



The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society.

Volume 26, Number 1, Whole Number 99. First Quarter 1993.

The Intellectual Legacy of *The Essay-Proof Journal*

By Barbara R. Mueller

In 1993 *The Essay-Proof Journal* will enter its 50th volume, still a quality, professionally printed quarterly in substantially the same format and with the same look as Volume 1, Number 1, issued in 1944. Throughout this half century, six editors (Clarence Brazer, Julian Blanchard, P. H. Thorp, Edith Faulstich, David Lidman, and myself) have struggled to maintain its status as a scholarly publication during great changes in philately itself.

Its thrust has always been the study of the artistic and historical background of stamps. Paper currency was added to the mix almost from the start because of common connections between the two by virtue of shared designs and producers. All this has been carried out by a dedicated group that never approached the thousand mark but usually numbered half that membership. It seems that there have always been willing, generous, usually anonymous contributors to pick up the deficits when necessary as a service to philately.

The *Journal* has reflected the conservatism of the sponsoring Essay-Proof Society, even shunning innovation in typography

and layout. This has resulted in a continuity of appearance that members seem to treasure. Efforts to "modernize" or even economize are always shot down with pleas for maintaining uniformity as a sort of emotional link to the past.

The numismatic influence on *EPJ*, which in my opinion, eventually resulted in the decline of the society, was felt from the very beginning, although founding father Clarence Brazer himself was interested in currency only marginally. The attraction for him lay in the men, their companies, and their art, first evidenced through the production of paper money, and then, in the 1840s, in postage stamps. And while he lived, the numismatic segment never gained ascendancy; he kept it in its place, as it were.

But other influential members like Thomas F. Morris Jr. and Dr. Julian Blanchard, the latter eventually heading the society, contributed numismatic articles from the outset. Their beneficial work was almost academic in quality but uninteresting to many philatelic members. I joined EPS in 1956 and as the years

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How's Your Favorite Publication Doing?

By Frank L. Sente

Gross national product, gross domestic product, consumer price index, labor productivity, unemployment rate, inflation rate, and so on and so forth; the list of indicators available to economists to describe and make predictions about the business cycle and the nation's economy goes on and on. But even with the seemingly endless streak of data, economists often disagree about the direction of the economy.

Differing perceptions of consumer sentiment and interpretations about the interplay of various market forces and other factors affecting the economy lead different economists to differing predictions. Sometimes consumer sentiment can be more important than standard economic indicators in determining the outcome of a particular economic event.

When mortgage interest rates began to tumble, many economists predicted the rush to refinance at lower rates would put billions of disposable dollars into the hands of homeowners who, in turn, would help fuel the lagging economy by eagerly spending the net savings on their mortgage payments.

However, as recently reported in a *New York Times* article, many homeowners also opted for shorter term mortgages when they refinanced, with the net effect in such cases usually being increased monthly payments, meaning less disposable income to spend! Rather than spending their windfall, many other refiners simply applied their net savings toward reducing other

debt burdens. In the short term the refinancing scenario may have taken as many dollars away from the economy as it generated for it.

In contrast to the national economy, there are very few data indicators available upon which to gauge the health or direction of the philatelic marketplace or the state of the stamp collecting hobby. While there are not many measurable philatelic business indicators available, predictions about the state of philately still abound. Most current predictions are doom-and-gloom and the figures doomsayers most often point to are the declining circulations of most stamp periodicals and the declining membership totals of many societies.

For the record, here are the average annual paid circulation figures as provided on the annual USPS Statement of Ownership

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WU30 Spring Breakfast

The featured speaker will be Bill Bauer, on becoming a philatelic literature judge. Rochester, New York, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, March 28, 1993. See Secretary-Treasurer report back cover.

The Philatelic Communicator

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Coming Up in 1993: WU30 Elections

DEADLINES

For receipt of copy by the editor:

Second Quarter 1993 March 20, 1993

Third Quarter 1993 June 20, 1993

Literature Exhibition Calendar

March 6-7, 1993

Springpex '93, Springfield, Virginia. For information write to Springpex '93 Literature Chairman, P.O. Box 505, Springfield, VA 22150.

March 27-28, 1993

Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum's Seventeenth Annual Philatelic Literature Fair. For information write to Joseph W. Mullin, 235 Wellesley St., Weston, MA 02193.

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.

May 7-16, 1993

Polska 93, Poznan, Poland. For information write to Seymour Banchik, U. S. Commissioner, P.O. Box 8, Rockaway Park, NY 60304.

June 1993

Third New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Information from Central Districts Philatelic Trust, P.O. Box 206, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

July 30-August 8, 1993

Brasiliana 93, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For information write to John E. Lievsay, 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.

September 22-26, 1993

Wapex 93, first Australasian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, Perth, Australia. Information from Central Districts Philatelic Trust, P.O. Box 206, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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.

October 17-24, 1993

Philtema Philatelic Literature Fair International, Milan, Italy. For information write to George Guzzio, U.S. Commissioner, 134 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

January 27-30, 1994

Hafnia, Copenhagen, Denmark. Details to come.

June 8-16, 1996

Capex '96, Toronto, Ontario. For information write to Capex '96, P.O. Box 204, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4T 2M1. □

President's Message

By Charles J. Peterson

PhiliteX was the major philatelic literature event of 1992. I wish you all could have attended, since it was a first-class event. Over 600 items were entered, from 34 countries; 551 of those were in competition. In addition to the usual range of reference works, catalogs, periodicals and articles/columns, competitive classes were provided for auction catalogs, unpublished manuscripts, slide presentations, video tapes and philatelic computer programs. Next issue I hope to give you an insight into how we judged all those items—and how we managed to furnish substantive written critiques on over 450 of them!

The exhibition catalog carries the full description of each entry, with author, date and publisher, date of publication, number of pages, language, price and address for orders, and short description. That's a worthwhile bibliographic reference in itself. There may still be copies available at \$10 from the Philatelic Foundation, 21 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016.

The entries were prominently displayed at the Javits Convention Center, in conjunction with ASDA's Fall Mega-Event, and visitors took advantage of the opportunity to browse. There were six two-hour seminars, including the final day's session devoted to audio-visual presentations and computer applications. As a final highlight, Ivy, Shreve and Mader held a specialized auction devoted entirely to philatelic literature. To my knowledge, and certainly within my lifetime, this was the most prominent recognition of philatelic literature ever to take place in North America, and appreciation is due the Philatelic Foundation, the Collectors Club (New York) and ASDA for conceiving the idea and making it happen.

WU30 Spring Meeting

The Writers Unit will meet at Ropex 93, site of this year's APS Spring Meeting (March 26-28). As is traditional, our session will take the form of a Writers Breakfast. See the Secretary-Treasurer's report for details. (The meeting is early this year, and it may well have sneaked up on you as it did on me. Hope you can be there.)

On Becoming a Philatelic Literature Judge

Members occasionally ask how one becomes an accredited philatelic literature judge. The Writers Unit has nothing to do with that formal process; that's an American Philatelic Society matter. If you're interested, the obvious first step is to get a copy of the current *Manual of Philatelic Judging* from the APS and read (at least) the general provisions as well as those pertaining to literature. Then write the chairman of the APS Judges Accreditation Committee (William H. Bauer, P.O. Box 1449, Spring, TX 77383-1449), state your desire to be a judge, and request recognition as an apprentice.

The next step is to complete three assignments as an apprentice judge satisfactorily. If you have a reasonably good awareness of current philatelic literature, and you've understood and digested the guidance in the judging manual, there shouldn't be any great difficulty in successfully meeting the requirements—*except* the problem of getting the three mandatory apprentice assignments. The APS circulates the list of apprentices to show committees, but *does not* arrange for any invitations to judge. In some cases, the committees will take the initiative and invite an apprentice, but for the most part it's up to the apprentices to contact appropriate show committees and indicate their desire to serve.

There's a limited number of shows that feature a literature class; you'll find them listed in *The Philatelic Communicator* section on upcoming events. Organizing committees try to select judges well in advance of the show, so it's wise to look a year ahead. But don't let that deter you from asking about this year's

show; you may be lucky and get an invitation, and at worst you've got your foot in the door for next year. Also, remember that apprentices get no reimbursement to defray travel and lodging expenses. It makes sense to look first at potential apprentice assignments at nearby shows.

I wish you the best of luck!

Call for Nominations

In accordance with Unit bylaws, Article IV, elections will be held this year for the following positions: President, Vice-President (East) and Vice-President (West) [must reside on their respective sides of the Mississippi River] and Secretary-Treasurer. These are two-year terms of office.

Further, five (5) Council positions are up for election. Council members Klug, Martin, Skavaril and Welch will complete their four-year term of office in 1993; additionally, a Council seat was vacated when Alan Warren accepted the duties of Vice-President (East) Steve Rod.

Jane King Fohn (Route 2, Box 352, Leander, TX 78645) has agreed to act as nominations chairperson for the elections. All members wishing to be candidates for an elective position should notify her no later than April 30, 1993. The bylaws also provide for nominations by petition of the membership, requiring the signatures of at least ten (10) members to place another individual's name in nomination; such petitions must also be sent within the above time frame.

The list of candidates will be published in the Second Quarter 1993 *Philatelic Communicator*. The election ballots will be included in the same mailing. If they so desire, candidates may submit platform statements of no more than 150 words, for publication in the same issue. Platform statements may be submitted with the nominations and/or sent directly to the Editor.

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.]

Editor's Bulletin Board

By Ken Lawrence

The Essay-Proof Journal will cease publication in its 50th anniversary year, making our cover story by Barbara Mueller this issue a scoop, for which I'm deeply grateful. Members of the Essay-Proof Society will get to read a more detailed and specific reflection on their achievement, but you're getting to read the essential overview here first.

Wayne Youngblood is the new editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly*. Congratulations, both to Wayne and to Scott! From the perspective of philatelic writers, we should expect to see significant improvements in the magazine.

Charles J. Peterson, our distinguished president, received a Silver Award for research in literature from Germany's stamp hobby organization, Bund Deutscher Philatelisten. Congratulations, Charlie!

Michael Lawrence, as depicted on his "stamp" in the December 21 *Linn's* holiday greeting to readers, bears a striking resemblance to Bret Harte on the U.S. 5-dollar stamp, notes an alert reader. Add specs to Bret and you've got Mike. What will

topical collectors make of that? I can hardly wait for the next commemorative cover sponsored by Joe Puleo.

Michael Laurence and Elaine Boughner sent Christmas letters to *Linn's* writers bearing wonderful news: "Despite a soft stamp market and a weak external economy, we closed 1992 having sold 10,000 more advertising inches than 1991. This reverses a downtrend of more than a decade." Great! When do we get our raises?

James A. Magruder II, publisher of *Stamp Collector*, sent out a confidential readers' questionnaire last August, asking subscribers what they want to read in his paper. He hasn't published the results, but judging by the past few months' front pages, we can make a good guess: lots and lots of articles by Robert Rabinowitz and Stephen G. Esrati on every nuance of plate number coil collecting, as well as some flights of the fertile PNC imagination. I wish Michael Green and Kyle Jansson had been so generous with space for PNCs six and seven years ago.

Lloyd A. de Vries is now the leader of the Stamp Collecting category on the GENIE computer information system. Lloyd sent a card thanking me for requesting more information about this (I didn't, actually), so I'm sure he'll happily send it to you. Write to Lloyd A. de Vries, P.O. Box 145, Dumont, NJ 07628.

Toni Heisey's letter of resignation from the American Revenue Association includes this criticism of *The American Revenuer*, directed to ARA President Richard Friedberg: "A member has a right to expect something for his money and if it wasn't for (Michael) Mahler's articles, there'd not be much to read. I see more articles regarding revenues in *Linn's* than I do in *The American Revenuer*, the specialty publication for the ARA which should be running the majority of revenue articles, and you write more for *Linn's* than you do for your own publication." Comments, anyone? (Hint: ARA membership peaked at 1,766 in 1981, and was down to 1,357 in October 1992, the most recent figure published.)

Jeffrey L. Needleman must be unhappy at the news from Windsor Palace. He did so well a decade ago promoting the Royal Wedding stamp omnibus to investors that he must have anticipated making a real killing on the Royal Divorce stamps. Too bad, Jeff. Maybe you could talk to Sam Malamud about a Royal Affair set. Put some of those Fergie photos on stamps, and M. Teton would be your first customer for that Beguiling Orbs Of Beauty exhibit.

While we're on that subject, WU30 Council member Janet Klug has been working on a woman's answer to Darrell Ertzberger (M. Teton) by focusing thematic attention on one element of male anatomy. Her favorite cover is from Howlong, Australia. I wonder if her exhibit will fare as well as his in the judging, the literature, and the courts of honor.

Alexander D. Kroo of ASCAT sent his letter of complaint (see Letters, page 9) in an envelope franked with a Swiss stamp depicting a turkey. Is he trying to drop me a hint, or is this just the season for outbursts of thematic indulgence in the stamp hobby?

The Philatelic Foundation has as its declared purpose, "to do anything generally that will establish and maintain a standard of American Philately of which the world may be proud." Well, they got their *thats* and *whiches* right, at least.

Liliana Rosende, daughter of Roberto (both formerly on the Philatelic Foundation payroll), now works for Arthur Morowitz as the store manager of Champion Stamp Co. According to Barth Healey's article in the December *Scott Stamp Monthly*, she's a Disney collector, so I hope she prospers. Especially today, the New York philatelic community needs more of them.

Barth Healey is a stamp writer in whom we can all take pride, but I wish he'd leave some elements of *The New York Times* style sheet at home. My peeve of the moment, in the aforementioned Scott monthly article, concerns the sacrifice of an important word, *adult*, to provide gutter service as the copy editor's

euphemism for *obscene*: "In 1978, after some years producing adult films, he [Morowitz] . . ."

Stuart Morrissey, writing in the January *Scott Stamp Monthly*, called Morowitz "godfather of the Megashow." Now there's a Hollywood euphemism for you, just what the stamp trade needs. It just goes to prove that playing with words isn't limited to our small publication.

Philatelic Miracle 1. At STAmPsHOW in August, Harry Hagendorf expressed his displeasure at my Third Quarter 1992 article on his Columbian cover, but also insisted that its *provenance* "is nobody's business but mine," and declined to permit the item to be examined scientifically. He has not accepted my offer to publish his reply.

Philatelic Miracle 2. Norman Shachat's article, "Out-of-Date Philadelphia Cancel on 1867 1¢ 'Z' Grill," in the March-April 1992 *Collector's Club Philatelist* implicitly questions the authenticity of the most valuable United States stamp (\$410,000 at a November 1986 auction). The article first appeared in the November 1991 *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*. For years experts have been whispering to one another that the 1-cent Z grill is bogus, but stamp publishers seem to fear that airing such opinions in print will cause the entire stamp market to collapse.

Philatelic Miracle 3. Do you remember the May 2, 1840, Penny Black cover that sold for 3.4 million Swiss francs at a 1991 auction in Lugano, supposedly the closest thing to a first-day cover of the first postage stamp? The perfect four-margin copy of the stamp has the letters H and I in the corners, making it the 93rd stamp on the pane of 240 figuring the normal way, or 72nd counting from the nearest corner. That suggests that a surprising number of Penny Blacks were used right away. Just imagine how wonderful it will be if those other covers mailed earlier also have perfect four-margin Penny Blacks on them. Stamp auctioneers could lead the world out of economic recession.

The International Federation of Philately (FIP) gives with the right hand and takes back with the left. Just as revenue stamps finally got their long overdue official acceptance from FIP, FIP (unanimously!) condemned the collecting of telephone cards, among the most popular items issued by many postal administrations these days. To add injury to insult, Mophila (modern philately of the last ten years) is being further downgraded. From now on, Mophila exhibits will be given awards based solely on public balloting; they will not be judged, and will not be eligible for medals. This probably reflects FIP's tacit admission that its judges are incorrigible elitists, willfully ignorant of modern philately's importance and rarities.

FIP's timing couldn't have been worse. The ban on telephone cards was adopted just as Yvert et Tellier published its first, full color, catalog of telephone cards of France, Andorra, Monaco, New Caledonia, and French Polynesia. Yvert thus joins Stanley Gibbons and Michel as eager promoters of these collectibles.

FIP President D. N. Jatia must have received his linguistic instruction from Lewis Carroll's Alice: "It is true that some of the exhibits [at Granada 92] were housed in so-called tents, but it is a misnomer to use the word tent. They were gigantic sheds covered with a very special kind of plastic sheets and were fully secured and air conditioned." Dan Asmus should investigate this architecture for future STAmPsHOW venues; imagine the money APS could save if we didn't have to use expensive exhibition halls and downtown hotels.

Numismatic News ran a series of three columns by David Thompson in January and February exploring the links between coin collecting and other hobbies. "With just a little imagination, stamps offer numismatists some fascinating alternatives. . . . Some of the greatest names in history have collected coins and stamps, and the two hobbies were once rivals for the title of most popular in the world. Rivals in triumph, these hobbies are now (or so the doom-mongers tell us) partners in adversity."

Exclusively Foreign. Jan Brandewie says that despite occasional straying by some of her writers, *Global Stamp News* will continue to focus exclusively on non-U.S. stamps. She says the requested and paid circulation at the end of 1992 was about 25,000 per issue, up from her claim of 16,000 to 17,000 a year ago. If true, her paper has passed *Stamp Collector* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*. One bit of evidence that supports her claim is the 1992 *Linn's Reader Survey*, which showed that 10.5 percent of *Linn's* readers regularly read *Global Stamp News*, as against 9.3 percent for *Stamp Collector* and 6.7 percent for *Scott Stamp Monthly* (but 27.5 percent for *The American Philatelist*).

Exclusively United States. According to Randy Neil, the November paid circulation of *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* was 4,570, and still growing, nearing 5,000 at year's end.

More Circulation Data. Frank Sente's superb front page article is the most useful circulation analysis I've seen, and certainly more so than those based solely on our hobby's press. However, for those who desire a comparison with the figures I assembled one year ago, read them and weep:

	1991	1992
<i>Linn's Stamp News</i>	75,203	71,490
<i>The American Philatelist</i>	55,665	55,333
<i>Scott Stamp Monthly</i>	20,511	19,332
<i>Stamp Collector</i>	18,547	16,895
<i>Stamps</i>	13,733	8,645
<i>Topical Time</i>	6,696	6,606
<i>The Stamp Wholesaler</i>	4,713	4,667
<i>Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News</i>	4,293	4,294
<i>First Days</i>	3,680	3,566

Worst of all was *Stamps*, with a closest-to-filing figure of 6,583. *Stamps* might fall below *Topical Time* on next year's chart.

Declining Circulation isn't the only problem at the American First Day Cover Society. Advertising income is down, and steps are being taken to lower costs of printing *First Days*, according to Alan Warren's report of the AFDCS Executive Committee meeting. Maybe that explains why AFDCS Executive Director Doug Kelsey has been spending most of his time lately promoting meter collecting.

Your Editor would appreciate some thoughtful prose on whether the philatelic press devotes proper, too little, or too much space to coverage of philately's people, and of our stamp hobby organizations. Michael Laurence has stated that *Linn's* shouldn't be reporting much on APS, and Keith Wagner thinks *Linn's* has already reported too much. What do you think? We all know that collectors and dealers, especially Robert Rabinowitz, like to see their names in print, but do they like to read about other collectors and dealers? (Clue: check the circulation figures of *People* and *National Enquirer* before you answer, and guess how many of your colleagues secretly enjoy this column before they fire off their poison pen letters.)

Robert Rabinowitz, writing in his personal gossip sheet *Coil Number Exposé*, offered me a cease fire in our feud, now in its fifth year. That's a tempting offer, but I already have several complaints that *The Philatelic Communicator* is getting too tame and boring. It is supposed to be fun, isn't it?

Stamp Kitsch Report. Hammacher Schlemmer sells matted, framed philatelic tributes (one mint single, one plate block, and one FDC) to various professions for \$99.95 each—your choice of law, medicine, banking, dentistry, CPA, pharmacy, architecture, nursing, education, journalism, and commercial aviation. *Linn's* railed against this as a misleading promotion, but I found it hard to shed a tear for the poor, victimized lawyers and bankers. Others would say the same about journalists. Meanwhile, a bit lower on the food chain, Time Warner's Sound Exchange offers a matted, framed *Gone With The Wind* mint stamp and postcard for \$39.95.

Grammar Police. I'm always annoyed that editors delete my final serial commas, the ones that precede *and*, *or*, or *nor* in a series of three or more words or phrases. Most of the time it makes no difference, but when it does, omitting the comma can introduce unnecessary confusion. At times it can add humor too, as in this sentence clipped from a Pennsylvania paper by a sharp-eyed reader: "Noble guests included the Duke of Argyll, Princess Lalla Hasna, the daughter of Moroccan King Hassan II and a host of German aristocrats."

New Stamp Publication 1. The United Nations Postal Administration now publishes *Philatelic Bulletin*, a small magazine, six times a year, replacing previous announcements circulated as fliers and news releases. The first issue is cover dated January-February 1993.

New Stamp Publication 2. The Philatelic Foundation now publishes a newsletter called *Philatelic Focus*, as a modest successor to the defunct *Philatelic Foundation Quarterly*. The first issue is cover dated January 1993.

Volunteer Needed. The next issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* will be whole number 100. It's time we took our publication more seriously as a trove of useful information gathered over many years. What we need is a volunteer to compile a cumulative index.

Deadlines. Second Quarter, March 20 (a month later than previously announced). Third Quarter, June 20. □

Philatelic Writing from the Inner Self - Fiction

By Robert W. Everett Jr.

There is a definite place for philatelic fiction in stamp publications. It helps to balance the many highly technical articles on stamps. It gives writers a whole new area to explore. Fiction can be used to give collectors new ideas about the hobby.

In 1991 *Global Stamp News* conducted a philatelic fiction short story contest. The October 1991 issue showed an Australian stamp (Scott No. 945d) featuring a sergeant and asked readers to write a short story about the stamp. The first place winner was Ray E. Cartier, and his excellent story "The Passage" was published in the December 1991 issue. This shows the interest of one stamp publication in philatelic fiction.

Since 1988 I have had twelve short stories published. *Stamp Collector* published two in 1988, *First Days* published one in 1989, and *Stamps* published three in 1990, one in 1991, and five as of May 1992.

Starting in January 1992, *Stamps* gave me a monthly philatelic short story column titled "Filatelic Fiction." It is my hope that this column will increase writer and reader interest in short stories about stamps and stamp collectors.

Philatelic short stories must relate to some area of stamp collecting. Illustrations always enhance a story. I have used stamps relating to the theme of the story, drawings, and first-day covers. The length of a story is most important from the editor's view. A general rule is to keep the story down to about six and a half double-spaced letter-sized typed pages. This is equivalent to one printed page 10 inches by 13 inches. Unless you have an extraordinary story, anything longer than this may be rejected by an editor.

Every writer develops his or her own working techniques. Here are the three segments I use in most stories:

1. Introduction of main characters and general theme of story. This takes about six short paragraphs. I try to keep each paragraph down to four to six sentences for easier reading.

2. I tell the story in about fourteen paragraphs, letting my main character interact with minor characters in the story.

3. In the last five paragraphs I bring the story to a conclusion. I like to develop an O'Henry surprise twist in the last two paragraphs, but this is not essential. The final paragraph can describe what happened to the main character as a result of his experience in the story. ▶▶

Most of my stories have developed from human interest accounts in newspapers, magazines, and movies. I keep a note or clipping file on any material that may prove useful in developing a future story.

For example, a few years ago a Larry Walters of Los Angeles wanted to fly. He attached 45 helium-filled weather balloons to his lawn chair and ascended to eleven thousand feet. I substituted a stamp collector for Larry Walters, and had him fly in a lawn chair carrying flight covers from his stamp club.

Personal experiences can generate many story ideas. I attended a wedding where helium balloons were used for decoration at the reception. I asked the host for two toy balloons to release at home. Stamped, self-addressed covers in plastic bags were attached to each balloon. Unfortunately, the two covers have not been returned.

This experience generated a story published by *First Days*, March 1, 1989, "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better." Two teenagers make a bet they can fly their covers a greater distance. The O'Henry type of twist was used. Each boy discovers that the other had cheated by mailing similar covers to a relative who returned them by mail. Only one flown cover was found and returned. It was cut in half and shared by the two teenage collectors.

Imagination is probably a more difficult source for stories. An example of this is a story published by *Stamps*, January 25, 1992, titled "Johnny Strong and the UFO." Here are the steps I used in writing this story:

A. *Original Idea*: The story involves a 12-year-old stamp collector, Johnny Strong, and his interest in UFOs. He tells wild stories to his friends about UFOs. This establishes his non-credibility early in story.

B. *Original idea enlarged*: Johnny encounters a UFO in a field on his way to a stamp club meeting. He exchanges stamps with the four aliens. They use mental telepathy to communicate with Johnny.

C. *Conflict*: After the UFO departs, Johnny decides no one will believe another of his wild UFO stories. He decides to tell no one. He arrives at the club meeting late. Members ask why he was delayed. He said he met some friends along the way and traded stamps. As usual, no one believes him.

D. *Conclusion and twist*: Johnny places the stamps from the UFO aliens on the table. They glow in different colors and club members accuse Johnny of getting them from a box of cereal. At that moment a mental telepathy message reaches everyone present indicating that Johnny did have a meeting with four aliens from the planet Crystal.

Scientists verify the UFO stamps as authentic. Contacts are made between the United Nations and the aliens. This gives us vital scientific information and resolves many of our current world problems. Of course Johnny becomes famous as the first human to prove his contact with a UFO.

In writing this story, here are a few of the questions I asked as my imagination evolved the story: What is Johnny's background? How does he react when he first sees the UFO land? If he exchanges stamps with the aliens, how will this effect the ending of the story? Can the UFO stamps speak for themselves? Questions like these help a writer in evolving the story.

Some of the techniques used in philatelic story writing are applicable in article writing. Stories behind stamps enhance any philatelic article. I hope this article will prove useful to philatelic writers in whatever medium they are working. □

Inspiration, Creativity, and Originality

By Barbara L. Anderson

The illuminating spark of creativity that lies deep within all of us who enjoy putting pen to paper is an ember to be nurtured. Originality is hard to come by and as they say, there's nothing

new under the sun. Every artistic idea had its origin somewhere in the past and subsequent interpretations of that idea may indeed express a new direction or embellishment.

The Fourth Quarter issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* carried an article about creativity by Robert W. Everett Jr. To refresh your respective memories, he talked about a movie called "The Gods Must Be Crazy," in which an isolated primitive culture is confronted with a Coca-Cola bottle. Everett used this unique and imaginative dilemma to write a story, substituting postage stamps for the Coke bottle.

My question is this: Is his story original? Is it personally creative? Did the concept spring full-blown from his own mind? I think not.

Inspiration for philatelic articles is all around us and not solely among the potpourri of stamps, covers, albums, and stockbooks we all contend with.

I draw inspiration from my personal world and when something strikes a chord, my first question is, do I have relevant philatelic materials?

Perhaps a few examples are in order. A program given at our local herb society focused on corn. Living in the corn-and-soybean belt of Illinois and having a farmer son-in-law, I took special note. The speaker mentioned the myriad ways in which the Indians used corn, and my curiosity was piqued. With the Illinois corn harvest drawing nigh, the timing was perfect. The fact that Columbus was involved in introducing corn to the Old World and the impending anniversary of his voyages added to the relevance.

I discovered numerous corn stamps in my "Veggie-Fruits-Grains" stockbook and engaged in some modest research. The result was a brief but informative article about corn on stamps (*Linn's*, October 19, 1992).

Tripping over a very weird mushroom in my front yard prompted a perusal of my fungi identification books. I had a small collection of mushroom stamps, appealing little things, so I decided to explore the world of fungi for a piece about mushrooms on stamps (*Scott Stamp Monthly*, September 1992).

As a spinner-weaver, my foremost topical collection is textiles on stamps. Sources for textile fibers include among other beasts and plants the musk oxen. Not too many stamps available that show this wonderful relic of the Ice Age, but enough to write a short piece about their current status and the cloud-like hair they produce (*Linn's*, March 11, 1991).

I could offer additional examples including similar articles I've had published about postcards.

I believe my journalistic efforts are original insofar as anything is totally new today. I have not necessarily unearthed any astonishing new information about these topics, but the impetus for writing about them arose from my personal observations.

Whether you put brush to canvas, hands to clay, or pen to paper, you are drawing upon the world around you for inspiration. By rights that world should include the natural environment, historical events, people of renown, and personal experience. It should not include the contemporary efforts of other artists. I don't have a problem with a potter using pre-Columbian pottery as a source for design and function. I do have a problem with a writer taking the original concept of another writer and making minor substitutions in the scenario.

Robert Everett welcomed input about creativity. Here is mine; I sincerely hope he is not offended. □

From the News Bulletin to The Philatelic Communicator

By Barbara R. Mueller

Editor Ken's request for this retrospective on my editorship of the *PC* has proved beneficial to me, because it made me survey those eight years as a unit, 1981 to 1988. It seems that from the very outset Joe Frye, my immediate predecessor, was always my

strong right arm, not only taking care of layout and production but also generously giving encouragement and advice.

That period was one of production experimentation, as Joe tried his hand at increasingly sophisticated methods of typesetting and ventured into computerized desktop publishing. Therefore, we never really achieved the uniformity of "look" that all editors desire, nor were we without frustrating typos and errors in layout.

Aside from these externals, the other obvious change during my tenure was in name—from the *News Bulletin* to *The Philatelic Communicator* effective with the First Quarter 1987 issue. (And we also changed the dating system from a designation by month to one by quarters effective with the first issue of 1984.) Forgive my boasting, but it is a fact that the name change was made at my insistence to better reflect what we, as a Unit, should be doing.

But in asking for this review, Ken specified comments on accomplishments and aggravations, as well as my methods of getting copy and filling up all those empty pages. Regarding the latter, I must compliment Ken for quickly establishing a system of themes for each issue and setting firm deadlines for the submission of copy. After 30 years in non-profit philatelic publishing, I can positively state that such a system is most difficult to achieve. Volunteer writers, usually busy with other philatelic activities, are not usually noted for punctuality. Since I never was able to crack the whip over them, I never even tried for the planned, thematic approach. I took what I got, all the while looking for appropriate bits of news and hints about journalism in general, culled from everything from *The New York Times* to *The Model Railroader*.

Mine was an extemporaneous, *ad hoc* approach, with the only themes, if they may be called that, dealing with upcoming WU30 events and exhibitions, together with lists of winners at the latter. Several times I tried to get something going on the theme of photojournalism because I felt and still feel that both the commercial and society press are woefully lacking in this area. We need some professional instruction in photographic reportage, aside from merely illustrating technical articles. Look at the Monday morning editions of metropolitan newspapers after a big football Sunday—crammed with pictures of game action. Yet too many philatelic editors persist in the belief that nobody cares what went on at this Pex or that a week later.

And, of course, with the rapid growth of camcorder usage, we need some good ideas on using these devices to create a new method of philatelic communication—the video. I recall seeing Ron Mitchell's "Denver Eagles" pioneering video at the Romplex 84 spring APS meeting and immediately resolving to cheerlead a drive for more of this. But no luck.

In my initial issue, Fall 1981, we brought up the difference between book reviews and book news. That elicited some immediate responses but no consensus. The book news-type feature continued with "Browser's Bookcase" and "Joe's Paper Pile." Indeed, call them what you will, reviews continued to be an important part of all my issues, as they do today. Whether they really are worth the space they take is another matter.

At the same time I proposed a "Production Line" type feature and a survey of pay scales for philatelic writing. Both objectives were partially met. In late 1982 Dick Sine began the features on word processing/computer use. In 1984 Bob de Violini took up this subject, which still strikes a responsive chord among readers.

In 1984 and 1985 we printed transcripts of the lecture presentations made at various WU30 seminars; somehow through the years such projects seem to have fallen by the wayside. But other practical info on "tools for the journalist" ranging from authors' guides to hints for mailers by Ken Trettin and Henry Beecher took up the slack.

The first issue of 1987 sported the new name with a plea to make ours a journal covering more than just print media. In that year we had a major article by George Amick on his experiences

in writing *Jenny!*, along with some good give-and-take about the proper spelling of premier(e) gravure by Susan McDonald and Henry Beecher. One of the 1987 issues also carried eight pages of the FIP revised guidelines for philatelic literature competitions—which brings up a major concern:

It seems to me that an inordinate amount of space was taken up with such competitions—announcements about forthcoming events, lists of winners at past events. At the time I probably was happy to get this copy to fill space but in an ideal world that space could have been better filled by truly practical material. There exists in my mind, at least, doubts about the WU30 role in competitive exhibiting. Is it incidental to our mission or is it the primary thrust? Is competitive exhibiting as presently set up conducive to the improvement of the craft? I tend toward a negative view.

In this vein, I proposed in the First Quarter 1988 issue a new category for literature competitions, borrowed from the Numismatic Literary Guild—"the best portfolio of work in several media" in a given time span by one person. Such a portfolio would consist of, perhaps, a serious study, a light commentary for the philatelic press, an article or column for the lay press, editorship of a periodical or book, authorship of a book, a slide program or video, a lecture, still photography, technical photography, *etc.* I believe the existence of such a comprehensive category would stimulate the development of more versatile communicators, and so my proposal still stands.

In that issue I also toyed with the idea of a "member resource" feature, envisioning this on a free basis—no advertising format or charges, no commercial offers of specific products or philatelic material—but a clearing house through which members may direct requests for help in writing and research projects; solicit technical aid in photography, graphic arts, or computer services; and offer other services such as typing, indexing, *etc.* Again, that proposal still stands.

Yet I am happy that the *PC* won some recognition during my tenure, although I was never satisfied. By the time the last issue of 1988 came up, it was obvious that a fresh outlook was needed. Certainly, there was no mistaking the change—from my milque-toast, don't-offend-anyone approach to an aggressive, investigative reporting style that immediately gained national attention (which some felt was unwelcome) for the *PC*. As a former editor, I can truly state that I anticipate each new issue, confident that in it will be some "juicy" reading. I don't have the stomach for controversy; it's good that Ken has. □

How to be An Editor—Part II

By Joe F. Frye

Now to the basics of producing a journal. I detest the term *newsletter*. For one thing it wastes 30 percent of the space compared to the shorter word. It has connotations of traveling inside an envelope, for another.

My thesaurus in *WordPerfect 5.1* includes "loathe" as one of the synonyms for *detest*. Perhaps Ken Lawrence will sic (as in instructing one's canine to perform a function . . .) me—or someone else—onto the usages of *loathe* with and without the *e*. No, Pigpen, we're not discussing a loath of bread.

The major problem I had as an editor of this or that was getting something to publish. Whether it was interesting to more than a few readers; of anything approaching value for an entire week, much less archival; even if it carried the seeds of its own obscurity—something to fill that yawning white space was an always present necessity.

After the begging, pleading, arm-twisting, and write-nearly-all-of-it-yourself was done, the next act on the stage was to choose the sequence—the *dramatis personæ* of the text.

►►

My choice usually ran to placing the most obviously necessary-to-publish information on page one—until that category was exhausted; then (usually the longest first, and in descending order of size to the end) articles; with general announcements used as the mortar to fill the chinks between the bricks and smear over the rough spots.

After including everything from everyone *else*, it was time to write enough fill to make the issue an even size. I remember only twice having to publish anything with more than a tiny spot of "white space," or, in my own parlance, "wasted" space.

When you begin the task of filling up space with your own writings, give a bit of thought to the topic(s) you think might be of more than passing interest to your readers.

I can hold forth for several reams of valuable information, general data, and down the scale to trivia on my lifelong interest in f-----s. (I won't start another fight with anyone by mentioning that—much-maligned, almost universally-misunderstood, and favorite whipping boy of the liberal media—word. I put the "s" on the end to avoid confusion with the *deservedly* infamous "f-word.") Perhaps one percent of the readers would have some interest in what I have to say on the subject of f-----s. The others' reaction would range from boredom—and omission of perusal—to downright crusading wrath and a pox upon my house.

The point is that, while I have a subject on which I can write *prolifically*, it is not necessarily *suitable* to the purpose unless the journal where it will appear is at least slanted in the direction of f-----s.

Give your readers a break. Write something they *might* be interested in reading. If they benefit from it, fine. If they are entertained, even better. If they really enjoy it and mention it to others in word or print, hallelujah!

Now we've filled as much space as is available with (1) the text contributed by others than oneself and (2) one's own produce.

The next step is to put the thing in as neat and correctly-spelled condition as reasonable effort will allow.

The editing, assembly, proofreading, and camera-ready production will be the subject of my next column. □

Learning to Edit Takes Time

By Gene Fricks

Joe Frye's invitation (challenge?) to describe our early efforts to learn to edit struck a note, so I will rise to the bait. Having served at the helm of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* for almost 14 years, I think I have encountered almost every situation that can face a wielder of a blue pencil. However, each new situation has provided an opportunity to learn something new.

When Alex Rendon asked me to assume the post, the *CCP* was behind schedule and had experienced significant problems. My only experience had been publishing the New Jersey Postal History Society's journal, up to that time produced by mimeo. Going to a typeset magazine represented a quantum jump, especially as I had no background. Fortunately, I had Dave Lidman as mentor. At the time, Dave and I served on the APS Board of Vice Presidents and we had many opportunities to meet.

Dave first taught me to size photographs, using some basic proportional techniques. Only later would I learn about print sizing wheels and the use of calculators. Gaining a sense of good layout and page design took some time. Dave provided me several books on the subject and pointed out examples to follow.

Having been around for over 50 years, the *CCP* represented a proud tradition of serving a sophisticated philatelic audience. Change comes slowly to institutions and this one was no exception. The *CCP* has always had an editorial philosophy of serving up serious philatelic studies, often those that might have no other outlets. The personal computer revolution was just beginning and the proliferation of specialist groups' publications was several years in the future.

Finding and acquiring manuscripts has always been a primary responsibility of the editorial board. While I had been a governor of the Collectors Club for a number of years, I still did not have an extensive network of contacts who could be called upon for articles. Don Haverbeck, a former *CCP* editor and member of the editorial board, provided invaluable assistance in pointing me to potential contributors. Every new editor should be so lucky as to have such assistance!

One source of materials became apparent. I began to keep track of those who had exhibited and won significant awards. It seemed that these individuals would be interested in sharing the results of their studies and discoveries. I soon found that only a small portion of this population was motivated in this direction, but of those, many would provide some of the memorable series that we have published.

One of the areas that seemed to lack coverage was the extensive survey of particular subjects. I asked the question of these contributors: "What is significant about your collecting subject? Why would someone want to collect your area?" Those who responded were quite willing to share their enthusiasm.

An early problem to be overcome was that of printers. One such that we had used seemed to have lost interest in our account. Quality had slipped, costs had escalated, and the owners seemed unconcerned. We tried a broker, who offered some editorial and layout services as well as contracting out the printing. This resulted in many sleepless nights as meeting the production schedule was often a problem. While we never failed to meet a deadline, it was often a close-run thing. After the broker became occupied in a law suit, attention to our efforts waned. It was at this time we tried to promote wider dissemination of the magazine to news outlets and bookstores, with negligible results.

At the same time, we experienced a significant mailing problem that persuaded me to move production out of New York. We would package up the magazine and cart it to the mail post office. At the time, it was mailed as a third class publication. When a dock supervisor at the post office stuck out his hand for a gratuity to ensure expeditious handling, I knew it was time to move.

About this time, Jim DeVoss enlightened me in the mysteries of second-class mailing. Postal charges were less and handling seemed to be faster. Although the paperwork to obtain and maintain a second class permit is a bit of a burden, the savings to our membership have been substantial and well worth the effort.

A fair portion of the cost of publishing the *CCP* is borne by our advertisers. Consequently, the care and feeding of a stable of advertisers represented a new experience for me. I determined that our advertisers deserved a high quality vehicle to showcase their offerings as well as a dependable, regular publication schedule. On a number of occasions we have run multicolored ads; these taught me about color separations and the opportunities that offered to piggyback some innovations in the articles.

Occasionally today the printer's gremlin sneaks into the printshop. When I do not catch him, the results have been embarrassing and sometimes hilarious. As collector tastes have evolved, we have tried to open our pages to subjects that represent a departure from traditional practice. Once in a while, we obtain a thematic article; I wish we had more. We put forth a standing offer to co-print articles with the small specialists' journals, with the *CCP* picking up the tab for typesetting.

Many editors, I suspect, have had to steal time from other activities to produce their publications. Most of us do not perform this as a full-time occupation. Most of us are fully employed; as careers evolve and more responsibilities intrude, this becomes more difficult. Learning time-management and using every available moment productively has been a valuable lesson, at least in my case. Even during that period when I was recalled to active duty for Desert Storm, work on the *CCP* continued, thanks in

large part to Express Mail and a proactive, dedicated printer. One learns to treasure the relationship with such people.

The lessons continue and our publication continues to evolve along with philately. Like the maturing of fine wine, editing skill is a combination of time and favorable conditions. □

Letters

D' Alexander D. Kroo: Nous avons remarqué à la page 77 du *Philatelic Communicator* n° 98/1992 un bref article de M. Stuart Morrissey, vice-président de la Maison Scott Publishing Co., fortement offensant pour l'ASCAT.

Veuillez bien publier dans le prochain numéro de votre magazine la précision suivante:

1) les nouvelles de «source russe,» relatées par Otto Hornung dans le *Philatelic Exporter* de Septembre 1992, au sujet de la politique d'émission de l'ex-URSS, diffusées au cours d'une réunion de l'ASCAT, ont été *immédiatement démenties* par toutes les parties concernées et reportés par la presse internationale (voir annexes).

2) le commentaire finale sur ce sujet exprimé par M. Morrissey, soit: «I smelled a rat because Otto had sourced the quote to a recent ASCAT meeting. Scott is not a member of ASCAT, and its public opposition to ASCAT policies are a matter of record,» est donc tout-à-fait inutile, car parvé de tout fondement.

Ces déclarations, dictées uniquement pour esprit de «protagonisme,» se rallient à la constante opposition de la Scott Publishing Co. vers toutes les initiatives de l'ASCAT, même les meilleures et d'intérêt international.

Tout en remerciant de votre attention, nous vous prions d'agréer nos sincères salutations.

[Translation follows.]

From Alexander D. Kroo: We noticed on page 77 of the Fourth Quarter 1992 *Philatelic Communicator* a brief article by Mr. Stuart Morrissey, vice president of the Scott Publishing Company, which is strongly offensive to ASCAT.

Would you please publish in the next edition of your magazine the following:

1. The news of a Russian source as stated by Otto Hornung in the September 1992 edition of *Philatelic Exporter* on the subject of the issues of the ex-USSR supposedly emanating from an ASCAT meeting has been immediately denied by all concerned parties and reported by the international press.

2. The final comment on the subject by Mr. Morrissey, *i.e.*, «I smelled a rat because Otto had sourced the quote to a recent ASCAT meeting. Scott is not a member of ASCAT, and its public opposition to ASCAT policies are a matter of record,» is totally without foundation.

These statements have been made solely to antagonize and reinforce Scott Publishing Company's constant opposition to ASCAT's initiatives, even those that are taken in the best international interest. □

Editor's note: Alexander D. Kroo is Secretary General of ASCAT, The International Association of Stamp Catalog Editors. The «article» and quotation he attributes to Stuart Morrissey are both clearly mine, not Stu's. In the copy of my column Kroo attached to his letter, someone actually wrote in quotation marks around my sentence, putting it in Stu's mouth. This, however, is the least of ASCAT's recent affronts to sensibility. □

From Steve Krieger: You wrote something about Roberto Rosende and the Philatelic Foundation, but not in any detail. Does that kind of information just get around certain circles? I'm not necessarily looking for bad news; I would like to know what goes on—all of it.

Everybody says to get all the information you can, then they act like knowledge and research are dirty words. Stamp collecting is supposed to be fun, fun, fun, and that's all.

In the short time I've been involved with philately, I've noticed a lot gets glossed over by the stamps-are-fun people, especially in the knowledge area.

I like your writing and editorship of the *Communicator*. You seem to have quieted down some, I hope not to the point of inertia. After all, you are the younger generation and have to kick some a** [George Bush word] at times.

The old f**** [guess again], old guard, older generation have to move over. Whether they like it or not, new is coming at them. I'm 50. Only in stamp collecting can that age be considered young. □

Editor's note: Right. I'm 50 too, going on 16. □

From Ken Stewart: *The Philatelic Communicator* used to be the most interesting journal I received. I used to look forward to each and every issue. Then the «say only good things and don't have an opinion» crowd got hold of the organization, and now *The Philatelic Communicator* is getting more boring with each issue.

The last issue was at the two-yawn stage, saved only by a little sarcasm in several places. «Everyone» screamed about all the personal back-biting and how they wanted articles that would help them learn to write. Well, all the how-to articles are nothing more (with very few exceptions) than puffery and self-promotion.

Sorry, but the personal fights were a lot more interesting and heck of a lot more educational. The boring people of the world have won another round.

There was nothing in the last *Philatelic Communicator* that would attract anyone to the hobby, and there was much that would encourage them to collect baseball cards. What insufferable snobs so many of the philatelic writers are. □

Excerpted by permission from *The Clermont Collector*. □

From Barbara L. Anderson: I began a subscription to *The Philatelic Communicator* late this past year, and I'm thoroughly enjoying the free give and take in its pages. I've published a total of 14 articles in the philatelic press in the last two years, not a large amount by some standards, but I've only put forth serious effort in the last few months.

I've also published numerous pieces in postcard publications, and I'm currently attempting to reach out to the non-philatelic and non-postcard press. □

From Stephen G. Esrati: I received a \$25 check for my «Alien Ink» article in *U.S. Stamps & Postal History*. I wrote for the magazine after being told by Randy Neil at Chicago that it would pay comparably to other philatelic magazines.

On that assumption, I suggested several other ideas for possible publication. But when the check arrived, I was rather put out and wrote John Hotchner that I found the payment inadequate, mentioning what *Linn's Stamp World* used to pay.

Hotchner replied by postcard, saying that he thought *Stamp World* had overpaid, and, anyway, it's academic since *Stamp World* went belly up.

For the record, I believe *Stamp World* went out of business because it couldn't break the system used for putting magazines on news stands, that being what its aim was. □

From Gene Fricks: Amen to «Cast Out the Whiches»!

I am not certain of the famous English writer who first observed that Americans did not know the difference between *which* and *that*. However, it has raised my sensitivity to the distinction.

One of my most time-consuming tasks in editing the *Collectors Club Philatelist* is trying to catch all the *whiches* that don't fit. It is also interesting how many authors get bent and exercised in my changing their grammar. □

From Kenneth Rowe: It was pleasant meeting you at Philitex in November. In the meantime I have taken your and Charlie's suggestion and rejoined WU30. ▶▶

As I told Charlie, I resigned several years ago during a period when WU30 and two other competing organizations were filling their journals with criticisms of each other and the main aim of each was to obtain free admission to any stamp exhibition! I hope we don't get into that sort of thing again.

I read your "Cast Out the Whiches" and in response to writers using *which* as a relative pronoun when *that* would be correct, I can only say that that that, that that writer used should have been a "which"! □

From Russell H. Anderson: I got quite a charge from "Cast Out the Whiches" and Joe Frye's "Not Sold In Stores" follow-up. The reason: I taught Industrial Arts for some 34-plus years and endured the taunts of what we called the "grammarmasters" that us "wood butchers, tin knockers, and grease monkeys couldn't spell, let alone write." I have however noticed that I am one of the very few (now retired) on a very large faculty that has been published.

Obviously most of my articles are on Scandinavian subjects for *Stamp Collector*, a while back for *Linn's*, and a batch of quarterly and club papers. Most are concerned with promoting the collection of Scandinavia and are in the popular vein rather than scholarly research.

I do not fit into the group of philatelic writers whose income depends at least in part on their writing. What little I receive for occasional articles is a supplement to a reasonable (so far) retirement income from teaching, plus a very few minor investments.

The review of *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* was of interest, as my first article for it appeared in the third issue.

The *Communicator* is one of three incoming publications I read cover to cover. *Time* and *Fine Woodworking* are the others. I just sent a photostat of "How to Edit a Society Journal" to a club president in West Australia at his request. He is thinking of joining up. □

Reviews

Nearly 70 Years of Distinguished Philately

By Alan Warren

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by A. Ronald Butler, 7 by 10 inches, hardbound, 212 + xii pages, The British Philatelic Federation, London, 1990. £60 postpaid from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus.

Since 1921 over 300 outstanding members of the philatelic community have been invited to sign England's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The first of many signatories was none other than His Majesty King George V. The list contains many familiar names as well as some that are not easily recognized. The idea of starting a roll to honor those who had worked hard to advance the hobby of stamp collecting was conceived by Percy C. Bishop of the London Stamp Club in 1919.

The honor contrasted with the medals offered by several other organizations. Bishop's actual idea was to present a philatelic order of merit with a suitable diploma. The first jury considered 91 philatelists for the honor and decided to confer the order of merit on 25 of them. At the outset a list of 43 distinguished philatelists were designated as "founding fathers," and their names appear as a frame around the scroll.

Since 1921, from one to five philatelists were selected each year to join the ranks of distinction with the exception of the years 1941 to 1945. The bulk of the text is devoted to capsule biographies of the signers, indicating their years of birth and death, and country. The sketches highlight their collecting interests and name various offices they held in organized philately.

Many of the biographies are accompanied by photos of the individuals. Just a few of the distinguished honorees profiled in these pages are Nils Strandell, Alfred F. Lichtenstein, James Starr, Hiram Deats, Henry Revell Harmer, J. Schmidt-Andersen, Gerald E. Wellburn, Henry R. Holmes, Maurice Burrus, John R. Boker, Soichi Ichida, Enzo Diana, Enrique Martin de Bustamante, and Harry L. Lindquist.

The listing concludes with the five honorees named in 1989. The entry for James R.W. Purvis, who signed in 1937, points out that he was the youngest signer at the age of 36. The listing is presented chronologically by the year in which the signers were named, along with the location of the Philatelic Congress meeting that year. The Congress itself was established in 1909 but was dissolved in 1976 to be replaced, along with most activities of the British Philatelic Association, by the British Philatelic Federation.

The Federation itself is now in deep financial trouble, and suspended publication of its journal *Stamp Mail*. The BPF is regrouping to decide whether it should continue and if so what its purposes shall be. A brief glossary lists some of the major philatelic societies, and the medals and awards conferred by some of these organizations. The index presents the signatories alphabetically so that the book is a quick reference to some of the major players in the history of philately.

The book is exceptionally well bound and printed with clear illustrations. Author A. Ronald Butler was named to the roll in 1975. He specialized in Australia and served as librarian of the RPS for twenty years. As a member of the Board of Election of the Roll he has been close to the process and has provided a valuable reference source for philatelic historians. □

A New Session of Congress

by Charles J. Peterson

The Congress Book 1992 [spine title: *58th American Philatelic Congress Book*], edited by Michel Forand. 7¼ by 10¼ inches, iii + 187 numbered pages, hard cover. ISBN 0-929333-16-0. From the American Philatelic Congress, % Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Russell V. Skavaryl, 222 East Torrence Road, Columbus, OH 43214-3834.

This is the first full year at the helm for editor Forand, who took over from Barbara Mueller on the 57th edition, and he has acquitted himself with distinction.

Content is commendably diversified, by philatelic discipline as well as by geographic scope. The nine articles cover: postal markings of Columbus, Ohio (Richard Graham); a timely and seminal examination of the cause of the U.S. 2-cent Columbian "broken hat" variety (Thomas Corette); Varro Tyler's comprehensive examination of Dumonteuil-produced forgeries of Colombia; Caribbean purser mail of the HAPAG Line (Roger Schnell); Haiti's Cap-Haïtien provisional marking of 1889 (L. Wallace Dean III); Janet Klug's mini-monograph on Tonga's Queen Salote definitives of 1920-49; an extensive listing and identification of medical personalities commemorated by postmarks and cachets from the USS *Relief* (George Griffenhagen and Adolf W. Schwartz); Russia's 1914-15 semi-postals (George Shalimoff and Paul Blake); and the history/postal history of the 1881-84 Lady Franklin Bay polar expedition (Hal Vogel). While none appear to be "reach out and grab you" pieces, there's definitely no fluff or off-the-top-of-the-head fare—it's all solid research and reference material.

Layout is attractive and appropriate; in fact, Forand has made some thoughtful improvements. All articles start recto, with full physical separation of articles. A bolder action was his movement of all Congress internal matters (annual report, chronologies, awards, patrons and sustaining members, etc.) from the front of the book to the back. While the APC may have begun in 1935 as an emulation of the British Philatelic Congress, it's been a long time since the primary emphasis has been on personal presentation

and discussion of papers at the annual meeting. Instead, the chief function of the APC has been the *publication* of philatelic articles in book form. Transforming the format of the current volume from that of seminar proceedings to one of a stand-alone book provides a long-overdue acknowledgment of reality.

Finally, the book is remarkably clean with respect to consistency of style and to misspellings/typos. I subjected it to a particularly close reading, and could only find three quibbles, none of which affected understanding. (In fact, they're so easy to miss that I'll identify the pages, and will send a philatelic reward to the first reader to describe them to me correctly. There's one mistake, misspelling or typographical error on page 39, another on page 65, and yet another on page 181.)

In summary, it's a very good production, which I have no hesitation in recommending to any serious philatelist. It's also clear confirmation of Michel Forand's prowess as a philatelic editor, and assurance that the *Congress Book* continues in good hands. □

Expertizing Adventures

By Barbara R. Mueller

Opinions VI Philatelic Expertizing—An Inside View edited by Robert P. Odenweller. 7¼ by 10¼ inches, 236 pages, hard cover. ISBN 0-911989-25-0. Published by The Philatelic Foundation, 213 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016. \$35 postpaid, \$26 for members.

I consider myself a Clifton Fadiman-type reviewer, not an Edmund Wilson. In an interview published recently in the *Chicago Tribune*, Fadiman—the “multimedia man of letters”—compared his approach to book reviewing with that of Wilson, his successor at *The New Yorker*, whom he called “a great critic, which I was not. He felt his job was to say something profound about a book that happened to interest him. I thought my job was to be a guide, to bring to the attention of readers whatever books were most lively and interesting, whether or not they appealed to me personally.”

Well, *Opinions VI* is lively and interesting, and it does appeal to me personally, so I am bringing it to your attention in a non-technical review. If you need a review written as a critique of the specialized philatelic contents of each article, I refer you to Calvet Hahn's long discourse in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* of November/December 1992.

The primary thrust of the *Opinions* series has always been expertizing and the close study it requires. The subject has been dealt with from two viewpoints—the problems involved in expertizing a specific, individual item or “patient,” as the Foundation prefers, and general considerations related to the actual process of expertizing a given item. *Opinions VI*, like its predecessors, has some of each kind, with essays on the specific items in the majority.

Some of the 32 articles have appeared previously in other works. For example, Roy White's “Methods for Determining Physical Properties and Chemical Composition of Stamp Papers in the Expertizing Process” (with emphasis on the U.S. 1894-1909 period) was published in part in *The United States Specialist*. “Reperforation” by the Expert Committee was used in the Autumn 1991 issue of the *Philatelic Foundation Quarterly*. Wallace Beardsley's “Hawaiian Headache: Is This Stamp a Genuine Imperf?” ran in the July/December 1989 and January/March 1990 issues of the *Quarterly*. And Stanley Piller's “Three Strikes and You're Out” is essentially the same as the article in the January/June 1989 issue with some editorial touching up—“occasions” to occasions, etc. Incidentally, the *Philatelic Foundation Bulletin* became the *Quarterly* in January 1990.

The title of Piller's article is typical of too many in the *Opinions* series—cutsey/cryptic and confounding to the searching student. Fortunately, editor Odenweller has provided what I call

an “enhanced” table of contents that includes a descriptive subtitle for each article. (In the case of Piller's, it is “The 3¢ 1857 Type I Pair Imperforate Vertically.”) He has also continued the practice begun with number IV of including an index to the volume.

Other Odenweller innovations are a “meet the authors” section at the end of the book and a brief preface about the subject of each article. These “teasers” average about four lines but in the case of the second of Roy White's articles, “Analysis of Cancellation Inks as Determining Factors in Authentication of Rare Covers,” the teaser requires ten lines.

Another author with multiple articles in this volume is Jerome Wagshal, who has a triple play with dissertations on types of the 1¢ 1851-57 and a fake of the 10¢ 1855. In the introduction to Wagshal's “Plate Four—The Unfinished Work,” editor Odenweller points out the truth that “good research work is a continuing process” and that even such students as Neinken knew the value of publishing findings that were admittedly not complete “as a point of ongoing study for the students who follow.” It is often very difficult to convince egotistical authors to publish before they reach their lofty, usually unattainable, goal of having the last word.

In this volume of *Opinions* there are 11 “foreign” articles, 19 U.S., and two on general subjects, proportions quite in keeping with the earlier volumes. Philatelic writers will, or should, recall that the first five were recapped in the unusual volume *Complete Abstracts and Index* for the 187 articles in the series to that point. The abstracts, an innovation in philatelic publishing, are short, concise summaries of the major points of each article with reduced photos of the key items discussed.

All six volumes plus the *Abstracts* comprise valuable shelf references for the philatelic journalist who deals with the technical aspects of stamps and postal history, especially U.S. material. There is little of interest for thematicists, however. They may find more in the American Philatelic Congress series of books.

Indeed, I do take issue with a statement made in *Abstracts* that “there is probably no single series of works with more essential information for the specialist or serious philatelist.” Yes, *Opinions* is great but the APC series should not be overlooked, either. For the past 40 years of their half-century-plus existence, the Congress books have offered just as great a variety of information and in much greater depth, with emphasis on referencing and bibliography, not strong points in the *Opinions* book.

There is room for both series in philately. We can only hope that the recent difficulties experienced by the Foundation will not impede the production of an *Opinions VII*. □

What Happened to the Other Half, Clyde?

By Ken Lawrence

The Half—A Collection by Clyde Jennings. Booklet reprint of articles that appeared in *The United States Specialist* from February 1991 through June 1992. 93 pages, 6 by 9 inches, saddle stitched, soft cover. Limited distribution by the author.

Clyde Jennings is without peer as the stamp hobby's premier showman. Generations of U.S. stamp collectors have been entertained by Clyde's presentations of awesome material, from his “centers of interest” featuring the most spectacular classic U.S. error stamps, to his display of rare and unique color cancels.

For his part, Clyde has not been modest about his philatelic accomplishments, and his place in the hobby's history has been secured at least as much by self-promotion as by obeying the rules (many of which, including the unwritten ones, he himself created). In short, when dealing with Clyde Jennings, stamp showman, we really are dealing with a man who is a legend in his own time.

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However, as one of Clyde's friends has pointed out to me, he is also expert at sidestepping the very standards he applies rigorously to others' exhibits, and many of his promotional efforts are as much exercises in misdirection as philatelic education—not only drawing attention to the strong points of what he shows, but also drawing attention away from serious weaknesses. Keep the audience laughing, with their eyes fixed on the magician's scantily-clad nymphet helper, and they won't ever notice as he slips the ace out of his coatsleeve, or the rabbit into his hat. Thus, in evaluating philatelic literature, it's important to differentiate between entertainment and instruction.

The text under review here in pamphlet form was without peer as the most popular series of articles that appeared in *The United States Specialist* during Charles Yeager's editorship. In essence it is a narrative account of Clyde Jennings's exhibit of the same title, entered in competition under his son Jay's name.

The exhibit has garnered gold medals in national competition, and even a reserve grand award last year at Indypex in Indianapolis. It was in the Court of Honor at World Columbian Stamp Expo in Chicago.

In my opinion the exhibit might merit a high award, perhaps a vermeil medal, since it does include some scarce, important material. However, if this exhibit belonged to someone else, and Clyde were to judge it, he probably wouldn't give it more than a silver. A silver medal was the award given to this pamphlet version by the Colopex and Chicagopex juries.

I haven't been a member of any jury that judged either the exhibit or the pamphlet, so I don't know what criteria they applied. It is clear to me, though, that both are deficient in two areas—completion, and philatelic knowledge—and I suspect Clyde knows it.

The Halfcovers ten United States and two Canal Zone ½-cent stamps. Clyde claims this makes the collection, the exhibit, and the pamphlet about them "complete," stressing that he's a "purist" in that regard, having treated even a distinct color shade as a separate stamp.

This is strictly a postage and postage due stamp exhibit; it includes no revenues. But Clyde has not explained anywhere why the ½-cent postage stamps of one foreign territory formerly governed by the United States, the Panama Canal Zone, should be included, while those of another, the Ryukyu Islands of Japan (Okinawa), should not.

I can hear the Jennings trademark critique now: "You should have called it 'U.S. Half-Cent Issues of North and Central America,' or some such." (Actually, that wouldn't work either, since Clyde has included only two of the Canal Zone's three ½-cent issues, as other critics have pointed out. He omitted the ½-cent orange George W. Davis stamp of 1948, Canal Zone Scott No. 136.) "You'll never get a gold as long as most of your covers are philatelic souvenirs. Replace them with commercial usages."

Personally, I'm not fond of the "gotcha" school of exhibition critiques—but Clyde Jennings is, so I think these would have been fair points to make regarding his exhibit. They are of negligible importance in evaluating philatelic literature, though. If Clyde wants his pamphlet to cover just 12 United States and Canal Zone stamps, why should anyone complain? If philatelic covers make good illustrations, show them.

In other respects, the requirements of philatelic literature are stiffer than those for philatelic exhibitors. You can get a high award for your British Guiana exhibit even though it doesn't include the Penny Magenta, but you can't omit it from the definitive monograph on the postage of British Guiana.

The very first U.S. ½-cent stamp was the flat plate brown Nathan Hale definitive of 1925. It was issued for the specific purpose of revaluing 1-cent embossed stamped envelopes in possession of the public when the third-class minimum rate rose from one cent to one and a half cents. (The unsold envelopes were

overprinted to reflect the new value, but an earlier attempt to overprint envelopes already sold to the public had led to a fiasco, so this time a stamp was issued.)

Clyde treats this usage as an afterthought, not as the stamp's reason for existence. I asked one of the judges who awarded it a gold and reserve grand how that could be. "It's probably common," he said. "It's more important for him to show off rarities" (such as the large die proof, use on flown airship mail, and so forth).

Well, the truth is, the intended usage isn't common, but philatelic judges often know only as much about a subject as the exhibitor tells them, so Clyde slid by on that one. But in a publication that claims to be complete, and does indeed include material that the author doesn't own and can't show, the reason why this denomination came to exist in the first place ought to be right there at the beginning. It isn't mentioned.

That's the biggest omission I noticed, but there are a couple of analytical problems in the text also. Clyde shows a precanceled 2½-cent stamped envelope with an added precanceled ½-cent Benjamin Franklin stamp in the Liberty series, then discredits it with the observation, "There has never been a three-cent bulk-mail rate for a single piece of third-class mail."

The statement is true, but the usage is legitimate. When the rate rose from 2½ cents to 2¾ cents, the only way to use up the old postal stationery was to overpay the postage, because in those days false franking wasn't allowed, mixing stamped paper and meters wasn't allowed, and surplus special-order postal stationery couldn't be returned for a refund.

Clyde has been unable to show a legitimate usage of the bi-color ½-cent postage due stamp of 1959, Scott No. J88. To solve his exhibition dilemma, he placed a large display advertisement in *Linn's*, offering a \$500 reward "for the first cover sent to me showing legitimate usage during proper time period," and failed to get any takers, nor even any evidence that such a cover exists.

That tactic overcame his concern that he'd be downgraded for failing to show the stamp properly used, but once again, it doesn't meet the more rigorous requirement of good literature. Why are there no covers bearing that stamp? is the author's burden to answer.

The one conceivable legitimate use for that ½-cent postage due stamp *on cover*—an underpaid third-class mailpiece weighing between two and four ounces (4½-cent rate) delivered before January 7, 1963—is implausible, and it's unlikely the stamp was issued for that purpose. The recipient would have had to pay at least a penny, receiving a ½-cent definitive stamp in change plus the canceled ½-cent postage due on cover, and both of these were stamps that had limited distribution from 1959 on.

I think the last ½-cent postage due stamp was issued for internal post office use, on bulk mail deposit account forms, at receiving post offices too small to qualify for postage meters. (Commercial minimum per piece third-class bulk rate was 2½ cents until January 6, 1963.) Unlike business reply mail postage due receipts, which are presented to the account holder, these sheets would have been retained by the post office; the only way such usages would get out would be as waste paper.

Here again, exhibition requirements have interfered with the discipline of good philatelic research and publication. Yet, as I wrote in the beginning, this text has been far more popular than any serious, scholarly material published in *The United States Specialist* during the same period.

I suppose it all goes to prove that Clyde's showmanship displays deeper insights into the minds of collectors than many of us would like to acknowledge, whether it concerns exhibiting or writing literature, and that even among specialists, entertainment value outweighs scholarly precision for most readers, whatever literature judges may think. □

Two "Thirds"

By Janet Klug

U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations, The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook No. 3 edited by Scott R. Trepel. vii + 164 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, soft cover. ISBN 0-911989-26-9. \$24.95 from The Philatelic Foundation, 21 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016.

Linn's Handbook Series Volume 3, The Introduction to the Stamps of Mexico by Dale Pulver. vi + 114 pages. 8½ by 11 inches. \$30 hard cover. ISBN 0-940403-48-X. \$14.95 postpaid from Linn's Stamp News, P.O. Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365-0029.

It is very difficult to convince "average" collectors to spend substantial dollars to buy the philatelic literature necessary to expand their horizons and knowledge. This is why I applaud the efforts of the Philatelic Foundation and *Linn's Stamp News* in producing affordably-priced handbooks geared to the intermediate (also known as "average") collector. Their two newest offerings each represent the third installment in their respective series.

The Philatelic Foundation's *U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations* begins with a well thought out and attractively illustrated time line that paces postal developments within the greater context of historic events. A series of articles on the development and use of early postal markings, written by a variety of authors, follows the time line. These articles are edited transcripts of presentations given by their authors at a seminar conducted by the Philatelic Foundation in November 1990. The individual articles are nicely illustrated and cover a variety of subjects revolving around the theme of U.S. postmarks and cancellations.

The first article, by Frank Mandel, traces the development of the handstamp from colonial times to 1900. Richard Frajola explains the private postal systems of the U.S. Richard Winter's subject is exchange markings on Trans-Atlantic mails. Hubert Skinner catalogs the cancellations and postmarks of New York City from 1845 to 1876. Louis Grunin writes about postmarks and cancellations on adhesives. Henry Scheuer introduces the subject of early 20th century first day covers. The final two articles by Scott Trepel involve fake fancy cancels and other markings. A helpful annotated bibliography follows each article.

Because of the "seminar" format and the variety of authors, *U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations* contains some duplication and overlapping of material. It is annoying when the book is viewed as a whole, but understandable if each article is considered as a stand-alone presentation.

Linn's third entry in its handbook series is a wonderful introduction to collecting the stamps of Mexico. Dale Pulver's text is extremely lucid, concise, and chock-full of helpful "how to" tips. Illustrations are plentiful, though fuzzy in places. The book is extracted in large part from Pulver's Mexico column that appears regularly in *Linn's*.

The publication concentrates on definitive postage stamps from the early, turbulent years through the modern era. There are sections on back-of-the-book material, postal history, and a useful appendix that serves as a checklist for the Exporta definitives. These fascinating stamps must surely rival Great Britain's Machins for collectable varieties.

Pulver's *Introduction to the Stamps of Mexico* is a "must have" for anyone who has even a slight interest in Mexican philately, and it is interesting reading for those of us who simply love stamps. □

Looking Twice at Revenues

by Charles J. Peterson

Second Federal Issue 1801-1802: U.S. Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper, by W.V. Combs. ISBN 0-945735-00-6. Hard bound, 7¼ by 10¼ inches, offset, xv + 142 pages, well illustrat-

ed. Available from the American Revenue Association, Rockford, Iowa, 50468. \$20 postpaid, \$17 to members.

Gene Kelly's Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of the Kantone and Gemeinden of Switzerland. Vol. 5: Kanton of Basel-Stadt and its Gemeinden, by Gene Kelly. Looseleaf, plastic ring binding, 6 by 8¼ inches, 142 pages. From the author, Zeltstrasse 7, CH-8253 Diessenhofen, Switzerland, 40 Swiss francs or the equivalent postpaid (\$28 U.S.; add \$8.00 bank charges for checks).

In many respects, these two revenue books are similar. Both are quite specialized, both are authoritative, both provide roughly the same number of pages, and both are in the same reasonable price range. And there, for all practical purposes, the equivalency ends. The Combs publication does (almost) everything right; the Kelly book does it wrong.

Combs's treatment of the subject is clearly laid out. He gives a thorough presentation of the historical and legal background to the embossed revenues in general and to the second issue in particular. This is followed by separate chapters on the papers, the dies, the individual stamp values (by denomination, plus the rate stamps—covering characteristics of the primary stamp, the counterstamp, quantities, usage, unusual documents), types of documents, usage categories, and repeal of various revenue taxes with concomitant ending of the Second Revenue Issue period. Eleven appendices provide the text of applicable acts, notices and official letters, as well as statistical data on stamps shipped and on hand.

The book is extremely clean and attractive. Photography is excellent; embossed images stand out in clear relief. Documentation and sourcing are commendable. Typos seem to be nonexistent. (There is one likely misspelling: pages 15-16 show two paper manufacturers, William [Wm.] Young and William [Wm.] Duane. The probability in this case that "Duane" is a transcription error is too high to let stand without amplification.)

If there is a systemic weakness in this book, it's in the stretching and redundancy which makes it seem bigger than it is. Of the xv + 142 numbered pages, 13 are completely blank left-hand pages, and most end-of-chapter right-hand pages are less than full; type is 12 point on 14, with generous leading at sub-chapters and sections. Additionally, a number of statements are unnecessarily repeated. At worst, this is a distraction; certainly the author has given us an attractive, readable and definitive monograph, at a most reasonable and affordable price.

Gene Kelly provides unique, reliable catalog treatment of Swiss revenues. He has researched the available official documentation, has an extensive reference collection, and can be safely considered as a (the?) leading authority on this field. Unfortunately, the catalogs themselves do not give one a sense of confidence.

The current volume, like its predecessors, is produced by photocopying typed text with paste-up illustrations (in Hawid-style mounts). It's a reasonably satisfactory method, and the reproduction quality is quite good. However, some illustrations have slipped, and space is not used effectively or aesthetically. Text is set entirely in capital letters, and is not well spaced or aligned. The overall appearance is awkward and amateurish.

The book is riddled with misspellings, faulty grammar and poor sentence structure. It also appears to suffer from typographical errors, although at times it's difficult to tell what's incorrect writing and what's a typo. Most German language terms have been translated, but not all (e.g., Stempelmarken, Kontrollbureau [alternatively, Kontrolle Bureau], Gantrodel); conversely, the English translation of the 1870 supplement to the Basel tax regulations is clumsy as well as incorrect.

Comparison helps. All too often, authors and publishers (and reviewers as well) consider a printed work in isolation; if there's any comparative evaluation, it involves the incremental changes since the previous edition, or the challenge faced by the immediate competition for the same reader market. It's instructive at

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times to look at somewhat comparable works in another field. In the case of Combs' study, good editing and production make it look even better—with Kelly's catalogs, editing and production are deterrents, and undoubtedly prevent the works from getting the serious attention they deserve. □

More French Pre-Adhesive Sea Mails

By Ernst M. Cohn

Actualisation de l'ouvrage: Poste maritime préphilatélique - Histoire postale & catalogue - Édition de Mai 1990 (Updating of the book: Pre-stamp Maritime Post - Postal History and Catalog—May 1990 edition) by Joseph Bergier and Vincent Pothion. English and French text, softbound, saddle stitched, 8¼ by 11¼ inches, 38 pages. French francs 120, postpaid from Lucien Bridelance, 19 avenue du Châtelet, F-77150 Lésigny, France.

The original work on this topic was reviewed in the Third Quarter 1991 *Philatelic Communicator*.

The inside front cover of this supplement contains the striking reproduction of a billboard sign from March 1786, advertising a slave sale at Kingston, Jamaica.

A large amount of additional material has evidently surfaced since publication of the 1990 book. Among the many items are early New Orleans postmarks and Carroll Chase's comments on that type of material; and a great many more comments on and examples of prisoner-of-war mail, much of it coming from England.

Considering the age of the documents, it is not surprising that some of them are difficult to read. Whereas most of the illustrations are quite clear, it would have been desirable to touch up a few of the pictures to make the markings recognizable.

The Union Marcophile is doing a most commendable job in publishing such original postal historical contributions as supplements to their journals, thus making them available at very reasonable prices. This is another truly worthwhile addition to that series. □

Norway, the Country

By Russell H. Anderson

History of Norway by Ivar Libæk and Oivind Stenersen. Lavishly illustrated 184 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, hard cover. Grondahl & Son Forlag A/S Oslo 1991. Theme sections prepared with the support of the Norwegian Post Office Stamp Bureau. Available from Lighthouse Publications, P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

This book is obviously not a philatelic production, however it is being distributed through the U.S. agent of Postens Frimerketjeneste (Norway Post).

The intent is to provide a popular history as background for collectors of Norwegian stamps. In that it succeeds. The flyleaf, duplicated front and back, illustrates a wide selection of Norwegian stamps reprinted in original colors. Here and there pertinent issues are reproduced along with information about events and personalities of Norwegian history.

Photographs and reproductions of paintings predominate—in color when possible. Old lithographs and some photographs are in black and white as originally produced. The writing on history is in a popular vein; rather than a dry recitation of historic facts and figures. The historic record flows from approximately 10,000 B.C. to 1990. Here and there a minor misuse of English appears in the translation.

For writers on Norwegian stamp subjects, the book provides a wealth of background information plus a list of recent English-language publications for further reference. Periodic maps complete with statistics provide a fine picture of personalities, industries, and events, showing how Norway has entered world history.

For collectors of Scandinavia, this is a fine reference volume. □

Norway's Stamps

By Russell H. Anderson

Postens Frimerketjeneste (Norwegian Post Stamp Bureau, P.O. Box 3770, Gamlebyen N-0135, Oslo, Norway). U.S. and Canadian edition through Lighthouse Publications, P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

Six issues each year of this philatelic bureau publication constitute a reference book on the new issues of Norway, including both technical information and a detailed writeup about each stamp subject. The philatelic agency of the U.S. Postal Service would do well to subscribe, to glean ideas for use in its bimonthly catalog. The illustrations, price lists, and ordering system currently used by the U.S. Philatelic Sales Division falls far short of the ones found in this attractive Norwegian pamphlet.

Regular customers of new issues automatically receive the six annual pamphlets free from Norwegian Post. As with all Scandinavian stamp bureaus, a great deal of effort has gone into the design, writing, and provision of background material. At the moment, Norway seems to be in the lead, with a completely redesigned booklet starting in 1991.

The usual order blanks and new stamp descriptions are only a part of the issues. The most recent issue, of example, has an extensive writeup of the world's longest series of a single motif—the Posthorn issues—in original basic colors, with helpful information for sorting. This is not an easy project for the neophyte.

A subscriber stamp exchange is included—two and a half pages of personal ads. One or two short articles are usually included, and the fourth edition has a complete list of projected new issues for 1993 with dates of issue. Obviously material about philatelic products also is included, but is tastefully presented. □

Air Mail Byways: Cinderellas, Etiquettes, and Aerograms

By Kendall C. Sanford

New Zealand Air Post Cinderellas with Valuations compiled by James A. Stapleton. Published by The Air Mail Society of New Zealand, 1992. 46 pages, A4 size, soft cover. \$14.00 plus \$2.00 surface postage, available from Aerophil, 4 Ave. General Guiguer, CH-1197 Prangins (Vaud), Switzerland.

Etiquettes: Par Avion - By Airmail by Frank G. Jones. Published by Frank G. Jones Associates, UK, 1992. 56 pages, A4 size, soft cover. \$18.00 plus \$3.00 postage, available from the publisher and Aerophil, 4 Ave. General Guiguer, CH-1197 Prangins (Vaud) Switzerland.

Katalog der Aerogramme von Australien und Ozeanien (Catalog of Aerograms of Australia and the Pacific) by Roggenkämper, Russ & Wiegand. Published by EAPC Aerophilatelic Club, Stuttgart, Germany, 1992. 76 pages, soft cover. \$10.00 plus \$3.00 postage, available from the publisher and Aerophil, 4 Ave. General Guiguer, CH-1197 Prangins (Vaud), Switzerland.

James Stapleton's booklet is an updated and expanded edition of the original 1990 handbook, which was 30 pages. It describes, classifies, and shows all known airmail labels and airmail cinderellas issued in New Zealand, from 1898 (Great Barrier Pigeongram Service) to the present. It includes labels issued by the post office, airlines, and privately. New chapters cover the Pigeon Post cinderella labels and "Fastpost" labels.

The handbook also includes new discoveries and information on the other types of labels. Also new is a price estimate for each item. The printing was done by photocopy machine, so some of the illustrations are a bit poor. However, most of them are quite acceptable. This handbook will be of interest to the collector of air mail etiquettes and air mail cinderella labels.

Frank Jones has compiled a study of air mail etiquettes—their earliest use, different types, official and unofficial. The book explains the various uses of air mail etiquettes, from indicating that a letter was to be carried by air, to advertising and promotion of airlines, new routes, etc.

Many different types of etiquettes are shown, including some in color reproduced on a color photocopy machine. It is not a catalog of air mail etiquettes, but is an excellent introduction to this often neglected aspect of aerophilately.

The book was presented to the Jack Knight Air Mail Society during Chicagopex 1992, and closely follows the author's exhibit of air mail etiquettes, which won a silver medal and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award. I highly recommend it to all aerophilatelists.

The EAPC Aerophilatelic Club in Germany has produced another in a series of inexpensive handbooks, this one on aerograms of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific islands. Included are Australian military aerograms and "On His Majesty's Service" aerograms. All items are shown and priced in German marks. The text is in German, but each listing is short, so with the aid of a German dictionary, the non-German speaker can easily understand the listings.

This is a useful catalog for the aerogram collector or the aerophilatelist interested in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific area. □

Under Cover Covers

By Alan Warren

Under Cover Addresses of World War II by Charles Entwistle. 5¼ x 8¼ inches, 24 pages, saddle stitched. ISBN 1-872744-01-X. Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW, Great Britain.

The publishing firm of C & A Entwistle (Chavril Press) will be recognized as the source of a number of short pamphlets on censorship and military mails (see *The Philatelic Communicator* Fourth Quarter 1991, page 65, and First Quarter 1992, page 15). In the present booklet the authors admit the subject of "under cover" addresses used during the Second World War is not completely documented here. However, they acknowledge the assistance of John Daynes and Tony Torrance in putting together this monograph.

"Under cover" addresses do not disclose the true destination of the letter, and one of the clues is that the country of origin and the return address seem to differ. From 1917 the British government authorized Thomas Cook and Sons to operate "under cover" addresses. In early 1940, Cook operated Box 601 in Amsterdam for mail to the U.K. Other box numbers designated mail intended for South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. In May of that year when Germany invaded the Netherlands, the Cook operation was suddenly suspended.

By July 1941, P.O. Box 506 in Lisbon was set up as another Thomas Cook and Sons base. Cook advertised service was available to many European countries, including eventually such countries as Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, and Yugoslavia among others. POW and internee mail were excluded. Letters were to be sent in open addressed envelopes, accompanied by a postal money order for two shillings, and enclosed in an outer cover addressed to the box in Lisbon.

The authors also mention the use of post office boxes in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for mail related to the Manhattan Project, and a dummy metals firm in England for atomic bomb research correspondence to that country. Cook also used perfins with their initials as well as forwarding labels.

The authors use a point system to assign valuations to categories of envelopes with "under cover" addresses. The Cook mail from the Amsterdam operation is rare due to the short period of

use. Mail from the smaller countries also commands a premium. Despite the greater number of Lisbon Box 506 covers, these command high prices because of their popularity.

The authors list nearly 80 "under cover" addresses in countries such as Argentina, Canada, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. Some of the South American countries had special addresses for German spy activities.

This booklet, while not covering the subject in great depth, will help collectors track down much of this type of postal history by identifying the specific addresses to look for in those dealer boxes. □

World War II in French Somali Coast

By Kendall C. Sanford

French Somali Coast — The Postal History 1939-1945 by A. R. Torrance. 24 pages, saddle stitched. ISBN 1-872744-07-9. Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW, Great Britain.

French Somali Coast is another in the Chavril Press series of excellent handbooks on various aspects of World War II postal history. It covers the story of the transport of mail both to and from this African territory during the Second World War, which was to undergo six different phases. It starts with an outline of the mail routes and censor devices employed from the outbreak of the war until Italy's declaration in June 1940, and continues through the short-lived period when France was still free and Italy was hostile.

The story continues as French Somali Coast was aligned with Vichy France—initially to March 1941, when the collapse of Italian East Africa led to the introduction of the "blockade-runner" flights. The handbook lists these flights, both direct and indirect, as well as those interrupted due to the changing situation.

The fifth phase commences when French Somali Coast switched allegiance from Vichy to Free France, the last colony to do so. This cut communications with France, but allowed new services to be established with her colonies. The last phase covers the reestablishment of services to liberated France. The handbook covers not only the routes, but also lists all known censor devices, postmarks, and cachets of the period, and many of them are shown.

There is no list of references used, which would have helped collectors in pursuing related aspects. However, it should be of interest to collectors of airmails, France and Colonies, and those interested in World War II postal history. □

Two Indexes and an Atlas

by Charles J. Peterson

Cumulative Index of "First Days" Volumes 1-36 edited by Margaret E. Monty. Paper, unbound, 11 by 8½ inches, offset, 90 leaves printed two-up in landscape format (cover, preface, Part I interleaf, pages 1-168, Part II interleaf, pages 1-172). Also available on 5¼- or 3½-inch computer diskettes, MAC or DOS versions. From AFDCS Sales, P.O. Box 1335, Maplewood, NJ 07040-1335, \$14.95 postpaid for each format.

Cumulative Index to Japanese Philately, Vols. 1-45 (1946-1990) compiled by Sune Johnson, Kenneth Kamholz and John Ludes Jr., with computer assistance from Lois M. Evans-de Violini. Initially published as a supplement to *Japanese Philately*, Vol. 46, No. 6 (Dec. 1991). Hardbound, 8½ by 11¼ inches, offset, 207 pages, ISSN 0146-0994. Available at \$15 postpaid from the International Society for Japanese Philately, % Mr. Lee R. Wilson, 4216 Jennifer Street NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Philatelistischer Atlas des Osmanischen Reiches (Philatelic Atlas of the Ottoman Empire), by Andreas Birken. Second edition. 11¼

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by 8¼ inches, 334 pages, card cover. In German with English and Turkish translation. From the author/publisher, Dr. Andreas Birken, Kreienkoppel 3, D-2000 Hamburg 65, Germany, at DM 88; available in the U.S. at \$50 postpaid from Peter R. Feltus, P.O. Box 5339, Berkeley, CA 94705.

First Days has long been in need of a cumulative index. This one, which covers Volumes 1-36 (1955-1991), is a considerable help but falls quite a bit below the ideal. It's regrettable, since there's plenty of published guidance—generic, as well as philatelic-specific—that could have shown the pitfalls and helped make this index much better.

The work at hand has been done in two separately numbered parts: the Title Index, and the Author Index. Standard data fields for both parts are title, author, part (for installments of serial articles), volume, issue number, and (starting) page. Notably absent is a separate field for "subject."

The Author Index is relatively straightforward and useful: alphabeticized by authors' last names, with entries under each heading in chronological order. The Title Index, however, has problems. An attempt has been made to make the titles more "indexable," by inverting them where possible to bring key words to the front and also to avoid indexing on "The"; but of course the same logic should have been applied to the lead word "A." Further, unless all titles were originally chosen to be descriptive of the contents, it's impossible to construct a meaningful index without annotations. For example, what is one to make of such entries as "Army Game, The" or "Cleverer . . . and Cleverer" or "Let the Buyer Beware" or "This and That"? Who would look under "Editorials, Guest" for an article on official definitions, or for that matter under "H" for a mysterious citation to "Hark the Lark"? The index to the AFDCS Notebook is listed under "I," while the indexes to *First Days* are under "F"; more vexing, there are entries such as "Award, Philip H. Ward, Jr. Memorial" under "A" with counterparts such as "Ward Award . . ." under "W"—and of course no cross-referencing.

The computerized version is essentially the same: it provides a self-executing program which (a) produces an ASCII text file of Parts I and II and (b) a non-indexed data base version of the same (a dBase .DBF file). The latter has one large plus, of course, since users can readily add an extra "subject" field for their own use, SORT or set up their own .NDX lists, and manipulate the resulting amended files as desired. The thoughtfulness which resulted in availability of the diskette version is much appreciated.

The index certainly is useful as is, and represents a lot of well-intentioned work on behalf of first day collectors and students . . . but, oh, it could have been so much better if soundly planned in advance!

By contrast, Bob Spaulding's foreword to *the Japanese Philately* index cites it as "beyond doubt one of the best and most complete indexes ever published for any philatelic periodical." It have absolutely no quarrel with that claim.

Japanese Philately is a major English-language source of information, and in fact is highly regarded internationally as a leader in Japanese philatelic literature. The index is designed to make that trove of reference material readily available. It has virtually everything one could wish. Before getting to the index proper, there's a bibliographic history of the journal: editors, previous titles, examination of issue and volume and whole numbers, comments on every other facet from international numbers (ISSN, ISBN) to masthead and running heads and copy preparation and printing, etc., and concluding with a checklist of issues/pages/supplements and a list of libraries in the U.S. and abroad known to have holdings of the journal. Cross-listings of journal supplements (in chronological order, by author, as well as by type) are at the back of the volume.

The index itself reflects the sensitivity and long experience of the late Sune Johnson, one of the world's best philatelic indexers.

It consists of five sections: Japan; Japanese Territories; Ryukyu Islands; Other Countries; ISJP internal matters. Each section has its own list of major subject headers, with the greatest degree of subject matter breakout given (understandably) to Japan; these lists of subject headers are provided immediately in front of the actual index(es). Then come the 171 index pages, arranged alphabetically by primary subject heading and with as many as three further levels of sub-division. Citations are by subject, not by article title; if there are multiple subjects in a given article, each is indexed separately; there is appropriate use of *see* and *see also* tags. Many indexes confuse and mislead, even if you know exactly what you want; this one will help you, even if you're not sure what you're looking for.

This is clearly a "must have" item for anyone interested in Japanese philatelic matters, but I also commend it as a model—and an inexpensive one, at that!—for anybody thinking of doing a cumulative index. This book and Negus' *Philatelic Literature* should be the philatelic indexer's primary references.

For postal historians, a good map and accompanying gazetteer are fundamental tools. This is particularly true for wide-spread, complex postal administrations such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany in all its facets, or—in this case—the Ottoman Empire.

This second edition of Birken's atlas is a revised, expanded, and more durable version of the loose-leaf sheets released beginning 1989 as supplements to the German *Türkei-Spiegel*. It covers the former Ottoman administrations from Bosnia to Romania in the north, through Turkey and Asia Minor into Iraq, the Holy Land, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia. There are 90 map sheets showing the post offices and administrative boundaries of the Empire and the Vice-kingdom of Egypt, well-executed, the majority at a scale of 1:1 million. There are also eight historical maps showing territorial changes from the aftermath of the Crimean War to those resulting from the Second Balkan War.

The accompanying index (140 pages on Ottoman postal sites, 80 pages for the khedival Egyptian post) is alphabeticized by the official name in Western transcription, as found on postal markings or in government listings; variants are also shown, and cross-references are provided. Parallel columns give the name in Ottoman script, modern Turkish orthography of the former name, current name, location (sandjak or vilayet) and map reference. For the khedival offices, the script of course is Arabic; "current name" is omitted, and identification of serving postal route is added.

Those who have struggled to identify 19th century Ottoman postmarks, or have tried to correlate Egyptian or Ottoman postal names with those used by foreign agencies, will appreciate this reference. It's also not a bad model for anyone considering a similar publication for some other part of the world. □

A Thematic Perspective on Foreign Stamp Catalogs

By Mary Ann Owens

Michel Europa-Katalog West 1992/93 (A-L) and (M-Z), and Europa-Katalog Ost 1992-93. Schwaneberger Verlag, Munich. 6 by 7¼ inches, soft cover. West 2745 plus unnumbered advertising pages, ISBN 3-87858-274-9. East 1653 plus unnumbered advertising pages, ISBN 3-87858-273-0. Michel Catalogs may be ordered from Lighthouse Publications, P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

Catalogue Yvert et Tellier. 1993 Tome 1, Timbres de France and 1993 Tome 1 bis Timbres de Monaco, Andorre, Europa, Nations Unies. 5¼ by 9 inches, soft cover. ISBN 2-86814-045-9, xxxviii plus 303 plus unnumbered advertising pages. ISBN 2-86814-047-5, 216 plus unnumbered advertising pages. 1993 Tome 7, Timbres

d'Outre Mer de l'Océan Indien au Zululand (O-Z). 8¼ by 9¼ inches, soft cover. ISBN 2-86814-043-2, 863 pages. Editions Yvert et Tellier, 37, rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France.

There are several ways to look at and use the catalogs issued by other countries as a supplement to the information supplied by the several Scott catalogs. One is from the thematic viewpoint.

We all know that once Scott Publishing Company gets past the United States, sets are frequently represented with only one or two illustrated designs. To Scott, logistics have dictated this practice or the catalogs would be even bigger than they are now, or there would be more of them. Even with these abbreviated listings, Scott will add a volume in 1994.

On the other hand, both Michel in Germany and Yvert in France have decided to give additional information by issuing more catalogs, but not all of them in the same year. Michel divides the world into nine main catalogs and about 30 specialized or special subject catalogs and books. Yvert issues nine catalogs, with some on a five year cycle. Both use smaller illustrations than the size Scott likes to use.

Michel catalogs are very useful for thematic collectors, especially those who like to collect their topics or themes where they are a minor part or an incidental part of the designs of the philatelic items. Michel catalogs picture every design-different stamp for every set from every country. For the thematic collector who does not have the opportunity to see the new issues at stamp shows or from a dealer service, this is a big benefit.

The fact that Michel catalogs are written in German should not be a deterrent to buying them. They come with a 12-page "Introduction for English-speaking readers," which greatly helps those who do not read German fluently. Much of the text on the catalog pages also is the same as in English-language catalogs.

There is no English help for the Yvert catalogs. They picture more stamps than Scott does, but do not show complete sets either.

Only two countries are common to both of these 1992/93 Michel and 1993 Yvert sets of catalogs: Andorra (French) and Monaco.

Andorra has no long commemorative sets; usually just pairs, some threes and fours, and one six-design set. Without showing all stamp designs, Andorra covers eight pages in Scott—pages about twice the size of the other two catalogues. In full color, with all designs illustrated, plus additional information, Yvert devotes 22 pages to Andorra. In Michel Andorra takes 23 pages, with all designs shown and additional information.

The difference in the number of designs and the amount of additional information provided is more pronounced when looking at Monaco. Scott devotes 37 pages to Monaco. I find it surprising that Yvert, with stamps in full color, in a catalog issued primarily for Monaco, frequently shows only one stamp design for a set. The number of pages is 100. Michel, with more information than Yvert and with every stamp design illustrated, gives Monaco 108 pages.

Yvert's France catalog is also in full color and does show every French stamp design. It includes sections for postal stationery, first day cancels, tax stamps, postage dues, military, and overseas departments, among others.

Yvert's Monaco catalog, besides Monaco and Andorra, also includes all three areas of United Nations stamps: New York, Geneva, and Vienna. They are followed by the Europa section—the Europa common designs with a list of participating countries by years, then a representative stamp design for the common theme years and the list of countries. The 1992 Europa stamps on the theme of the 500th anniversary of the first voyage to America by Christopher Columbus have one stamp of each country's set shown with the others described.

If I had to choose only one set of foreign language catalogs for my thematic philatelic library, it would definitely be every Michel catalog that is available. Seeing more designs is preferable to fewer designs in color. The other (non-francophone rest-of-the-world) Yvert catalog does not have the stamps in color. □

A Record of Records

By Alan Warren

The Guinness Book of Stamps: Facts & Feats by James Mackay, hardbound, 225 pages, 7 by 9½ inches, ISBN 1-55859-432-9, 1992 reprint by Abbeville Press, Inc., 488 Madison Ave., New York NY 10022, \$19.95.

This beautifully illustrated and bound volume would be a nice addition to any cocktail table. It is also fascinating to leaf through, recognizing that few will want to read this tome cover to cover. The book has appeared in two previous incarnations—the original edition in 1982 and the second edition in 1988, both published in England.

Now an American press, known for its high quality work, has seen fit to bring out the work so that it is readily available this side of the Atlantic. The colorful dust jacket reproduces many stamps, primarily of recent vintage as the classic issues did not boast the brilliant colors used in recent years by postal agencies around the world.

Even the end papers of this book illustrate some lovely pictorial cancellations. The illustrations throughout the book are first class, whether the many black and white ones found on almost every page, or the group of pages in brilliant colors found in the third chapter.

Author Mackay avoids the dull approach of simply furnishing the reader with the facts. Each item discussed has a narrative paragraph with it that holds one's attention. The chapters cover the facts in specific areas. In the first chapter, on "Postal Services," the reader will learn about the oldest postal service in the world, the earliest surviving letter, the oldest postal map, the earliest attempts to form a world-wide postal union, and the smallest post office in the world (a distinction claimed by Ochopee, Florida).

There are nearly 150 entries in this chapter alone, including fascinating facts about mail service by land, sea, and air. The Pony Express, disinfected mail, and Tonga's Tin-Can Mail will be found here. The next section deals with postmarks (would you believe the earliest postal marking is found on Egyptian letters c. 2778 BC as recorded in the Cairo Museum?). The earliest postal markings in Europe included the Latin *cito* and *citissime*, as well as the French *en diligence*, which later gave rise to the mail coach known as a Diligence.

The Bishop mark and the earliest numeral obliterations are described as well as the first machine slogan used in Britain (1917). Meter franking machines are reviewed and a 1922 model A Pitney-Bowes postage meter is illustrated. The book is right up to date with illustrations of automatic letter facing, canceling, and sorting machines.

The chapter on adhesive stamps discusses Sir Rowland Hill, but points up the earliest use of adhesive postage for prepayment is claimed by France in 1653. However, no surviving example of these "stamps" is known. A chronological table from 1840 to 1986 lists the countries of the world and when they introduced commemorative, official, semi-postal, airmail, and postage due issues.

As might be expected, Cape of Good Hope was the first country to issue triangular stamps and Nova Scotia the first diamond-shaped one. The section on "Kinds of Stamps" delves into airmail, bisects, booklets, forgeries (first appeared in 1840

and recognized by Rowland Hill as a poor attempt to counterfeit the Penny Black), late fee stamps, mourning stamps, and many other types.

The chapter on technology goes into design, production, printing processes, color, paper, perforations, and security devices. Postal stationery and philately have brief chapters of their own, concluding the book. Although it is not specified, the index is one of proper names only. For example, there is no entry for perkins, so the utility of the index comes up short.

Author James Mackay began collecting stamps when he was four, and at the tender age of 24 became curator of the philatelic collections in the British Museum. He has a great deal of writing to his credit, including many entries in the field of philately. It would be interesting for someone to challenge the author's findings on the oldest, the first, the largest, etc. claims. In the meantime, there is much information here to while away several hours with fascinating facts on all aspects of stamps and postal history. Highly recommended. □

Editor's note: James Mackay pleaded guilty to theft from the royal collection more than 20 years ago, a fact omitted from his publisher's promotional materials. □

Stamp Production Costs . . . But Who's Counting?

By Ken Lawrence

Postage Stamp Production presented to committees of the United States Congress, House of Representatives, by L. Nye Stevens, Director, Government Business Operations Issues, United States General Accounting Office, October 1992. Report number GAO/GGD-93-18. 54 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, saddle stitched. Single copy free from U.S. GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Prospectus of American Center for Postal Developments by Joseph Y. Peng, Donald M. McDowell, and Gordon C. Morison. 14 pages, 8½ by 11 inches. Issued by ACPD, 5300 Manor Lake Court, Rockville, MD 20353-1556.

The two documents under review are important materials for writers on modern postage stamps of any country, yet the scant treatment they have received in the philatelic press has been superficial, uncritical, one-sided, and transient.

The General Accounting Office report responds to concerns raised during a June 5, 1991, Congressional hearing, reviewed by Barbara Mueller in the First Quarter 1992 *Philatelic Communicator*, page 11. In essence, it supports the stamp procurement policies that had been adopted by the Postal Service, and attempts to refute alternatives advanced by others, including myself.

The American Center for Postal Developments prospectus is a document prepared by the three men most responsible for current USPS stamp procurement policies after the Postal Service had relieved them of those duties. In it they offered their services as consultants to foreign postal administrations.

Together the two documents present not only the strongest arguments for continuing those policies in this country and introducing them elsewhere in the world, but also some of the underlying justifications for them. The GAO report contains the public rationale for these policies; the ACPD prospectus provides the reasons that are ordinarily hidden and often officially denied.

The principal issue at the 1991 hearing concerned the wisdom of procuring an increasing share of U.S. stamps from private-sector printers, versus relying more heavily on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Other issues included questions about one particular printing contractor, Richard Sennett; the relative quality of BEP and private-sector stamps; and the desirability of the Postal Service's sponsorship of the 1992 Olympic Games.

During a recess in the hearing, I told GAO's L. Nye Stevens that what he had presented as economic justification for purchasing stamps from private printers was in reality an ideological

argument. "Yes," he said, "we believe in fostering competition." The cynicism of this stance was revealed last August, when GAO urged the Defense Department to consolidate its printing suppliers (thus reducing competition) to achieve savings.

Since it wasn't possible to resolve the differences at the 1991 hearing, the subcommittee chairman, Rep. Frank McCloskey, requested an audit. This GAO report is the result, presented by the same man who represented GAO back then, L. Nye Stevens, arguing the same point of view.

After reviewing the relationships among USPS, BEP, and private printers, GAO offered cost comparisons of selected stamp issues, concluding that private sector stamps are less costly than BEP stamps, but that the Bureau should also continue to be a stable provider of stamps. "However, because the Postal Service is not required to purchase all or any of its stamps from the Bureau, the Bureau's future as the nation's stamp provider cannot be assured." (page 32)

That is really the key to the whole problem, though it has received no attention from the press, the public, or Congress. If BEP ever stops producing stamps, costs won't go down, they'll soar. It is the responsibility of public officials to prevent that from happening, yet no one seems to be concerned about the possibility even after GAO has mentioned it in three separate reports.

Some of the comparisons and calculations that underlie the sanguine view of private-sector stamp procurement are odd, but haven't been questioned by reporters who have written about them. (Reports include those by Gary Griffith in the November 16, 1992, *Linn's* and the December 1992 *United States Specialist*; Mark Kellner in the November 14, 1992, *Stamp Collector*; and Robert Rabinowitz in the December 5, 1992, *Stamp Collector*. While not focusing on specific problems with the GAO report, Rabinowitz did challenge its overall thrust.)

Here are a couple of examples:

GAO compared the cost per 1,000 stamps of *select* (philatelic) 29-cent Wood Duck booklet stamps produced by BEP with those produced by KCS Industries, a service for which BEP charges a premium that private-sector printers don't. But for regular production booklets, GAO compared the KCS 29-cent Wood Duck booklets with BEP's 19-cent Balloon booklets. Why?

GAO's comparison chart included one especially expensive BEP stamp, the \$8.75 Express Mail stamp, which cost the Postal Service \$16.75 per 1,000 (adjusted to \$15.46 by GAO), compared to American Bank Note Company's \$14 Express Mail stamp at \$7.26 per 1,000 (adjusted to \$7.28). However, the BEP stamp was printed on the web-fed combination intaglio/offset D press, not intended for small runs of lightly used stamps, while ABN's was a job order printed on two sheetfed presses, and the quantity originally ordered from ABN was reduced by 80 percent without explanation.

That comparison is even less valid than it seems, because GAO did not include any private-sector stamps at a high price level similar to that of BEP's \$8.75 Express Mail stamp. Perusing the USPS *Accountable Paper Shipped Recapitulation, Postal Fiscal Year 1991*, I had no trouble finding one: The 29-cent Torch ATM stamp cost \$15 per 1,000.

I imagine scrutiny of earlier private-sector gimmick stamps would turn up some that cost even more than that. On the other hand, GAO offered no cost comparisons of the most important, most widely used stamps—prime rate coil stamps. Here's how that comparison tallies, calculated from figures in the fiscal year report:

BEP's 29-cent Flag stamps in coils of 100, the most widely used stamps of all, cost USPS \$1.84 per 1,000. Stamp Venturer's 29-cent Flower stamp in coils of 100, a record private-sector order at the time, cost \$2.42 per 1,000. ABN's 19-cent Fishing Boat stamp in coils of 500 cost \$1.93 per 1,000.

If the audit's aim was a legitimate comparison of procurement costs, why were the most important mailstream stamps, the ones that constitute the largest portion of the stamp budget, omitted from the calculations?

Even more important than the cost of mailstream stamps is the supplier's reliability, and here the private sector's performance is abysmal. As I demonstrated in the March 16, 1992, *Linn's*, of eight different BEP coil stamps, five were issued on schedule, one was a month late, one was two months late, and one wasn't anticipated, so can't be figured. Of seven private-sector coils, none was delivered on schedule. One was a month late; one, three months late; two, four months late; one, six months late; one, 11 months late; and one not anticipated.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is required to deliver postage stamps to every post office in the United States, and does so reliably. Private sector printers must ship to only a few places, and have a spotty delivery record. Including these factors together with price comparisons of the most widely used stamps would have yielded the opposite conclusion to the one drawn by GAO.

That, however, is just the beginning of the important, unreported story.

In reality, cost savings were not considerations when the decision was made to divert stamp printing contracts to private suppliers. In the mid-1980s, BEP had plans to acquire a modern state-of-the-art gravure press, capable of faster, less expensive, higher quality stamps. Those plans were canceled in 1987, after Gordon Morison sent BEP a letter saying he wanted to give all gravure stamp printing orders to his private supplier (at that time it was Richard Sennett at ABN). The result is that BEP's gravure presses were obsolete, and that the private sector's equally obsolete equipment remained competitive. From either supplier, the quality of U.S. stamps remained lower than what the world has come to expect.

Readers of this quarterly will recall that Richard Sennett became a central figure in this controversy because of his criminal conviction on a federal conflict-of-interest charge from the time when he was a BEP assistant director. At the June 1991 hearing, it looked as though Sennett was washed up as a stamp printer, but shortly afterward he mounted a successful public-relations comeback, aided by Gary Griffith of *Linn's* (August 5, 1991) and Mark Kellner of *Stamp Collector* (August 10, 1991).

Of the two reports, Gary's was worse. He wrote, "[In 1978], Sennett was indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with conflict of interest, involving advice given to ABNC about a currency press while he was a Bureau employee." Thus it seemed as though Sennett had committed a minor technical violation; neither *Linn's* nor Gary Griffith ever corrected that erroneous report.

In reality, while he was still a top BEP official, Sennett had reached an agreement to accept a position with ABN. At the time, BEP was attempting to return some faulty Magna presses to ABN, refusing to purchase them because they had failed to meet specifications.

The indictment charged Sennett with using his influence at BEP for ABN's benefit, and then lying about it. Count three alleged "that Sennett falsely denied that, at a meeting at BEP on or about July 28, 1977, he expressed vehement opposition to the return of the Magna presses to American Bank Note Company."

Once the two stamp weeklies had obscured this aspect of Sennett's past, his company's fortunes prospered.

The GAO report stated, "A July 1991 U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigation of the integrity of the stamp procurement process found no evidence to support allegations of tainted relationships among companies or of improprieties associated with the solicitation and award of private sector stamp manufacturing contracts." (page 16)

In the November 16, 1992, *Linn's*, Gary Griffith interpreted

that as a refutation of my charges. If so, it's the first time that postal inspectors have investigated allegations I've made without ever asking for my evidence and witnesses. And when they did ask in another case of official wrongdoing, I gave them my evidence and they got their man.

It is true, though, that there weren't many people at USPS headquarters who would dare to tell what they knew about their superiors' misdeeds back in the summer of 1991. Today, all that has changed, and now it's hard to find anyone at L'Enfant Plaza who will put in a good word for their former bosses. That's part of the reason why we now have copies of the American Center for Postal Developments prospectus.

Postal Service employees delivered copies of the ACPD document to reporters; no one disputes that. The only dispute concerns how they obtained it. The most interesting story making the rounds says that Peng, McDowell, and Morison faxed a copy to a prospective client half way around the globe, and that the recipient (in China, says the story teller), by then engaged in negotiations with a different U.S. stamp consultant, "a Northern Virginia contractor," faxed it on to him, and he arranged to have it disseminated to the media. This Shakespearean scenario seems to hint that even Richard Sennett has fallen out with his former benefactors.

The more mundane versions say that someone swiped it from McDowell's desk or from Peng's briefcase. It's possible that all these surmises are true, and it's certain that there were at least two separate simultaneous leaks to reporters. Furthermore, if reporters had realized that McDowell was citing the GAO report to promote his own private business *before it had been issued*, the news might have been even more sensational than it was.

According to the document, Cost Recovery Advantage is a phrase trademarked by the ACPD trio of stamp procurement experts. Its meaning, stressed several times, is that stamp collectors can be soaked to pay for new stamp technologies, making the tests profitable even if they turn out to be ill-conceived failures. "Example: a retail test can be a philatelic revenue success independent of the test." Two specific examples describe the potential for special editions of stamps "to generate philatelic revenue in addition to use in testing . . ."

Part of the pitch stresses that "Full understanding of [Peng, McDowell, and Morison's] successes—and their failures—enhances your chances for success." Unfortunately the biographical summaries neglect to say which points were the successes and which the failures.

Peng claims credit for having developed ATM stamps and hologram stamped envelopes, and for having reduced the percentage of skips—uncanceled stamps in the mailstream—"to nearly zero." Both he and McDowell claim to have re-invented the postage stamp, and McDowell boasts that his strategic thinking brought about "the emergence of a private-sector industry in the United States to augment the U.S. Government's stamp manufacturing facility"—an interesting claim in light of Morison's testimony that the search for private suppliers was a reaction to BEP's reluctance to print stamps. Morison's bio asserts that he "leveraged the supplying of postage stamps from being a cost to the Postal Service to being a profitable venture" through soaring philatelic revenues.

It will take a while longer, perhaps a year or two, before we'll know for certain whether these documents are merely of historical significance, useful to understand our stamps of the past two decades, or whether they will also shed light on the future. First indications are that major changes are in store, but they could be illusory.

Either way, though, these documents are important, much more important than stamp writers have yet acknowledged, and our scholarship regarding modern stamps will fall short until we appropriate them for our needs, odd as it may be to contemplate, as philatelic literature. □

►► *Essay-Proof* . . . from page 1.

passed I, too, became increasingly irritated by the heavy numismatic slant of their articles, which were Greek to me at the time. Indeed, when I became editor in 1963 and was given several numismatic manuscripts and reprints, I was hard pressed to edit them because, as I said, all I knew about paper money was how to spend it!

Be that as it may, the numismatic content of *EPJ* is a treasure to be mined by philatelic students seeking more knowledge about traditional intaglio printing processes and their effect on stamps. That content may be divided into three categories: reprints of rare, out-of-print, 19th century treatises on bank note engraving; biographies and autobiographies of famous designers and engravers; and original studies about specific issues of paper money, especially their vignettes as related to stamp design.

One of the reprints that troubled me greatly at the beginning of my editorship was *Cycloidal Configurations or The Harvest of Counterfeiters* by the maverick American engraver Waterman Lily Ormsby. "What the dickens is a cycloidal configuration," I wondered, as I tried to process the manuscript sent to me by Dr. Blanchard. (It's an outdated term for mechanically engraved patterns, such as "lathework.") Another Ormsby work, simply titled *Bank Note Engraving*, ran in six installments in 1957-58, while "counterfeit detectors," 19th century handbooks that helped businessmen sort out real money from fake, were reprinted complete with plates as recently as 1990.

Most such numismatic works were serialized, usually over the course of many issues. Serialization is characteristic of *EPJ*, including original articles but most especially catalog-type listings. Indeed, one of the original purposes of the *Journal* was to carry on the cataloging work begun by Brazer with the publication of his *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps* in 1941. BNA specialists are familiar with the many listings of essays and proofs of their area which eventually culminated in the 200-page book *The Essays and Proofs of British North America* by Kenneth Minuse and Robert H. Pratt.

Not so many are familiar with a truly spectacular work of breathtaking dimensions that began in the very first issue, "U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs." Initially written by Brazer and then by George Slawson, this series ran in 49 issues, over 25 years, although not all consecutive. It is a shame that this series has not been reprinted in book form. Members of the United Postal Stationery Society have expressed interest in such a project but the lack of the original artwork and photos has stymied them.

Another little-known serialization dealt with Swiss essays and proofs, written by George Caldwell over a span of 37 issues. Like the postal card catalog, these Swiss installments were not just one or two pages each, but usually ran to five or more. The 68 installments of the Sol Glass chronicle of contemporary U.S. essays, models, and proofs, on the other hand, usually took only a page or two, if that much. Fred Scheuren's "Essay-proof history of the 1869 issue" ran in eight sections before its eventual publication in book form in 1974 by the Collectors Club of Chicago.

Cooperatively financed between EPS and the author was *The Life and Work of Thomas F. Morris, 1852-1898*, the 19th century U.S. stamp and bank note designer, written by his son. The serialization began in *Journal* 89 and finished in number 98, an entire 48-page issue devoted to the climax of the story. The subsequent 160-page soft cover book featured photographs and additional data not in the original installments.

Of course, the optimistically named "Catalog of Essays and Proofs Seen by the Essay-Proof Society Catalog Committee," grandiosely conceived to cover the world, never achieved that goal. It ran sporadically from Volume 1, Number 2 in 49 installments and randomly covered countries from Abyssinia to Uruguay but mainly BNA. Other than the BNA catalog, nothing substantive came of it.

In 1975 EPS decided that Falk Finkelburg, at that time

considered to be the premier authority on U.S. essays and proofs, should revise Brazer's original catalog, incorporating new information and the addenda that ran in *Journals* 20-23 (1948-49) and in *The American Philatelist* from March 1942 to January 1947.

This project was never completely successful for two reasons: First, in the course of a household move, all of Falk's photo files were lost, so we had to improvise, even making illustrations out of old copies of the original catalog. The results were so poor that the often minute differences between different states of essays were not discernible. Second, Falk's health began to decline, so he ended the serialization after 18 *Journals*, with the Trans-Mississippi. No publishing in book form was even contemplated.

Fortunately for the hobby, Al Hoch of Quarterman Publications was able to reprint the original Brazer catalog in 1977, using his outstanding reproduction methods that yielded good illustrations. He got permission from APS to include the *AP* supplements but made no attempt to integrate them into the basic catalog. Unfortunately, hostile elements in EPS would not help him or even allow him to include information from the *Journal*.

Significant "offprints" from "*EPJ*" through the years include "A Historical Catalog of U.S. Stamp Essays & Proofs—The 1847 Issue" by Brazer. This 32-page article was originally part of *Journal* 14 of April 1947, an unusually large issue commemorating the centennial of the 1847 issue and Cipex, and is still the definitive work on the subject. (However, later writings of Dr. Stanley Bierman on the 1-E1 and 2-E1 essays have left some muddied waters.)

A 28-page reprint from *Journals* 71 and 72 of 1961 by Foster Wild Rice titled "Antecedents of the American Bank Note Company of 1858" also remains definitive and in some respects is more accurate than the official history of the concern. Rice left an unpublished manuscript of page-by-page corrections and additions to the latter; perhaps, despite his demise, it is time for the *Journal* to print it for posterity.

One can sense a changing emphasis over the years, as more and more interest has been shown in ephemeral essays, even cinderella-type material. For example, a minor and incidental piece describing the famous George Turner bookplate with its engraved replicas of famous stamps gave birth to at least half a dozen more substantial articles on the creator of the bookplate, engraver H. L. Peckmore. Before these articles on "Peckmore-iana" ran their course, such writers as Pat Herst, George Brett, and Philip Rochlin analyzed much of Peckmore's amazing imitations and outright inventions, ranging from the special Homan, Krassa Christmas card designs to the much-loved by thematicists but consistently misdescribed George Washington "specimen stamp" from Dennison's.

Somehow, there is the feeling that all the "serious" research has been done, especially since Scott now includes essays in the *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*. That this is not true has been proved by Jack Rosenthal's recent studies on the Columbian and Trans-Mississippi essays and George Brett's ongoing analysis of the 15-cent 1869 dies. There is also much scope for work on the proofs; the listings need considerable input from contemporary collectors.

Yet, if one can indulge in some pessimism for the future, it seems that very few of them care to put forth the effort. Most want instant gratification. There are exceptions, of course—Larry Weiss and Gary Griffith in 20th century U.S., for example. But in my opinion, the golden age of EPS and *EPJ* is over. Essays and proofs are an accepted part of the hobby, and people seem to think that the book is now closed, particularly with the rise of new computer-aided design and pre-press procedures that eliminate collectible specimens. So, as a sort of valedictory, I can sum up the intellectual legacy of the *Journal* thus:

No other publication of its era presented this branch of philately exclusively or related it to another collecting hobby. Although its several editors left the "stamp" of their personal

collecting biases, all tried and succeeded to a great extent to make it a thinking hobbyist's magazine. Proof can be seen in the impressive list of educational institutions that subscribed to it, from university libraries to state historical societies to the Swedish Postal Museum and the Public Library of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Because of the way philatelic literature competitions are set up, the society hierarchy felt that the *Journal*, with its numismatic content, could not compete successfully with purely philatelic publications. Rather than settle for a minor award that would not enhance its reputation, EPS chose to stay on the sidelines. As a result all too few people became familiar with *EPJ*. (The recent large silver awarded at Philitex has proved their assumption to be false.) Someday, when it is defunct, this *Journal* will be a hot item at auction sales and much in demand for philatelic libraries . . . an all too familiar scenario in the world of philatelic literature, I'm afraid. □

►► Publication . . . from page 1.

and Management Report for the major general stamp publications and the publications of some societies.

	1989	1992	% Change
Linn's Stamp News	75,316	71,490	- 5.1
Stamp Collector	20,779	16,895	-18.8
Stamps	19,213	8,645	-55.0
Mekeel's	2,785	4,294	+54.2
American Philatelist	55,336	55,333	0.0
Topical Time (ATA)	6,784	6,696	-1.3
First Days (AFDCS)	4,044	3,566	-11.8
U.S. Specialist (BIA)	2,011	2,108	+ 4.8

Figures for 1989 and 1992 have been used to show the changes that have occurred since the onset of our current national economic woes. Commentary about these figures, at least for the stamp weeklies, abounds elsewhere in the philatelic press. Rather than add to that commentary or attempt to compete with others' editorial spin, it may be useful, instead, to compare the data with circulation trends for some national general circulation publications.

The following listings are quite arbitrary. They include some magazines to which I subscribe and some whose data I was interested in noting. Others were selected after perusing the magazine racks at a local book store. Data for the tabulations comes from the *Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media*.

First let's see how some big name publications have fared:

	1989	1992	% Change
National Geographic	10,829,328	9,921,479	-8.4
Smithsonian	2,324,112	2,204,298	-5.2
Readers Digest	16,434,254	16,264,547	-1.0
Good Housekeeping	5,114,774	5,152,521	+0.7
Ladies Home Journal	5,117,712	5,001,739	-2.3
Popular Science	1,826,156	1,807,540	-1.0
Popular Mechanics	1,688,784	1,651,064	-2.2
Saturday Evening Post	570,929	479,525	-16.0
News Publications:			
Newsweek	3,288,453	3,211,958	-2.3
Time	4,393,237	4,094,935	-6.8
U.S. News/World Rpt	2,303,328	2,311,534	+0.4
Business Publications:			
Barron's	247,756	241,319	-2.6
Business Week	1,002,572	1,004,809	+0.2
Forbes	739,856	744,191	+0.6
Men's Interest:			
Playboy	3,657,904	3,547,165	-3.0
Penthouse	2,088,445	1,501,821	-28.1
Figure these out?			
Brides	479,335	323,818	-34.4

Modern Bride	396,095	344,033	-13.1
Sassy	511,079	681,237	+33.3
Seventeen	1,173,440	1,815,521	+54.7

Coins			
The Numismatist (ANA)	31,193	28,475	-8.7
Coin World (Amos Press)	85,543	73,180	-14.5

Computers			
Byte	450,144	445,112	-1.1
Lotus	276,911	254,217	-8.2

Sports & Outdoors			
Amer. Hunter (NRA)	1,411,156	1,205,791	-14.6
Amer. Rifleman (NRA)	1,419,971	1,329,806	-6.3
Astronomy	165,754	155,091	-6.4
Boy's Life	1,439,494	1,357,173	-5.7
Field & Stream	2,032,202	2,018,298	-0.7
Flying	320,592	327,890	+2.3
Golf Magazine	1,072,560	1,125,000	+4.9
Golf Digest	1,343,536	1,357,087	+1.0
Motor Trend	776,632	892,930	+15.0
Outdoor Life	1,513,017	1,512,464	-0.0
Peterson's Hunting	336,885	350,667	+4.1
Road & Track	700,655	735,301	+4.9
Shooting Times	203,671	176,667	-13.3
Sierra	399,551	514,526	+28.7
Ski	447,084	447,186	+0.0
Sports Illustrated	3,771,389	3,220,016	-14.6
The Sporting News	729,113	694,434	-4.8

Food			
Food & Wine	823,763	818,165	-0.7
Gourmet	784,559	899,549	+14.6
Bon Appetit	1,349,396	1,255,006	-7.0
Cooking Light	711,781	962,087	+35.2

Other General Circulation Publications:

Baseball Cards	193,000	304,675	+57.9
Baseball Card News	43,000	83,706	+94.7
New Yorker	608,138	615,260	+1.2
New Republic	101,747	94,060	-7.6
Trains	95,187	95,295	+0.1
Model Railroader	200,524	214,933	+7.2
Workbench	875,202	862,985	-1.4
The Atlantic	469,420	471,977	+0.5
Antiques	62,756	61,807	-1.5
Harper's Bazaar	710,050	749,006	+5.5
Architectural Digest	636,531	631,718	-0.8
Village Voice	147,529	142,006	-3.7
Yankee	1,000,962	1,008,522	+0.8

With few bright exceptions most national magazines lost ground between 1989 and 1992. In fact, according to *Gale* the total number of general circulation periodicals published in the United States has decreased from 11,092 in 1989 to 10,857 in 1992, a 2.1% decrease. Calculating based upon the high point of 11,556 in 1988 magnifies the percentage decrease to 6.0%.

Despite massive television and print advertising; sneaker phones, free blooper tapes, and other such geegaws; direct mail discount offers; telephone solicitations; and other so-called high-tech marketing techniques, name publications such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Barron's*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *The Sporting News* all suffered losses from 1989 to 1992.

Considering national trends, the losses experienced in the philatelic marketplace may be as much a reflection of national trends as any other reason. Sometimes recessionary periods have had positive effects on the hobby. The great surge of interest in stamp collecting during the Depression of the 1930s has been well documented, but at present it appears that the stamp market and the health of the stamp collecting hobby seem to be more closely mirroring our national economy. Consumer sentiment perhaps has caused many people to be more cautious with discretionary expenditures such as for magazine subscriptions and leisure pursuits. In the past two years the number one reason, after ►►

health, given by those resigning from the APS has been job loss or other economic difficulty.

While antiques, coins, and stamps have all had difficulty, circulation for *Model Railroader*, published by Kalmbach Publishing, increased from 200,524 to 214,933 between 1989 and 1992. Tracking (no pun intended) their growth more closely, I found it has not been without interruption. From a circulation of 123,481 in 1970 they rose steadily to 185,457 in 1980, then steadily declined to 167,907 in 1987. Since then they have been increasing steadily.

When I asked its editor, Russ Larson, "To what do you ascribe your current success: editorial shift, price change, new marketing strategy, loss of competition, etc.?" he responded, "None of those, and we haven't a clue." He did indicate that many individuals who were first introduced to model trains as youngsters in the 1940s and 1950s were now returning to the hobby. Basically, according to Larson, "Model trains are hot right now," and the people coming into the hobby have not been greatly affected by the current recession. The strong prices that choice rare stamps have garnered in recent months suggests the stamp hobby, too, has a large base of participants who have not been much affected by the current recession.

The hobby industry phenomenon of the 1980s was baseball cards. The boom seems to have been precipitated when Topps lost

its virtual monopoly to produce baseball cards in 1981. Since then there has been an endless number of card manufacturers and there are now more than thirty magazines available for card collectors. However, in a recent issue of *Folio's Publishing News*, associate editor Lorne Manly reports in an article about the sports card craze that many magazines in that hobby now are scrambling to position themselves in a declining market. Some magazines have already folded, others have consolidated, and others are trying to hold their base by expanding their coverage to topics other than baseball cards.

So what does this all tell us about where philately may be headed? Is it about to collapse? Is it poised for an upswing? Are we entering a period of steady decline? Or have we reached a flat plateau? While I personally believe that as long as there are stamps and postal systems, there will be people interested in collecting and studying them, the interplay of unpredictable factors seems too great to make meaningful long range predictions. Considering the difficulty economists, with endless data at their disposal, have in agreeing about where our nation's economy is headed, I am particularly leery when I hear predictions about the stamp hobby that are based solely upon current circulation trends or any other single factor.

In the meantime, how did your favorite publication fare during the past three years? □

Literature Awards

Colopex '92

Grand Award and Gold: American Philatelic Congress Book, 1991, Michel Forand, editor.

Gold

U. S. Postmarks and Cancellations, S. Trepel, H. Stone.
German Postal Specialist, R. Anders.
Postal History Journal, H. F. Stone.

Vermeil

AFA Specialized Catalog 1987-1988, S. Mejdal, translator.
19th Century Cleveland, Ohio, Postal History, T. Allen.
German Submarine Mail of World War I, Bernard A. Hennig.
Opinions VI, The Philatelic Foundation, R. Odenweller.
Philatelie a la Française, J. Lievsay, H. Stone.
The China Clipper, C. Springstead.
The Czechoslovak Specialist, M. Vondra.
First Days, B. Newton.
The Interleaf, G. Korn.
Mexicana, C. John.
Postal Stationery, J. Weimer.
The Posthorn, G. Lesney.

Silver

The Emmet F. Pearson Collection of Disinfected Mail, G. Davidson, M. McElligott, L. Calache, D. McGregor, B. Mason.
The Half - A Collection, C. Jennings.
The Official Postage Stamps (of Great Britain), T. Current.
Perfins of China, P. Davey.
The Philatelic Foundation's New York City on Stamps, M. Owens, G. Guzzio.
Philatelic Horses and Horse Relatives, R. Wetmore.
The Place of Stones, Mafeking/Mafikeng, The Siege Stamps and Banknotes, J. Campbell.
The Postage Rates of Germany, 1906-1923, D. Manchester, with felicitations.
The Zeppelin Stamps, D. Lehmkuhl.
Bull's Eyes: Journal of the Brazil Philatelic Association, W. Kriebel.
Inflation Study Group Bulletin, D. Manchester.
Ohio Postal History Society Journal, G. Ball.
The Revealer, Quarterly Journal of the Eire Philatelic Association, P. Ryan.
South Atlantic Chronicle, E. Parker.
State Revenue Newsletter, P. Martin.

Silver-Bronze

Advanced Stamp Collecting, B. Krause.
Illustrated Postcards and Covers, Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902, J. Campbell.
NYRBAS Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers and Its Postal Markings, J. Grigore.
Specimens of the Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of The United States, J. Weimer.
The Belize Collector, P. Bylen.
The Bulletin, Journal of the Postal Label Study Group, H. Wunderlich.
Chesstamp Review, R. Ott.
Forerunners, W. Brooks VI.
The Lilliput, J. Aitchison.
Lundy Collectors' Club Philatelic Quarterly, R. Cichorz.
Meter Stamp Society Bulletin, R. Stambaugh.
The Philatelic Foundation Quarterly, H. Stone.
Texas Postal History Society Journal, W. Emery.

American Philatelic Congress 1992

(Announced at Colopex '92)

Diane D. Boehret Award—Best Handbook: *The Stamps of Barbados*, Edmund A. Bayley.
Diane D. Boehret Award—Best Periodical: *The Postal History Journal*, Harlan F. Stone, editor.
Walter R. McCoy Award—Best 1992 Congress Book article: "A doubly-extraordinary polar expedition," Hal Vogel.
Erani P. Drossos Award—Runner-Up: "Caribbean purser mail of the Hamburg-American Packet Line," R. G. Schnell.
C. Corwith Wagner Award: Best Article on 1776-1876 American postal history: "The postal markings of Columbus, Ohio, 1814-45," Richard B. Graham.
Helen August Memorial Award: Best Article on 20th Century U.S. postal history: "Medical personalities commemorated on USS Relief covers," George Griffenhagen and Adolf Schwartz.
Jere. Hess Barr Award: Best APC Writers' Forum presentation: "The 2-cent Columbian broken hat; accidental or deliberate?" Thomas Corrette. □

Sesca '92

Gold

A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, E. A. Garrett.
Postal History Journal, H. F. Stone.
Opinions VI, R. P. Odenweller.

Vermeil

The Place of Stones - Mafeking: The Siege Stamps and Banknotes, John Campbell.
Cumulative Index to Japanese Philately, Vols. 1-45 (1946-1990), S. Johnson, K. Kamholz, J. Ludes.
AFA Specialized Catalog, 1987-88, Selected sections translated into English by Sven Mejdal.
U. S. Postmarks and Cancellations, S. Trepel.
The Penny Post, G. Stimmell.
The Philatelic Foundation Quarterly, H. Stone.
Rossica, G. Combs.
Possessions, G. Plass.
Why is This Stamp Rare? W. C. Mooz.

Silver

Railway Post Offices of California and Nevada, R. Crossely.
The Zeppelin Stamps, D. Lehmkuhl.
Scandinavian Collectors Club 1993 Library Index, W. Melberg.
The Burma Peacock, A. Meech.
The Canadian Connection, J. Peebles.
Chesstamp Review, R. Ott.
First Days, B. Newton.
Ice Cap News, A. DuMont.
The Mail Coach, J. Campbell.
Haiti's 1939 de Coubertin Issue: The Essays, Proofs, and Specimens, S. Podolsky.

Silver-Bronze

Basketball on United States Postage Stamps, J. Danner.
1969-1991, The 22½-Year Anniversary of the Netherlands Philatelists of California, M. Hager.
The Handbook of Basketball Philately, G. Killian.
The Belize Collector, P. Bylen.
Forerunners, W. Brooks.

Phil/itex 92

Grand Award: The Cancellations of Hungarian Post Offices on the First Issue of Hungary, 1867-1871, Gary Ryan, also Large Gold.

Reserve Grand Award: Manual de las Emisiones de los sellos de España 1931-1939, Vol. 1-La Republica, Vol. 2-La Guerra-Zona Republicana, Vol. 3-La Guerra Nacional, Alvaro Martinez-Pinna, also Large Gold.

Large Gold

Leeward Islands, Christie's Robson Lowe.

Gold

Anatolia, Menachim Max Mayo.
Canada's Small Queen Era, 1870-1897, V. Graves Greene Phil. Research Foundation.
Canal Zone Stamps, Richard H. Salz.
Cyprus 1353-1986, Christie's Robson Lowe.
Fundamentals of Philately, L. N. Williams.
Gold Fever, Kenneth J. Kutz.
The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, 1868-1872, V. Graves Greene Phil. Research Foundation.
North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, Richard F. Winder.
The Philatelic and Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, Patrick Pearson.
Postal Censorship in Imperial Russia, John H. Otten.
The Postal Service of Sierra Leone—Its History, Stamps and Stationery until 1961, Royal Philatelic Society, London. Also jury's felicitations.
Selos Classicos de Relevo de Portugal, Núcleo Filatélico do Ateneu Comercial do Porto. With special prize—FESOFI.
Stamps and Postal History of Tasmania, Royal Philatelic Society, London.
Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources, James Negus.
Catalogue of the Crawford Collection of Philatelic Literature at the British Library, The Printer's Stone Ltd. / British Library.
Luchvaart en Luchtpost Encyclopedie, deel 7, tot en met 1935, J. L. C. M. TSchroots, H.H.C. TSchroots-Boer. With AAMS special prize.
Lombardo-Veneto 1854-1858, Starphila S.A.
Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, and Eire, Roger G. Booth, with special prize—best in section.
Postage Stamp Auction Catalogues, Sotheby's, with felicitations of the jury and special prize.
The London Philatelist, Royal Philatelic Society, London. With special prize—best in section.
55th and 56th American Philatelic Congress Book, Barbara R. Mueller.

Large Vermeil

Capitulaciones de Santa Fe, Sociedad Filatélica Granadina.
Central America: Postal History and a Listing of Pre-Philatelic Postmarks, Leo J. Harris.
Chile First Issues of Postage Stamps 1853-1867, Gerhard Blank.
Correos Maritimos Españoles, Francisco Garay Unibaso.
Ecuador: Postal History and a Listing of Pre-philatelic Postmarks, Leo J. Harris.
Great Britain: The De La Rue Years 1878-1910, Vol. 2, Stanley Gibbons Publications.
G.R.I., Christie's Robson Lowe, with felicitations of the jury.
The Pence Issues of Newfoundland, 1857-1866, V. Graves Greene Phil. Research Fdn.
A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, 1942-1945, E. A. Garrett, with special prize of the FIAF and felicitations of the jury.
Sanitary Fairs . . . A Philatelic and Historical Study of Civil War Benevolences, A. and M. Kantor, with special prize FilCaracas and felicitations of the jury.
The Small Queens of Canada, Christie's Robson Lowe.
The Stamps & Postal History of the Gambia, Christie's Robson Lowe.
Swedish Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1855-1895, Lauson H. Stone.
United States Telegraph Stamps and Franks, George Jay Kramer.
Marcas y Fechadores de Madrid Hasta 1900, Ramon Cortes de Haro.
Annotated Bibliography of Cuba Philatelic Literature, Ernesto Cuesta.
American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. II, David G. Phillips.
Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps, Peter R. Feltus.

Stanley Gibbons - Great Britain Vol 1 - Queen Victoria Specialized Stamp Catalogue, Stanley Gibbons Publications.
The Louise Boyd Dale/Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collections, Vols III, IV, H. R. Harmer, Inc.
The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, Susan M. McDonald.
Postal History, Postal History Society (Great Britain).
Postal History Journal, Harlan F. Stone.
57th American Philatelic Congress, Michel Forand.

Vermeil

The Air Mails of Egypt, J. Sears.
Australian Mails via Suez, 1852 to 1926, The Postal History Society (Great Britain).
British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East 1914-1924, Christie's R.L.
British Stamp Booklets (Parts 1-6), G.B. Phil. Soc.
The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red, Philatelic Imprint, w/felicitations.
Cilicia - Occupation Militaire Française, M. Mayo.
Classic United States Imperforate Stamps, J. Rose.
The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918, World Phil. Cong. of Holyland.
Historia Postal y Filatélica del Peru, H. Moll.
History of the Post in Derby 1635-1941, H. Wilson.
Ligne Mermoz, G. Collot, A. Cornu.
Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook, Ken Lawrence.
Manual de Filatelia Temática, N. Ferré.
Mashonaland 1890-1896, Christie's R.L.
The New York Postmaster's Provisional, S. Piller.
19th Century Cleveland, Ohio, Postal Markings, T. Allen.
Opinions VI, R. Odenweller.
Paquetes a Vapor para o Brasil (1851-1877), Núcleo Filatélico do Ateneu Comercial do Porto.
Philatélie à la Française, The Philatelic Foundation.
Postal History and Postmarks of the Audiencia of Quito, Dr. G. Maier S.
The Postal History of the P&O Service to the Peninsula, R.P.S., London.
The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, L. Entwistle.
Subsídios para a Historia do Correio Marítimo Português, N. F. do A. C. do Porto.
Timbres de France au Type Merson, Storch and Françon.
U.S. Postmarks & Cancellations, The Philatelic Foundation, with felicitations.
UPU Specimen Stamps, J. Bendon.
Ediciones de la F.A.E.F., Federación Argentina de E. F., with felicitations.
Porte de Mar, K. Schimmer.
The Birth of the Penny Black, J. Grimwood-Taylor.
A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks, 1851-1882, J. Chapin.
Exposicion Mundial de Filatelia Granada 92 Colecciones Iberoamericanas, E. Escalada-Goicoechea.
Organizacion de los Servicios Filatelicos, J. C. Saenz.
American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. I, D. Phillips.
Catalogo Especializado de Sellos de España y Dependencias Postales, 1991 (2 Vols.), Edifil S.A.
Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1 - British Commonwealth; Vol 2, Great Britain and Countries A-I, S. G. Publications.
Catalogo Historico dos Selos do Imperio do Brasil 1843-1889, M. G. da C. Studart.
The American Revenuer, K. Trettin.
British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, M. Swetland and M. Forand.
The GB Journal, Great Britain Phil. Soc.
India Post, India Study Circle.
Japanese Philately, Int'l. Soc. for Japanese Philately.
Revista Temática Filatelia e Cultura, Brazil Assn. of Thematic Philately.
The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, C. Hoffman.

United States Specialist, Vol. 62, Bureau Issues Assn.
Western Express, Western Cover Soc.
Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1 - British Commonwealth, Vol. 2, Countries J-Z, S. G. Publns.

Large Silver

The Bermuda Packet Mails and the Halifax-Bermuda Mail Service 1806 to 1886, The Postal History Soc. Great Britain.
British Postal Rates to Europe, 1836-1876, The P.H. Soc. G.B.
Canadian Military Posts, Vol. 3, operations in NATO, U.N., and Canada, 1947 to 1989, W. Bailey and E. Toop.
Guatemala Philately, 1971-1990 Issues & Special Studies, Int'l. Soc. of Guatemala Collectors.
The Guide to the Postal Stationery of India, Vol. 4, Aerogrammes & Island Letter Cards, D. Lang and R. Saunders.
The Inverted Jenny: Mystery, Money, Mania, G. Amick.
New Zealand - A Philatelic Miscellany, A. Berry.
Name Gold, K. Kutz.
The North Atlantic Catapult, R. Stanley-Smith.
Northwest Territories Postal Cancellations 1907-1986, K. O'Reilly.
Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works, V. Tyler.
The Postal History of Fiji 1911-1952, J. Rodgers.
The Postal History of the Cayman Islands, P. McCann.
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A Memento from the Rock, M. Hardjasudarma.

Start on Stamps, P. Wolff.

What to Collect in Scandinavia When You Have Run Out of Things to Collect, R. Collin.

Noble's Catalog of Cacheted Presidential Inaugural Covers, E. Krohn.

Yorkshire's Post, A. Dent.

Forty-three additional entries received

Certificates of Participation.

Thirty-five entries failed to arrive.

1992 Lidman Competition

(Awarded at Philitex)

1992 David Lidman Prize (and Gold) for philatelic writing in non-philatelic publications (an engraved plaque and \$500 cash) to David V. Tilton of Florida for his weekly "Stamps" column in the Fort Myers News-Press.

Gold

Barth Healey, *New York Times* stamp column.

Ken Lawrence, stamps and stamp collecting sections of 1992 *Collier's Yearbook* and 1992 *Funk and Wagnall's Yearbook*.

Silver

Paul Henefeld, article in *Christopher Street* magazine (with felicitations).

Fred Greene, stamp column in *Dallas Morning News*.

Gayle Turim, stamp article in *Americana Magazine*.

Bronze

Edward J. Davis Jr., weekly stamp column in *Providence Journal-Bulletin*.

Peter Martin, article in *ESGRam* magazine.

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The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918 Vol. II, A. Steichele, N. Collins, L. Dickstein.

The Half - A Collection, C. Jennings, C. Yeager.

Irish Crash Airmails, R. Vogt.

The North Atlantic Catapult, Part 1 & 2, R. Stanley-Smith.

The Place of Stones, 2nd edition, J. Campbell.

Scandinavian Collectors Club 1993 Library Index, W. Melberg.

The Zeppelin Stamps, D. Lehmuhi, J. Gerlach.

The Airport Journal, J. Graue.

The Astrophile, R. Burton.

First Days, B. Newton.

Forerunners, W. Brooks VI, and special award.

The Mail-Coach, J. Campbell.

Postal Stationery, J. Weimer.

Silver Bronze

The Computelists, R. de Violini, with felicitations.

Etiquettes: Par Avion - By Air Mail, F. Jones.

Handbook of Basketball Philately, G. Killian.

History of the Calgary Philatelic Society, D. Speirs.

Illustrated Postcards and Covers of the Anglo-Boer War, J. Campbell.

Japan Airlines First Flight Cover 1954-1990, S. Nakano.

The Philatelic Foundation's New York City on Stamps, M. Owens and G. Guzzio.

Specimens of Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States, J. Weimer.

Jack Knight Air Log & AFA News, F. Wellman.

Luftfahrt, Mitteilungsblatt der Mag Luftfahrt, Motiv-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Luftfahrt, W. Fischer.

O.E.78, K. Winkelmann.

Zeppelin, J. Duggan.

Bronze

Basketball on United States Postage Stamps, J. Danner.

The Influence of the United States Navy upon the Beginnings of the Panama Railroad, J. Grigore.

National Air Mail Week - May 15-21, 1938, J. Drabyk.

CAMS, The Bulletin of the Chicago Air Mail Society, S. Neulander.

The Philadelphia Philatelist, D. Siegel.

Philamath, R. Woodward.

Space Phil News, Vorstand GWP.

Zeppelinpost Rundbrief, Zeppelinpost-Arbeitsgemeinschaft. □

The Last Words

By Joe F. Frye

Please remember that what you write will likely have to be read.

Use at least eleven-point type, with double-spacing between lines and one-inch margins all around for all letters to the editor and articles sent for publication.

My plea for direct response to my "How to be An Editor" columns brought Gene Fricks to his keyboard (page 10).

You are all welcome to respond—and

I ask that you do.

I presume the effort is acceptable to some of you—since brickbats have been notably absent—and will therefore continue it.

Your attention is drawn to Barbara Mueller's article on her experience as our editor, page 7,

this issue. It was a real challenge, education, and pleasure to work with that distinguished lady during her term of office.

I welcome response to part one in the Fourth Quarter 1992 issue, part two in this issue, and any future columns—direct to me or to the editor as you prefer.

This has been one of the—if not the—largest keyboarding jobs for this journal. Over 400,000 bytes, over 31,000 words.

That little cut at the top of this column would be far more applicable to almost anyone else. If you'd like a cut to appear with regular features—or one-of-a-kind items—tell Ken.

Here's one that *does* fit me rather neatly. I suspect that many—if not most—of our members could accurately be so identified.

My reading matter includes a wide range of topics. My favorite fiction author's most recent paperback brought several editing gaffes. Maybe I am learning a little about how to proof read and just notice such things more, I don't know!

I joined Bob de Violini's group whose journal is the *Computelists*. Informative, helpful, and worth the \$10 annual fee. Send him a number 10 SASE—Box 5025, Oxnard, CA 93031, and ask for an application form. If you're a computer maven (Ken Lawrence's favorite word—his spouse just acquired a PC!), you'll wonder how you got along without it. □



► Secretary-Treasurer . . . From page 28.

1662 Alvin Kantor, 1088 Bluff Road, Glencoe, IL 60022. Co-Author: *The Sanitary Fairs*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1663 Lawson P. Entwistle, 10000 Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85748. Author: *Postal Markings of the Canal Zone* (1982, 1992); *Catalogue of Cristobal Precancels* (1987). Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1664 Larry W. Graf, P.O. Box 707, Clark, NJ 07066. Free-lance writer: *First Days* (American First Day Cover Society). Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1665 Dr. Guy J. L. Hamilton, 12 Bulwer Street, Perth 6000 West Australia. Editor: *Newsletter of the Fellowship of Samoa Specialists*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1666 Harold Allen Brown, 909 Parker Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402. Editor: *Coil Line* (Plate Number Coil Collectors Club). Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1667 Jeanne Huddleston Zonay, 504 South Peachtree Street, Liberty, SC 29657. Free-lance writer: *FAP Journal*, *Topical Time*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, *Global Stamp News*, *Stamp Collector*, *Stamps*, *Codex Filatelica*, and *Discovery*. Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1668 G. Douglas Murray, P.O. Box 693, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, C1A 7L3 Canada. Author: *The Post Office on Prince Edward Island 1787-1990*; Editor: *The Bull Moose* (Money Order Office Study Establishment). Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1669 Dr. A. G. Pacholczyk, 1130 San Lucas Circle, Tucson, AZ 85704. Author: *Central Lithuania Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (Stochastic Press, Tucson, AZ, 1990). Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1670 Dr. Med. Hildegard Schneck, Paering 2, D-8441, Oberschneiding, Germany. Editor: *Warthog Bulletin*. Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1671 W. A. Reeves, 88 Kensington Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 8BZ England. Author of several books on Malayan philately. Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

1672 Richard F. Winter, 6657 New Chandler Court, Burke, VA 22015. Author: *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-1875* (U. S. Philatelic Classics Society); Section Editor: *Chronicle of U.S. Classic Postal Issues*. Sponsor: C. J. Peterson.

Reinstatements.

0209 Kenneth Rowe, 5280 Lakeshore Road, Apt. 502, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7H 5R1.

1332 Peter Mosiondz Jr., P.O. Box 1847, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021-8847.

Changes and Corrections.

0086 Barbara B. Ray (formerly Barbara B. Fosdyke), P.O. Box 4986, Covina, CA 91723.

0293 Joseph E. Foley, P.O. Box 183, Riva, MD 21140-0183. Reassigned his original WU30 membership number.

1643 Carolyn A. Weber, P.O. Box 2542, Oxnard, CA 93034-2542. (Incorrect ZIP code listed page 92, Fourth Quarter, 1992 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.) She is editor of *Mask Lore* (not affiliated with *Mekeel's* as incorrectly stated in same report.)

Closed Albums.

0646 Bernard Griffin, 201 Lowell Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. His daughter, Cindy Crosby, 2009 Cervato, Camarillo, CA 93012, advises that he passed away in February 1992.

0686 Charles F. Nettleship Jr., 7500 North Calle Sin Envida, Apt. 1204, Tucson, AZ 85718. Reported by Betsy Towle, executive director, Postal History Foundation.

Resignations.

0192 Alfred "Tag" Boerger, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

0283 J. D. Husak, Sun City; AZ.

0391 Kit Schonbrun, Arnold, MD.

0541 V. E. Engstrom, Clearwater, FL.

1391 R. L. Maurer, Carlsbad, CA.

1458 E. T. Superon, Panama City, FL.

1581 R. Gummeson, Stockholm, Sweden.

1634 M. S. Corrinet, Benicia, CA.

Contributions Received.

We thank these members for their additional contribution included with their 1993 membership dues payment:

0078 Barbara R. Mueller, Jefferson, WI.

0113 Charles J. Peterson, Laurel, MD.

0943 William T. Lockard, Wellston, OH.

1447 Diane D. Boehret, Virginia Beach, VA.

1480 W. A. Page, Kent, Great Britain.

1511 Robert D. Rawlins, Healdsburg, CA.

1665 Guy Hamilton, Perth, West Australia.

We also greatly appreciate the 21 back issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* sent by WU30 member Wolfgang Robinow of Munich, Germany, and the six copies sent by Cathleen Osborne of Sequim, Washington.

As requested in the last issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, please keep us in mind if you wish to dispose of your older issues to fill orders for back issues. We will reimburse your shipping expenses on request.

Membership Dues Payment for 1993.

On December 1, 1992, membership dues notices were mailed, and 280 members had paid their dues by January 15, 1993. A second—and final—notice was sent on January 15, 1993, to 63 members whose dues had not yet been received, and 23 of these have since paid.

For the 40 members whose 1993 dues remain unpaid, this will be the last issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* they will receive unless their membership dues are received during February.

WU30 Publicity During 1992.

Alan Warren, WU30 Vice-President, East, has tabulated publicity provided us by philatelic periodicals during 1992. They include:

The American Philatelist November.
Linn's June 22, August 3, September 14.
Philatelic Literature Review Fourth Quarter.
Stamp Collector Aug. 15, 29; September 19.
Stamp Lover December.
Stamps April 18, September 5, October 17.
United States Specialist October.

We thank all editors for this publicity.

Please notify me promptly of address change to assure uninterrupted mailings of this journal. Thank you.

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

The Philatelic Communicator
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna VA 22180-6906

▶▶ Address Correction Requested

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TO:

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (As of January 30, 1993)

Writers Unit 30 Breakfast

The traditional breakfast of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit 30 will be held at the 1993 spring meeting of the American Philatelic Society in conjunction with ROPEX '93 in Rochester, New York, beginning at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, March 28, 1993, in the Tiffany Room of the Downtown Holiday Inn, Genesee Plaza, 120 East Main Street, in Rochester.

Tickets are available at \$10.00 each, and should be ordered from WU30 Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180. Checks payable to "Writers Unit 30."

Welcome. We welcome these new members of WU30 since our September 21, 1992, report:

1654 Dr. John S. Blakemore, P.O. Box 2248, Bellingham, WA 98227-2248. Author of articles in *The American Philatelist* and *The Philatelic Exhibitor*. Sponsor: Thomas Current.

1655 Dr. Allan Hauck, P.O. Box 115, Somers, WI 53171-0165. Editor: *Reply Coupon Collector*; Columnist: *Global Stamp News* and *Topical Time*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1656 Marvin D. Hunewell, P.O. Box 190047, St. Louis, MO 63119. Free-lance writer: *The Posthorn*, *Luren*, and *The Philatelic Shopper*. Sponsor: Alan Warren.

1657 Jonathon W. Rose, 4970 Owens Drive, Apt. 622, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Author: *Classic United States Imperforate Stamps*; Columnist: *Stamp Collector*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1658 Eric Knapp, 3510 East 80th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99507. Editor: *Anchorage Philatelist* (Anchorage Philatelic Society). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1659 Donald Baker Littlefield, 111 Stonehenge, Lafayette, LA 70503. Author: *United States Booklet Pane Postage Stamps 1900-1980*; co-chairman, Booklet Pane Committee, Bureau Issues Association. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1660 Gary Dunaier, 67-18 Parsons Blvd, Flushing, NY 11365-2959. Author: *The Beginning Collector: Stamps* (Mallard Press, New York, 1992). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1661 Jeffrey M. Forster, 18080 Arlee Drive, Monte Serano, CA 95030. Columnist: *1869 Times* (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society). Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

▶▶ Secretary-Treasurer—Page 27.

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