

Computer Corner

by Ken Sanford

Export Your Favorites: Here's a tip if you use both Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer (IE). You don't need a special utility to convert bookmarks and cookies. Microsoft, surprisingly, has provided a simple utility for this purpose. In IE, choose File Import and Export, and choose whether to import or export bookmarks or cookies. On the Destination page, choose to work with an application, and select your Navigator profile from the list. Click Next and Finish and you're done.

Language Translation Web Sites Free Translation: <http://www.freetranslation.com> is an excellent web site, if you need to translate occasional paragraphs or short sentences. It also provides web page translation on the fly. All you do is type in the sentences and it does the rest. For web page translation you paste in the URL, select the original and destination languages and it returns the active web page text, duly translated. The web site is a showcase for the commercially available TranscendRT machine translation engine that is used on corporate sites.

Lernout & Hauspie's own web site <http://www.lhsl.co.uk> provides a similar facility using its iTranslator engine, but it's not as quick as that provided by Free Translation and it suffers from the same limitations. For general resources, Access Trade http://www.access-trade.com/guides/translat_select/guide.shtml provides a comprehensive guide to the differences between machine and human translation and links to online facilities. Worldwide Auction Houses—wWant a list of all the major (and many minor) auction houses worldwide? Just go to <http://www.stampauctioncentral.com>. It gives the mailing address, phone & fax numbers, email address, if any, and the website address, if they have a website. Each listing provides a description of the type of material normally handled, or in which the auction house specializes, as well as when they normally hold their auctions. I saved this list to my hard drive, and then I simply update it from the Internet from time to time. □

EDITOR WANTED

Anthony Zollo, MD, president of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (ISWSC) recently announced that their newsletter editor, Marian MacLeod, has decided to step down and they are now recruiting a replacement. The editor position is responsible for producing their bimonthly newsletter, *The Circuit* and sending it off to the printer. Marian will work with the new editor to ensure a smooth transition.

The Circuit newsletter is a key benefit of membership and the main communication vehicle for the ISWSC. Any WU30 member having any desktop publishing or journalism experience, please consider taking on this very important job. The position pays \$200 per edition.

Please contact Dr. Zollo at P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407, e-mail: zolloam@lcc.net. □

Assassination is the extreme form of censorship.

—George Bernard Shaw

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

(As of January 25, 2001)

Welcome Our New Member:

1866 John H. V. Hesse, P.O. Box 98, New Hamburg, Ontario, Canada N0B 2G0. First article to appear in the *American Philatelist*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

Address Changes:

0872 Millard H. Mack, 3805 Edwards Road, #200, Cincinnati, OH 45209-1916.

1591 Russell H. Anderson, c/o Frauenhoffer, P.O. Box 57, Torrington, CT 06790-0057.

1667 Jeanette H. Zonay, c/o Precious Cake, 745 Broadway, Hanover, PA 17331-2014.

Resignations:

1346 Dulcie M. Apgar, Thousand Oaks, CA

Membership Dues:

The membership dues are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses	\$15.00
Canada and Mexico	\$17.50
All Other Addresses	\$20.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order, payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes by registered mail. Other methods of payment are not acceptable due to high bank exchange charges.

Keep Your Mailing Address Current:

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay. This will also save WU#30 more than one dollar because the USPS charges fifty cents when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

George Griffenhagen
WU30 Secretary-Treasurer
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA 22180
U. S. A.
e-mail: gbg@mail.aphanet.org □

It's a very excruciating life facing that blank piece of paper every day and having to reach up somewhere into the clouds and bring something down out of them.

—Truman Capote

There's Many A Slip . . .

By James Bendon

The last preprinting stage of a book or of a journal involves authors, editors, typesetters and possibly others. By an iterative process of marking and making corrections they eventually reach a stage at which all involved consider that they need make no more changes. They have before them a set of final page proofs.

In the mistaken belief that nothing can now go wrong, they copy the whole laid out text complete with inset illustrations to a disk or CD and send it to the printer who in turn runs it through his image-setter to produce film ready for making litho plates.

Nevertheless, things do go wrong at this late stage. Why and how this happens can be answered by those with more technical know how that I have. Perusal of the Third Quarter 2000 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, which readers will have to hand, will show some examples:

- on page 3 the whole of the left-hand column is fully justified except the last paragraph which is ranged left;
- on page 10 there is a spurious line break in the middle of the third paragraph of the left-hand column and fourth and fifth lines of the right-hand column have lost the inter-word spaces;
- on page 16 the tabulation of the Table of Contents shows an unwanted indent and a misplaced page number.

I cannot believe that our Editor missed all of these.

Many other types of problems are frequently seen in printed material. Among the most common are the rendering of fractions other than halves, quarters and eighths, the setting of accented letters and the lining up of text and figures in tabular material.

What is the solution? Some will recommend using print (PRN) or Encapsulated Postscript (EPS) files, which in theory contain all the fonts and other data needed for correct photo-setting; experience shows that this is not a complete answer and that errors still occur. Another approach is to inspect the films produced on the image setter and to compare them with the final page proofs. The difficulties in this are that the films are likely to be in rolls two or even three feet wide with half the pages inverted and in apparently random sequence due to the imposition process, and that the films may have been produced many miles away from the checker's home base.

In publishing our own books we adopt a simplistic approach, but it works rather well. Once we are at the stage of having final paper page proofs we print again onto polyester film (this looks like tracing paper—do not use the transparencies sold for use in laser printers as the toner does not fuse and adhere well, and you will end up with broken and missing letters). The only requirements are a recently cleaned laser printer (ink jet printers seem unsatisfactory) with a driver capable of printing a mirror image, a freshish cartridge and the print density set above medium. These films can be carefully overlaid on the paper proofs when any differences will show immediately. Quality is not a problem, even at 600 dpi. □

E Collector Newsletters in the Cyber Age

by Michael Connolly
email: aranman@att.net

In today's cyber-age, it's only fitting that we philatelists interact in cyberspace. We are doing it more and more these days. Online auctions, dealer web sites, society websites, chat rooms and more are being used by more and more collectors.

At the end of 1998, I proposed to the Éire Philatelic Association a society member newsletter to be e-mailed to interested members on a regular schedule. This would be a useful supplement to our society journal. I thought the idea of a lightly edited all-email newsletter, distributed for free to all interested members, was a good and, I think, a new idea. Members would contribute articles or bits of news to the newsletter by email or snail mail. We would get information to at least a portion of our membership in a timely fashion, relying on our society journal to get the information to the rest of the membership and, of course, for the more extensive and in-depth articles.

We produced our first issue in January 1999, and have issued an issue each month since. Our readership has increased to 180 and has expanded to include members of the Irish Airmail Society, the Irish Philatelic Circle and the Forschungs-und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. This idea is one that should work for almost any collector organization. One only needs to find a member willing to edit and publish the newsletter. Some of the benefits are: It is an added benefit of membership and may be useful in attracting new members. You eliminate the two major costs in most society newsletters, printing and postage. The newsletter can be in the hands of readers almost immediately, with news that might be stale by the time a quarterly journal reaches the membership. Online viewing of past issues of the newsletter could also be accessible from the society web page.

A 1-page newsletter or a 10-page one can be handled the same, so there is less pressure on the editor to wait for more copy before publishing. If there are any budding publishers or editors out there who might be interested, feel free to contact me for assistance in setting up your own newsletter. Back issues of our *Irish Philatelic Newsletter* can be viewed at: <http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Corridor/1290/IPNArchive.html> □

RUSSELL H. ANDERSON

Jay Nesbitt has informed us that Russell H. Anderson died on November 25, 2000. He was a member of WU30 for some time and authored an article in the Third Quarter 1994 *PC* on his experiences in supporting the hobby among prison inmates. Jay Nesbitt is the prisoner mentioned in the article. □

The last thing we decide in writing a book is what to put first.
—Blaise Pascal

►► Scanned Graphics . . . (continued from page 5)

minimum requirement for reproducing acceptable grayscale graphics, and I work with a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP which includes PostScript 2 capabilities. Although I have never used the PostScript language to produce a file for high-tech reproduction, I do find the feature handy for working with other software programs. Some programs include functions that will operate only with a PostScript printer. PostScript also claims to be better and faster at printing curved lines with minimal jaggies. The PostScript feature only slightly increases the cost of a laser printer, and I plan to stay with it for my next upgrade. Predictions are that as environmentalists push to rid the world of chemicals used for the plate-making process, more and more print shops will be moving to equipment that involves the use of PostScript language.

1200 dpi: For line art, I'm told that the difference in printouts between 600 dpi and 1200 dpi isn't that significant. For all types of computer work, however, the jump from 300 dpi to 600 dpi is quite dramatic.

Toner cartridges: In working with graphics, I've achieved better results with remanufactured toner cartridges. Not only are they considerably cheaper, but some vendors offer custom toner formulas. I order recharges with a special graphics toner, which provides a richer, darker printout. For best results, a cartridge should be broken-in a bit before using for a camera-ready copy. It's ready for optimum performance after printing out about 100 pages filled with an average amount of text.

Inkjet printers: By now you've no doubt noted that I seldom refer to the ever-popular inkjet printers. As much as they're touted for producing great graphics, and particularly when it comes to color photographs, they're near useless when it comes to working with line screens needed for the offset press. Examples and comparisons with laser printers will be in the next installment.

Editor's Note: This will be continued in the next issue with sample illustrations, guidance on image editing, desktop publishing software, generations & a conclusion. □

WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

Past president Charles J. Peterson operates the Critique. There is no charge for the service. Details are:

Periodicals—Submit the four most recent issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days.

Books/manuscripts—Inquire before sending, with a brief description of the item. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope for the reply. The time element for a book or manuscript can vary depending on length, other similar requests at hand and other commitments.

All submissions & correspondence should be sent to Charles J. Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726, phone 301-776-9822, e-mail: cjp7777@aol.com. □

Canal Zone Philatelist

Cumulative Index 1953-1999

Richard Spielberg, editor of the *Canal Zone Philatelist* recently announced the publication of the tenth update to their cumulative index. The *Canal Zone Philatelist* is the journal of the Canal Zone Study Group (CZSG), founded in 1952.

The index was initially developed by WU30 past president Charles J. Peterson and published in the *Philatelic Literature Review* in 1976. It is organized in three sections: Internal—matters relating to the Study Group; Subjects by Scott/CZSG number—the CZSG numbering system is an expanded one taken from the listings in *Canal Zone Stamps* by Plass, Brewster and Salz. Numbers from the United Postal Stationery Society catalog are also used where appropriate and lastly General Subjects—basically an alphabetically organized index.

The index was distributed to CZSG members with the Third Quarter 2000 issue of the *Canal Zone Philatelist*. The index also includes a list of CZSG publications currently available. Additional information may be found on their Website: <http://home.att.net/~a.bentz/Czsg.htm>. □

Home Town Publicity

Recently, Peter J. Foote, a director of the Éire Philatelic Association, sent me a copy of his hometown newspaper, *The Beverly Review*. It's a weekly serving the towns of Beverly Hills, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood, all near Chicago. If advertising is any indicator, it must have a significant circulation.

What didn't immediately catch my eye was a front page piece titled "Exhibit Celebrates Architect." Peter's note cleared that up. The article was about an exhibit of his in the Beverly branch library showing stamps and covers relating to the joint issues of Ireland and the United States honoring James Hoban the architect of the White House. The story was continued on an inside page where there was a good size photo of the exhibit.

The point of this is to point out a very useful way of publicizing the hobby that all of us who are collectors and writers could emulate. An exhibit of timely material (the White House during the Florida "long count") and interesting material in a public place coupled with local publicity in the lay press or media might just interest a few more in our hobby. Something like this could be just the "spark" that provides the incentive for an adult to dig out that old collection he or she had as a youngster, or the one old Uncle Henry left them.

Some time ago when the Council of Philatelic Organizations (COPO) was still functioning, the group facilitated the distribution of stamp collecting articles by Les Winick to newspapers all over the country. Since then there has really been nothing to replace it and those regular stamp columns, for the most part, have been eliminated by the major papers. Perhaps filling the gap is up to us. JEF □