

# The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of  
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society

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Third Quarter 2004

## OUTREACH

In the first quarter 2004 *Philatelic Communicator*, Janet Klug issued a clarion call "How Can You Help?" In the same issue WU30 announced a recognition program for any writer who had something published or aired in the general press or any media.

To date, several have responded and certificates like the one shown here were presented at the Writers' Breakfast in Sacramento by Janet Klug and Peter Martin.

Here's a run-down of the material:

Phil Stager article "Bamboo and Philately" appeared in the volume 13, number 1 issue of *The Journal of the American Bamboo Society*. It's a

seventeen-page article crammed with very fine color graphics. For those that may not have heard of this group, it boasts 1,400 members worldwide.

Front page of the April 4, 2004 "Lifestyle" section of Annapolis' *The Sunday Capital* featured APS past president Peter McCann showing items from his collections and talking about the hobby and the APS. Also contributing to the article were Joe Foley, Pat Walker and Bob Lamb. (We are reliably informed that this article had nothing to do with Peter's relocation to Florida.)

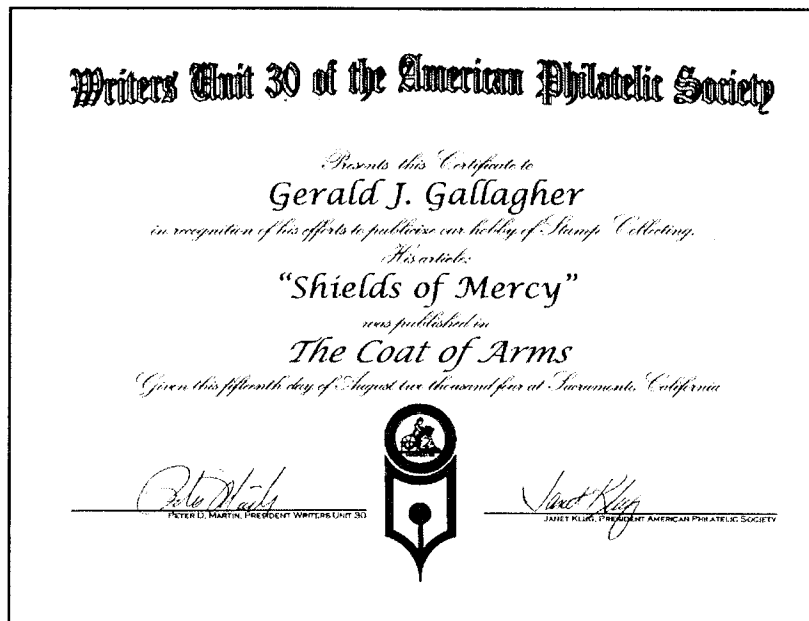
The Autumn 2003 issue of *The Coat of Arms* featured an article by Gerald J. Gallagher titled "Shields of Mercy. In a well-documented story, Gerald clearly shows how our stamps can relate to history.

Our indefatigable secretary-treasurer, George Griffenhagen had an article "Philatelic Practicing Pharmacists" in the fall 2003 issue of *Apothecary's Cabinet*, publication of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy. Using stamps, George traced pharmacy from 1222 A.D. to the modern era. Again, the graphics were great.

Not all entries had graphics. In fact the radio script from Lloyd de Vries obviously had none at all. Lloyd was recognized for his many "sound bites" for CBS Radio. He may just be the most prolific of our authors.

The June 2004 issue of *Officer Review*, the magazine published by the Military Order of the World Wars carried an article by Joe Foley "Remembering World War II—In Stamps!" Not all the graphics submitted were used. However, a revision in the August 6, 2004 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps* included the full range of illustrations.

Plans are underway to make these available to others interested in "spreading the word." Hopefully, this is just the beginning and we will recognize more writers at future Writers' Breakfasts. Send a copy of your work to Joe Foley (address on page 2). If the name and date of the publication are not apparent, just note what it is. A photocopy will suffice. For broadcast media, a transcript or tape will do nicely. □



# The Philatelic Communicator

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Writers Unit 30, APS, publishes *The Philatelic Communicator* four times a year. A subscription to TPC is included with dues paid by members of the Unit.

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

**DEADLINES**—For receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter . . . . . Jan. 15

Second Quarter . . . . . April 15

Third Quarter . . . . . July 15

Fourth Quarter . . . . . Oct. 15



# The Quill

Joe Foley

## CHANGE

Someone once quipped "The only thing constant is change!" In stamp literature that seems to be the case these days. As noted in the last column, *Stamp Collector* has passed from the scene. At hand is the new *Scott Stamp Monthly*. In terms of production, layout and cover appeal it's really a spectacular improvement. At 106 pages, it has quantity. If it catches the eye at newsstands and public libraries, it could give quite a boost to the hobby.

Quality of the illustrations is excellent and approaches that of the better auction catalogs. Jim Kloetzel has an article on the use of color in the upcoming edition of the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue*. Let's hope that the illustrations shown in his article live up to his promise that they are "as they will appear in color in the 2005 edition."

Different articles will appeal to different collectors. I particularly liked Chas Verge's on early Canadian FDCs, Ron Leshner's two-page discussion of the US 1898 Battleship revenues, Riga's Cinderella column and Ken Lawrence's feature on US Airmail Coils. The review section struck me as a bit weak. All-in-all, though, there's more than just glitz and glitter here.

## REVENUE SOURCES

Another publication that recently crossed my desk is Eric Jackson's *Price List for Revenue Stamps for the United States & Canada*. What may be overlooked is a tightly-packed seven-page listing of philatelic literature, not at all limited to the US and Canada. If you're having a little difficulty in finding something, this may be the place.

## LITERATURE SOURCES

Speaking of sources, Leonard Hartmann (dba Philatelic Bibliopole) has a fine list, but an even better Website: <http://pbbooks.com>. It's refreshing to have a short URL!

## NAVIGATION

More and more philatelic CDs continue to appear. Some are excellent and some are . . . well . . . less than that. One of the chief shortfalls is navigation. Surely someone out there must have the know-how to write an article for the *PC* on this subject.

## & IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our indefatigable secretary-treasurer was interviewed on national TV during the dedication ceremonies for the World War II Memorial in Washington. George is also secretary-treasurer of the 20<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Association of World War II and edits their newsletter *Wavy Arrow*. The 20<sup>th</sup> served in North Africa and took part in the invasions of Sicily and Omaha Beach at Normandy. □

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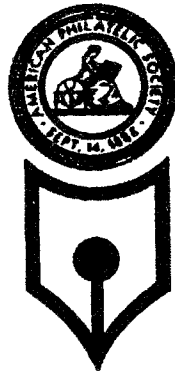
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The WU30 Council includes:

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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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# President's Message

by Peter Martin



The Writer's Unit #30 breakfast at the August STAMPSHOW in Sacramento proved to be another success with more than seventy in attendance.

Guest speaker, Gini Horn, the director of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), brought everyone up to date about the library's new facilities in Bellefonte, Penn., and Alan Warren read the citations for Harry Myron Konwiser and

Stephen G. Esrati, the newest members of the Writer's Unit Hall of Fame.

The STAMPSHOW literature awards were presented, including the Scott Publishing Grand award to Bob Odenweller for his phenomenal work, *The Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa*. Literature entrants did very well with eight golds and thirty-seven vermeils. A full listing of the awards can be found on the APS Webpage: [http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir\\_STAMPSHOW\\_04\\_Lit.htm](http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_STAMPSHOW_04_Lit.htm). Congratulations to all entrants.

Our efforts at promoting the hobby in nonphilatelic publications appears to be gathering steam. A full account is given on the front page of this issue. *Philatelic Communicator* Editor Joe Foley had all the articles on display. This is a tremendous outreach in support of our hobby and I encourage all WU#30 members to publish at least one article per year in a nonphilatelic publication. Let's hear your success stories.

Plans for our Website presence are beginning to take shape. Many organizations are getting up to fifty percent of their new members off the Web and we hope to duplicate that success, as well as to offer information and contacts.

Jay Smith, who had volunteered at our Norfolk meeting to serve as Webmaster informed me in July that his heavy workload would not allow him to continue. We are indeed fortunate that Andrew McFarlane has stepped forward to fill that position. Andrew is a professional Web designer with a host of philatelic credits, including the Websites for the American First Day Cover Society and the American Air Mail Society.

Our first job is to choose a domain name. From those available, the most appropriate for our organization are:

WU30.com  
WU30.org  
writersunit30.com  
writersunit30.org

I'd like to give all of you an opportunity to provide your input. Let me have your preference and comments by October 30 at: email [Pmartin2020@aol.com](mailto:Pmartin2020@aol.com) or snail mail at: POB 791, State College, PA 16804. □

## 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 19-21, 2004

SESCAL 2004, The SESCAL Website notes that their annual exhibit of philatelic literature will *NOT* be held this year *only*.

### November 19-21, 2002

CHICAGOPEX 2002, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Entries have closed For information contact John Kevin Doyle, 5815 Lenox Road, Lisle, IL 60532-3138, e-mail: [doyle-stamps@att.net](mailto:doyle-stamps@att.net), Website: [www.chicagopex.com](http://www.chicagopex.com).

### April 8-10, 2005

COLOPEX 2005, at the Makoy Center, 5462 Center Street, Hilliard, Ohio 43026. This is a change of venue. Hilliard is a suburb on the west side of Columbus. Entry fee \$25, entries close February 11, 2005. Information available from Bob Ross, Box 20582, Columbus, Ohio 43220, email: [literature@colopes.com](mailto:literature@colopes.com), Website: [www.colopex.com](http://www.colopex.com).

### June 3-5, 2005

NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, Virginia. Information available from Charles Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, Maryland 20726, email: [cjp7777@aol.com](mailto:cjp7777@aol.com).

### August 4-7, 2005

A.P.S. STAMPSHOW, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, For information contact Ken Martin, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellfonte, PA 16823, phone 814 933-3803 ext 218, fax 814 933-6128, e-mail: [stampshow@stamps.org](mailto:stampshow@stamps.org), Website (which will contain prospectus and entry forms): <http://www.stamps.org/StampShow/Intro.htm>. □

## 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.) □

# How Many Ways Can You Misnumber an Issue?

by Ira W. Cotton

With few exceptions, philatelic journals and society newsletters are edited and published by dedicated amateurs, not professional editors. That, combined with the ever present printer's devils, certainly explains why so many journals have little errors or quirks in the numbering of their issues.

A few years ago I became president of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society. I only write one article for each of the (hoped for but not always published) four issues per year. Thank goodness I don't have to edit, layout and publish our journal, *Duck Tracks*. I know from first-hand experience that editors are the unsung heroes of most societies. Still, during a recent browse through old issues looking for ideas for my next article, I realized both that I was missing some issues and that our method of numbering issues was, err..., somewhat inconsistent.

I was able to obtain the missing issues from our equally unsung Secretary, and from the full run compile the following list of how our thirty-nine issues (to date) have been numbered. It is offered as Table 1. I should hasten to add that I reveal this information in this public forum not to embarrass anyone – least of all our current or prior editors, who have won us medals for our publication – but to serve as a lesson for all. I know I never looked at the issue numbering when I reviewed draft layouts in the past.

Looking through this table, here are some of the inconsistencies: In numbering, we started without “whole numbers” for issues, but introduced it with issue #4

**Table 1, Duck Tracks Issue Numbering**

Whole #	Vol, Num	Identified Issue
(1)	Vol 1, No 1	Third Quarter 1992
(2)	Vol 1, No 2	Winter 1992
(3)	Vol 1, No 3	Undated
4	Vol 1, No 4	Third Quarter 1993
5	Vol 1, No 5	Fourth Quarter 1993
6	Vol 2, No 1	First Quarter 1994
7	Vol 2, No 2	Second Quarter 1994
8	Vol 2, No 3	Third Quarter 1994
9	Vol 2, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1994
10	Vol 3, No 1	First Quarter 1995
11	Vol 3, No 2	Second Quarter 1995
12	Vol 3, No 3	Third Quarter 1995
13	Vol 3, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1995
14	Vol 4, No 1	First Quarter 1996
15	Vol 4, No 2	Second Quarter 1996
16	Vol 4, No 3	Third Quarter 1996
17	Vol 4, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1996
18	Vol 5, No 1	First Quarter 1997
19	Vol 5, No 2	Second Quarter 1997
20	Vol 5, No 3	Third Quarter 1997
21/22 (sic)	Vol 5, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1997
	Vol 6, No. 1	First Quarter 1998
22	Vol 6, No 2	Second Quarter 1998
23	Vol 6, No 3	Third Quarter 1998
24	Vol 6, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1998
25	Vol 7, No 1	First Quarter 1999
26	Vol 7, No 2	Second Quarter 1999
28	Vol 7, No 3	Third Quarter 1999
29	Vol 7, No 4	Fourth Quarter 1999
30	Vol 8, No 1	First Quarter 2000
31	Vol 8, No 2	Second Quarter 2000
32	Vol 8, No 3	Third Quarter 2000
33	Vol 8, No 4	Fourth Quarter 2000
34	Vol 9, No 1	First Quarter 2001
34 (sic)	Vol 9, No 2	Second Quarter 2001
36	Vol 9, No 3	Third Quarter 2001
36 (sic)	Vol 9, No 4	Fourth Quarter 2001
	Vol 10, No. 1	First Quarter 2002
37	-	February 8, 2003
38	-	October 2, 2003
39	-	January 15, 2004

Evidently as a “catch up” our issue #21 contained Vol. 5, No. 4 and Vol. 6, No. 1, and was identified as whole Nos. 21/22 Then the next issue was also called whole number 22 (actually correct, because the prior issue should have had a single whole number, 21 We seem to have skipped whole number 27 altogether. We have two whole number 34s: Vol. 9 No. 1 (correct) and Vol. 9 No. 2 (should have been #35. Someone noticed, because we did continue on with #36 for the following issue. But then we had another double issue, which was our second whole number 36 - followed by #37 (which really should have been #38).

I'm not even going to talk about how we have flopped from months to seasons to quarters to individual issue dates. Confused? - so was I, which is why I took the time to build a spreadsheet and lay it all out. I know these flip flops will drive bibliographers crazy.

Perhaps the most amazing thing is that the most recent issue is identified as “whole number 39” and we have published thirty-nine physical issues – count ‘em! So maybe it all works out in the end. □

You'll find a title and it'll have a certain excitement for you; it will evoke the book, it will push you along. Eventually, you will use it up and you will have to choose another title. When you find the one that doesn't get used up, that's the title you go with.

—E. L. Doctorow

# WU30 WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE AT STAMPSHOW

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., AUGUST 13, 2004

This year the Literature Exhibit Critique will precede the Roundtable. There was not all that clean a break between the two events. Ken Trettin, who chaired the Literature Jury, appropriately decided that the questions arising at the end of the critique really were better suited for discussion at the Roundtable. He then turned the gavel over to WU30 Vice President Dave Herendeen who conducted the Roundtable.

The following account includes some items that came up during the critique, the roundtable itself and to some extent, follow-up discussions a little later. There were approximately fifteen to twenty present.

In discussing literature competition entries, the question of an upper limit was examined. While available frames place a limit on the philatelic competition, there is no physical restraint on literature, yet there is only so much a jury can deal with. At ninety-seven entries, some felt that STAMPSHOW had reached that limit. One participant stressed the need for income from the fees associated with literature entries. The counter argument was that the bourse beared the real costs of the philatelic exhibits and literature should not be any different. A suggestion that more judges and/or more time might alleviate the situation met with disagreement by those present who are literature judges.

Another point relating to competition was the inclusion of foreign language publications. There seemed to be a consensus that they should be excluded.

It was noted that while the judging guidelines suggest the submission of a synopsis for literature, none were submitted at either NAPEX or STAMPSHOW. There was some feeling that a synopsis, while useful for philatelic exhibits inasmuch as they provide information that enables a judge to prepare, is superfluous in the case of literature. The judge has the actual material at hand several weeks before the actual exhibition.

The STAMPSHOW judges were asked if they had access to computers. All had their own and at the show were able to use those at the table of the Philatelic Computing Study Group.

A definite interest in a philatelic style guide was

expressed by several. This is the project supported by WU30 president Peter Martin, who has been gathering information and individual journal style guides.

There was a brief discussion of using the internet as a research tool. This seemed to be a good topic but we didn't get very far.

The real value of color was questioned. Esthetics aside, there was some feeling that in many cases sharply focused black and white illustrations would suffice. It was also noted that color for shade matching can be a bit of a challenge to really get it right. (You can substitute "expansive" for "challenge.")

The pros and cons of electronic format vs. hard copy was a discussion that carried over. Considering a CD, some of the advantages are: the indexed PDF that lets you immediately jump to chapters you want, a hyperlinked index for the book, and the ability to cheaply reproduce everything in color. Conversely, electronic format, although rapidly gaining acceptance in the philatelic community, is still not used by all stamp collectors. Hard copy is universally available. Some feel that there is a degree of comfort, if that's the right word, in using a book that is frequently referenced as opposed to a PC.

CDs have a great space advantage over the printed word. My several feet of shelf space—read that bookcases—could be replaced with probably fewer than a dozen CDs. Some groups are reproducing their entire run of journals on CDs. In fact there was a recent report that TIME magazine has undertaken a similar project. Just about all present acknowledged the usefulness of the Internet as a resource. Electronic formats are here to stay, but they will probably coexist with the traditional printed word for many years.

There was some feeling that we were better off with a separate forum not associated with the critique. That way there can be a list of discussion subjects and a little better structure.

JEF

Compiled from notes taken by Dave Herendeen and Joe Foley and, when all else failed, our memories. Ed. □

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An original writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one whom nobody can imitate.

—Francois-René de Châteaubriand

## Writers' Breakfast at Sacramento

Peter Martin gave a good overview of the Breakfast at STAMPSHOW in his "President's Message" on page 3. Peter read the following report from Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen:

On July 1, 2004, we had 221 members (195 in USA, ten in Canada, one in Mexico, and fifteen overseas). This is down from 242 members that we had only six months ago. During this period we gained only four new members, but we had to drop twenty-five members for nonpayment of membership dues. As predicted in my last report, our membership could drop below 200 in the next years or two. If so, we will have to start spending our reserves or we may have to consider raising our membership dues. Therefore, membership recruitment and retention of our current members must be our highest priority.

On the bright side, our financial reserves are encouraging. We have taken in \$3,275.00 in 2004 membership dues plus an additional \$60.00 in contributions. This brings our bank balance to slightly more than \$9,000.00. However, I have paid for only the first issue 2004 of the *Philatelic Communicator*, so I will have some \$2,800.00 to pay for the remainder of 2004. Our savings have been due to a reduction in expenses, thanks to Wilcox Printing, and to PC editor Joe Foley.

Janet Klug's comments that follow were well received:

I want to encourage every writer in this room to pledge to write one article about stamps and stamp collecting for a non-philatelic publication this year. It is in our best interest to do so. It promotes the hobby in ways we cannot otherwise afford to do, and these other publications frequently pay for submissions. Some of them pay lots of money for articles.

Janet then gave us a rousing rendition of the latest entry for a "gold" record (It goes to the tune of *It's a grand old flag*):

It's a grand old hobby  
Sticking stamps in a book  
But we know that it's more than just that.  
There's the knowledge quest  
It's the very best  
And you writers make our hobby shine!  
So get out your pens  
Put your thinking caps on  
And tomorrow write something for *Forbes*  
Because we want to grow our hobby  
And we need lots more exposure.

If you can't find a copy in your favorite music store,  
then you *must* be going to the wrong store!

We hope to have Gini Horn's talk in the next issue. She

not only gave a good account of the new facility, but provided a good illustration of how the staff spends their year—no down time.

The 2004 Boehret Awards of the American Philatelic Congress were announced and the following award citations were provided by Kevin Doyle:

The *Postal History Journal*, edited by Diane de Blois and Robert Dalton Harris, published by the Postal History Society. This journal earned the Diane Boehret award in 2001, when it was edited by Harlan Stone. It is a very different journal today, and very much worthy to again receive the Diane Boehret award. The journal is attractive, well produced, and well edited. It presents a superior breadth of material, from classic to modern, from US to Europe to Asia, from heavily studied areas to brand new fields.

The society provides, and the journal supports, an excellent set of services to members, including in-depth review of new postal history publications and annotated listings of postal history articles which have appeared in other journals. The latter idea has been borrowed by several other philatelic journals. Membership information may be obtained from Mr. Kalman V. Illyefalvi, Secretary, Postal History Society, 8207 Daren Ct, Pikesville, MD 21208-2211. The annual membership for a US address is \$30.

*The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946*, by Robert B. Morgan, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago. This book is a well written, well edited, well presented and well-produced study of the postal rates and postal history of "history's most impressive inflation." The very complicated situation is explained clearly and systematically, in a way that allows any reader to quickly understand and appreciate. The tables and diagrams are excellent presentation aids, as are the Hungarian-English dictionaries and even Hungarian pronunciation guides. The book is available for \$40 postpaid from Duane A. Larson, 2 Forest Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466-1719, or through leading philatelic literature dealers

The next order of business was the induction of the newest members of the Writers' Unit Hall of Fame. Alan Warren presented the citations:

### Harry Myron Konwiser

Our first Hall of Fame inductee today was an outstanding student, writer and expert on U.S. postal history. Harry Myron Konwiser was born Sept. 4, 1879. His profession was publishing non-philatelic magazines, particularly for the tobacco, radio, and hotel industries. Most students of U.S. philately know, however, that his passion was researching and writing about U.S. philately.

Konwiser was not only committed to his philatelic writing, but innovative—as he explored, in depth, areas that no one else had—and highly self-disciplined, and therefore unusually productive. As his obituary in *Stamps* magazine read in part, “He was a prolific writer, and could dash off scads of well-written copy in a fraction of the time that it would take most people to get trained in the art.”

One of Konwiser’s closest friends was *Stamps* magazine founder/publisher H.L. Lindquist, at whose suggestion he assembled an outstanding collection of early Danish postmarks. Konwiser’s first two books, were *Colonial and Revolutionary Posts: A History of the American Postal Systems* (1931) and *Texas Republic Postal System: A Brief Story Relating to the Post Office and Postal Markings of the Republic of Texas* (1933). Konwiser became best known for his column on postmarks in *Stamps*, which ran from June 24, 1933, until Sept. 18, 1954, about which time he became incapacitated. His columns, which continued to appear in *Stamps* until 1956, were edited and copyrighted in 1982 by David L. Jarrett under the title, *Postal Markings (Harry M. Konwiser)*. In addition to *Stamps* magazine, Konwiser wrote for numerous other periodicals, especially noteworthy being his 1944 articles about the Dead Letter Office published in the *SPA Journal*.

In 1935, Konwiser published the *United States Stampless Cover Catalog*, which was reprinted five times by various publishers between 1938 and 1952. In 1937, he was involved in helping Hugh M. Clark revise John N. Luff’s classic book, *The Postage stamps of the United States: 19th century issues*, particularly the *Part One. Postmasters’ provisionals* volume. From 1936 until 1939, Konwiser was co-editor with Nicolas Sanabria of four annual editions the Scott Publishing Company’s *Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps*, and in 1940, he was co-editor of that catalog’s 10<sup>th</sup> edition, by then published under the new title, *Sanabria’s Air Post Catalogue*.

In 1942, he authored *Konwiser’s Check List of Air Mail Covers*, which was followed in 1946 by authoring *The Canada and Newfoundland Stampless Cover Catalog* and the same year, coauthoring with Delf Norona, a new edition of *Norona’s General Catalog of United States Postmarks*—previously published in 1935. In 1947, he authored the *American Philatelic Dictionary*, which was published by Jacques Minkus along with a new printing of the *Colonial and Revolutionary Posts* book. In 1949, Konwiser’s last book was the *American Stamp Collector’s Dictionary*.

Konwiser was an officer of the Collectors Club of New York and highly active in both the Masonic Stamp Club and the Association for Stamp Exhibitions. He died in the Masonic Home in Tappan, N.Y., on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1961,

at age 81. That same year, he was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame. Konwiser’s obituary in *Stamps* said “his contributions to philatelic knowledge will keep him forever remembered.” Indeed they have.

### Stephen G. Esrati

The philatelic writing of Stephen G. Esrati began with a piece for the children’s page of the *Boston Sunday Herald* on June 10, 1956. That article used stamps to illustrate people whose names had been turned into such words as ampere and quisling. In 1956, he broke into *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* with several articles that were to be his specialty, how stamps reflect politics. Those early efforts were on the Six-Day War, the lies that were told on the stamps of East Germany, and the use of the 1938 Presidential Series to learn the presidents in numerical order, at least up to Grover Cleveland.

In 1960, the Germany Philatelic Society tapped him to be editor of its monthly journal, the *German Postal Specialist*, and he quickly decided to focus on investigating whether widely accepted “facts” about German philatelic items were true, and he corrected many errors in the literature. Esrati almost won philatelic recognition at the GPS national convention in Baltimore in 1962, but the gold medal he had been promised was given to an organizer of the show. He has never been formally recognized for his writing. But as *Specialist* editor, Esrati was also a pioneer in the study of postal automation and even wrote a piece for a German stamp magazine that surprised later students of the process. German automation study group members asked him, “How could you learn all that from across the pond?” Automation also made him a student (and a writer about) the use of ultraviolet light in philately. This led to the discovery that a noted German expertizer had been certifying forged red Berlin overprints as genuine and a lead article in *The American Philatelist*, “When Experts Disagree.”

He also turned to the APS magazine for an outpouring of his stamps-and-politics material, and eventually this led to his appointment as the Sunday stamp columnist of *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, where for eleven years, he was glad to go by the directions he was given: “Do not write for stamp collectors. They have their own magazines. Write about the news as reflected in stamps and the news on stamps themselves.” He wrote the histories of Poland, Afghanistan, the Czech Legion, the U.S. invasion of the Soviet Union, the titillating life and death of Evita Duarte de Peron, and the mysterious death ray of Nikola Tesla that was a precursor to President Reagan’s Star Wars. He also publicized the anti-American stamps that have become so common since the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran. Esrati’s Sunday articles were often revised for, or

►►continued on page 17

# Computer Corner

by Kendall C. Sanford

## CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Have you changed your email address, and want people to be able to find your new email address? Use *Return Path*: <http://www.returnpath.net/>. Whenever someone is looking for your new email address, they can go on the *Return Path* website, type in your old email address and it will show them your new address. Or if you prefer, have *Return Path* send you an email message to advise that a particular person is asking for your new email address, and decide whether they should have it or not.

## PROBLEM FORWARDING AN EMAIL WITH A GRAPHIC?

I use *Netscape* as my web browser and if I receive an email with a graphic in it, if I try to forward it to someone else, the graphic does not go forward into the new email. However, if I hit "REPLY" it works. I just have to change the email address to the person I want to forward it to, strip out all the unnecessary headers, etc. and send it as a normal email.

## STRIP ALL THE JUNK OUT OF AN EMAIL

Use Steve P. Miller's *PureText* to dispose of the formatting, HTML coding and other baggage that tags along when you use paste text from email, web sites and "readme" files into other applications. Just copy material to the clipboard and click the *PureText* icon in your system tray to get clear text ready to paste. Or create a hot-key combination in *Word* (or any other program) – -V, for example – to purify and paste the text in one step.

## DON'T HAVE A FIREWALL ON YOUR COMPUTER? SHAME ON YOU!

If you don't have a "firewall" program on your computer, you are asking for trouble. There are many nasty things that can get onto your computer, primarily from the Internet, such as "Ad-Ware," "Trojans," "Spy-Ware," etc. They can cause damage to your computer or let other people know your computer activities, which websites you visit, etc. Not all virus protection programs will detect or stop some of things from getting on your computer. You need a "Firewall" program in addition to your virus protection program.

There are many good ones available at a cost, such as *McAfee Personal Firewall*, which is available as part of the *McAfee Anti Virus* program (<http://www.mcafee.com/>). Another good firewall program, and the one I use is *Zone Alarm* (<http://www.zonelabs.com/>). You can get a trial version and try it out before you buy. Click on "download

and buy" on their home page. You can check <http://find.pcworld.com/37553> for a list of free firewall programs and tips for installing them.

There are several free websites you can use to test your firewall protection. They all work similarly. The website runs a script that scans the ports at your computer's IP address. (<http://find.pcworld.com/37550>) is one of the most comprehensive scan sites. It offers six varieties of scans, though for most people the *Quick Scan* or *Stealth Scan*—which takes less than a minute—should be sufficient.

## SPYBOT SEARCH AND DESTROY

Two great free adware scanning programs are *Spybot Search & Destroy* and (<http://find.pcworld.com/28403>) and *Ad-aware* (<http://find.pcworld.com/26561>). They do a great job of cleaning out adware, cookies and other junk left behind by advertising sites. (*Adware* is software that generates pop-ups and sometimes tracks your Web browsing.) But these programs can do much more. Both offer some rarely discussed features to help you block a lot of annoyances, defend the privacy of your data, and speed up Web browsing.

## FREE MANAGER PROGRAM FOR WINDOWS XP

Remember *File Manager* for earlier versions of Windows, starting with *Win 95*? It was taken out of later versions, such as *Windows 2000 & Windows XP*, although it was one of the most useful features of Windows for seeing everything on your hard drive, the different directories, moving files from one place to another, easily deleting files, etc. Well there is a free file manager program available for *Windows XP*. It is called *2xExplorer* and it is available from: <http://www.netez.com/2xexplorer>. If you like it, you can make a donation to the author at [N.Bozinis@ic.ac.uk](mailto:N.Bozinis@ic.ac.uk). I use this program all the time and I love it.

## WHAT TO DO IF WINDOWS XP OR 2000 WON'T BOOT

If *Windows XP* or *2000* refuses to start, press right after you turn on your PC but before the Windows log-on appears (it may take a few attempts to get the timing right). At the resulting menu, select Last Known Good Configuration to restore your Registry to an earlier date. Then follow the prompts and select the next earlier date that is highlighted. If this doesn't get your PC working, reboot and press again, but this time select Safe Mode, and then choose Start\* All Programs\* Accessories\* System Tools\* System Restore. Follow the wizard's and pick an appropri-



ate backup.

If that doesn't work either, or if you can't even get to this menu, use your emergency boot floppy. You do have one, don't you? If you still have problems, there is an excellent *Windows XP Help Forum* at: <http://www.annoyances.org/exec/forum/winxp>. You can post a message with your problem and usually someone will post an answer that will help. I recently had a problem with my *Windows XP*, where something had been corrupted and it wouldn't boot. I had useful replies on how to fix it within twenty-four hours.

#### QUICK TIP AFTER A SYSTEM CRASH

System crashes may create large crash-dump files in *XP* systems. Sometimes these files can be up to 80MB in size. These files are unnecessary and can be deleted. Clear disk space by searching for \*.dmp and deleting these files. To learn more about controlling how *Windows XP* handles these files, visit *Registry Guide for Windows* ([find.pcworld.com/37613](http://find.pcworld.com/37613)). □

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### A GOOD USE

Recently I received an advertising booklet *Alumni Journeys* from the Johns Hopkins Alumni organization. What caught my eye was the 1911 postmark from Rome on the cover. Used throughout the fourteen page booklet were postcards from France, Bavaria, Canada and the U.S. It was done attractively and in color.

An early Raphael Tuck & Sons "Oilette" cards was used to begin the basic travel message. At the base of the card was the note "Postcards from the Laurence Hall Fowler Papers MS 413, Special Collection, The John Work Garrett Library, The Johns Hopkins University."

It's delightful to see a collection used this way, rather than just reposing in some dark drawer. Certainly the "pitch" was travel, but I have to wonder if those pictures of early twentieth-century stamps didn't reawaken an interest of some "lapsed" stamp collector. □

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### NEW EDITORS

At STAMPSHOW, it was announced at the gathering of the American Philatelic Congress that WU30 Council Member Ken Trettin would be taking on the blue pencil of *The Congress Book*, replacing Richard Helbock, the editor since the 1999 book. Ken brings a wealth of successful experience to the job having edited the gold medal *American Revenuer* for many years.

After completing five years as editor of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Joe Foley is stepping down. Bob Odenweller, who has been a valued member of the CCP Editorial Board will be the new editor beginning with the January-February 2005 issue.

The very best of success to the new editors. □

### The Word Processing System of Choice is .

This is the third round of responses to the "mini-series" that began in the first quarter 2004 issue.

No one has mentioned my word processor of choice yet—*MacWrite II*. For one reason—simplicity. It is only a step or two above a text editor; you can define type styles as Command-number keys but not paragraph styles; you can copy/paste tabs and indentations for a paragraph; it has a spell checker. There are probably some other functions such as footnotes and page numbering there is really no need to use them.

*MacWrite II* will easily format a letter or address an envelope. Beyond that my only use for a word processor is to key material for importation into *PageMaker* and to print our galley proofs.

Any writing project that requires any extensive formatting is done in *PageMaker*, which is much more capable of page layout work than is any word processor including handling of graphics and material from a variety of sources. *MacWrite* files are easily imported into any version of *PageMaker* from version 3 through 7. Of course, *MacWrite* files can be opened by *MS Word*, *MS*, *Claris Works* or *Word Perfect*. Only one problem, *MacWrite* will not run under OS X, but then neither does *PageMaker*.

Ken Trettin

I've been with *WordPerfect* since issue 5.1. It's probably a case of being comfortable with what I'm used to, but I've kept with *WordPerfect* through several issues. To deal with manuscripts, I keep *MS Word* and *Works* on my computer, but usually convert to *WordPerfect*.

Joe Foley

Your comments on word processing systems are more than welcome to add to this series. □

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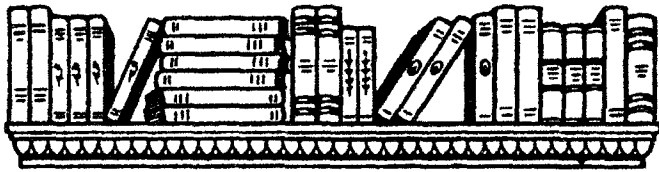
### WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

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

**Periodicals**—Submit the four most recent issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the *first class* mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about thirty 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, email: [cjp7777@aol.com](mailto:cjp7777@aol.com). □



## REVIEWS

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

***The Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa*, by Robert P. Odenweller, Royal Philatelic Society London and Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 2004, 396 + xviii pages, 8¾ by 11½", sewn, case bound, gilt edges, numbered edition of 500 copies, \$78 postpaid in the United States from RPSL, c/o the author, P.O. Box 401, Bernardsville NJ 07924, ISBN 0-900631-37-6.**

This book has been in gestation for more than twenty years and the interruptions that delayed some of the writing and final publication served it well by allowing for more thorough coverage of the subject and the use of wonderful color illustrations almost entirely throughout. The result is not only a feast for philatelic eyes but is also a superb study of the traditional philately and postal history of Samoa in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

The presentation is generally chronological and begins with Samoa mails from the 1830s until 1877 when the first post office was established. The first set of stamps, the Express issues, appeared in 1877-1881 followed by reprints. Students of this issue face difficulties in telling the genuine stamps from the reprints and forgeries. The author provides an approach to sorting out these stamps.

Each of the four printing states is described in a separate chapter using sheets and reconstructed sheets to identify the plate flaws characteristic of each position. Subsequent chapters cover remainders, reprints, proofs, shades and varieties. A separate chapter is devoted to the known covers and examples on piece, plus a list of the earliest and latest known dates of Express stamp usage.

Following a chapter on the Apia Municipal Post Office in the 1880s, comes a series of chapters on the Palm Trees issues of 1886-1900, including the postal stationery. Odenweller sets the stage with a brief political history of Samoa, the fire that destroyed the Apia post office in 1895, the establishment of the Davis post office, and the eventual

roles of Germany, Britain and the United States in governance of the country.

The Palm Trees issues are first examined by the means to distinguish the horizontal and vertical mesh papers and the three types of watermarks. The stamps are then discussed in depth including the surcharged issues, with descriptions of varieties, shades, and important pieces. The postal history of the Palm Trees issues is documented and then followed by a chapter on rates that reflects the difficulty in developing this information due to the limited number of commercial pieces sent to the United States, Australasia and elsewhere.

Among some of the more fascinating chapters are a discussion of commercial vs. philatelic covers, combined use of U.S. and Samoa stamps, bisect usage, and manipulated covers. A priced catalog of the stamps and postal stationery is presented followed by listings of proofs and essays. Sixty pages are then devoted to itemized listings of the known covers. These census tables include reference numbers, indication of commercial or philatelic use, date, addressee's name, destination, and the specific stamps or stationery involved.

The last chapters suggest questions for future research and provide some supplemental information on matters such as Express forgeries, papers, and Palm Trees proofs. A bibliography, catalog concordance, and comprehensive index bring this well written, edited and presented book to a conclusion.

The book serves not only as the definitive reference on the chosen topic but also represents a model of a handbook/catalog against which others should be measured. The author acknowledges the many people who provided information and illustrations, and especially those in charge of the Royal Philatelic Collection of Her Majesty the Queen.

*Alan Warren*

***Rositer Postal History Journal, Volume No. 4, 2003, Rossiter Trust, UK, 2003, 83 + xii pages, A4 size, soft cover, perfect binding, illustrations, maps, tables, \$21.50 from Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY, 40233, ISSN 1475-4274.***

Once again, the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund has provided a notable volume containing three rather detailed and diverse articles on postal history.

The first, "The Post between Great Britain and Russia, via Prussia 1852-1875" is by Charles Leonard. A number of covers are illustrated and comprehensive rate and route information is provided. Only regular letter class mail is treated. There is a brief bibliography.

Peter Kelly is the author of "The Postal History of the Railway on the Island of Réunion." This discusses the