

The Philatelic Communicator

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Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society

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The Mysterious ISBN

by David L. Herendeen

The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the International Standard Book Number, or ISBN. It is not intended to reproduce in great detail all of the information that may be found on the Internet at the sites maintained by those who provide and use these codes. Important Web addresses are given in the article.

Standards are good. Just think about Henry Ford introducing the concept of interchangeable (i.e. standard) parts and the assembly line. These methods revolutionized manufacturing. Similarly, the computer industry has made dramatic increases in productivity over the last 40 years through the implementation of standards.

In the 1960s, it was decided that there should be a single unique identification number for printed matter. By 1968, the International Standards Organization (ISO) developed several such standards. One, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), was used for serial publications such as magazines, journals, and other periodicals. The second, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), is for books. In the latter case, it was decided that software and other multimedia products would also be treated as books and assigned an ISBN.

PURPOSE

The ISBN is a 10-digit number, written in sections separated by dashes, that uniquely identifies one title of a book (or a multimedia product), or an edition of a title from one specific publisher. An example is: "ISBN 0-9708234-0-1." Note that as always, the standards have had to be modified, and on January 1, 2005, the ISBN will increase from 10 to 13 digits to accommodate the tens of thousands of new book published annually. The numbers are not random. Rather each portion has a different meaning. For those interested, this is described on the Web sites noted below. The principal use of the unique number is for sales and marketing activities - not for cataloging purposes.

ISBNs are assigned by agencies located around the world. The International ISBN Agency, located in Berlin, coordinates these, while in the U.S., the U.S. ISBN Agency assigns numbers. A private company, R.R. Bowker, is an independent agent that supplies numbers in the U.S. In general, only publishers are eligible to request numbers. You get a log book with your numbers so that you do not duplicate an ISBN.

ISBN RULES

Although the ISBN system is voluntary, once you have decided to use an ISBN for your publication, you agree to abide by all of the rules of the game. When you purchase a group of ISBNs you use one identification number for each book and for each separate binding (i.e., hardcover, paperback, etc.). Other rules include the fact that each revised edition requires a new ISBN and once assigned, an ISBN cannot be reassigned to a different title. In addition, the ISBN must be printed on the back of the title page and on the lower portion of the outside back cover, or back jacket if the book has one.

Once you have published a work with an ISBN it is eligible to be listed in the publication Books in Print published by Bowker. There are also national and international publications that provide indexes of all assigned ISBNs.

In addition to printing the ISBN in the book as indicated, an optional bar code may be added. No doubt readers are familiar with these bar codes whenever they purchase books at the store. In addition to the ISBN, the bar code often includes pricing data. These devices are called Bookland EAN Bar Codes. A separate group of companies supplies master bar codes for a price.

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The Philatelic Communicator

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

USPS Zip code address

\$15.00

Canada & Mexico

\$17.50

All other addresses

\$20.00

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

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The Quill

Joe Foley

A LITTLE PROBLEM

On the opening day of BALPEX, instead of attending the show, I was in the "OR" undergoing surgery for a detached retina. Anyone's sight is vital. Ours is a visual hobby which, if possible, heightens this importance. I'm certainly not qualified to give medical advice, but if you notice *anything* irregular about your eyesight consult a physician immediately. Early detection is very important.

Thanks to readers for their good wishes. My eye seems to be coming along nicely and is being followed closely by my doctor.

PEER REVIEW

Learning that I was working on an Authors Guide for the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Robert Johnson of Bristol England suggested that I take a look at those of the Stuart Rossiter Trust. He is one of the trustees. I did and found them quite useful. In addition to "Guidelines for Intending Authors" they also have "Notes for the Guidance of Referees." Both may be viewed on the Trust's Website www.rossitertrust.com. The referee guidelines address the question of peer review discussed in Ron Lasher's article on page 8 of this issue.

<AWAY WITH THE ANGLE BRACKETS>

I did get this advice once before and then reverted, but now it seems to be official—they (<>) should never be used to enclose a URL. The reason given in the *Chicago Manual* is that they have specific meaning within some markup languages, including html. The master copy for most of this issue was printed before I came across this, so . . . next time.

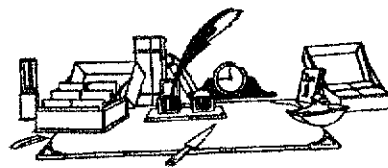
TEN YEARS

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library held a gala dinner on July 31 to celebrate their tenth anniversary. This Denver-based library has accomplished a great deal during this period. My own opinion is that the secret to their outstanding success is the quality of the more than thirty volunteers who regularly staff the facility. Congratulations!

STYLE GUIDE

Ken Trettin has recently released the fourteenth edition of *The American Revenuer — a Style Guide for Use by the Editors and Authors*. It's a useful twenty-page booklet. Contact Ken at revenuer@omnitelcom.com for further information. □

Presidents' Messages



by Dr. Dane S. Claussen

As this is my final President's Message for the *Communicator*, I want to take the opportunity to thank my fellow officers during my term as president: Vice-President East Barth Healey, Vice President West David Herendeen, Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen, *Communicator* Editor Joe Foley, and Immediate Past President Alan Warren, as well as everyone who has served on the Council while I have been president, and before that, Vice-President West. We have all worked together smoothly, all of the officers have contributed ideas and suggestions and feedback on others; most have been regular attendees at our breakfasts; and most have contributed articles to the *Communicator*.

I also will note that I wish that I had had even more time during the last four years to put into the position of Writers Unit president. In the future, I suspect that I will be attending somewhat fewer breakfasts, but I will remain involved as Immediate Past President and now chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee (replacing John Hotchner; thank you, John, for your hard and excellent work!). I leave the presidency—to replace Alan Warren on the Executive Committee—in good shape: a solid quarterly journal with a fine, long-time editor; very well attended semi-annual breakfast meetings, a strong treasury, a good reputation, and a solid slate of officers.

The Writers Unit's new president, Peter Martin, has outlined an ambitious agenda for the Writers Unit: establishing a permanent Web site for the group, and publishing various brochures and booklets, just for starters. The officers and Council recently have been discussing, via email, ways to make it easier for the Writers Unit to accept dues from outside the United States, and I know that Peter will also act on that issue. Certainly the Unit has a lot of opportunities to greatly expand its membership outside the United States, since the shutdown of the Philatelic Writers Society in the United Kingdom and some problems caused by turnover in the presidency and the secretary-general's office of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques (AIJP). (Two other U.S. philatelic writers' organizations, the International Philatelic Press Club and the Society of Philaticians, have both been defunct for years; while I had the unfortunate honor of being the last president of IPPC, the Writers Unit is healthy financially and can recover from its slow but steady decline in membership.)

►► continued on page 4

by Peter Martin

In conjunction with STAMPSHOW 2004, there was another great turnout at the Writer's Unit #30 breakfast in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to the WU#30 Hall of Fame announcements and the presentations to the STAMPSHOW Literature Exhibition award winners, the event marked the transition in WU#30 leadership as Dr. Dane Claussen turned over the gavel after two successful terms as president. On behalf of all unit members, I extend my thanks to Dane for his dedicated service. I'm pleased that Dane has agreed to continue to be active in WU#30 activities.

I'm also pleased to report that Joe Foley has agreed to continue to serve as editor. Joe's efforts have made the *Philatelic Communicator* a valuable resource for philatelic writers and editors.

In my remarks at the breakfast I outlined several areas that I believe must be focused upon. I'll outline them briefly.

First, is membership. Like virtually all philatelic organizations, WU#30 membership has sagged in recent years and we must aggressively pursue an organized outreach program to add writers and editors to our rolls.

We must improve our efforts to provide resources to our members to enable them to hone their skills. To this end, I will head a Publications Committee to identify and produce books, booklets and materials that will aid members in their work. Other committee members are Dane Claussen, Joe Foley, George Griffenhagen, Barth Healey, Charles Peterson and Alan Warren. If you have ideas in this regard, pass it to any of these committee members.

Based upon recent events, we need to review our bylaws to bring them into the 21st century. Joe Foley has agreed to head a team that will make recommendations to the Board.

We will examine if there are additional services that might benefit the membership. Accepting credit card and Paypal payments and liability insurance are two areas that will be examined.

Finally, we need to improve our Web presence to make the site a better member resource and a recruiting tool.

WU#30 Board and Publication Committee members met after the breakfast and began discussions about these issues.

If you have suggestions in any of these areas, or if you are willing to serve on a committee, email me at <pmartin2002@aol.com>. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to move the WU#30 forward. □

WHAT DOES IT COST?

To purchase a group of ISBNs is not cheap. The table below summarizes the current cost through R. R. Bowker.

Number of ISBNs	Processing Fee	Publisher Registration Fee
10	\$225.00	\$14.95
100	\$800.00	\$39.95
1,000	\$1,200.00	\$119.95
10,000	\$3,000.00	\$299.95

There are even higher processing fees if you need to have your ISBN quickly. The standard processing fee shown above has a ten business-day turnaround time. You can also purchase your ISBNs directly on-line, using a credit card. You can see from the non-linearity of the pricing schedule that ISBNs are intended for commercial publishing houses, not for individual authors.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The ISBN was created for publishers, not authors. So although you might be thinking about self-publishing your latest profound study, there is a substantial cost to secure the ISBN. Authors fortunate enough to have their books printed and distributed through a publisher do not have to worry about getting the ISBN themselves, it will be provided to them and, I presume, any cost for this service will be included. It is therefore your choice whether you accept the cost burden of procuring an ISBN.

MORE DETAIL

For readers interested in more detail about the ISBN process, go directly to the following Web Sites and read to your heart's content: <www.isbn.org> and <www.bowkerlink.com>.

POSTSCRIPT: LITERATURE JUDGING CRITERIA

The following extract is from the current philatelic literature judging criteria:

The Editorial and Publishing Aspect (15%) includes both the detailed elements expected of a published work and the presentation...

Does the publication have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)? Is there a copyright statement? Is the pagination logical and accurate? Are there running headers or footers? In the case of journals these should identify the title, date, and page number. Are the volume numbers and issue numbers (or whole numbers) indicated?

The elements discussed in these criteria are all excellent ones with the possible exception of the requirement for the ISBN (we're not going to talk about the ISSN here!). When I first read this requirement, I naturally thought that it was an obvious one to include. After all, this is the 21st century - the digital age. However, since self-publishing has gained such popularity, and the need for specialized philatelic studies remains great, I am no longer certain that an ISBN should be required. The reason for this inclusion is rather obvious: for the philatelist who intends to produce a single work (most often the case) which is self-published (very often the case), the cost of the ISBN might well be a significant percentage of the total production cost. In addition, I reiterate that the ISBN is used for sales and marketing - not indexing.

1. See "Does Your Publication Have an ISSN?" by Alan Warren, *The Philatelic Communicator*, 3rd Quarter 1997, vol. 31, no. 3, whole no. 117, page 5. [Ed.] □

►► Presidents' Messages, Dr. Dane S. Claussen (continued from page 3)

I believe the Writers Unit has a responsibility to the entire hobby, as well as just to its own members, although I haven't written in this space about that theme for quite some time. First, Writers Unit members should be in the forefront of ensuring that shows and clubs in their areas are obtaining proper publicity. Writers Unit members should be actively involved in philatelic writing or research themselves; helping others with theirs—through offering feedback on concepts, rough drafts, proofreading final drafts, etc.; or at least encouraging others to write or write more. For instance, many exhibitors have published little or nothing about the material in their exhibits, and they should be encouraged to document and explain their collections.

Along the same lines, let me use a more specific word: mentoring, especially the younger collectors, exhibitors and dealers in writing and publishing. These days, "younger" in our hobby seems to mean the 40s or even the 50s—but there are many persons out there who are tomorrow's journal editors and *Linn's* columnists. It is surely no news that if one looks down a list or around a room of regular writers for the major philatelic newspapers and magazines, the average age is significantly older. (I've noted, with regret, the number of former columnists for *Stamp Collector* newspaper—perhaps a majority—who have died since I was the editor there in 1989-90.)

Thanks to all of the current and former members of the Writers Unit during my term as president for your support through dues, articles, signing up new members and so on. □

Style Guide Smorgasbord

by Kenneth Trettin

I am not sure if any progress is being made on creating a basic WU30 style guide that our member editors could adopt. I decided to do an online search for "Style Guide" and Google came up with over 900,000 hits. I have looked over the first 50 and went to several that appeared interesting.

The American Anthropological Association basically uses the *Chicago Manual*. Theirs is based on the 14th (1993) edition, and of course *Chicago* came out with the 15th just before STAMPSHOW. Nevertheless, their 14 page pdf guide is a condensation of *Chicago* and is readily available at: http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm

The American Psychological Association publishes a style guide and offers it for sale. Well, stamp collectors being cheap probably will not go for this. But they do have some new additions available online, specifically dealing with electronic/internet references which do not show up in most printed references. Go to the following and click on the links there: <http://www.apastyle.org/eleceref.html>.

I came upon another site, the IEEE Computer Society, that again relies heavily on *Chicago* and has a good mission statement and some final considerations that could be adopted into a WU30 style guide. They were found at: <http://www.computer.org/author/style/cs-style.htm>.

Their mission statement is:

The mission of the IEEE Computer Society Style Guide Committee is to clarify editorial styles and standards used in the Society's publications. We maintain and periodically update a style guide to clarify those usages not adequately defined in accepted external sources. Our purpose is to promote coherence, consistency, and identity of style, making it easier for CS editors and our authors to produce quality submissions and publications that communicate clearly to all our readers.

Their Guide further states:

A final consideration:

Computer Society style is not intended to alienate authors, universities, or corporations; its goal is to achieve professionalism and consistency while treating all firms, organizations, and individuals equally. This house style is generally supported by US trademark law and the US trademark association. Disputes between equally adamant authors and editors should be referred to the department manager.

And if you have ever read/seen *Wired* magazine you might think they wouldn't have anything to offer but they do. See: <http://hotwired.wired.com/hardwired/wiredstyle/toc/>

The Slot, www.theslot.com/, is the latest incarnation of "The Crusty Old Man's Copy-Editing Peeve Page" and the singular obsession of the *Washington Post* copy editor Bill Walsh.

The *Oxford English Dictionary*—No, this is not a Web site. If you don't have a really big room, but you do have really big bucks, shell out US\$800 for the CD-ROM version. □

Literature Exhibition Calendar

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

October 3-5, 2003

SESCAL 2003, Radisson at LAX Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, entries have closed, information available from Larry Parks, P.O. Box 1116, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-1116. Website: www.sescal.org.

November 21-3, 2003

CHICAGOPEX 2003, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005, entries have closed, information available from John Kevin Doyle, 5815 Lenox Road, Lisle, IL 60532-3138, e-mail: doyle-stamps@att.net, Website: www.chicagopex.com.

February 13-15, 2004

COLOPEX 2004, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, Columbus, OH, Check Website for information: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/wbeau/>

June 4-6, 2004

NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, Virginia. Contact Charles Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726 (cjp7777@aol.com) for information.

August 12-15, 2004

A.P.S. STAMPSHOW, Sacramento, California. For information contact Ken Martin, APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803, phone 814 237-3803 ext 218, fax 814 237-6128, e-mail: stampshow@stamps.org, Website: www.stamps.org/directories/dir_Shows_Exhibitions.htm. □

Never read any book that is not a year old.

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Writers Breakfast at STAMPSHOW

by Joseph E. Foley

Attendance at the Columbus breakfast was one of the largest in recent memory. Presided over by president Dane Claussen we had a very full and enjoyable agenda.

Awards from the STAMPSHOW Literature competition were presented. The recipients of the Literature Grand Award were John L. Kimbrough and Conrad L. Bush for their *Collector's Guide to Confederate Philately*. A complete palmares may be found on the APS Website: http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_STAMPSHOW_03.htm.

Peter McCann chaired the committee that selected the winners of the American Philatelic Congress Diane D. Boehret Award and announced the winners: for catalogs—*The Metzger Black Jack Collection* by Harvey Bennett and for periodicals—*The London Philatelist*.

There was the usual spirited drawing for an eclectic array of philatelic literature. Thanks to those who contributed material for this enjoyable event.

Our indefatigable secretary-treasurer, George Griffenhagen gave his report. We are in good financial shape, but membership could stand some improvement. Before the breakfast, I placed a questionnaire at each place and had them collected while giving my editor's report. The results are on page 9.

The new officers and council members were inducted. Both Dane Claussen and Peter Martin as outgoing and incoming presidents addressed the group. The substance of their remarks are contained in their messages on page 3.

After the breakfast Peter Martin held a planning meeting with officers, council and committee members. As the old saying goes: "The longest journey begins with the first step." This was the first step in implementing Peter's vision for the future of WU30.

APS WRITERS UNIT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

by John M. Hotchner

Harvey M. Karlen, PhD

Harvey Karlen has studied Chicago and its postal history, from his first philatelic book, *Chicago Postal History*, published in 1970 by the Collectors Club of Chicago, to his continuing work on his fourth philatelic tome detailing the postal history of the Chicago Exposition of 1893. His best known work is the landmark *Chicago's Crabgrass Communities* in which he uses a philatelic study of Chicago neighborhoods to bring a new perspective to life in a major

city, tying together local post offices, incoming and outgoing mail, and the residents and businesses of the individual communities.

Karlen has also produced more than 100 articles on various aspects of Chicago postal history. His work is distinguished by excellence of scholarship, as well as style and readability. No one else has, done this type of research in such breadth or depth for any other American city. It is truly an inspiration and a model. Karlen was born in 1918, in Berkeley, Ill. He earned an AB from the University of Chicago in 1939, and a PhD in Political Science in 1950.

Charles H. Mekeel (1864-1921)

Charles Mekeel started a true "journal," the first daily stamp newspaper. Although *The Daily Stamp Item* ran for only a year, and lost the founder about \$5,000, it was only one of several visions that he acted on in his editing and publishing activities during his life. Others would have a more lasting effect. On his passing, *Mekeel's* editorialized in its October 29, 1921 edition "... as an editor (Mekeel) was a most sapient purveyor of news. He could analyze on paper in a way to awaken the interest of the reader. He could impale with his pen, if need be; and his long experience in stamps gave him an extraordinary sense of journalistic values. . . ."

Among his publishing ventures was the American edition of a landmark set of three paperbacks authored in French by John K. Tiffany for release in France. The American edition of *History of Postage Stamps of the United States*, published in 1887, holds the distinction of being the first book on U.S. stamps written in English that coherently enumerated all U.S. issues. In 1890 he established the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., which among other activities published three editions of a general catalog of stamps of the world and a variety of albums. In 1896 Charles Mekeel founded *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, which he published for a year before it was taken over by his brother Isaac in 1897. Still, the paper was his vision, and it survives today as part of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*.

The Writers Unit is proud to add the names of Harvey M. Karlen and Charles H. Mekeel to its Hall of Fame. □

There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts.

—Charles Dickens

Computer Corner

by Ken Sanford

WEBSITE TUNEUP

If you have an Internet website, and you have links to other websites, which most philatelic websites have, then you should do a "tuneup" on your website from time to time. Go to the following website for a list of websites which provide free website tuneup services: <<http://www.freewebsiteproviders.com/website-tuneup.htm>>.

One I used recently, which I found was very good, is *Link Scan* at: <<http://malch.elsop.com/quick.cgi>>. It showed all the errors in the HTML coding, and it identified those links to other websites that were not working. I could then check those websites to see if they had closed down or changed their URLs.

HARDDRIVE FAILURE

I have experienced hard drive failures on two computers within the last year. This emphasized the importance of backing up all your important files regularly. To backup my files, I have purchased an extra external hard drive where I store all my important files. Then if the main hard drive fails, I have my important data safe on the extra hard drive. When you have to replace a hard drive, the repair service can only restore the hard drive to its original state when the computer was new (provided you have the original program and system CDs). If you have a hard drive failure and you don't have your important data backed up elsewhere, there are services that can sometimes retrieve your data from the failed hard drive. You can try services like Ontrack's Data Recovery Center (<<http://www.ontrack.com>>). Though a bit pricey (typically over \$100 to recover a single drive's data), it's effective and usually worth it. You can find other data recovery services by doing a search on <<http://www.google.com>> and using the key words "hard drive data recovery."

FREE TECHNICAL ADVICE

If you are having problems with your computer, it could be because of a virus. So the first thing to do is a virus scan of all directories and files on your computer. You should always have an up to date virus scan program running (such as Norton Anti-Virus or McAfee), but even if you do, a virus can still slip into your computer. If a virus is detected and cleaned or deleted and you are still having problems, there are a number of free technical advice websites where you can get help. Try the following: <<http://TweakXP.com>>, <<http://computing.net>>, *Tech Support Guy* <<http://www.helponthe.net>>, <<http://BriansBuzz.com>> or <<http://www.protonic.com>>.

I have used Protonic and their volunteers have been very helpful.

2X EXPLORER FILE MANAGER PROGRAM

In later versions of Windows, Microsoft has removed the most useful feature of earlier versions (Windows 95 & 98)—File Manager. There is a free program called 2X Explorer which works very much like File Manager. I use it all the time to look at the contents of a diskette or directory, delete unneeded files, etc. It is available for free download at: <<http://www.netez.com/2xExplorer>>.

COMPUTER RUNNING SLOWLY?

If your computer is running slowly, it could be because you have too many programs opening at startup. You can turn off those programs that you don't need to startup automatically when you boot up your computer. Right click "Start," then click "Properties," select "Classic Start Menu," "Customize." It will show those programs that open at startup and you can delete those that you don't want to open at startup. It doesn't delete them from your computer—it only turns them off at startup. Save the changes and exit out. You will probably notice that your computer will run faster.

UPDATED AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY WEBSITE

The American Air Mail Society recently changed its Webmaster from me to Andrew McFarlane, whose occupation is designing websites. He did a complete make over of the website and he did a fantastic job. The redesigned website was broken up into smaller sections, so each section loads faster. The following are some of the new and redesigned sections: "What's New", a section which polls the members on different aspects of aerophilately, "About the AAMS," a Message Board, a section showing all U.S. air mail stamps, the current Society auction, and selected articles from the Society's award winning publication *The Airpost Journal*. Have a look at: <<http://AmericanAirMailSociety.org>>. □

DOCUMENT RETENTION

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

There is no way of writing well and also writing easily.

—Anthony Trollope (in Barchester Towers)

The Unsupported and Unsupportable Statement: Whose Burden?

by Ron Lesher

A number of years ago I wrote and provided the material for an APS slide show entitled *What are Revenues?* Upon viewing the finished product, a fellow ARA member chided me for not making a significant point that taxes were established and increased to pay for wars. Was not the Bureau of Internal Revenue established in 1862 to pay for the Civil War? After a number of reductions in tax rates and the complete elimination of the proprietary and documentary taxes in 1883, was not the next major tax increase and the return of the proprietary and documentary taxes in 1898 to pay for the Spanish-American War? Other examples could be cited to support the generally held notion that taxes have been initiated and increased to pay for America's wars. However, not all new taxes have been the result of paying for wars.

Meandering through the categories of revenues in the *Scott Specialized*, one finds quite a few categories that were not established at times of war. The list (although not exhaustive) that are not attributable to times of war includes playing cards, migratory waterfowl, narcotics, and silver. The tax on playing cards was reestablished in 1894. Although the U.S. was not at war at that time, I have been unable to give a reason for the establishment of that tax. In 1914 new documentary, proprietary, and wines and cordials taxes were initiated to support the Wilson administration's promotion of American business abroad. The migratory waterfowl program is a disguised tax to support preservation of habitat to encourage the migratory waterfowl population. The narcotics taxes had nothing to do with war, unless one hypothesizes a war on controlled substances in 1919. The tax on profits on sale of silver bullion in 1934 did not coincide with America's entry into a war. One could go on.

On several occasions in the past several years I have been called upon to do some prepublication review and editing. A recent case in point is that I pointed out to an author that the proprietary tax initiated by the Act of October 23, 1914 (and effective December 1 of the same year), was not established because of war. A rejoinder from the author stated that when war broke out overseas, the US decided it needed to raise an army in case we got dragged into war (a lightly edited version of the email to me).

A second example of a common misconception is that the ship on the Battleship documentary and proprietary stamps is not the U. S. S. *Maine*. The Writers Unit 30 Secretary-Treasurer in his monumental *Medicine Tax Stamps Worldwide* cites an anonymous article in the November 1958 *American Revenuer* that the ship is

Admiral Dewey's flagship, *Olympia*, a cruiser, not a battleship. Another several decades would pass before a painting in the Naval Archives would confirm that the ship on the stamps is none other than the *Maine*. Nevertheless, there remains a widespread belief among revenue collectors that the

ship on the stamps is not the *Maine*. It would not surprise me to find an article published in 2003 that firmly states that the ship on the stamps is not the *Maine*.

The point of these illustrations is that there are a good number of undocumented beliefs within revenue philately that are repeated in our articles that are unsupported and often unsupportable. Worse, after the error is debunked in print, the error takes on a life of their own and continues to be cited. What a pathetic situation!

Is my observation applicable to the rest of the philatelic literature? I have my hunches, but I would like others to share their observations in the literature of other fields within the hobby.

Wherein lies the solution to this deplorable lack of scholarship?

Certainly we must urge each other to do a review of the literature as part of our articles. The burden of proof certainly begins with us.

Another possibility is to use peer review of submissions before publication. I suspect that most editors do not have the time built into their publication schedules to allow for this. Can the editor alone be expected to catch the unsupportable errors? My suspicion is the answer to this question is no. Again, I would like to hear from others.

Editor's note: Readers may send their comments to the author at P.O.Box 1663, Easton, MD 21601, <revenueur@dmv.com> or to the editor. See the comments in "The Quill" in this issue regarding peer review for publications of the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund. □

MEKEEL'S REFERENCE MANUAL RESUMES

The August 15, 2003 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps* saw the resumption of the "The United States Revere Manual" series. This installment covered the re-engraved Banknotes, Scott 206-14. It's an update of a 1953 article by Stephen Rich.

John Dunn has done a real service to our hobby with this series which now totals more than 600 pages and is available as an offprint from the publisher. □

Questionnaire at Writers' Breakfast at STAMPSHOW 2003

At the Columbus Writers' Breakfast a questionnaire regarding *The Philatelic Communicator* was distributed. It was basically the same as the one included with the *PC* two years ago. All told, fifty responses were turned in. Of these, three were completely blank, five were signed and forty-two had responses to one or more of the questions.

Here are the questions and the replies. A figure following a reply indicates the number of the same or very similar responses. I've taken a few liberties in combining some of these.

Type of article I would like to see *more* of:

- no response 8
- how-to articles 5
- technical information 3
- electronic publishing 2
- web 2
- how to write catalogs 2
- sources of information, resources 2
- computer skills 2
- editing tips & ideas 2
- how to index articles 2
- historical 2
- scanning 2
- illustrations 2
- it's just right 2
- new book reviews
- bibliographies
- history of philatelic literature
- writing for mass media
- general & beginner articles for novice publications
- on-line style
- writing for study group interests
- organization principles
- letters to the editor
- Cost-effective publication sources
- literature judging
- international literature
- techniques of writing
- making articles interesting
- sympathetic
- philosophical
- comparisons with other scholarly/professional journals
- bodies of writing
- news-notes about current developments in the philatelic press
- APRL staff
- location of philatelic libraries & museums
- layout
- copyright information
- graphics design
- profiles of successful journals
- more publicity on judging criteria
- several points of view on same subject by various authors
- getting started in writing – the first one is the most difficult

- determining the quantity of a book to be printed
- production costs & ideas
- new member - can't comment – I'll be back next year
- “Stuff I like”
- “Have to think about it”

Type of article I would like to see *less* of:

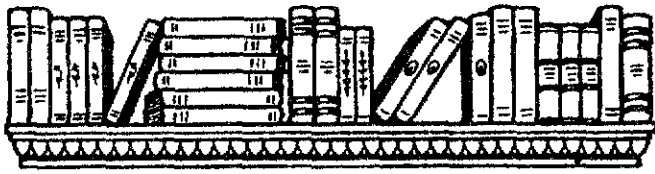
- no response 23
- computer technologies 2
- arcane specialist writings
- details on how to write scholarly works
- overly technical reviews
- on editing
- long opinion pieces
- Ken Lawrence diatribes
- legal issues
- “N/A”
- anything about the Internet (lowest common denominator)
- questionnaires
- stuffy
- it's just right
- “?”
- “Stuff I don't like”
- “Have to think about it”

Keep the following about the way they are:

- no response 18
- everything 3
- letters 2
- reviews 2
- awards 2
- happy with the structure and choice of articles 2
- editor's column
- society news
- comments on various literature competitions & results
- format of the journal
- language arts in philately
- info columns
- articles about writing techniques (headlines, captions were excellent)
- how to
- literature judging/exhibiting reviews
- book reviews
- technical information on editing aids
- most ok
- I like the broad range of material
- “Stuff I like”
- “Have to think about it”

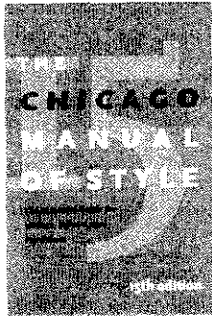
This notation was on one sheet: “style point – don't call PhDs - doctor.” For the record, I don't agree with this point of view.

We also had a healthy response regarding writing an article for a future issue. Former editor Ken Lawrence offered to write on: “Ethical problems facing editors and ethically challenged editors”—autobiographical?



REVIEWS

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



The Chicago Manual of Style, fifteenth edition, Margaret D. F. Mahon et al., University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 2003, 957 + xvii pages, 6 x 9", hardcover, illustrations, examples, bibliography, index, \$55, ISBN: 0226104036.

As noted in the last issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* (page 9), a new edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* appeared last July. The genesis of the *Manual* can be traced to the 1890s when a proofreader at the University of Chicago prepared a single sheet intended as a guide for the University Community. This led to a pamphlet and then, in 1906, to a book, the first edition of the *Manual of Style*.

The fourteenth edition appeared in 1993. Many changes have taken place since then, particularly the impact of technology. The new edition provides updated material providing guidance on current style, technology and professional practice. Some of the new information includes an expansion of the coverage on journals and electronic publications, a new chapter on American English grammar and usage, updated and rewritten chapters on documentation, including advice on citing electronic sources, current design and production processes that contain a glossary of key terms.

The table of contents gives a good appreciation of the scope of this book:

- Preface*
- Acknowledgments*
- 1. The Parts of a Published Work
- 2. Manuscript Preparation and Manuscript Editing
- 3. Proofs
- 4. Rights and Permissions
- 5. Grammar and Usage

- 6. Punctuation
- 7. Spelling, Distinctive Treatment of Words, and Compounds
- 8. Names and Terms
- 9. Numbers
- 10. Foreign Languages
- 11. Quotations and Dialogue
- 12. Illustrations and Captions
- 13. Tables
- 14. Mathematics in Type
- 15. Abbreviations
- 16. Documentation I: Basic Patterns
- 17. Documentation II: Specific Content
- 18. Indexes
- Appendix A: Design and Production—Basic Procedures and Key Terms
- Appendix B: The Publishing Process for Books and Journals
- Bibliography*
- Index*

More detail may be found on the Website for the *Manual*: < <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/> >.

During STAMPSHOW, WU30 past president, Alan Warren brought my attention to a lead review of the *Manual* on page B1 of "The Arts" section of *The New York Times*. (I think Alan could come up with a copy of the *NYT* if he was in Timbuktu.) This was on August 7. The review noted that the previous edition sold 500,000 copies and that this new one is the most significant revision since the 12th edition in 1969. It's a positive review and provides some insight on the development of this edition.

One of the most useful features continues to be a very strong and user-friendly index, now totaling seventy-six pages. It's a great help and time-saver in finding specific guidance.

At \$55, it's not a cheap book, but consider what we pay for philatelic literature. Many of the Internet book sellers are offering discounts ranging from 25 to 30%. I obtained my copy from Barnes & Noble on-line at 30% off and no charge for shipping. At my local B&N retail store, the full \$55 was being asked.

Considering the usefulness of this book, I think it can and should be considered a reimbursable out-of-pocket expense for any editor.

JEF

Stempel der Norwegischen Bahnpost (Norwegian Railway Cancellations), by Jürgen Tiemer and Peer-Christian Ånensen, 2002, 256 pages, 7 by 9 3/4", hardbound, German text, Kristiansand, Norway, Approximately \$50 from Jürgen Tiemer, Amvorkamp 13, 24214 Altwittenbek über Kiel, Germany, ISBN 82-996445-1-8.

Collectors of mobile post office mail will be indebted to

the coauthors for publishing this handbook and catalog of the railway cancels of Norway. The introduction includes a guide to the format and arrangement of the book.

Although this is not a priced catalog, there is a 10-point rarity scale for each cancel from common to extremely rare. The major railway lines are discussed with separate chapters, such as the Østfold, Kongsvinger, Trondheim, Gjøvik, Bergen, and etc. systems. Maps and data tables show the length of each line and its branches as well as their start dates. The pages of text include many covers and the page margins illustrate cancels. Each chapter concludes with detailed tables illustrating the cancel, its catalog number, period of usage, name of engraving firm, and cancel type as shown in the introduction.

Enlarged illustrations help to identify cancel varieties. The illustrations of covers and cancels are excellent. Even special cancels from museums and tourist trains are included. A bibliography leads the reader to source materials. An alphabetical index of cancels by place name, followed by thematic and numeral cancel listings, conclude the book. With this listing and the detailed table of contents, a general index is not needed.

Alan Warren

***A Postal History of Ross Dependency (New Zealand Antarctica)* by Mark Jurisich, Classic Stamps Ltd., P.O. Box 13-396, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2002, 8¼ by 11½", 188 + vi pages, perfect bound, soft covers, Available for approximately \$25 plus postage from the publisher.**

This book will be of interest to Polar collectors who focus on the activity of the New Zealand and United States Antarctic Research Programs. The period covered is from Operation Deep Freeze I and the preparations for the NZ Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955-1958 up to the 20th anniversary of Scott Base in 1977.

The first Ross Dependency stamps appeared in 1957 and were serviced at the post office established there. Mail is documented at Ross Dependency for each season of research or expedition history. Excellent illustrations show postmarks, cachets, and expedition member autographs on cover.

The Operation Deep Freeze ventures are covered as well. The history of these expeditions as well as their postal documentation are captured with the author's interesting text. Postal markings are shown for various locations such as Scott Base, Hallett Station, and visiting ships.

A bibliography of book and journal references ends this nicely illustrated book.

Alan Warren

The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone, Revised by the Canal Zone Study Group, Irwin J. Gibbs editor, published by United Postal Stationery Society, Box 1792,

Norfolk, VA 25301-1792, 86 + viii pages, 6 X 9", soft cover, perfect binding, \$20 (\$16 to UPSS members), ISBN: 0-96700458-6.

The last edition of this catalog was published in 1985. Over the years, both the UPSS and the CZSG have developed an earned reputation for presenting dependable information.

The organization is similar to the previous edition. The typeface is a bit larger. The detail is greater than found in the *Scott Specialized*, with the exception that envelope cut squares or not priced here, while they are in Scott. Considerable attention is given to die differences, card stock, envelope sizes, knives and watermarks. Explanatory notes are very helpful.

An entirely new section is that on specimens based on the 1990 sale of material from the American Bank Note archives by Chrisite's. The unofficial Christmas postal cards are listed, but not priced. Both Scott and UPSS numbers are given. The volume concludes with a price list which was formerly printed separately.

There are some areas for improvement. Probably the greatest need is for much better illustrations. While in some cases, this is just an aesthetic matter, it is far more significant where differences in dies are discussed. Integrating the prices with the listings would have been far more convenient than placing them at the end of the book. The inclusion of air letter sheets, even though they are unfranked, would have been an asset.

Lastly, this new edition is only available in a bound version. The previous edition was available both bound and loose-leaf. I've used the loose leaf version. It's a great advantage for a reference work such as this to lie flat. Additionally, it's useful to remove the pages illustrating watermarks and knives so that they can be easily referred to while working with the listings. Of course, we can always unbind this edition and punch it for a ring binder.

JEF

***FDC Förteckning 1928-2001 (First Day Cover Catalog)* by Magnus Gyllenspetz, Atlas Häftes AB, Box 4185, 22722 Lund, Sweden, 2002, both print (800 pages) and CD-ROM versions, Approximately \$95 for CD, \$140 black and white print, or \$440 color print, plus postage from the publisher, get specific pricing by contacting: <stampcovers@atlashaftes.se>.**

This is the first detailed catalog of first day covers of Sweden that I have seen. The author has compiled a significant listing of the FDCs of this country from 1928 through 2001. The only version I have seen is the CD format, which is well illustrated in color, showing cachets, special cancels where they apply, and mentions varieties of the stamps (tagging, printing flaws, double impressions, etc.), and enclosures such as government stuffers with text about the

stamp issue.

The introductory pages are quite detailed. These include a list of abbreviations used in the catalog and a brief bibliography. Among the subjects that receive special attention are the use of labels for registered and express mail, autographs on FDCs, arrival cancels, unofficial cancels, predates, and censor markings. These are pointed out as adding to the postal history aspect of the covers.

Standard cachets used in Sweden either by cachet maker or the postal service are identified, the Swedish postal service cancellations are shown with their known varieties, and the use of certain singles, pairs, and blocks are described with respect to perforation combinations for stamps that come from booklet panes.

Credit is given to George Linn for the first cachet in the United States for the Harding Memorial issue. The earliest Swedish cachet, also consisting of text only, dates from 1928. Sweden's postal service did use special cachets for a few years from 1945 on, and then took over official use of cachets beginning in 1984. By 1986 privately printed cachets were gone.

The main listing of FDCs proceeds chronologically from 1928 through 2001. This catalog is an amazing study of Sweden's first day covers and touches on those aspects of collectability that are followed in the United States. It should set an example for others to document the FDCs of their own countries. Looking at the pricing aspect of the CD-ROM format vs. the print versions reinforces the utility and lower expense of the electronic medium.

Alan Warren

***The Chinese Presence in Tibet* by Armand E. Singer, George Alevizos, P.O. Box 1408, Topanga CA 90290, email: <georgealevizos@msn.com>, 2002, 136 pages, 8½ by 11", perfect bound, \$40 in the USA (\$44 by priority mail). Outside the USA, \$45 by surface mail, or \$49 by global priority mail.**

Professor Singer has contributed many articles and books to the philatelic literature of Tibet, often based on his own collections. His latest contribution amplifies an important aspect of Tibet postal history, namely the many influences over the years by Tibet's neighbor, China.

He begins with examples of pre-stamp letters bearing seals of the Panchen Lama and the Ambans (Chinese ambassadors) from the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as shirt letters and documents bearing the seals of the Tibetan Regents. Next are a few examples of mail in Eastern Tibet by way of the official Chinese I-Chang postal system.

The next period is the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1910 and the introduction of the stamps of China, overprinted in three languages, for use in Tibet. Singer shows examples of the stamps in panes and other multiples, mentions the two

major errors, and describes the cancels used during this period.

More Eastern Tibet mail is seen including missionary covers, and airmail that reached this area in the early 1930s, well before Tibet proper received mail by air. Other examples of Chinese associated mail connected to Tibet from the 1930s and 1940s are shown, leading up to the Chinese Communist invasion of 1950. Military mail, mobile post office covers, and official Chinese government mail of the 1950s complete the story. An epilogue deals with some of the propaganda items such as the Nelson Eustis labels of the 1970s.

A bibliography and index conclude the volume. The book is lavishly illustrated, with even a few examples in color, as it consists essentially of exhibit pages. Although photocopies result in some having less than adequate quality, the majority of the illustrations are quite good and help convey important details of usage and postal markings described in the text. In addition to covers the author includes related items such as telegrams, postal warrants, receipts and letters.

Alan Warren

***Ethiopia, Tewadros io Menelik. Postal History from the Napier Expedition to the Independent Imperial Post, 1867-1908* by Roberto Sciaky, VACCARI, Vignola, Italy, 2002, 155 pages plus a computer floppy disk, softbound. Available from Leonard Hartman, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233, \$60.00. ISBN 88-85335-48-9.**

This book is not just a supplement to the previous two volumes on the stamps of Ethiopia, but presents a great deal of new information, especially on postal history. There are new chapters on the Egyptian and Italian offices, the Napier Expedition of 1868 in much more detail, non-French means of forwarding mail to foreign destinations (e.g., through British Somaliland), and an augmentation of the appendix on cancellations. Obviously, the bibliography is increased. A floppy disk is included that contains a list of Ethiopian mail, gleaned from a painstaking recording of known covers. The list is also printed in the book, but having it on a computer disk facilitates searching.

Prior to the Napier Expedition there was no organized postal system of any kind, but, *mirabile dictu*, some early missionary letters are known before then. The Napier Expedition was composed of ca. 40,000 personnel, which might be expected to have generated a considerable volume of mail, but the expedition lasted only six months, during which stamps of India were used. No less than 13 different "FF" (Field Force) obliterations are listed, including those used alone and in duplex with a date-stamp.

The chapter devoted to the Egyptian and Italian offices is good, although unfortunately some inaccuracies have crept in, notably the year 1872 as the year when the Ottoman Sultan granted Massawa to Egypt (it was 1868). The Italian presence in Ethiopia began as early as 1870, in Assab, but postal arrangements had to wait until 1882. As the Italian interest grew from an initial commercial trading station

administered by the Rubattino Maritime Co. to formation of an extensive colony, conflict with Egypt developed. This was resolved without military action, and the Egyptian office in Massawa was withdrawn in December, 1885 (prior to this, both Italian and Egyptian post offices were in simultaneous operation for a short time).

A substantial Italian expansion took place in 1895, culminating in the battle of Adua. This period is well treated, with careful drawings of the various date-stamps in use (examples range from scarce to very rare). The further expansion of the Italian occupation reached Kassala, in the Sudan, in 1895; the cancellation of Kassala is so rare that it is one of the very few that are not illustrated.

A most valuable feature is the presence of a number of tables of postal rates (information quite difficult to find). Also valuable is the establishment of the true status of certain stamps of the early period, which were at one time believed to be forgeries.

It should be clear that this book is a major contribution to Ethiopian postal history, and a serious collector of the country cannot afford to be without it. The book also gives a fascinating insight into the non-postal history of a largely obscure country.

P. A. S. Smith

Sveriges Frimärken i Färg 2003 (Swedish Stamps in Color), ed. Rolf Burström, AB Philatelia, Kåge, Sweden, 2002, 224 pages, 6¼ by 9¼", perfect bound, soft covers, Swedish text, Approximately \$40 for print version and CD-ROM together, from literature dealers or direct from AB Philatelia, 93492 Kåge, Sweden. ISBN 91-88122-20-4.

This is a dealer's priced catalog of Sweden that presents all stamps in beautiful color together with selling prices for mint (post office fresh), unused, used, and on cover, as available from the publisher/dealer. Introductory materials include illustrations of special perforations, gutter pairs, and watermarks, and a table of abbreviations defined in Swedish, English, German, French, and Finnish.

Following the regular stamp issues are listings for year sets, machine stamps and etiquettes, officials, postage due, military reply stamps and envelopes, booklets and slot machine booklets, and first day covers. Postal stationery and local stamps are excluded. Philatelia also publishes a Nordic country catalog that covers Norway, Denmark, DWI, Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, Finland and Åland as well as Sweden.

Orders for the printed catalogs automatically include the CD ROM versions. The CDs can also be purchased separately. The CD comes with Acrobat Reader® and instructions in English and Swedish to install it. It is easy to navigate and appears much as the printed version, with the table of contents always in view.

Alan Warren

A Postal History of Campbell Island (New Zealand), Mark Jurisich, soft covers, 8¼ by 11½ inches, stapled, 58 pages, Classic Publications, Christchurch, New Zealand

2003. Approximately \$11 plus postage from the publisher, P.O. Box 13-396, Christchurch, New Zealand.

This is a greatly expanded second edition of the author's first book on postal history of one of New Zealand's offshore islands, of particular interest to Polar collectors with its Antarctic Research Station. Although Campbell Island was discovered in 1810, this book's postal history begins with picture post cards of settlers from the early 1900s. The author then jumps to the Coast Watcher mail but does not show any of the, admittedly rare, covers from the important 1941-1945 period.

The book really focuses on postmarks and cachets dating from September 1952 when a weather station and accompanying post office were opened on Campbell. Examples include ship mail, air drop letters, official mail, postmarks errors, the provisional labels of 1981 when stamp stocks were depleted, Cinderellas, registry labels, paquebot marks, and QSL cards among others.

A brief bibliography concludes the text and is followed by appendices that list Campbell Island and ship cancellations, cachets (nicely illustrated), dates of ship visits to the island with vessel names, and a description of the island written by an officer in charge in 1963. This book should whet the appetite of New Zealand as well as Polar collectors.

Alan Warren □

PHILATELIC FOUNDATION TOURS

The Philatelic Foundation (PF) has announced tours of its new facility during the New York Mega-Event Show in New York. The new quarters will go on public display Friday, October 24. The PF's Expertizing Staff will conduct tours of its 15th Floor offices at 70 West 40th St. in Manhattan at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for those who reserve a place by contacting the PF at 212 221-6555 (FAX 212 221-6208).

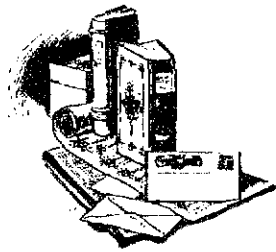
In announcing the open house, George J. Kramer, chairman, said the PF will also exhibit two frames featuring fakes and forgeries and three frames of reference material from its extensive reference collections at the four-day Mega Event.

The show will take place October 23-26 in Manhattan's Javits Convention Center. A bus will shuttle attendees from the center to the PF's offices at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on October 24 for the tours and back. □



WASHINGTON 2006
World Philatelic Exhibition
May 27 - June 3, 2006
See you there!





LETTERS

From Alan Warren: In his letter (*PC* Second Quarter 2002, p. 15), Jay Smith raises some interesting questions about whether the literature judging guidelines should apply to exhibiting and evaluating “information presentation” in its many forms. The new APS judging guidelines do take into account CD-ROM versions of print materials such as catalogs and handbooks.

However, there are many more formats for presenting information, and at present they appear to be beyond the scope of “literature” guidelines. FIP already has a system in place to evaluate websites, wherein the sites are downloaded on a particular date and evaluated according to guidelines that have been developed. But what about such things as PowerPoints® presentations, 35 mm slides, videos, overhead transparencies, and computer-driven presentations using Proxima® or other equipment?

How about radio spots such as Lloyd de Vries prepares? Or Major Ted’s Stamp Talks? We would need guidelines for evaluating clarity of presentation, enunciation, and other non-print criteria.

I suggest that these information formats are largely beyond the scope of the literature guidelines that are in place. If we want to evaluate these other media and electronic formats, we need another set of guidelines.

From Robert Ausubel: In the Second Quarter 2003 issue, for the second time over the years I read that “the use of apostrophes in years: 1920’s, 1990’s, etc. Since an apostrophe in that place denotes possession, it doesn’t make grammatical sense” and is an “error.” This time it was in an article by John Dunn. I don’t believe that I am much older than Mr. Dunn, but it certainly was acceptable, even required, when I was in high school in the late 1950’s.

The review book I used then and still possess, *The Road to Better English, Book II* by Ralph Alger, enumerates has three uses for the apostrophe (p.158): “in forming possessive, in forming certain plurals and in indicating the emission of letters.” I am enclosing photocopies of the relevant pages.

The use of the apostrophe in 6’s and 7’s or 1950’s or the four i’s and four s’s in Mississippi, does not indicate possession. These are examples of its use in indicating plurals.

Mr. Dunn also asks about pet peeves. Mine is the misuse of the word “unique”. It means one of a kind, not rare. Something cannot be “very unique”. If it is *unique*, that is

quite sufficient.

In your article “Typewriter Leftovers,” you state that “computers, like typesetting, have a varying space for each letter, unlike a typewriter where “i” and “m” (and all key-strokes) have the same width. This is not entirely true. The IBM *Executive* had varying widths for letter, from five for a capital “M” to two for a lower case “i.” It was a pain to learn to use. Moreover, the WordPerfect 5.1 I still am using, and am typing this letter in, does not have varying space for each letter.

I may be old fashioned, but I still like to see headers in all capitals and do so when I write an article. If an editor wishes to change it, that is his/her editorial prerogative.

Editor’s Note: Times change—about the time Mr. Ausubel was finishing high school, I was wrapping up college. My old reference *The Harper Handbook of College Composition* by Wyckoff and Shaw, agrees with his reference. However, I have to agree with John Dunn regarding current usage. Taking a look at the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual* I find: “No apostrophe appears between the year and the s.” (15th edition, chapter 9, section 9.37, page 389.) While, in the course of editing, I would normally make the change to the apostrophe in his letter, that somehow seemed a bit much.

He is absolutely correct in the point he makes about the IBM *Executive*. An oversight on my part. □

George Griffenhagen Honored

WU30 Secretary-Treasurer George B. Griffenhagen received the 2003 Luff Award of the APS for “Exceptional Services to Philately.” In addition to his steadfast service to WU30, George has served the American Topical Association as president and continues to edit *Topical Time*. He was the treasurer of the Council of Philatelic Organizations from 1983-91.

Joining George for Luff honors was WU30 member Dr. Reuben A. Ramkisson cited for “Distinguished Philatelic Research.” Ben has studied and written on several diverse subjects ranging from astrophilately to the stamps, postal history and postal stationery of Trinidad and Tobago. A work scheduled for publication next year is *A Philatelic Handbook of Mahatma Gandhi*.

W. Danforth Walker was commended for his “Outstanding Service to the APS.” Dan has done yeoman work for the Society as well as the APRL in many elected and appointed positions. His contributions run the gamut from exceptional advice to work on the Expert Committee.

Congratulations to all.

JEF□

When I have trouble writing, I step outside my studio into the garden and pull weeds until my mind clears—I find weeding to be the best therapy there is for writer’s block

—Irving Stone

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

(As of September 26, 2003)

Welcome Our New Members: .

1886 Samuel B. Treat, Jr., 513 South Sanders Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-5015. Editor *Lions International Stamp Club* 1983-1985; Article in press *The American Philatelist*. Sponsor: Rob Haesler.

1887 David McNamee, 15 Woodland Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Editor, *The Informer* (Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania) ; Author *Beating the Odds* (2002); numerous articles on Tasmanian philately in Australia, United Kingdom and U.S.A. Sponsor: Joseph Foley.

1888 Brian J. Liedtke, 10216 West Grange Avenue, Hales Corners, WI 53130. Editorial advisory board and columnist, Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs; 1998 Intern staff member of *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1889 John Cropper, P.O. Box 340, Richmond, KY 40476-0340. Editor and Webmaster: *Henry Clay Stamp Notes* (Henry Clay Philatelic Society, Lexington, Kentucky). Sponsor: Lloyd A. de Vries.

1890 Drew A. Nicholson, 18 Valley Drive, Pawling, NY 12564-1140. Editor: *Excelsior* (Empire State Postal Society) . Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

Resignations:

1332 Peter Mosiondz, Jr. of Laurel Springs, NJ.

New Addresses:

0673 Ernest E. Fricks, 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012-5821.

1877 Terome V.V. Kasper, 1940 Westwood Blvd., #297, Los Angeles, CA 90025-4614.

Election Results

The Ballot for the election of new officers and Council was published in the Second Quarter 2003 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, and 65 ballots were received by the June 30, 2003 deadline. This is nearly double the 38 Ballots that were received in the 2001 election. The results are:

President:

42 Peter D. Martin (#1489) 64.6%
18 Kenneth Trettin (#0993) 27.7%
1 Fred Baumann (not WU#30 member)
1 Charles Peterson (#0113) 1.5%

Vice President, East

62 Barth Healey (#1527) 95.4%

Vice President, West

63 David L. Herendeen (#1824) 96.9%

Secretary-Treasurer

64 George Griffenhagen (#0318) 98.5%
1 Alan Warren (#0066) 1.5%

Council

62 Lloyd A de Vries (#1503) 95.4%
60 James W. Graue (#1859) 92.3%
60 Ronald E. Leshner (#1813) 92.3%
58 Kenneth Trettin (#0993) 89.2%
1 Diane Boehret (#1447) 1.5%
1 Charles Peterson (#0113) 1.5%
1 Ada Prill (#1764) 1.5%
1 David Straight (#1863) 1.5%
1 Alan Warren (#0066) 1.5%

WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE

We hope to have a more comprehensive report on the Roundtable held at STAMPSHOW in Columbus in the Fourth Quarter *Communicator*. In the interim, this very brief overview.

Ablly chaired by president Dane Claussen the session began at 10:00 a.m. on Friday. Initially there were twenty in attendance, but that number soon grew to twenty-five.

There was quite a discussion concerning peer review. Comparisons were drawn with medical journals. The point that a peer might have a conflict of interest was also raised.

As the discussion ranged, subjects included copyright, controversy, and the thought that an editor need not be a subject-matter-expert in order to function as an editor.

Various disclaimers found in journals were reviewed. A point was made that these do not shelter the editor or the organization from suit.

There were further comments on frequency of periodical publication, the FIP Internet competition and advertising.

It was a very worthwhile undertaking and will most likely become a regular feature at STAMPSHOW

POLISH COLLECTION TO BRITISH LIBRARY

A major collection of Polish stamps that took fifty years to assemble, has been given to the British Library by York based stamp collector Janusz Kaluski.

The Kaluski Collection is contained in 46 volumes, covering the years 1835-2002. The stamps open a window into Poland's often turbulent past, marking many of the defining moments in the nation's history. Included in the collection are stamps issued in the 19th century when Poland was a Russian province and stamps from the end of World War One, announcing to the world the existence of an independent Polish state. Also among the items are stamps issued during the German occupation in the Second World War, and stamps produced at the same time by the Polish Government in Exile, in London.

**Writers Unit 30, APS
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2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA 22180**

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WRITING/LAYOUT MENTORING

Barth Healey, a senior staff editor at *The New York Times* and an accredited national and international literature judge, is ready, willing and able to review society journals and other publications and offer some constructive comments. He has also had extensive writing and layout experience. Send two or three recent issues to him at 86 Bar Beach Road, Port Washington, NY 11050-4029. (Supplying return postage would be a nice gesture.)

WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

Past president Charles J. Peterson operates the WU30 Critique Service. There is no charge for the service. Details are:

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

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

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

One of the greatest creations of the human mind is the art of reviewing books without having to read them.

—G. C. Lichtenberg