britain & Ireland, Railway Letter Stamps 1957-1988,* Railway Phil Group.  
*Fauna Catalogo de Sellos,* 23 Edicion, Filatelia Domfil.  
*Flores y Setas Catalogo de Sellos,* 25 Edicion, Filatelia Domfil.  
*Japan & Korea,* Third Ed., S. Gibbons.  
*K.G. VI Commonwealth Postage Stamp Catalogue 1991,* Bridger-Kay.  
*Portugal & Spain,* 3rd Ed., S. Gibbons.  
*Prefix 1992 Catalogue Specialise Illustre des Timbres-Poste du Luxembourg,* Banque du Timbre.  
*Le Rhone et Lyon Marcographie 1876-1989,* Federation des Societies Philateliques Francaises.  
*Russia,* Fourth Ed., S. Gibbons.  
*Scheps Catalogue de Timbres-Poste Israel 1991-1992,* J. Scheps.  
*Singapore Stamp & Postal Stationery & Malaysia-Singapore Phone Card Catalogue,* 10th Ed., International Stamp & Coin.  
*Skandinavien Frimærkekatalog 1991-1992,* Aarhus Frimærkehandel.  
*Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom,* 4th Ed., British Postmark Soc.

**Silver**

*The Amateur Collector's Stamp Catalogue of Switzerland 1991,* The Amateur Collector, Ltd.  
*Bridger & Kay Guernsey Ltd. Auction Catalogue, 24/25/26 October 1991* Guernsey, C.I., Bridger & Kay.  
*Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux Locaux et Speciaux de France,* Societe Francaise de Philatélie Fiscale.  
*Chinese Stamp Catalog — People's Post 1949-91,* Japan Phil Soc.  
*Gene Kelly's Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of the Kantone and Gemeinden of Switzerland,* Vol. 4, Gene Kelly.  
*HAM Stamps Catalog,* M. Bussemer.  
*1992 Auckland City Stamps Colour Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps,* Auckland City Stamps, Ltd.  
*The Perfins of China,* China Stamp Soc.  
*Philatema 91, Esposizione Filatelica a Partecipazione Internazionale Letteratura Filatelica,* Cinisello Balsamo, 28 Aprile-5 Maggio 1991, Philatema 91.  
*Esposizione Filatelica-Storica a Partecipazione Nazionale,* Cinisello Balsamo, 24 al 25 Aprile 1991, Philatema 91.  
*16th Mostra Filatelica 'Vite-Vino',* Montespertoli, 26 Maggio-2 Giugno '91, Circolo Filatelico 'Montespertoli'.  
*Ukrainian DP Camp, POW Camp Government in Exile, and National Council Issues* Ukrainian Phil & Numismatic Soc.  
*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,* Assn. Francaise de Philatélie Thematique-Gruppe Musique-Theatre-Danse.

**Silver-Bronze**

*Cinderella Apteryx & Other Family Members,* T. Maclaren.  
*Collect Fungi on Stamps,* S. Gibbons.  
*Perfins of British Malaya,* P. Giffen. □

**Springpex '92**

**Gold (And) Paragon Literature Grand Award (and) Best In Class Award: United States Internal Revenue Tax-Paid Stamps Printed on Tin-Foil and Paper Tobacco Wrappers,** John Alan Hicks, author.

**Vermell**

*The American Revenuer,* K. Trettin.  
*The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately,* G. Combs.  
*The Posthorn,* Gene Lesney.

**Silver**

*Checklist of FDCs and Earliest Documented Covers, 1847-1931,* E. Siskin. (With Felicitation for Research.)  
*First Days,* Barry Newton.  
*Forerunners,* W. C. Brooks VI.  
*Journal of Sports Philately,* M. Maestrone.  
*Mexicana,* E. Nissen.  
 "Judaica Philately" column in *Global Stamp News,* Dr. M. Frost.

**Silver-Bronze**

*The Postage Rates of Germany, 1906-1923,* D. Manchester.  
*Stamp Collecting: An Illustrated Guide and Handbook for Adult Collectors,* B. Krause.  
*United States Airpost, 1918 Issue Precancel Types and Towns,* J. Kirker.  
*The Belize Collector,* P. Bylen.  
*Sports Philatelists Int'l. 1991-1993 Membership Handbook,* M. Maestrone.

**Bronze**

*Basketball on U.S. Postage Stamps,* J. Danner.

**Non-Competitive Entries**

*The First U.S. Postal Museum,* H. Collins.  
*Introduction to Russian Philately,* P. Michalove.  
*The Philatelic Exhibitor,* J. Hotchner.  
*The Postal History of Christmas Seals,* D. Lehmann.  
*Scalpel and Tongs,* R. Chakravorty.  
*The Springfield Stamp Club News,* P. Martin.  
*The State Revenue Newsletter,* P. Martin.  
*Virginia Philatelic Forum,* R. Roy/L. Collins. □

**1991 APS Chapter Activities Committee Show Program Critique Awards**

**Class I:** Publications that are single-page programs (*i.e.*, bifold, trifold, etc.) from shows sponsored by an APS Chapter.

**Gold**

EUPEX '91, Euclid Stamp Club, Euclid, OH, J. B. Stotts, editor.  
 MIDAPHIL '91, Coll. Club of K.C., Kansas City, MO, Randy Neil, editor.

**Vermell**

PENPEX '91, Peninsula Stamp Club, Burlingame, CA, C. Feibusch, editor.  
 PINPEX '91, Pinnacle Stamp Club, Little Rock, AR, J. Felton, editor.

**Silver**

HOUPEX '91, Houston (TX) Phil. Soc., W. McBride, editor.  
 TONKAPEX '91, Lake Minnetonka S. C., Excelsior, MN, B. Anderson, ed.  
 WACOPEX '91, Heart of Texas Stamp Club, Waco, TX, J. Berryhill & R. Walston, editors.

**Silver-Bronze**

MERPEX XV, Merchantville S.C., Pennsauken, NJ, P. Schumacher, editor.

**Bronze**

Annual Mid-Winter Stamp & Coin Show, Ashland (OH) Stamp & Coin Club, E. Grindle, editor.

**Class II:** Programs that have multiple pages from shows sponsored solely by an APS Chapter.

**Gold**

1991 Mid-Cities Stamp Expo, Mid-C. S. C., Arlington, TX, A. von Reyn, ed.  
 SACAPEX '91, Sacramento (CA) Phil Soc., J. Pavalasky, ed.  
 SPRINGPEX '91, Springfield (VA) S.C., J. & G. Criscuoli, editors.  
 Twin City Stamp Expo '91, T.C. Phil. Soc., St. Paul, MN, B. Anderson, ed.

**Vermell**

GULFPEX '91, Gulf Coast S.C., Biloxi, MS, R. Marousky, editor.  
 ROPEX '91, Rochester (NY) Phil. Assn. Inc., R. Kase, ed.  
 York County Stamp Show '91, White Rose Phil. Soc. of York PA, S. Warner, editor.

**Silver**

KNOXPEX '91, Knoxville (TN) S.C., N. Henderson, ed.  
 Knoxville Bicent. Stamp Show, Knoxville (TN) Stamp Club, P. Phillips, ed.  
 LANCOPEX '91, Lancaster County (PA) Phil. Soc., J. Boyles/M. Shirley, eds.  
 LOUIPEX '91, Louisville (KY) Stamp Soc, T. Sherwood, ed.  
 Nashville Stamp Show '91, Nashville (TN) Phil. Soc., C. Freeze, ed.  
 QPEX '91, Manchester (NH) Stamp Club, R. Dion, ed.  
 RIPEX 26, R.I. Phil. Soc., Cranston, RI, J. Lombardi, ed.  
 SYRAPEX '91, Syracuse (NY) Stamp Club, A. Swift, Ed.  
 WILKPEX '91, Wilkinsburg (PA) Stamp Club, H. Cline, ed.

**Silver-Bronze**

HAGERPEX III, Hagerstown (MD) Stamp Club, R. Rush Jr., ed.  
 Upstate Stamp Show, Greenville (SC) Stamp Club, K. Davidson, ed.

#### Bronze

SOPEX '91, Southern Oregon Phil. Soc, Medford, OR, C. Park, ed.

**CLASS III: Multiple-page programs from shows co-sponsored either by an APS Chapter, state federation, or national or international show/bourse, including those that combine stamps with other collectibles.**

#### Gold

NOJEX 1991, North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs (held in Secaucus, NJ) J. Francis, ed.  
ROMPEX '91, Rocky Mtn Phil. Exhibitions, Denver, CO, R. Rydberg, ed.  
ROYALE \*1991\* ROYAL, Lakeshore Stamp Club, Inc., and Royal Phil. Soc. of Canada, Pointe Claire, PQ, Canada, F. Brisse, editor.  
SESCAL '91, Federated Phil Clubs of Southern CA, Los Angeles, CA, D. Appgar, ed.  
TOPEX '91, American Topical Assn & Topical Philatelists in Colorado, Aurora, CO, R. Rydberg, ed.

#### Vermeil

ARIPEX '91, Arizona Fed'n of S. Clubs, Casa Grande, AZ, D. Kelsey, ed.  
Philadelphia Nat'l. Stamp Exhibition, Assoc. Stamp Clubs of S.E. PA & DE, King of Prussia, PA, R. DeGraw, ed.

#### Silver

Delpex '91, DuPont S.C., Talleyville, DE, F. Dickson, ed.  
Keystone Fed'n. Stamp Show, Keystone Fed'n. of S.C.s, Harrisburg, PA, J. Boyles, M. Shirley, eds.  
PIPEX '91, Boeing Employees S.C., Kent, WA, M. Vaness, ed.  
VALPEX '91, Spring-Ford Phil. Soc., Royersford, PA, H. Ritter, ed.

### 1991 APS Chapter Activities Committee Newsletter Critique Awards

**CLASS I: Novice (New) Publications**

#### Vermeil:

South Central Idaho S.C., B. Anderson, ed.  
Lancaster County Phil Soc., J. Lyman, ed.

**CLASS II: Local Club Publications**

#### Gold

Rhode Island Phil Soc, J. McKenna, ed.  
Tucson S.C., N. Hummel, ed.  
Nashville Phil Soc, C. Freez, ed.  
Athens Phil Soc., E. Jackson, ed.  
Coll. Club of K.C., R. Neil, ed.  
Merchantville S.C., D. Iezzi, ed.  
Pinnacle S.C., J. Felton, ed.  
Knoxville S.C., J. Mynatt, ed.

#### Vermeil

Wilmington S.C., John Graper, ed.  
Fremont S.C., T. Hoyes, ed.  
Hagerstown S. C., R. Rush, ed.  
Brookfield Phil. Soc., R. Kalnins, ed.  
Wenatchee Valley Stamp Assn., J. Bay-Dresch, ed.  
Southern Oregon Phil. Soc., J. Zenn, ed.  
Island Empire Phil. Soc., B. Schoen, ed.  
Humboldt Stamp Coll. Club, D. Martinek, ed.

#### Silver

Delray Beach S.C., Lou Lerner, ed.  
Houston Phil. Soc., W. McBride, ed.  
Phil. Soc. of San Leandro, D. MacDougall, ed.  
Greater Derry Phil. Soc., P. Rhodes, ed.

**CLASS III: Federation Publications**

#### Gold

Wisconsin Federation, Clete Delvaux, ed.  
Texas Phil. Assn., Jane King Fohn, ed.

#### Vermeil

Federation of Central New York, J. Cali, ed.  
Arizona Federation of S.C.s, N. Hummel, ed.

#### ►► Everything . . . (From page 45.)

to the idea of literature in competition. That question's been aired here recently, and while I'd gladly speak to it, it's not the subject of this article.)<sup>2</sup>

For authors/editors, societies and commercial publishers, there's undoubtedly a mixture of pride in accomplishment and a desire to publicize the product and its producer(s). There's also the opportunity to get some helpful guidance by way of the judges' critique. On the more materialistic end of the scale, that

can translate into exposure to promote sales, or plain and simple "medal chasing." (At international shows, where gold and silver medals contain the real thing, there's a definite intrinsic value in the awards.)

Show committees (or at least some of the more vocal members of those committees) of venues that feature philatelic literature recognize the importance of literature to the hobby, and welcome the chance to present it—in spite of the additional headaches such a commitment engenders. But here, too, there can be other motives at play. Normally, unless a specific request has been made for return of the publications, and necessary arrangements set up, literature entries become the property of the exhibition organizers for distribution to designated philatelic libraries. That's a low-cost way to add to the host society's library.<sup>3</sup>

To my mind, the philosophy that justifies the institutionalizing of philatelic literature exhibitions is the one reflected in the APS judging manual and the FIP special regulations: such public events serve primarily as a means of recognizing, encouraging and promoting philatelic literature, and only secondarily as competitive arenas for the awarding of various levels of medals. To the extent this provides a common denominator for exhibitors, organizers and judges, the event is off to a good start.

#### What's Being Judged?

By definition, literature exhibitions under APS or FIP sponsorship are limited to published works: handbooks, catalogs, periodicals, articles, special studies, etc. This rules out unpublished manuscripts, audio-visual presentations, computer applications, and other non-compatible forms of communication.

(Note: New Zealand includes unpublished manuscripts in their annual literature competitions, under somewhat different procedures. Anyone out there who wants to follow up on that idea?)

Judges look at four basic aspects of each entry: the philatelic content, the author's ability to present the message (text and illustrations), editing aspects, production.

For a number of reasons—some of which are valid—the APS opposes the use of a point system in judging. While I honor that decision, I still hold that two overriding and relatively equal considerations in evaluating literature are "What's it about?" and "How well is it written?" If a book meets my needs in those two areas, I'll overlook the typos and lack of a bibliography, and if necessary I'll rebind it myself. As a judge, therefore, I give a potential weight of 40 percent each to content and authorship, out of the theoretical 100 percent maximum. Similarly, I look to a potential 15 percent for editorship and 5 percent for publishing.

It's important to have such a value scale in mind, because literature judges face a subtle trap. Literature entries in our national exhibitions are highly unrepresentative. Of the nearly 300 U.S. and Canadian philatelic periodicals listed by Gary Van Cott<sup>4</sup>, only 20 were exhibited at STaMpsHOW 91. The 15 journal entries at Sescal 91 included six from the STaMpsHOW list and nine additional titles. Of the 16 books at STaMpsHOW, there were five repeats at Sescal 91 plus eight other titles. Against what yardstick, then, are those entries to be measured?

The natural inclination is to give gold to the best book(s) and journal(s), assign bronze to the weakest, and rank the remaining entries from vermeil down to silver-bronze. That might well work at an international exhibition where there are 100 or more entries in the literature class, or at a specialized literature exhibition with up to 500 items. The distribution in such cases is much more apt to be representative.

It's not valid for a national show with a limited number of entries. Hypothetically, based on who exhibits where, such a procedure could result in the *German Postal Specialist* getting a

gold at Chicagopex; *The Posthorn* receiving a vermeil at Sescal; and both of them winding up with silver at STaMpsHOW.

Instead, literature entries have to be judged by reasonably objective criteria, so that—hopefully—a different jury group at a different show, with a different range of exhibits, can come up with (nearly) the same evaluation.

Further, there has to be agreement on the weight given to each criterion. The hardest aspects to evaluate are content and authorship. In the first place, they demand a much deeper knowledge of the work, *as well as an awareness of what's already known and published on the subject*. One book I recently judged was to all outward appearances a good candidate for vermeil; unfortunately, it contained a number of unattributed and unauthorized "borrowings" from other authors. As a minimum, the key works in given fields must be known, so that the question can be asked and answered "How much does this add to (Hargest, Stone, Prigara, Tchilinghirian, Pulhan, Rasic, Ichida, Gobie, etc.)?" Literature judges normally get several months' advance notice on what they'll have to judge, but that's hardly enough time to develop critical skills in more than one or two new areas.<sup>5</sup>

While knowledgeable judges are likely to give the same evaluation for content, that may not be the case for authorship, which can involve questions of style and personal taste. Here even the best attempts at objectivity can become subjective. Generally, however, if content is rated high the authorship will be given equal treatment. The greater the complexity, scope and/or novelty of the subject, the greater the demands on authorship (with a concomitantly higher evaluation).<sup>6</sup>

Editorship tends to get more than its fair share of attention, probably because it's the one aspect for which a detailed checklist is applicable. It's a snap to look for publication data, ISBN or ISSN, masthead information, presence of an index or bibliography—much easier than messing around with bothersome matters like contents and writing ability. Check the pagination, count the typos, measure the white space, add 'em all up and get the score. But let's get back to the 40:40:15:5 ratio; there should be no way in which editing deficiencies can lower an evaluation by more than one medal level, unless the sins are egregious.<sup>7</sup>

Finally, there's publication, which is roughly equivalent to "Presentation" as applied to stamp exhibits. This should actually be the first criterion to be evaluated, so that it doesn't take on undue significance when making the final medal determination. I generally mark this factor as +, -, or 0, then use it for borderline cases. (But if the print bleeds through from the other side, or the pages fall out when you turn them, there's probably a full medal level at risk.)

### Tell it Like it Is

Oral judges' critiques are mandatory at all APS-recognized exhibitions. For literature, exhibitors have come to expect a written critique sheet as well, and most—not all—literature panels provide them. This feature is still in a state of evolution. In my view, written critiques should be mandatory, considered as part of the price of admission.

It's not easy to prepare meaningful writeups on all entries by the end of a weekend show. One solution is to use a standardized format which individual judges can begin filling in during their pre-exhibition preparation time. Further comments are captured during the judges' discussions, with one judge acting as secretary or each judge responsible for a specified set of entries. There's no law which says those critique forms have to be turned in by the end of the show. If the organizers and the jury can work out the logistics, there's considerable advantage in letting the jury have an additional week to finalize its written critiques. (The

Springpex critique sheet on *Posthorn*, shown with permission of the exhibitor, is an example of this standardized format.)<sup>8</sup>

### Random Comments

Results at one show don't mandate the same awards at other shows. Many decisions are reached by consensus; at a different show, the consensus may swing the other way. On borderline cases, I tend to go for the higher award for new publications, since that's when a favorable reception will give them the most support. The next time I see the same works in competition, I'm more willing to take the low side. (Why do exhibitors always think it was the *lower* award that was in error?)

Club newsletters don't belong in general literature competition. By their nature, they're primarily concerned with internal, organizational matters and can't be expected to compete with substantive publications. There's a separate judging forum specifically for newsletters, and that's where they should be judged.

I also get curmudgeonly about newspaper columns in the general literature shows, since they too usually deal with the ephemeral and they too have their own competitive venue. For the sake of the rare examples of excellence, I try to keep an open mind and a closed mouth with respect to newspaper articles.

Special pleading is sometimes made on behalf of society publications, *e.g.*, they have to live within limited budgets, they need to cater to members' interests, editors and contributors are all unpaid and shouldn't be held to professional standards, "the members like it the way it is," *etc.* All the above may be true—but none of it changes the actual products that have been submitted *in competition*. I suggest that all such publications could be improved without any significant increase in cost, with no added time burdens on the editorial staff, with no deterioration in member service . . . and the members would continue to like it.

In a related vein, there's a school of thought that would treat "commercial" publications differently than "amateur" ones. One such proposal would limit open competition to non-commercial entries; another seeks different judging standards. I'll listen more closely to those ideas as soon as someone figures out how to define the parameters and explains what difference it makes. I suggest virtually everyone who puts out a philatelic book hopes to make money on it. Can't we judge Tyler's *Philatelic Forgers* (Linn's) and Rowe's *Forwarding Agents* (Leonard Hartmann) and *Fundamentals of Philately* (APS) and *Opinions* (Philatelic Foundation) according to the same criteria, without having to figure out which are commercial and which are quasi-commercial and which are non-commercial? Seems to me we should be judging the exhibit, not the exhibitor.

All attempts to replace competitive exhibitions with some other means of recognizing and publicizing philatelic literature have been unsuccessful. Various prizes have been established (*e.g.*, the Crawford Medal and the Cabeen Award), but they concern themselves with the one or two exceptional publications of a given year (and some years go by with no selections). There are no prizes and no publicity for the also-rans. Literature is an integral part of philately; unless we incorporate it in our philatelic exhibitions, we're giving collectors and the general public the wrong message.

And with that comment, we seem to be back to the reasons for exhibiting, which is where we started.

### Notes:

1. William H. Bauer, ed., *Manual of Philatelic Judging*. 3rd ed. State College, PA: American Philatelic Society, 1990. This is mandatory reading for anyone who hopes to be a philatelic judge (in whatever discipline) or who wants to understand the judging process.

2. See, for example, *The Philatelic Communicator*, 3rd Quarter 1990, pages 82-

Name of Exhibitor(s): Gene Lesney, editor  
 Title of Entry: *The Posthorn*  
 Class (as judged): Periodicals  
 Award: Vermeil

**Judges' Comments:**

1. *Treatment of Contents (Authorship)*: In general, quite high. Contributors: styles are appropriate to their subjects, and the articles are detailed, convincingly presented and interesting. Mike Hvidonov's articles are always strong, but he has some style idiosyncracies (use of capital letters, formation of plurals, punctuation) which should be edited consistent with overall *Posthorn* style.

2. *Originality, Significance, Depth of Research (Philatelic Aspect)*: The significance of the journal is back at the top of the chart, after several years of sluggishness. The "country editor" concept was a good one, but it seemingly was being treated as an honorary function. Editor Lesney has obviously corrected that situation.

3. *Technical Matters (Editorial Aspect)*: Well done in most respects. More careful proofreading is needed, particularly for grammar, punctuation, and typos which are legitimate words; it looks as though too much reliance has been placed on an electronic spell-checker (which helps, but can't replace, human proof-reading). The Table of Contents style is inconsistent: authors' names shown on some occasions, not on others—the editor needs to decide what he wants to do, and carry it through [preferably, *with* authors' names]. Inclusion of an annual index [actually, a cumulative listing of article titles, by category] is commendable; however, suggest the index be published on unnumbered, back-to-back pages so it could be removed and bound with the volume it refers to, should members so desire.

4. *Presentation (Publishing Aspect)*: Well laid out and printed, attractive. Nielsen's article in the February issue is one of the most effectively presented and produced articles in the whole year of US philately, and merits special commendation. Conversely, Chapter 13's auction pages were hard on the eyes, primarily because of the print quality of the original submission.

*General Summary*: Greatly improved, both in content and appearance.

**Judges:** John Hotchner, Chairman; Charles J. Peterson, Peter Martin, Apprentice. □

83 (Lawrence); 4th Quarter 1990, pages 104-05 (Peterson); 4th Quarter 1991, page 54 (Rawlins).

3. For the Cardinal Spellman annual literature event, what doesn't go on the library shelves ends up in a philatelic book sale for the benefit of the museum. To my knowledge, there's no critique. The event's well publicized, and presumably participants feel they get appropriate return from their donations. That's not so likely, however, in the case of the proposed Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas competition. The AFA recently established and publicized two "literature prizes." One will go to the best book of the past two years on Lindbergh, the other for the best in trans-Atlantic mails. The catch: consideration will only be given to entries submitted in duplicate, and all entries will become property of the AFA central office. It's possible the AFA "prizes" were established solely from the pure and noble motive of promoting literature—but from here it smells very much like a rip-off.

4. Gary A. Van Cott. *Philatelic Periodicals of the United States and Canada*. Las Vegas, NV: Van Cott Information Services, Inc., 1991. Available at \$19.95 plus \$3.50 shipping from the publisher, P.O. Box 9569, Las Vegas, NV 89191. Recommended.

5. The APRL can quickly assemble a reading package for the judge who finds him/herself up against a new subject; normal photocopy and book loan fees apply. Unfortunately, few literature or other judges appear to be taking advantage of that service—and such self-imposed ignorance becomes obvious during jury deliberations and critiques.

6. That's not to imply that only serious, definitive handbooks can get high marks. For example, Pat Hest's *Nassau Street* probably merited gold when it first appeared, as an exceptionally positive contribution to the hobby. That's a case where authorship drives content, rather than the reverse. We're overdue for a new comprehensive handbook on stamp collecting, and if there's an author who can do for this generation what Sandy Cabeen did for his, there's another gold medal candidate.

7. Mayo's *Anatolia* is a case in point. Content is powerful; illustrations are superb; and production quality is high. The author's style is weak but acceptable. Good copy and layout editing could have made the work a solid masterpiece; lack of it causes confusion and irritation, and interferes with use of the book. The book has received several golds, several vermeils; neither the judges nor the author have been very comfortable with the judging results.

8. The Writers Unit recently established its own critique program, removed from the time constraints of exhibition. A similar report format is used. To date, six members have taken advantage of this free service. □

**Procedures for No-Fee WU30 Critique Service**

1. Submissions accepted only from WU30 members.
2. *For periodicals*: Submit the most recent issue(s)—if applicable, 3 or 4 consecutive issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee for WU30 mailing expenses; any unused amount will be returned.
3. *For books/book manuscripts*: Inquire before sending, with brief description of item; please include stamped, addressed envelope for reply.
4. All submissions/correspondence to: Charles J. Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726. [Phone (301) 776-9822.] □

►► **Judging . . .** (From page 45.)

His conclusions were that the American columns he examined did well in categories "A" and "B" and fairly well in "D," but were sadly lacking in category "C."

Some points that came to mind to add to Rowe's four basic requirements—in some cases expansions of them, which I realized I've tried to follow in writing weekly columns in *The Ottawa Citizen* for seven years—are listed in no particular order below.

- Unlike those of philatelic publications, many readers of newspaper columns—perhaps a majority—will not be stamp collectors. Stories behind stamps, books reviews, postal history, and early philatelic history—including trivia that can be related to them—help insure continuing readership and may also encourage some readers to try stamp collecting.
- Too much emphasis on detailed technical discussions of specific aspects of individual stamps would seem to be out of place in non-philatelic newspapers, given the number of non-collectors who are readers.

- A bit of criticism, of for example Canada Post, is not out of place if it is carefully and honestly made and especially if it is not just negative but offers possible solutions to what is being criticized.
  - Illustrations—if practical, given a column's format—can add impact. A picture is certainly often worth many words of text.
  - Wherever possible, credit should be given for material lifted from other sources.
  - When in doubt, don't guess or pad or waffle unless guessing or padding or waffling is acknowledged as such. There is bound to be a reader who knows more about the subject than the writer does!
  - Room should be found to publicize not only local philatelic events, but also those staged regionally, nationally, and internationally that have some participation by local collectors or are of sufficient importance that readers should know about them.
  - Typographical and editing errors, despite the best of intentions, sometimes occur in columns. Most, if minor and obvious, can be overlooked—especially if the more glaring ones are corrected in subsequent columns and assuming, of course, that the newspaper authorities will acknowledge the errors (they sometimes do not)—but one should be less forgiving for errors in columns written by employees of the newspaper in which the column appears. Those writers would presumably be able to check the content after it is typeset.
  - Gossip should be kept to a minimum. Better still, it should be avoided. Speculation, on the other hand, if done judiciously, has a place.
  - Unwarranted conclusions based on insufficient evidence should also be avoided. Sherlock Holmes and other detectives may sometimes have jumped to correct conclusions, but stamp columnists are a different breed of sleuths.
  - Pride in what is written should be evident by the care taken in doing required research and in the subsequent writing.
  - Columnists have a responsibility to be accurate in what they write. Readers—especially those who are not collectors—may believe some statements that more informed collectors know to be wrong.
  - Announcements of new issues should not just be regurgitations of official press releases. Readers deserve more.
  - Philately can be related to the world around us. Two recent examples I've used are soccer stamps and the 1990 World Cup soccer tournament, and the possible Canadian Federal Goods and Services Tax on the hobby.
  - Credit should be given where it is due, for example to Canada Post—it sometimes does deserve praise—and to local and other collectors who merit recognition.
  - Columns should be written in an entertaining manner while not talking down to the reader. The first person to edit my *Citizen* columns once suggested that I should not be too folksy! I've also been accused of using too many big words. I'd like to think that my readers—be they collectors or not—are intelligent and that their intelligence shouldn't be insulted by the manner in which I write.
  - Columnists should become involved in philatelic activities by reading as much as possible; by joining—and participating in—local, regional, and national clubs and societies; by attending philatelic exhibitions and bourses; by getting to know philatelic personalities; and by trying philatelic exhibiting. In other words, they should keep thoroughly informed and up to date about happenings in the areas about which they write. They shouldn't wait for the world to come to them.
  - A large and comprehensive dictionary is an invaluable asset for any columnist.
- I'd be happy to have suggestions for additional requirements

and would welcome criticisms of any of those I've mentioned.

Some of these points could also apply to other types of philatelic literature, including articles and columns in philatelic society journals as well as to individual philatelic books and monographs. Indeed a few could apply to non-philatelic columns and to their writings that appear in our daily newspapers!

A regulation of la Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) states that entries of newspaper columns in international philatelic literature exhibitions should consist of a selection of ten columns.

I disagree with the FIP's use of the word "selection," and would much prefer that the regulation read "a minimum of ten consecutive columns." The latter provision applied to entries of newspaper columns at Royale \*1991\* Royal, the annual convention and national-level exhibition of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada that was held in Dorval, Quebec, in April (1991). That was my proviso when I was asked to be a judge.

A selection—of presumably what the author thinks are the best—doesn't necessarily allow for a proper assessment of continuing quality. Consecutive columns would help in that assessment and should give a clearer picture of consistency, or lack of it, over a period of time. Indeed, more than ten would be of more assistance. Authors of books are not asked to submit a selected chapter. The book is judged on its complete content.

Judging of stamp columns must primarily be done on the basis of those that are present, not of those that are not, even if it is known that what is not present is better or worse than what is present. To be fair to judges, a proper sampling is more honest than picking and choosing selected columns to try to impress the judges.

Judges—especially those with a great deal of experience—are often, however, conversant with what is not present and may occasionally base their decisions in part on the record of the writer.

Two quotations from the chapter on judging philatelic literature exhibits in the American Philatelic Society's *Manual of Philatelic Judging* (3rd edition, 1990) offer wise commentaries for consideration by both writers and judges.

"The judging of philatelic literature must be looked at primarily as a means of recognizing, encouraging, and promoting such efforts, and only secondarily as a competition for various levels of awards . . .

"A point also should be made about articles and newspaper columns. 'Significance' has to be evaluated in terms of the role of that piece of literature in the overall philatelic program. A continuing column in a mass circulation non-philatelic paper, for example, can serve an important function in educating and encouraging the general public. It may not be the most weighty piece of original research, but it certainly can score points for its contribution to the growth of philately and the promulgation of sound collecting practices. The author may never win a Gold medal, but definitely can aspire to a respectable award if he goes beyond the press-release level in his writings."

I heartily recommend the manual to all exhibitors and judges. Although its title may imply that it is only for judges, its contents are of equal value to all types and levels of exhibitors.

Reprinted from the January-February 1991 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, by permission.

**DEADLINES for receipt of copy by the editor are:**

**Fourth Quarter . . . . . Sept. 10, 1992**

**First Quarter, 1993 . . . . . Nov. 20, 1992**

► Secretary-Treasurer's Report (From page 72.)

1628 Jeffrey C. Brador, 7365 N.W. 68th Way, Parkland, FL 33067. Editor: *El Faro* (Association of Collectors of El Salvador). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1629 Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203. APS Member. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1630 Steve Thorning, 231 Colborne Street, Elora, Ontario, Canada NOB 1S0. Editor: *Canadian Philatelist* (Royal Philatelic Society of Canada). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1631 Michael O. Nowlan, 514 Gardiner Street, Oromocto, NB, Canada E2V 1G3. Columnist: "Philatelic Bookshelf," *Canadian Stamp News*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1632 Gerald B. Austin, 2 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054. Author: *Philatelic Reporter*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1633 Howard J. Selzer, P.O. Box 37, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Editor: *Michigan Postal History Review* and *Malayan Philatelist* (1959-1969). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1634 Mark Steven Corrinet, P.O. Box 1305, Benicia, CA 94510. Editor: *United Nations Philatelists Journal*; Columnist: *Linn's Stamp News*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1635 Gene C. Trinks, 3603 Bellows Court, Troy, MI 48083. APS member. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1636 Brian John Birch, 33 Boar's Head Avenue, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0BH Great Britain. Author *Bibliography of Periodicals Devoted to Philatelic Literature* (Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, 1991). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1637 Gary B. Weiss, M.D., 400 Medical Center Building, Webster, TX 77598. Editor: *Canal Zone Philatelist* and *From the Dragon's Den*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1638 David V. Tilton, P.O. Box 3603, North Fort Myers, FL 33918-3603. Columnist: *Fort Myers News-Press*. Sponsor: Robert de Violini.

1639 T. George Gilinsky, P.O. Box 18127, Washington, DC 20036-8127. Columnist: *Precancel Forum*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1640 Joseph K. Irby, Star Route, Arlington, OR 97812. Editor: *Geopub Review of Geographical Literature* (Geographic & Area Study Publications). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1641 Russell White IV, P.O. Box 4516, Manchester, NH 03108-4516. Editor: *Granite Posts* (New Hampshire Postal History Society); Author: *New Hampshire Post Office Rarity Guide*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1642 Larry Gene Weirather, 816 N.E. 98 Court, Vancouver, WA 98664. Editor: *Air Mail Northwest* (American Air Mail Society). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

#### Reinstatements

We are pleased to report reinstatement of membership for:

0208 Creighton Hart, 7922 Bristol Ct., Shawnee Mission, KS 66208.

0552 Arthur Warmsley, 33 Riverview St., Portland, CT 06480.

0673 Ernest E. Fricks, 26 Windmill Drive, Clementon, NJ 08021.

1495 Al Starkweather, P.O. Box 229, Cortland, NY 13045-0229

1578 Guy R. Dillaway, P.O. Box 181, Weston, MA 02193.  
1580 Guy M. Purington, 1996 Spruce Drive, Columbus, OH 43217.

#### Closed Albums

We regret to report the deaths of:

0693 Susan McDonald of Canton, Ohio. Died March 17 after an extended illness. Writers Unit Hall of Fame; APS Luff Award; USPCS Ashbrook Cup; Collectors Club of New York Lichtenstein Award recipient. Associate editor of *Postal History Journal* (1973-1984). Director, American Philatelic Congress (1975-1983).

1344 Henry Beecher of Portland, Oregon. Died March 8 of cancer. Contributor to various philatelic publications, recipient of the 1977 Hopkinson Award. His specialty was the history of postal regulations and he was working on a reference book on that topic when he died.

0046 Samuel Ray, one of the early WU30 members (who dropped his membership several years ago), has died. Ray was a noted exhibit draftsman and philatelic literature specialist.

#### Resignations

The following members have resigned.

1403 Allen D. Jones, 5113 Greenbrook Dr., Portsmouth, VA 23703.

1549 David R. Warfel, P.O. Box 355, Meadow Lands, PA 15347.

#### Help Us Keep Your Mailing Address Current

Please notify the WU30 Secretary-Treasurer of address changes to assure receipt of each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay. Thank you!

George Griffenhagen  
WU30 Secretary-Treasurer  
2501 Drexel Street  
Vienna, VA 22180

□

#### The Last Words

By Joe F. Frye

My first production of a printed piece was as editor of our highschool newspaper in the late 1930s. From the first, I hated the "cut and paste" part of the process.

With the computer-printer-*WordPerfect* 5.1 team, there is no longer any need to get "stuck on my job."

To illustrate the present ease of this process, look at the little item of mine (illustrated with a graphic of an IBM-type computer) on page 55.

In producing that space filler piece (I admit that is what it is), I typed in my thoughts—between the end of Mark Kellner's and the start of Alan Warren's pieces—after the rest of the page had been prepared. The page was then too large, so I returned to my squib and edited it severely until it fit the available space.

The (again, space filler) piece you are now reading is being done in the same way—after all the rest of the issue, except this page, has been produced in camera-readies for the printer.

This time it is somewhat easier to "cut," and no "paste" is needed. I will write until I reach the last available line, then shut off the faucet of my verbosity until another opportunity comes.

A reader once asked me how I was able to make the pages fill out completely (when I was the editor and producer). I told him just what the preceding paragraph infers:

Write until the available space is filled. Then stop.

Don't fail to edit. Once at least. More if you can.

□

## BYLAWS OF WRITERS UNIT 30

### Article I — Purpose

Section 1. The primary objective of this organization is the encouragement and advancement of philatelic literature in all of its various forms.

Section 2. As specified in the Constitution and the Articles of Incorporation of the Unit, this objective shall include the dissemination and exchange of information among Unit members nationally and internationally; the encouragement and support of national and international exhibitions of philatelic literature and assistance in the judging of such exhibits; the promotion of philatelic columns and articles in the non-philatelic press; and such other activities as may further these objects.

### Article II — Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any individual who is an author, journalist, columnist, free-lance writer, editor, or publisher of philatelic information and who subscribes to the purposes of the organization as set forth in Article 1, above.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be in writing and be accompanied by the proper membership dues for the calendar year. Dues shall be in such sum as the Executive Committee shall determine from time to time.

Section 3. A member is in good standing if not in default in the payment of dues and against whom no charges are pending, either in the Unit or in any other philatelic organization to which the individual may belong.

Section 4. Any member ninety (90) days in arrears for annual dues shall be in default and automatically suspended from membership, but may be reinstated upon payment of appropriate membership fee.

Section 5. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

### Article III — Officers, Executive Committee and Council

Section 1. The officers shall be a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary-treasurer. The two vice-presidents shall be designated as vice-president east and vice-president west. Place of residence with respect to the Mississippi River shall be the east-west determination for this purpose. The office of secretary-treasurer may be separated into two separate offices by the Executive Committee if deemed appropriate.

Section 2. The Council shall consist of the Executive Committee, the immediate past president of the Unit, and not less than four (4) nor more than eleven (11) members elected by the membership. Within those parameters, the number shall be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time. The president of the Unit shall be the Chairman of the Council.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers described in Section 1 and the editor of the official publication of the Unit. The immediate past-president of the Unit shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The president shall appoint one person from the Executive Committee, who is also a member of the American Philatelic Society (A.P.S.), as the Unit's representative to the A.P.S., subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

### Article IV — Elections

Section 1. The officers shall be elected for two-year terms, while members of the Council shall serve terms of four years, with one-half of the Council being elected at two-year intervals. Elections shall be held in the odd-numbered years by mail ballot of the membership. A simple majority of the ballots shall be required for election.

Section 2. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the president, and approved by the Executive Committee, during the first quarter of each odd-numbered year. At the same time, a call for nominations shall also be made in the official publication of the Unit. The nominating committee shall present a slate of candidates to the secretary-treasurer not later than the second Monday in May of each odd-numbered year.

Section 3. Members wishing to run for office may make themselves known to the nominating committee or may run for office by petition of the membership. Such nomination by petition shall be made with the support and signatures of at least ten (10) members in good standing. Such nomination by petition shall be sent to the secretary-treasurer not later than the second Monday in May of each odd-numbered year.

Section 4. The election ballot shall be prepared by the secretary-treasurer, and shall be distributed to the membership in the official publication of the Unit mailed not later than June 15th of each odd-numbered year (or by separate mailing if the publication schedule does not permit its timely distribution in that manner.) Only those ballots received by the secretary-treasurer (or designate) no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the A.P.S. Annual Convention (STaMpsHOW) will be counted.

Section 5. The officers and Council members shall assume office at the end of the Unit meeting held during the A.P.S. Annual Convention.

### Article V — Duties of the Officers and Council

Section 1. The president shall have general charge of the affairs of the Unit. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint all standing or special committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all such committees. The president shall submit an annual operating budget for approval of the Council during the last quarter of the year.

Section 2. The vice-presidents shall assist the president and shall perform such additional duties as may be delegated to them by the president, including representation of the Unit at philatelic exhibitions which they may be attending.

Section 3. The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Unit, shall receive and process applications and publish the names of accepted members in the official publication of the Unit, shall maintain an up-to-date membership list, collect membership dues, make payments of expenses as approved by the president, and submit an annual report of activities to the Executive Committee. The secretary-

treasurer shall also publish the approved budget, and a financial statement for the previous year, in the first annual issue of the official publication. In the event this position is separated into two separate offices, the duties will be allocated on a functional basis, and both officers will submit appropriate annual reports.

Section 4. The Council shall be the governing body, shall advise the Executive Committee upon matters of policy, and shall render such assistance as may be requested by the president or other members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Officers and members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for authorized expenses.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall conduct the routine affairs of the Unit in accordance with the bylaws and the policies of the Council, and shall maintain the accounts of the Unit within the authorized budget. If the office of the president is vacated due to resignation or death, or if the incumbent is otherwise unable to serve as president, the Executive Committee shall name one of the vice-presidents to assume the office of president. Other vacancies in elective offices occurring between elections may be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee.

### Article VI — Complaints Against Members

Section 1. The president shall appoint a committee from members of the Council to consider and investigate any complaint against a Unit member that may be brought, and to recommend appropriate action, which can include expulsion from the Unit.

Section 2. Members against whom disciplinary action has been taken by another philatelic society, to include expulsion, may or may not be disciplined by the Unit. Each case shall be considered individually and on its own merits.

Section 3. Recommendations of the investigating committee will be submitted to the Executive Committee, which will determine the action to be taken. Disciplinary measures short of expulsion will be decided by simple majority vote. Expulsion shall require a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. All disciplinary rulings, including expulsion, may be appealed to the Council; decision of Council will be final.

### Article VII — Publications

Section 1. The Unit shall issue a publication regularly to its membership. The frequency of publication shall be at least quarterly.

Section 2. The editor of the publication shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the Executive Committee. The editor shall be responsible for the preparation and content of the publication.

Section 3. The preparation and publishing of handbooks and guidelines for philatelic writing is authorized, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

### Article VIII — Activities

Section 1. The Unit will hold at least two general meetings each year. One shall be at the A.P.S. Spring Meeting, the other shall be at the A.P.S. Annual Convention (STaMpsHOW). The annual meeting of the Council shall be held during the A.P.S. Annual Convention. Additional meetings may be held at other times as may be necessary. A Writers Unit Breakfast will be held during each of the two A.P.S. meetings.

Section 2. The Unit shall maintain a Philatelic Writers Hall of Fame, to honor those writers, editors, columnists, and publishers, living or deceased, from any country, who have made notable contributions to the field of philatelic literature. Nominees to the Hall of Fame need not be or have been members of the Unit or of the A.P.S. Recommendations for honorees shall be prepared by a standing Hall of Fame committee, whose chairperson and members shall be appointed by the president of the Unit, according to procedures developed by that committee and approved by the Council. The Council will be guided by those recommendations in selecting the individuals to be honored. Names of selected persons shall be announced at the Writers Unit Breakfast held during the A.P.S. Annual Convention.

Section 3. Writers Unit Seminars or Breakfasts may be held at major philatelic exhibitions under the guidance of any member of the Council who may be attending that exhibition.

Section 4. The Unit shall support and may assist literature exhibitions at major stamp exhibitions in this country as well as overseas.

Section 5. The Unit shall, upon request, provide assistance to the A.P.S. Judges' Accreditation Committee in determining qualifications for literature judges and procedures for judging philatelic literature.

Section 6. The Unit shall encourage the development of Chapters at various locations. A Chapter may be formed by any group of at least five (5) Unit members in good standing; the chairman of each Chapter shall be a Unit member in good standing.

### Article IX — Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended either by the Council, or by a mail ballot of the membership. Amendments by the Council shall require a two-thirds favorable vote of the entire Council. Amendments by the membership shall require a majority vote of those voting, and such a vote can be called either by direct mail or by publication in the official publication of the Unit.

Section 2. An amendment may be proposed by any ten (10) members by submitting the proposed amendment in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at least sixty days before its presentation to the Council or to the membership for voting. All amendments, whether adopted by the Council or the membership, shall be published in the next issue of the official publication of the Unit following their adoption.

### Article X — Dissolution of Unit

In the event the Unit is dissolved, all its corporate assets remaining after liabilities have been settled shall be donated to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), in accordance with the provisions of Article XII of the Articles of Incorporation.

Enacted May 31, 1992 at WCSE '92 meeting of the Unit Council, Rosemont, Illinois. Present: Claussen, de Violini, Griffenhagen, Klug, Lawrence, Peterson, Rawlins, Warren, Welch. □

TO: Editor American Philatelist  
P. O. Box 8000  
State College PA 16803-8000

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (As of July 23, 1992.)

We welcome the following 27 new members since our March 8, 1992, report—the largest number of new members in a reporting period for the past ten years thanks in large part to the recruiting efforts of President Charles J. Peterson.

1616 Frank Moertl, N95 W32259 County Line Road, Hartland, WI 53029. Editor: *Tattler* (Waukesha County Philatelic Society); Author: *19th Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin and Rural Branches of Wisconsin Post Office*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1617 Steven M. Ripley, 9 Cottage Court, Maplewood, NJ 07040-2525. Editor: *FDC Manual* (American First Day Cover Society). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1618 Gary H. Schroeder, 181 Tonawanda Creek Road, Amherst, NY 14228. Editor: *Biblical Philately* (Biblical Topics Study Unit). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1619 Jerome Joseph Norton, P.O. Box 432, Syosset, NY 11791. Editor: *Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York Bulletin*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1620 George E. Killian, 325 Rangely Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Author: *Handbook of Basketball Philately*; Editor: *Basketball Philatelic News*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1621 Alan J. Hanks, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2K1 Canada. Editor: *Bio-Philately* (American Topical Association Biology Unit). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1622 Arthur A. DuMont, 901 Lake Shore Drive #114, Lake Park, FL 33403. Editor: *Ice Cap News* (American Society of Polar Philatelists). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1623 William C. Brooks VI, P.O. Box 2698, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2698. Editor: *Forerunners* (Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa); *Inland Empire Philatelist* (Arrowhead Stamp Club). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1624 Chad Neighbor, 5119 Carriage Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018-2211. Free lance writer: *The American Philatelist* and *Linn's Stamp News*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1625 Kenneth Alan Palke, 4640 Shoreline Drive North, Keizer, OR 97303. Editor: *Stamp Collector*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1626 Mirko L. Vondra, 1511 Clearview Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601. Editor: *Czechoslovak Specialist* (Society for Czechoslovak Philately). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1627 Harry W. Wilcke, M.D., 116 Dock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446. Editor: *Belgiophile* (American-Belgian Philatelic Society). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

▶▶ Secretary-Treasurer (Page 70.)

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