

The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society

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Second Quarter 2002

When Is It O.K. to Retouch?

by Larry Goldberg

Someone recently wrote me about an illustration of a cover that I had used in one of my books. The question was where did I find a cover that clean from that country for that period? I wrote back and replied that, in all honesty, I never could find one. I had, in fact, retouched the original in order to erase all of the scars and wounds of time.

My inquisitor was quite upset over this saying that I had deceived the readers and that it was an act of blatant dishonesty. I replied that my intention was not to deceive, but to inform. In my opinion, one would be better able to see what I was trying to illustrate of the tears and dirt and handwriting on the cover were eliminated.

It would be another story if I were trying to sell the cover. Given my intent, I saw no problem in doing what I had done and continue to do so when it is appropriate.

Here's an example of a cover that I used as an illustration in my newest handbook in our *Post Office Identification Handbook Series*.* This volume is titled *Identifying the Cancellations of Northern Rhodesia*.

I wanted to show a Northern Rhodesian cover from the Federation period to illustrate the fact that cancels of Northern Rhodesia were used on the stamps of the Federation period. I only had a few examples, so decided to use the best of the worst, e.g. the least damaged of the bunch.

You will note in Figure 1 that the cover was, as cover dealers describe it, roughly opened. also, the cancel does not

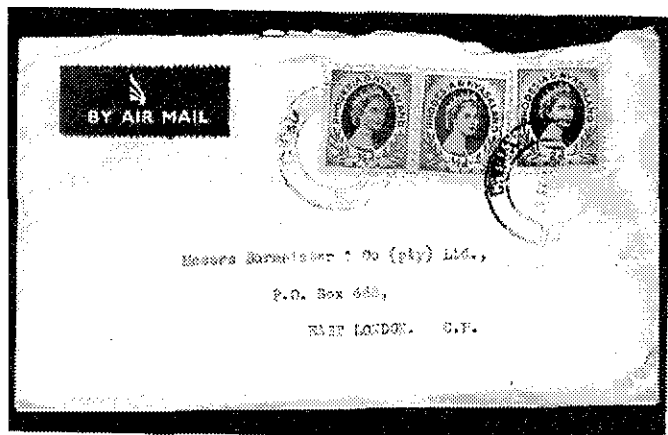


Figure 1

show up very well.

I use Adobe Photoshop for image processing. It is pricey, but well worth it if you do a lot of scanning and retouching. There are "light" versions that you frequently can get without charge when you buy a scanner. If you ever have to make a choice between two scanners and one offers Photoshop Lite, buy that one. As far as I know, it will allow you to do all the things I will describe below.



Figure 2

The first thing I want to do is get rid of the rough opening. I use the eye dropper tool to copy the color in the area I am going to repair. I then use the marquee tool to mark off the area. I then fill it with the color I had selected. I also want to get rid of the uneven bottom edge, so I also handle that at this time. At this point, my cover looks like the illustration in Figure 2.

You can see that the area I repaired is nice and straight, but obviously the color is wrong. I then resample the color with the eyedropper from the area just above the far left cancel. I then use the airbrush tool to even out the color in this area. I then adjusted then lightened the entire area and raised the contrast. This helped the cancels a little. See figure 3 for what it looks like after these steps were completed.

►► continued on page 3

The Philatelic Communicator

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Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of their authors, and not necessarily of Writers Unit 30, APS, its officers, editor, publisher or agents. Letters received by the editor may be published unless labeled "Not for Publication." When possible, furnish copy, including letters, on diskettes (WordPerfect 8, RTF or ASCII). Include printed copy with diskettes. All editorial matters must be handled with the editor.

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Writers Unit 30 has as its primary objective the encouragement and improvement of philatelic writing in all of its various forms. Calendar year membership dues, payable in advance in U.S. funds through a U.S. bank or Post Office are:

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Please report address changes to the Secretary-Treasurer as soon as known in order to avoid loss of issues.

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The Quill Joe Foley

WRITERS' BREAKFAST

We will hold the Traditional Writers' Breakfast at STAMPSHOW in Atlantic City. It will be Sunday, August 18, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$18 for tickets purchased by July 15, \$20 after that. WU30 will also conduct a Writers' Roundtable Friday, August 16. See the notice on page 7 in this issue.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Enron — WorldCom — what next? In these days of troubled finances it's refreshing to see some philatelic organizations making full financial disclosure in their journals.

A recent issue of *The London Philatelist* contained a twenty-page supplement *Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2001*. Slightly over half the document was devoted to the Society's finances. On this side of the pond, the Collectors Club in New York publishes annually, in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, the full report of the external auditor and in the first available issue following their annual meeting in January, the treasurer's report from that meeting that includes the "Budget Report." This "Budget Report" contains income and expense data for the prior year (actual), a preliminary and budget for the year just ending and the budget for the year beginning.

I certainly don't want to imply that these are the only two groups publishing financial information—there are many others (see page 11). Groups such as the Collectors Club and the Royal will have somewhat complex reports inasmuch as these organizations own their own buildings, engage in significant publications and provide many services. At the other end of the spectrum we might consider the Annapolis Stamp Club. I'm the treasurer. Our newsletter is a bit irregular, but once a month I make an oral report.

The key is to make the information readily available to the membership. In the past confidentiality was considered important. Today, I think things have and should change. Your view?

ACROSS MY DESK

Flash, the journal of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, has had a major "face lift." *Flash* is a multi-language publication, one of which is English. It carries news of the FIP as well as items from member organizations.

The American Revenue Association recently released an update to *Riley's Fiscal Philatelic literature Handbook* as a supplement to the March-April 2002 *American Revenuer*. Editor Ken Trettin notes that the update contains an additional 1,500 revenue articles and 142 handbooks, pamphlets and catalogs.

I am tardy in noting that Frank Walton, FRPSL, took up the blue pencil as editor of *The London Philatelist* last summer. He has introduced some subtle changes that improve the overall appearance of the journal while [should I say "whilst?"] maintaining its character. □

What Did I, as Editor, Expect from my Contributors?

by Bob Rawlins, Editor Emeritus, *USCS Log*

Joe Foley's question was actually what should editors expect from authors? The *Log* is a newsletter/journal with news columns, letters to the editor, feature material, auctions, a "Covers for Sale" page, a classified page, President's Column, and a Secretary's Report so I had to deal with more than just authors. A typical issue at the end of my term had four dozen and more contributors.

The *Log* is a monthly publication that the membership wanted and expected to receive before mid-month. My schedule was dictated by the printer who said he needed ten days to print and collate an issue, and his mailing bureau, who needed three days, often more, to address and sort the publication for mailing according to USPS requirements. With the final two weeks of the month taken up for that mechanical process, I scheduled my job as Editor in the first eleven days of the month, since I had to allow three days for the master copy of an issue to wend its way half way across the country to the printer. I began my editorship in BC and BI - before computers and before the Internet were so commonly used, so electronic transmission of material was not so common as it is now.

What did I expect from my contributors? On time contribution. My deadline for any one issue was thirty days ahead of the issue month. If a contributor wanted his/her item in a particular issue, I wanted it in my mailbox by the 1st, but absolutely no later than the 2nd or 3rd of the month preceding.

Actually, my contributors were wonderfully cooperative. Only rarely did I have to phone a regular and ask for his column. Many regular contributors stayed months in advance. After my first year, I had an appreciable backlog of feature material and copy from occasional contributors was just added to the backlog unless the subject was time-sensitive. I compiled a certain amount of news type information routinely, but wrote only what I wanted to and *never* had to write copy to simply fill out space.

Sponsors who wanted to list their items on the "Covers for Sale" page sent the information on a form that I filed in a folder and published as FIFO (first in-first out). I normally had a backlog in that file. Classified ads received much after my deadline simply went into the next issue. The auction managers, to a person, stayed at least two months in advance, so I never had to sweat their input.

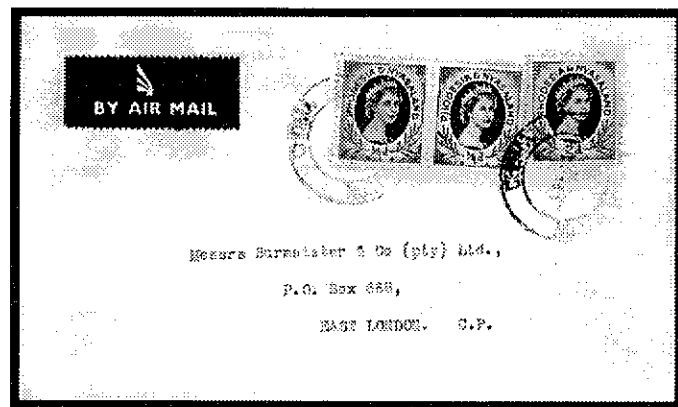
Those who sent research and feature material all were quite good. Upon taking over editorship, I prepared "Rules of Style" which I sent to all authors which they usually ignored. So I had to edit carefully to insure that such things

as headers, by lines, date treatment and so forth were consistent throughout the publication. But that was a relatively minor problem and worked through it.

Even with the speed of electronic submission, my relief today still maintains the thirty days in advance deadline that provides him a degree of flexibility that I never enjoyed. His publisher is close by and he even has the opportunity to proof the final of the issue before it goes to press.

However, to answer a portion of Joe's question, were I still an editor, I would want and expect my authors to be curious, research their subject carefully, write imaginatively so as to encourage others to do the same, and, especially, enjoy what they are doing. □

►► **When Is It O.K. to Retouch?** (continued from page 1)



This is all kind of hard to see in black and white, but really looks good in color. So, the moral of this story is to go ahead and retouch provided that your intention is to inform rather than try to make the piece more saleable.

* For information on the *Post Office Identification Handbook Series*, contact Larry at LMG Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 7170, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7170 USA or by e-mail at <editor@kg6.com>. □

DOCUMENT RETENTION

Drafts and manuscripts will usually be retained for approximately ninety days after the issue in which the article, etc., appears is published. Correspondence will normally be discarded after approximately six months. □

Politics and Philatelic Exhibiting

by Joseph Monteiro

INTRODUCTION

It has been assumed that politics and world philatelic literature and exhibiting are not related. In this brief note, I would like to seek the opinion of readers on this.

This arose in connection when my Canadian Commissioner notified me that he was appointed as Commissioner for Indonesia 2002 and would send me applications for the literature exhibition. Two months later I contacted the commissioner to inquire what had happened. He informed me that due to the political situation in Indonesia, Canada had decided not to participate.

The issues are: 1) Should politics influence a nation's decision to participate in a World Exhibition held in another country whose policies are not approved by the participating country; and 2) If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, what types of activities should be considered acceptable for such a decision to be made?

These issues are being raised by me not so much because I wanted to participate in the Exhibition but because I thought that members of our Writers Unit are likely to have some interesting views.

Whether there are F.I.P. Regulations on this matter or whether there are any specific rules to assist Commissioner's when such a boycott of a World Exhibition is acceptable has not caught my attention. Perhaps, there should be such rules. Some may be of the opinion that the matter is too controversial and should best be left to each nation's Commissioner to make the decision.

Should politics enter into a nation's decision to participate in a world event? A number of nations have, at one time or another, allowed politics to enter into their decision. Decisions to boycott the Olympics or other world events are sometimes taken because of a failure of a host country due to denial of human rights, apartheid policies, failure to acknowledge extra-territorial rights of another country, etc.

Whether one accepts the above reasons as justifiable or not there is hardly any doubt that politics also enters into a nation's decision to participate in World Philatelic Literature and Philatelic Exhibitions. For example, if the World Exhibition is being held in a country where there is political unrest or where there are riots, the commissioner's life may be in danger. It would therefore be totally unreasonable for philatelists to want their commissioner to go to a country where his life would be placed at risk. On this matter, it is most likely that most philatelists will agree with me.

One would suggest that a commissioner need not go to the nation holding the World event if the risk to his life is reasonable. The mail can be used to send the exhibits and insurance can be taken to cover the risks. This, however, is a possibility but not a very realistic one. Even if one's commissioner did not go, I believe there would be very little participation by philatelists from his country in such an event. As a matter of fact, if my philatelic exhibits are very valuable, I would not want to risk sending them.

What types of activity should influence a nation's decision to participate? I am of the opinion there is no general answer to this simple question that will be satisfactory to every nation.

Different nations have their own opinion as to what types of activities will make them take such a decision. Should one consider whether a nation respects the Articles of Human Rights laid down by the United Nations? Should one consider whether a nation pays respect to the Extraterritorial Rights of other countries? Should one consider issues such as protection of the environment, outer space, life other than human life, etc. This lists of questionable acts can be expanded upon without an end in sight.

To add to this problem is the factor of time. What may have been acceptable at one period of time in history may not be acceptable at another period in time in our history. One does not have to look too hard for examples or to back in history too far to look for such examples.

If one is determined to solve this problem then the solution must be some basic activity which is a denominator not only for the past but also for the present and for the future. The problem is that there is likely to be only a very few basic activities that may be a solution to this problem, if there are any.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

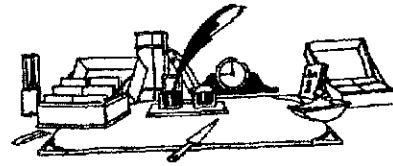
It may be pointed out that the F.I.P. should not choose countries whose activities raise major issues as sites to hold these World Exhibitions. This would avoid placing a number of nations in the difficult position of deciding to participate. The F.I.P. can correct for this biased choice at some future date when the policies adopted by these countries are in accordance with those acceptable to most countries. Some philatelists, however, may not agree, pointing out that if such a boycott policy is adopted by the F.I.P. then philatelists from certain parts of the world may unjustifiably suffer for policies that they were not responsible for putting into effect. In addition, it may be pointed out that correction makes sense only if done within their lifetime. Questionable practices often take decades to correct. To correct in the twenty-first century for biased choices in the nineteenth century may not be acceptable for people who lived in the nineteenth century, as they are generally not the beneficiaries of such a correction. Even if some correction is preferable to none, is it justifiable that we make such a policy!

Finally, many philatelists may not agree, as they may feel that philately can be used to bring attention to the rest of the world of those activities that are not acceptable thereby creating a forum to correct these undesirable activities. The question then is whether this is the right forum and whether this should be a hidden objective of World Philatelic Exhibitions!

Editor's Note: the show in Indonesia was canceled. I don't know exactly when the cancellation was announced and how that time frame fit with the Canadian decision. Now my personal feeling is that my country would take precedence over my hobby and if the United States would take some action to discourage participation in a stamp show in a country, I would comply without complaint. Again, this is just one person's opinion. □

President's Message

by Dr. Dane S. Claussen



In the last issue of the *Philatelic Communicator*, editor Joe Foley called for Writers Unit members (and, presumably, others) to think about and take action to market the hobby. That something needs to be done is obvious from the declining membership of the American Philatelic Society, down several thousand in the last several years, despite a still quite reasonable annual membership fee. (For the APS, reversing this is even more critical, regardless of whether it ever moves into the match factory building.)

The problem also is obvious from the declining circulations of almost all of the major philatelic periodicals and what appears to me to be declining interest in local stamp clubs and even philatelic exhibitions. (I've been to several national shows over the past few years in which a cannonball shot down an aisle wouldn't have hit anyone.) I am neither a technological determinist (we must develop and use whatever technology can be developed and used) nor a technological utopian (technology solves all of our problems).

As was well documented by Daniel Czitrom in his book, *The Media and the American Mind*, new technologies (telegaph, telephone, movies, radio, TV, and computers) have always been greeted by both utopianism and horrified opponents, none of whom turn out to be quite right. However, I tend to think that philately's future does lie with the Internet, for a number of important reasons.

Local, national and international philatelists' organizations can easily market their memberships and even make their newsletters/journals available easily and cheaply on the Internet.

Second, stamp collectors, as a group, tend to be well-educated, literate, research oriented, and—increasingly—computer literate. Third, stamp collectors already are buying huge quantities of material over the Internet, through eBay, the American Philatelic Society, dealers' web sites, and so on. I've bought dozens of advertising covers through eBay; when I receive an eBay-won cover "in the flesh," sometimes I'm pleasantly surprised by the more minute aspects of its condition,

sometimes I'm unpleasantly surprised. But most often, I could tell EXACTLY what I was getting, and in no case would I have decided not to buy it after I've received it. If I were buying expensive, never - or lightly-hinged mint classics for my collection, I might still want to see those in person before buying—but that can be done through the mail. And people—although not me—buy stamps like that by auction all of the time.

Fourth, with dealers increasingly selling by the Internet, and probably as many or more selling by mail, there goes the revenue stream for stamp exhibitions. At the same time hotel rates—in my opinion, ridiculous for years—keep creeping up, and air fares and rental cars can be expensive or inexpensive based on time, location and—it seems—luck.

Perhaps we'll end up judging stamp exhibits as *Acrobat PDF* files; I don't know. To even begin marketing stamp collecting, it is imperative to understand the target market—people who may know little to nothing about stamp collecting and will automatically compare and contrast our hobby with alternative ways of spending their time and money, meeting new people, learning and doing new things, etc.

First, let me say a couple of words about kids and stamp collecting. As I wrote in *Stamp Collector* newspaper some twelve or thirteen years ago, the Ben Franklin Stamp Clubs run by the United States Postal Service were much less successful than planned or predicted, and perhaps very nearly a complete waste of money. As I wrote then and as I'll repeat now, stamp collecting needs to be marketed to the type of children who intellectually and psychologically most closely resemble the most serious adult stamp collectors: intelligent, serious, well-educated children who one might expect, from an early age, to grow up to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, professors, engineers, scientists, architects and so on.

Marketing stamp collecting as a "fun" activity that all children can and even should be interested in is absurd and has been for about twenty-five years. It's

as ridiculous as saying that all children should be taught how to play a musical instrument, or that all children should play sports, or that all children can and should be straight "A" students.

Second, to summarize again what I wrote about at length more than twelve years ago, stamp shows of all types need to be not only marketed better as events, but they need to be more hospitable to the "uninitiated" who might show up. Attendees need to be welcomed, assisted with navigating exhibits and/or bourse tables, and so on.

Third, philatelic periodicals need to be more interesting. One of the reasons that *Global Stamp News* made such a splash some years back was that it allowed its writers essentially to be themselves in their articles. Readers could relate to the writers as individuals, which is the secret of all great national and local columnists who don't focus on doing their own original and authoritative reporting (David Broder's columns are fresh reporting) such as—nationally—the late Mike Royko, the late Erma Bombeck, Ellen Goodman, now Maureen Dowd, even the somewhat eccentric and occasionally extreme William F. Buckley Jr., and so on.

I'm going to pick on the 800-pound gorilla of our hobby to make a point. If *Linn's Stamp News* has consistently had one major problem for the past thirty years, it's that it has no personality; for the casual stamp collector who is not interested solely in philatelic information, *Linn's Stamp News* is boring and has been for a long, long time. Mike Laurence is a distinctive character, as are some of the other writers, but the people—as individuals—don't come across very well, if at all, in their writing. I've often wondered whether *Linn's*, which I never can recall having published a real editorial on anything, is—like so many chain-owned daily newspapers—trying so hard not to offend anyone that it risks boring everyone.

John Hotchner, Richard Graham and some others write valuable, well-researched, and finely crafted
→→continued on page 9

Computer Corner

by Kendall C. Sanford

TROUBLESHOOTING

Your editor Joe Foley commented: "A couple of things that I have had problems with are situations where I can't get something to print and another is frequent 'lockups.' In both cases, I have been tempted to hit the damn thing with a hammer!"

When something won't print, and you have Windows 95 or a later version, go to START/SETTINGS/PRINTERS, and select the model of your printer. You can see the status. Sometimes, you have to Purge Print Documents and try printing again. Or sometimes, you have to close your application (be sure to save and close the documents first) and then it will print.

If you have frequent lockups, it could be caused by a number of problems. It could be a lack of RAM (Random Access Memory) on your computer. You can upgrade the RAM on most computers by buying the necessary chips and installing them yourself. Also, if you only have RAM of 16M or 32M, it is quite often not enough, especially if you have more than one application running at the same time. If you are having lockup problems, or everything is running very slowly, close all applications except the one you are using. If you are having these problems, be sure to save your work every few minutes, so when you system crashes or locks up, you don't lose what you have worked on.

Another thing that will help is to run DISK CLEANUP, SCANDISK & DISK DEFRAGMENTER every week or so. To do this, go to START/PROGRAMS/ACCESSORIES/SYSTEM TOOLS and you will see the three items. This cleans up your disk drive and helps your computer to run faster and avoid lockups.

Another thing that will help avoid lockups and system instability is to get a program like McAfee Office or Norton Utilities and run the "First Aid," "Nuts & Bolts" or similar programs regularly. These will identify problems on your system and fix them.

You should also clean out the Temp. files on a regular basis, such as every week. When Temp. files build up, they can cause your computer to run slowly. To clean out the Temp. files, go to START/RUN, then type in "WINFILE" (this doesn't work with Windows XP). Then look at the C/TEMP directory and delete all files with the "tmp" and "wmf" extension, using FILE/DELETE. Do the same in the C/WINDOWS/TEMP directory. You will be surprised how fast these Temp. files can build up, especially when using Word for Windows.

HARDWARE PROBLEMS?

If you're having problems with a particular piece of hardware in Windows, try deleting the hardware's entry in the Device Manager. Right click My Computer, Properties, Device Manager. Then Restart and Windows should discover it anew, installing clean drivers as it starts up again.

WINDOWS FILE MANAGER

You can use File Manager (Winfile) to easily see everything

on your computer or on a diskette or CD-ROM, format a diskette, run Winzip, etc. To create an icon for Winfile on your desktop, go to START/RUN/BROWSE. Then go to C:\Windows, find the Winfile.exe file, and right click on it. Choose CREATE SHORTCUT, and then drag the new Winfile.exe shortcut onto your desktop. I find File Manager the most useful utility in Windows. It is really a shame they took it out of Windows XP. That is one reason I will not upgrade to XP for a long, long time.

THE EURO SYMBOL

The Euro (€) symbol font is now available. Introduced in January, 1999, as of 1 January 2002, the Euro currency became the mandatory local money used in the following European Union countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

Most computer users do not have the Euro symbol (€) in their library of fonts. "Adobe" is providing a gratis service allowing the downloading of the "€," available for both "Windows" or "Macintosh." The "Adobe" Website is <<http://www.adobe.com/type/eurofont.html>>

[Editor's note: the symbol does not "travel well." When copy is transferred from one system to another or transmitted electronically, it may appear as something else. For example, when this article was downloaded the "€" appeared as a "?." In other situations it appeared as a "□."]

NEW HP MULTI FUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER/FAX MACHINE

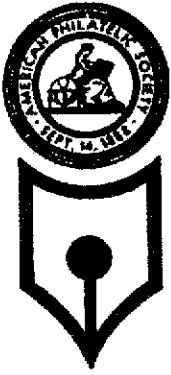
There is a new Hewlett-Packard machine on the market, which sell for a very reasonable price. It is the model PSC950, which combines an ink jet printer, a flatbed scanner, a color copier, and a standalone fax, and features for digital camera users to print photos—all for \$399.00. This is a really great machine for the price. □

Award Levels for Periodic Literature

Had enough of Gold, Silver and Bronze? Even with Platinum and Vermeil thrown in, do these metal medals really convey understanding and assessment? How about:

- Bind with quality binding and store prominently in bookshelf.
- Save in an attractive box in bookshelf.
- Store Loose in closet.
- Clip & file the interesting articles.
- Give it away.
- Save and use to start the charcoal grill or as substitute drop cloth. (Tabloid size only)
- Discard before reading
- Leave in trash can at Post Office (dustbin if British)

JEF



WU30 WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE AT STAMPSHOW

Atlantic City, New Jersey ~ August 16, 2002

At the Writers' Unit Breakfast in Riverside, California, there was a spontaneous discussion of various topics of interest to philatelic writers, editors and publishers. This led Vice President Dave Herendeen to suggest that a Writers Roundtable would be beneficial at STAMPSHOW.

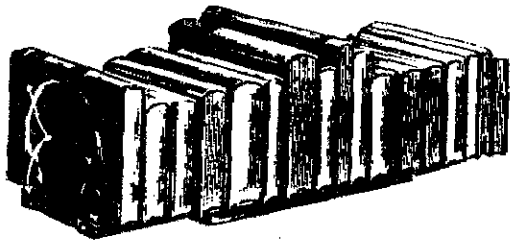
Working with WU30 president Dane Claussen and with the assistance and cooperation of Ken Martin, the APS Director of Shows, a two-hour block has been secured for Friday, August 16, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The first hour is being billed as "Writers Roundtable" and the second as "Writers Unit Seminar." However, one will be more or less a continuation of the other. As of this writing, we will hold the Roundtable in room 305, but check the show program for any last minute change.

A roundtable depends in large measure on what the participants wish to discuss. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Delivery service by the USPS
- Proofreading
- Graphics
- Getting a book published
- Judging philatelic literature
- Source citation
- Style Guides
- Writing for and publishing on the Internet
- Reprinting
- Copyright
- Libraries & References
- Book Reviews
- Civility in criticism

Dave Herendeen is lining up some "subject matter experts" to assist. Dave would welcome suggestions, questions, volunteers and comments. He can be reached at:

5612 Blue Peak Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89131
phone: 702 658-8582
e-mail: DHerendeen@aol.com



REVIEWS

NOTE: Material for review may be sent to the editor at the address noted on the inside front cover. Reviews are also welcomed from others. Reviews from those having an interest in the item such as publishers, distributors, etc., must include a copy of the publication with the review [which, on request, we will return]. *Philatelic Communicator* reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers.

Identifying the Cancellations of -

Tanganyika, 62 pages, Spiral Bound, \$13.95,

Basutoland, 38 pages, Spiral Bound, \$9.95,

Uganda, 68 pages, Spiral Bound, \$15.95,

Trinidad & Tobago, 62 pages, Saddle Stitched, \$15.95,

Southern Rhodesia, 84 pages, Saddle Stitched, \$17.95,

by Larry Goldberg, LMG Communications, Inc., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7170, 2001/2, page size 8½ x 11", prices as noted + \$3.50 shipping per order (regardless of the number ordered), outside North America, available from Murray Payne, Ltd., P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2EW UK, Phone: 44 1934 732 511, e-mail: <murraypayne@dial.pipex.com>

The first volume, *Identifying the Cancellations of Kenya*, was reviewed in the 4th Quarter *PC*. The Southern Rhodesia volume is at hand and the author notes that Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia will be published sometime this summer (two separate volumes).

In general the new additions to the series follow that of the first volume, with the exceptions of changing from spiral binding to saddle stitch beginning with the Trinidad & Tobago book. In the Southern Rhodesia volume the author notes that he has "dropped the sections of first-, middle- and last- character combinations and just publish a list of all possible two-, three- and four-character combinations of the town cancels."

The author has not only set himself quite a task, but he is meeting it in a timely, and very useful, manner.

JEF

German Military Units and Field Post Numbers Connected to Norway 1940-1945 by Erik Lørdahl, War and Philabooks Ltd., Tårnåsen, Norway, 2001, 346 pages, 8¼ by 11¼", perfect bound, soft covers, 390 NOK (approx. \$43) plus postage. Ordering details from the author at Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway, or by email <loreri@c2i.net>, ISBN 82-995588-3-2.

Drawing on the earlier work of Torbjørn Larsson-Fedde, Karl U. Sanne and Ragnar Wolden, the author has compiled an extensive database of fieldposts of German units during the occupation of Norway in WW II. In addition to the army units

he includes naval and air units that were based in Norway, units that attacked the Soviet Union from northern Norway and Finland, construction units, Norwegian volunteers in SS detachments and Norwegian students arrested and sent to Germany for "re-education."

The major parts of this book are devoted to listings of the fieldpost numbers in numeric order (yellow pages), unit designation in alpha order (green pages) and unit locations in alpha order (pink pages). The tables include fieldpost number, location, unit designation and inclusive usage dates (from/to). The explanatory text is presented in Norwegian, English and German, thus bringing the information to a wide audience.

To provide a clearer picture of the material there are a number of illustrations of covers, post cards, propaganda stamps and labels, registration labels, fieldpost cancels and handstamps, censor marks and resealing tape and SS handstamps for mail entering the civil post. Abbreviations are listed and there is a bibliography showing additional sources. The English language portion of the text is quite good. There was a correction to one of the illustrations slipped into the book on a separate piece of paper. This is a very useful book for those interested in postal history of the German units in Norway during the Second World War.

Alan Warren

The United States Post Office in World War II by Lawrence Sherman, M.D. (ed.), Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 North Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610, 2002, 504 pages, 8½ x 11", hardbound, illustrations including 8 color plates, bibliography, index, index for illustrations, \$49.50 postpaid, ISBN: 0-916675-10-6.

The front piece describes this as: "The U.S. Government's Classic 'A Wartime History of the Post Office Department' in a New Illustrated Edition with Modern Commentaries." It is as advertised a copy of *A Wartime History of the Post Office Department* that was submitted to President Harry S. Truman in March of 1951 to which have been added a vast quantity of material and illustrations not contained in the original non-illustrated report. These additions include a multitude of new illustrations and some twenty-four related articles provided by the editor and fourteen additional specialists.

In general terms, the book is divided into three main parts followed by eleven appendices. These are 1. Pre-Pearl Harbor Days, 2. The War Years, 3. Postal Service for the Armed Forces, and the Appendices. Fifty individual chapters and the modern commentaries represent the main body of the text. While there is inadequate space available in this short report to list all of the material included it appears that this labor of love covers all possible aspects of the U.S. Mails during the war from emergency planning and execution through actual delivery of letters. I found only two minor annoyances: There certainly must be a better photograph available of the late James A. Farley (Figure 1-1) and "the airfield at Greenest, Maryland" referred to in "Alternate Plans for Postal Service in event of an Attack" was probably located at Greenest, Delaware and has become Dover Air Force Base according to the Archivist of Maryland. On the other hand, the Aviation Museum at College

Park confirmed that there was a "Logan Airport" in Baltimore, Maryland as cited in the same chapter.

In addition to the detailed appendices and a very handy index there is a large bibliography. Kudos to Doctor Sherman, the other contributors, and especially the Collectors Club of Chicago for producing the definitive work on U. S. mails during World War II.

John Lyding

Appletons' United States Postal Guide, 1863, D. Appleton & Co. original publisher, reprint by James E. Lee, P.O. Drawer 250, Wheeling, IL 60090, 2002 (reprint), 232 pages, 5 x 7", hardbound, tables, rates and routes, \$35 + \$4 shipping (\$10 foreign).

For any student of the postal history, or history, of the Civil War era, this little volume is more than just useful. In a new introduction, Richard Graham notes "[this book] is a wonderful and rather comprehensive overview of the state of the USPOD operations at a critical point in our nation's history."

Included is a listing of all post offices both north and south. Oddly enough, there was no readily apparent reference to the Civil War then raging. Post Office laws and regulations are presented as are routes, rates, services and sailing data.

There is a charming account titled "On the Origin of Postage Stamps," referring to Fournier, that may "surprise" some. The "Miscellaneous" section and the advertisements convey much of the milieu of the times.

Not only useful, but interesting.

JEF

Scandinavia, Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 11, 5th edition, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, 2001 382 pages, 6 x 8½", perfect bound, soft covers, £24.95, ISBN 0-85259-519-0.

These special Scandinavia editions of the Gibbons catalogs began in 1970 and the last one was issued in 1994. Countries covered here are Åland, DWI, Denmark with Schleswig, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The publisher has drawn on several recognized experts and updated the previous edition considerably. Some of the catalog numbers have changed since the 1994 edition and a table supplies the new equivalents.

The Gibbons approach to their specialized catalogs is to focus on stamps basically, excluding revenues, stationery, locals, labels and specimens. However, FRAMA machine labels and stamp booklets are included. The introductory section goes into some details on printing, paper, perforation, gum, watermarks, color, luminescence, etc. and appears to be a common text used throughout their foreign catalog series.

The black and white illustrations are quite good. Major stamp varieties are listed. The Finland listing includes the military fieldpost stamps and the Norway section includes a listing of the numeral cancels. The section on Sweden concludes with a listing of designs on her stamps, which will interest topical collectors. For those who collect Scandinavia only, this catalog is a useful reference for the general collector who does not wish to purchase the larger versions of the Gibbons or Scott catalogs that include many other countries.

Alan Warren

Dr. Eckener's Dream Machine by Douglas Botting, Henry Holt and Company, LLC, 115 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011, 2001, 331 + xvi pages, 6 x 9", hardcover, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index, \$27.50, ISBN 0-8050-6458-3.

The subtitle of this book is *The Great Zeppelin and the Dawn of Air Travel*. It's not a philatelic book, although there are some mentions of stamps and mail. Evidently in those depression days, purchase by stamp collectors played a significant financial role. The purpose of this brief mention is that here is a current and interesting book that may provide writers with some useful background material on this fascinating air mail topic. Although as Zeppelin specialist Cheryl Ganz pointed out in an e-mail to this reviewer, "It is a fun adventure type of read, but for the scholar it offers little in the way of new depth of research."

JEF

Posthorn, Journal of the of the Scandinavian Collectors Club.

Editors contemplating some changes in their journal might review the recent ones implemented by the Scandinavian Collectors Club with *Posthorn*.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC), specializing in the Nordic countries, has changed the size of its quarterly journal for the first time since the publication was launched in 1943. The *Posthorn* has been printed in a 6x9" format until the recent first issue of Volume 59 dated February 2002, which is printed in the larger 7x10" size.

The purpose is to provide improved legibility and better quality illustrations. In 2000, the paper was upgraded to a glossy finish to provide improved illustrations. In the future, experiments will be conducted with of color on an occasional basis.

Other recent changes include more subtle changes including the use of theme issues, improved layout of the journal and addition of an editorial board for peer review and consulting purposes.

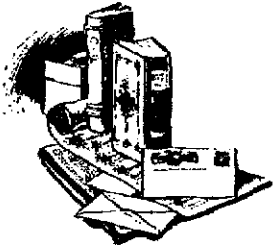
Further information concerning SCC is available on the Club's Website at <www.scc-online.org>, or from SCC's Executive Secretary, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022. □

►► **President's Message** (continued from page 5)

columns—but I'll bet money that the most enjoyable page for casual readers, if not the best-read page overall, is the one with the letters to the editor on it. And it's the only one not written by the newspaper's staffers or regular free-lancers. □

All writers are vain, selfish, and lazy, and at the very bottom of their motives there lies a mystery. Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout of some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven on by some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand. For all one knows that demon is simply the same instinct that makes a baby squall for attention.

—George Orwell



LETTERS

From: Dane S. Claussen: Joe, I received the first quarter issue of the *Communicator*. Nice job overall, especially considering your dealing with your medical problems. (By the way, I've been somewhat surprised that no matter what I write in my President's Message, no one ever writes a letter to the editor about it; I wonder if anyone reads them!)

I do want to let you know, however, that I have received an email from a quite prominent member of the Writers Unit who is concerned about the quantity of space devoted to the APS HQ issue. This member questions whether the Writers Unit should as an organization should become involved in this, or even appear to be involved in this, although of course individual members are writing and speaking on this issue. I must say that I think this member has a point.

On the other hand, we all recognize that the HQ issue is critical to the APS and APRL, and we all respect your judgment and independence as editor of the *PC*. Please keep up the good work.

From: Lloyd de Vries: Because of the press of other commitments, including the growth of the Virtual Stamp Club forum, I am no longer able to re-post as many press releases as I once did. While I have no firm guidelines on what I will and won't post on behalf of others, I'm still managing to get some postal agency notices up (although I miss more than I'd like), and not doing many show notices at all.

I mention this here because many philatelic writers also handle publicity for shows, clubs and organizations.

If your club or show wants to reach hundreds of online stamp collectors, many of whom are not plugged into the other philatelic media, in one of the busiest stamp collecting discussion sites on the Internet, I recommend that a representative be designated to visit the Virtual Stamp Club message board and post your notices.

It's free and fairly painless. The URL for the Web site is www.virtualstampclub.com and click on any "message board" prompt.

From: Peter Iber: Excellent article in the *Philatelic Communicator*. You hit all the hot spots just right and succinctly reviewed that which needed reviewing.

I read again in Lloyd de Vries' article something Gilson told me "... but so did the APS' reputation in Centre County, PA. We dithered, we diddled, we dawdled, and gave every appearance of not being able to take a step and DO something." Reputation has nothing to do with making a GOOD SOUND financial decision. Saving face is not part of the deal. A non-profit is a non profit and if they cannot afford something they should not launch out and proceed.

I really got a kick out of his last statement! "Let's see what happens." Boy, what an ENRON attitude that is. What happens could be disaster due to poor planning. Then what?

I think you laid it out correctly Joe, and those who think in a similar manner will continue to think that way. I wonder what the vote was on the agreement to override the agreement to have a major tenant before proceeding. That WAS one of McCann's promises wasn't it? Not very well kept I must say.

Thanks again for a great write-up to follow de Vries statement.

From Bill Critzer (Editor: *SOS Signal* [Stamps on Stamps]; *The Oxcart* [Costa Rica]): The most recent article in *The Philatelic Communicator* #135 by Ken Lawrence and your comments caused me to reflect on a few questions regarding our dying (?) hobby. At least we're not dead yet!

Here are a few questions: Science tells us that there will be more seniors in the coming decades, many more. If most of the people who attend stamp shows are seniors and most of the members of philatelic organizations are seniors and most of the people with money and time are seniors, then why doesn't the philatelic community target seniors? (When John Dillon was asked why he robbed banks, he is reputed to have replied, "that's where the money is.") Does stamp collecting and its branches appeal only to a diminishing number of people? If so, why? What is its appeal in the first place? Are children the only future of stamp collecting? Is it just a children's pastime that some can't abandon when they mature? Does stamp collecting lack the intellectual and emotional appeal and challenge necessary to attract a significant number of new adult participants?

Answering the foregoing questions (and perhaps others) and approaching the problem from a marketing standpoint would give us a better chance of solving the problem of continuous decline. I conclude that if stamp collecting could only maintain its market share in its various age groups, it would in fact grow in absolute numbers instead of decline.

From Barbara L. Anderson: "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" as the saying goes, and what follows may be a purely personal observation. However, I would be most interested in any feedback from the members and I'm sure it will be forthcoming! The subjects are the publications from the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) - *First Days*, and *Topical Time* from the American Topical Association (ATA).

Taking up *First Days* first, I have a problem with it and it has to do with the visual impact of the journal. On the positive side, it's a nice fat publication, loaded with information and appropriate advertisements. Visually, I find it annoying and difficult to read. Perhaps it's the lack of sufficient white space, or the heavy use of bold type face. I just can't put my finger on it; suffice to say, I don't look forward to reading it.

Regarding *Topical Time* the outer cover carries the line "Dated Magazine," put there to encourage prompt delivery, but to me it has a twofold meaning. The publication is very dated in appearance. It could well have been produced in the 1940s to my way of thinking. Again, is it the lack of white space, the typeface, or perhaps the general format? On the positive side, the articles are extremely well written and clearly very professional.

I applaud the people who produce these publications, most of whom are not compensated for their efforts. My criticisms should probably not be taken too seriously, but I'm just curious as to what others might think. I realize that budget constraints are a primary factor in publishing society journals and I'd be the last one to encourage a substantial increase in dues! □

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

(As of June 27, 2002)

APS Writers Unit #30 Treasurers Report for the year 2001

Transferred from 2000 \$ 5,145.54

INCOME

Membership Dues 2001 \$ 3,937.50
Contributions 2001 40.00
Bank Interest 0.00
TOTAL INCOME \$ 3,977.50 ... \$9,123.04

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing Communicator:

(1st Q) \$735.04
(2nd Q) 633.00
(3rd Q) 592.81
(4th Q) 544.60
Editor Expenses 154.65
Secretary-Treasurer Expenses 501.20
President Expenses 58.88

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .. \$ 3,220.18 .. \$ 3,220.18

CASH ON HAND 01/01/02 \$ 5,902.86

Secretary's Report

Welcome Our New Members:

- 1876 Peter C. Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427. Editor: *Stamping Around* (Mid-Cities Stamp Club); Free Lance Writer: *Stamp Collector*; *Modern Postal History*; *British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Journal*. Sponsor: Jane King Fohn.
- 1877 Jerome V. V. Kasper, 2019 Malcolm Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025-6303. Past Associate Editor: *The Aerogrammer* (The Aerogramme Society). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1878 Chester M. Masters, 562 East Runnion Road, Sequim, WA 98382-9468. Editor: *Strait Stamp Talk* (Strait Stamp Society). Sponsor: Jane King Fohn.

Reinstated:

- 1718 Dr. Lewis E. Tauber, 2 Mount Royal Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 4H6.
- 1839 William E. Critzer, 1360 Trinity Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6880.

Change of Address:

- 0336 Robert Dalton Harris, P.O. Box 477, West Sand Lake, NY 12196.
- 1682 Danilo A. Mueses, SERCITEC, CE-239, 1733 NW 79th Avenue, Miami, FL 33126-1112.

Closed Albums:

- 1410 Oliver C. Atchison of San Francisco, California. Died

February 11, 2002 who had been fighting cancer for several years.

- 1427 Piet Steen of Hinton, Alberta, Canada. Post Office reports "Deceased."

Membership Dues:

Dues are noted on page 2. 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 the Secretary Treasurer 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.

Literature Exhibition Calendar

Coordinators of Literature Exhibitions are encouraged to submit full information, including a prospectus, for these listings. Please contact the editor well in advance of the closing date for entries.

August 15-8, 2002

A.P.S. STAMPSHOW Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ, entries have closed. Jury: Jeanette Adams, Chair, Bill Bauer and Barth Healey. For information contact Ken Martin, APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803, phone 814 237-3803 ext 218, fax 814 237-6128, e-mail: <stampshow@stamps.org>, Website: <www.stamps.org/directories/dir_Shows_Exhibitions.htm>.

October 4-6, 2002

SESCAL 2002, Radisson at LAX Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, entry fee \$15, deadline for entries is July 15, 2002, prospectus is available from Larry Parks, P.O. Box 1116, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-1116. Website (which contains prospectus and entry forms): <www.sescal.org>.

November 22-4, 2002

CHICAGOPEX 2002, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005, entry fee \$15, deadline for entries is August 15, 2002, prospectus is available from John Kevin Doyle, 5815 Lenox Road, Lisle, IL 60532-3138, e-mail: <doyle-stamps@att.net>, Website (prospectus and application will soon be available): <www.chicagopex.com>.

November 29-30, 2002

Chester 2002, North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Literature will be judged to the same standard as Stampex. Entry fee £15. Deadline for entries Aug. 31, 2002. Information from Mrs. Joan Crowther, e-mail: <j-jscrowther@supanet.com>

Originality is undetected plagiarism.

—William Inge

Writers Unit 30, APS
 (George Griffenhagen)
 2501 Drexel Street
 Vienna, VA 22180

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WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

Past president Charles J. Peterson operates the WU30 Critique Service. 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>.

EDITORS' FAQ

by Larry Goldberg

- Q. How big do I have to make footnotes or endnotes?**
- A. No set size. . . I usually make them no less than 75 or 80% of the text size. Thus, if you are using 10 point type for text, I would make my footnotes 8 point. I would also used a condensed sans serif. Serif type faces in smaller sizes can be very hard to read.

I wrote much because I was paid little.

—Anthony Burgess