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The Philatelic Communicator

Writers Unit No. 30

of the

American Philatelic Society

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The Editor's Wish List for 1988

New Project/Direction for Writers Unit 30

Since we changed our name to *The Philatelic Communicator* to reflect all aspects of philatelic communication, not just the print media, I feel it is time to take concrete action on the other media, especially the audio-visual. Since Ron Mitchell burst on the scene with his "Denver Eagles" video, nothing much has happened.

I would like to begin a regular feature, written by a member expert, on technical philatelic photography as well as photo journalism — coverage of philatelic events, exhibits, people, etc. As communicators we are very poorly qualified in the field of photography. There is great room for improvement, even in the commercial press.

Along with emphasis on audio-visual communication, I would like to send up a trial balloon for the institution of a new competitive category, as used by the Numismatic Literary Guild, for "the best portfolio of work in several media" in a given time span by one person. Such a portfolio would consist of, perhaps, a serious study, a light commentary for the philatelic press, an article or column for the lay press, editorship of a periodical or book, authorship of a book, a slide program or video, a lecture, still photography, technical photography, etc. I believe the existence of such a comprehensive category would stimulate the development of more versatile communicators.

All of this will take much time and discussion to implement — or shoot down. Either way, isn't the *PC* the vehicle to try this new direction — and now? We will never achieve anything if we don't make a start.

On a different note, an idea which is still developing in my mind: beginning a "member resource" feature to which members can direct requests for help in writing and research projects; can solicit technical aid such as in photography, graphic arts, or computer services; can offer services such as typing, indexing, etc. I envision this on a free basis — no "advertising" format or charges, no commercial offers of specific products or philatelic material.

Prompt Attention Suggested to These Coming Events

- COLOPEX 88, Literature entry deadline March 1st.
- Spellman Museum Fair, entry deadline March 18th.
- PIPEX 88, Literature entry deadline April 1st.
- STaMpsHOW 88, prospectus available now (August).
- SESCAL 88, prospectus available now (October).

[See "In This Issue" at right for coverage.]

[Note: Please be sure your literature event plans are sent to the editor of this journal as soon as dates are firmly set. Thank you.]

NEVPEX 88 (APS Spring Meeting) Writers Breakfast

The Writers Breakfast at NEVPEX 88 will be held at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 10, 1988, in Room D at the Pioneer Inn and Casino, 221 South Virginia St., Reno, Nevada 89501. Tickets are \$8.00 per person. Order from George Griffenhagen, Sec.—Treasurer WU 30, 2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180.

When ordering tickets please give full name of each person for whom tickets are intended, and make your remittance payable to: Writers Unit 30, APS.

No refunds on unused tickets after March 25, 1988.

* * *

If you'd like early information on the Writers Breakfast at STaMpsHOW 88 in Detroit on August 28, 1988, send a self-addressed number ten envelope with franking for one ounce first class or air mail and mark it on lower left corner 'Detroit Breakfast' — send to address above.

NEVPEX 88 Sleeping Rooms Available

\$28 per night single or double occupancy rooms at the Pioneer Inn and Casino, directly across the street from show location, available. Form for SAE to Sec.—Treasurer Griffenhagen at address above this column.

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(Formerly the *News Bulletin*, name change effective First Quarter 1987, Volume 20, Number 1, Whole Number 75.)

Quarterly journal of the Writers Unit No. 30 of the American Philatelic Society, 2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180, *The Philatelic Communicator* is produced and mailed as a paid service for the Writers Unit No. 30 by Midland Co., Box 22308, Memphis, TN 38122.

Membership in Writers Unit No. 30 is open to anyone interested in philatelic communication, subject to approval of application submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at address below on form available from him for addressed, stamped envelope, and payment of dues as noted below.

Membership in the American Philatelic Society, while encouraged, is not required as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in Writers Unit 30.

Dues are payable in advance, on a calendar year basis, in U.S. funds, payable net in U.S. dollars through a U.S. bank or the U.S. Postal Service, and include all issues of this journal for such calendar year. Refund, pro-rata, of payment to the Writers Unit No. 30 of dues tendered shall constitute final and satisfactory settlement of any dispute which may arise involving membership and/or dues payments.

Advertising for this journal will be considered on a case-by-case basis and details should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer for his handling.

All matters involving Writers Unit 30 business EXCEPT editorial matter for this publication must be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Editorial matter should be sent to the Editor.

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The Executive Committee is composed of the Officers, Editor, and Chairman of the Council.

Calendar Year Dues – Writers Unit 30, APS

- U.S. Zip code addresses \$ 10.00
- Canada or Mexico addresses \$ 12.50
- ALL OTHER addresses \$ 17.00

Dues are payable in advance on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable calendar year and membership terminates Mar. 31 of any year for which dues are unpaid.

President's Message

Though I have not seen the inputs for this issue, I understand from our editor that there are again a number of items dealing with problems perceived in the judging of philatelic literature in years past. Let us all cease this picking away at those events about which nothing can be done, and work together toward making improvements in future literature events.

One way is to consider these not as literature *competitions* but as literature *exhibits* – which happen to be also judged. I have made the necessary changes in the publicity releases announcing the 11th annual SESCOAL Literature Exhibition, and the word competition has been removed from the 1988 literature prospectus as well.

As I have indicated at other times, it is possible to enter a literature exhibition in a non-competitive mode, and so display your work for others to see, without having to suffer (if that is your personal feeling about it) the slings and arrows of the literature jury. You are able to let others see your efforts, and perhaps find a few new members for your society or customers for your research handbook.

There will be a Writers Breakfast at the APS Spring Meeting in Reno, NV on Sunday morning, April 10th. Exact time and cost and some other details on the show appear on page one in this issue.

The call for nominations for persons to be named to the Writers Hall of Fame has resulted in several worthy names being submitted to Barbara Mueller. The WU Board will consider each of the individuals suggested, and announce the names of the 1988 honorees at the Reno Writers Breakfast.

I want to thank all those who submitted names for consideration. Your efforts are appreciated.

Bob de Violini

Western Postal History Museum Publishes New Journal

The Western Postal History Museum, Box 40725, Tucson, AZ 85717, has released the first issue of its new quarterly journal, *The Heliograph*. Edited by the well-known student of U.S. transit mail markings Charles L. Towle, it intends to "report broadly on postage stamps, revenue stamps, postcards, covers, postal stationery, philatelic books, and 'cinderellas'."

Single copies \$2.50. Membership in the WHPM, including subscription, \$15 annually. Manuscripts wanted and invited. Contact editor Towle for details.

Confessions of a Philatelic Writer

Speech to The United Postal Stationery Society Breakfast
at MIDAPHIL on October 10, 1987.)

by John M. Hotchner

Gandy Neil called last Wednesday night and asked to substitute for him this morning. I immediately had a panic attack. I only dabble in postal stationery here is nothing I can tell you on that subject. Instead, I thought I'd talk with you about some of my experiences as a philatelic writer. I began 11 years ago writing for *Linn's*. And I expected to develop a certain mystique. I was being paid and so I thought of myself as a professional. In my view:

- the opinions of professionals become unassailable;
- the professional should eventually command glorious sums of money;
- the professional should be besieged by admirers, and;
- the professional ceases to "sweat" and merely "perspires".

That's how I dreamed it would be.

After 11 years, I must confess that my opinions are regularly assailed, half the editors I've worked for have paid only enough to cover expenses, a quarter just say thank you, and the remainder don't even do that.

I'm not besieged — in person or by mail. I have a certain number of regular critics who engage in that practice simply for sport. And I sweat — especially as the deadline approaches and my muse is on vacation. If this doesn't sound like Graham Green's position description, it isn't. I and 98% of other philatelic writers are really amateurs in the sense that we don't depend upon this enterprise for our livelihood. We benefit from the effort more than from the paychecks. The sense of accomplishment I get comes from three roles that I commonly take on:

I — Self-appointed Don Quixote. You might say that I've developed my own black blot program. I don't like the merchandizing of sand dune countries to children. I've ranted about the get-rich-quick schemes of some of the "philatelic investment" counselors. I regularly rave over the little ways in which we in philately do things to injure our image with potential collectors. For instance, the "little league parent" lives in junior philately.

At the base seems to be an intense (maybe exaggerated) sense of justice. My columns are an opportunity

to say what's on my mind. Of course, not everything gets printed. The editor's blue pencil is ever present. This reminds me of a wonderful quotation from statecraft:

"The king can do anything he pleases so long as it pleases the assassins." Of course, I don't wish to imply that all Editors are assassins — especially with accomplished Editor Barbara Mueller sitting next to me — but they are a force to be reckoned with.

II — Representative of the Lunatic Fringe. Sometimes I feel provocative. There are several reasons why this may happen:

1. The mail slacks off and I begin to wonder if anyone is reading my stuff.
2. I feel a snowjob is in progress and I want to register my own minority report.
3. I have a (hopefully) good idea and I want to pressure to have it accepted and developed. My column a few weeks ago pressing for a National Youth Stamp Collecting Day is just such an attempt.

III — Solomon The Wise And All-Knowing. By virtue of being a published writer, I am presumed by some of the public to have almost magical powers of precognition, knowledge of all things past and present, and an ability to memorize auction catalogs that would impress the Wizard of Oz.

Sometimes I can deliver. More often it takes half an hour of research — and sometimes correspondence with minds greater than my own — before I can respond. While on that subject, I'd like to acknowledge and thank UPSS' John Beachboard, who is a neighbor of mine in suburban Virginia, for the great help he has been on many occasions.

* * *

Most questions I get fall into three broad categories:

1. What is it?
2. How much is it worth?
3. Won't you buy it?

Only the last question is regularly easy to answer. It is often presumed that philatelic writers are rich beyond avarice. It isn't so.

In summary, philatelic writing has cost me a great deal of time, but brought me a great deal of satisfaction, many friends, and the knowledge that I am doing something that is useful and entertaining to many people . . . despite the occasional letter such as this one received last week:

(Continued on page 4.)

"Dear Madam or Sir:

"I was shocked at the paragraph in Mr. John M. Hotchner's column of the Sept. 28 issue. He states that if we are unable to stand a certain amount of unsavory activity in the modern stamp market we should turn to specializing in the 'stamps of 1900 to 1940'. First of all the statement is logically inconsistent in that it implies that dealers selling the earlier issues are more honest than individuals involved with recent issues. I am certain that this statement cannot be supported. In fact I doubt if Mr. Hotchner can know if it is correct or not.

"Of greater importance, this is the kind of arrogant and irresponsible morality which permeates today's society - from inside traders on the stock market to accepting bribes by politicians in a position of trust. How much dishonesty must we have in stamp dealing before Mr. Hotchner becomes outraged and attempts to do what he should do, i.e., work toward eliminating any and all chicanery."

I was at least grateful for Michael Laurence's support in the form of a small note saying, "This guy totally misread your comment."

J.M.H.

[Watch for Hotchner's article "Twenty Secrets of High Productivity" in the next issue of this journal.]

New Stamp Column Debuts in Canada

Piet Steen of Hinton, Alberta, who is involved with the Latin American Philatelic Society as editor of its *Latin American Post*, is now writing a weekly column for his local newspaper, *The Parklander*, one of several papers owned by Bowes Publishers. He notes that he finally convinced them to give it a try - "without salary for me, of course."

Called "This Is Philately", the column is well illustrated and includes an informal photo of Piet. The first one is headlined "New columnist explains the whats and whys of philately." Within the limits of a column of type, this is a remarkable introduction to a complicated subject. The second is "So where do you get stamps to collect?"

Piet has adapted the tactic of "to be continued". He writes, "Those of you who read my last column know that this time the subject will be used stamps." He ends with a couple of paragraphs on an unrelated theme and his style is informal and friendly, seeking rapport with the individual reader.

If Piet continues his how-to-do-it series, he will end up with enough material for a reprint booklet to use as a recruiting tool. Is anyone else using this approach?

Reports on Past Literature Exhibitions

FLOREX 87, hosted by Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, presented a new twist to literature competitions at the annual show Nov. 6 - 8, 1987. Support from both the award sponsors and philatelic press helped draw 28 entries, including two from Canada. The primary goal of the contest - "To enhance this area of philately and give the editor-publishers the recognition they truly deserve" - was unquestionably achieved.

Each entry was judged for content coverage in ten categories pre-determined pertinent to a show program. A bonus category was given for additional content not falling within the first ten. Production quality listed nine categories which measured the effectiveness in production of the publication.

Constructive comments on the three judges' score sheets were forwarded to each entrant with a copy of the 56-page handbook on tips for producing a show program; a certificate; Florex 87 program; cacheted cover; ribbons; and awards.

Exhibit Chairman Carl M. Burnett extends his personal appreciation (in the press release from which this text is taken) to: Tom Current of Portland, OR and Richard Drews of Morton Grove, IL, who joined him in judging of entries; V. Guy Moreau of Pawtucket, RI, who offered to judge but had to decline for personal reasons; John Hotchner, Randy Neil, Florex Show Chairman Phil Fettig, the Florida Federation, award sponsors, and the entrants themselves.

If interested in judging the Florex 88 Show Program exhibit, write C. M. Burnett, Box 1987, Melbourne, FL 32902-1987 for details. Show attendance is not a requirement for judging.

* * * Florex 87 Literature Exhibit Results * * * *

Grand award, presented by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, went to the SEPAD 85 show program, with the FSDA award for best entry by a member of the National Association of Philatelic Federations, the J.A.P.O.S. Study Group Best of Class "C" Award, and a Florex Gold medal. SEPAD, Philadelphia's annual stamp show, is sponsored by the Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.

In Class "A", the JAPOS Study Group best of class award went to the CHICAGOPEX 86 show program, with a Florex Gold medal.

The JAPOS best of class "B" award went to AIRPEX XI 86 show program, sponsored by the Dayton, OH stamp club, with a Florex Gold medal.

(Continued on page 5.)

Other program winners by class were:

Class "A" (Single-page programs)

- Vermeil – MILCOPEX 87, Milwaukee Phil. Soc.
Silver – STAMPOREE 87, SE FL Stamp Exhib. Inc.
Silver-Bronze – COLOPEX 87, editor Diana Manchester; SESCAL 86, Federated Phil. Clubs S.C.A.
Bronze – PRINCEPEX 87, Eastern Prince William Stamp Club; VAPEX 86, VA Phil. Federation.

Class "B" (Multi-page, single-sponsor programs)

- Gold – FILATELIC FIESTA 86, editor Peggy Nash.
Vermeil – SEPEX-TOPEX 87, Columbia Phil. Soc.
Silver – SYRAPEX 87, editor Ronald Traino; WILKPEX 87, Wilkinsburg Stamp Club.
Silver-Bronze – AUSPEX 87, publisher Jane King Fohn; ORAPEX 86 and ORAPEX 87, RA Stamp Club, Ottawa, Ontario.
Bronze – HUNTSPEX 87, editor Edward Kazmierczak; PANPEX 87, Bay County Stamp Club; YORCOPEX 87, White Rose Phil. Soc.

Class "C" (Multi-page, state/national/co-sponsored)

- Gold – COMPEX 87, Combined Phil. Exh. Chicago.
Vermeil – SEPAD 86; COMPEX 86.
Silver – COMPEX 85; ARIPEX 87, Ariz. Fed. Stamp Clubs; WESTPEX 87, editor G. Eastman.
Silver-Bronze – PHIL. SHOW 87, editor P. Pierce.
Bronze – WISCOPEX 87, Fond Du Lac Stamp Club.

* * *

HAFNIA 87 U.S. Literature Winners:

- Gold – *Letters of Gold*, Jesse L. Coburn.
Large Vermeil – *The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World, Part 3, the Suez Canal Company*, Leonard H. Hartmann; *The Postal History of the Forwarding Agents*, Leonard H. Hartmann; and (with special prize) *Opinions IV*, Elizabeth C. Pope.
Vermeil – *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, Susan M. McDonald; *Postal History Journal*, Ernst M. Cohn; *American Air Mail Catalogue*, Fifth Edition, Vol. 5, American Air Mail Society; and Menachim Max Mayo, for *Cilicie – Occupation Militaire Francaise*.
Large Silver – American Air Mail Society, two entries, the second with felicitations: *USA Rocket Mail; Glider Mail, an Aerophilatelic Handbook*.
Silver – *Annotated Bibliography of Cuban Philatelic Literature*, Ernesto Cuesta; *British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Journal*, T. E. Giraldis; and *The Posthorn*, Joe F. Frye, interim editor.

Silver-Bronze – *Passing Review: German Postal History 1945-1949*, Herman L. Halle; *Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land – 1940-1947*, Society of Israel Philatelists (and, second entry same entrant), *The Haifa and Jaffa Postmarks of the Palestine Mandate*; *The Airpost Journal*, Vol. 57, Nos. 1-12, American Air Mail Society; Arie Ben-David, for *World Philatelic Congress 20th Anniversary Journal*; *The Israel Philatelist*, Oscar Stadler.

Bronze – *Federal Duck Stamp Story – Fifty Years of Excellence 1934 – Anniversary – 1984*, Laurence F. Johnson; Edward T. Superson, for *Occupied Poland 1939-1945, Philatelic History*; *World Philatelic Congress of Israel, Holy Land, and Judaica Societies*, Arie Ben-David; Huguette Gagnon, *Menelik's Journal*; *The Blotter*, Stephen O'Connor.

Urgent Memo to Philatelic Writers – Concerning the Aug. 28, 1988, Writers Breakfast, Detroit, MI

Detroit – What does that conjure up in your mind? Renaissance. Right? Right!

The Writers Breakfast at the Detroit APS Annual Convention (Aug. 25 - 28) will feature the Renaissance of this cherished tradition in philately. We have some major changes planned, but to accomplish them we need your help.

Our goal is to attract three hundred people to this event. How? By making *you* the star attraction. Yes, bunky, you!

We will be developing publicity and promotion plans in the entire philatelic community with the theme "Have breakfast with your favorite writers and authors."

"Imagine eating scrambled eggs with the author of your favorite stamp column or publication (or throwing the eggs at them.)."

"Be privy to the secret awards given and special words used by philatelic writers."

All you need do is send me a postal card saying: "Steven, I plan to be at the Writers Breakfast on Sunday, August 28, 1988, in Detroit, and you can use my name in the advance publicity."

That's all! For 14¢ you can help put philatelic writing back on the front burner. Please, pitch in and do it! Send your postal card today to:

Steven J. Rod
P.O. Box 12
Boys Town, NE 68010.

Browser's Bookshelf

by Barbara R. Mueller

Guides & Tips for Production of Show/Bourse Programs, by Carl M. Burnett.

(This reviewer is ashamed to admit she has misplaced the press release which accompanied the review copy and cannot give price information. Please contact Mr. Burnett at P.O. Box 1987, Melbourne, FL 32902-1987.)

The FLOREX organization and Carl M. Burnett are to be congratulated for inaugurating a new category for literature competitions for show/bourse programs and following it up with this 56-page handbook of helps for producers of such programs. Because of a \$500 budget, the booklet is modest in appearance, but it's the content that counts. Divided into sections on scheduling, content, layout, printing, glossary of terms, and philatelic clip art, it is strong in practicality and shoestring operation techniques.

The clip art consists of seven glossy pages imprinted with useful layout designs — simulated perforations, rules, headlines and titles of philatelic significance. Author Burnett suggests the user photocopy from these masters and use the latter as layout elements.

Not all the booklet is printed on glossy stock. In fact, it is printed on a variety of papers to help the user envision the image quality and texture of the many choices a printer may offer him. Now, that's practical!

Mr. Burnett, in his cover letter which accompanied the review copy, apologized for various typos and grammatical errors which crept through despite proofing by a second party. Now, not one of us can boast of producing absolutely error-free literature; constraints of time and money keep us humble. So don't apologise, Mr. Burnett. Nevertheless, we should try, like Caesar's wife, to be above reproach. It's difficult to get across the plea for quality work when we couch that plea in words and sentences with glaring errors; it's difficult to take a writer seriously when he makes obvious mistakes. The ideal solution is to entrust the final draft to a skilled writer. Barring that, the proofing should be done by an equally skilled reader. Otherwise, we philatelic writers and editors will continue to be Rodney Dangerfields — we just won't get "no respect" no matter how practical our advice.

* * *

The Modern World, Today's Atlas for Stamp Collectors, by Kenneth A. Wood. 8½ x 11 hardbound, color cover, 256 pages, 208 locator maps, 17 full page maps.

\$24.95 from Van Dahl Publications, Box 10, Albany, OR 97321.

Our Hall of Fame and Luff laureate Ken Wood has again combined his philatelic, journalistic, and artistic talents to produce yet another atlas in his own distinctive style. Like his earlier "*Where in the World*" which dealt with stamp-issuing areas of the past, it comprises a most useful reference for the philatelic writer. The earlier book, by the way, is now in its third printing and deservedly so; all by itself, from contents to appearance, it is a powerful recruiting tool for philately, evoking the romance of faraway places which is so basic to the appeal of stamps.

* * *

Post Dates 1986, by Kenneth A. Wood. 7 x 10 softbound, 120 pages. \$9.95 from Van Dahl Publications, address above.

Better late than never is this review of the 1986 supplement to Ken Wood's original *Post Dates* postal and philatelic chronology and the 1986 work follows the same format as the original. More than 200 events are recorded day by day including a full record of U.S., UN and Canadian stamp and stationery issues. In addition, a series of 13 appendices list the major worldwide omnibus stamp issues, the APS Champion-of-Champion competitors, *Stamp Collector's* 1986 stamp poll results, and a complete list of AMERIPEX exhibit winners.

Ken Wood is carving out a distinctive niche in philatelic literature with his "almanac" approach to providing philatelic references. Now we can look forward to the 1987 edition.

* * *

Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1986, by Fred Boughner, 240 pages, 6 x 9 softbound, \$14.95 from *Linn's Stamp News*, P. O. Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365.

Again, before it's time for the 1987 edition in this continuing series, we had better take note of the 1986 book. It follows the format of its three predecessors, with the addition of plate numbers on Transportation series coil stamps and the Great Americans regulars. It also includes many illustrations of rejected designs, an always intriguing subject. You will recall that 1986 was AMERIPEX year, so there is a great deal of detail on the issues associated with that big show.

Mike Laurence, publisher of *Linn's*, has stated that the Yearbook series was prompted by the tremendous increase in U.S. issues along with complexities of

(Continued on page 7.)

types, perf varieties, paper and tagging differences, printing techniques, etc. U.S. specialists as well as writers must be gratified to have access to these comprehensive compilations of information, some of which has been difficult to assemble. Indeed, the Yearbooks are more necessary to the specialist in contemporary U.S. than the "Specialized" catalogs, and they do include those numbers. Now we can look forward to the 1987 edition.

* * *

Linn's Philatelic Gems 3, by Donna O'Keefe, published by *Linn's Stamp News*, \$7.95 softbound, from previous address.

Playing to the increasing interest in what amounts to the unattainable for most collectors, Donna O'Keefe, senior editor of *Linn's Stamp News*, has compiled a 168-page book filled with the stories behind 70 "under-rated rarities" which are less well known than those recounted in *Gems 1* and *Gems 2*. Each sketch covers about a page and a half of text. *Gems 3* covers the far ranging period from such storied stamps as the 1846 5¢ Brattleboro provisional to the more contemporary 1974 Isle of Man 6-penny color error. Aside from just good reading, this book offers instant reference to the writer who deals with a wide variety of subjects.

* * *

Opinions IV, published by the Philatelic Foundation, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. Edited by Elizabeth C. Pope. \$32.50 hardbound, 7 x 10, 244 pages.

No need for excusing delays in reviewing this latest entry in an on-going anthology of insight into the procedures and thought processes involved in philatelic expertizing. This is the fourth in the series and contains 33 articles by "big-name collectors and dealers", in the words of the press release. Nine deal with "foreign" subjects, 23 with U.S., and one — the most extensive — with paper conservation and restoration techniques and detection by Frank Mandel. This is certainly one of the most practical articles every to appear in the "Opinions" series, and also one of the most literate and readable. It alone can be worth the price of the entire book.

The value of the book to the philatelic writer, apart from his personal collecting activities, is the succinct backgrounds given to each problem item discussed, backgrounds which neatly summarize the known facts and eliminate the necessity for poring over many,

diverse references (Peter Robertson's "A Comedy of Errors" dealing with the 24¢ Continental bank note issue is a good case in point.)

Most curious is the addendum/erratum sheet inserted loose into the book to correct two articles by Jerome Wagshal. One refers to a footnote in his article on certification of earliest known date of use and the other to an incorrect diagram of a Z-I grill in the study on the recognition of two major types of the Z grill. This reviewer has no way of knowing why the Foundation was forced to resort to the always undesirable practice of using loose, easily lost inserts, but aside from this imperfection, the book is a credit to its publisher, editor, and authors.

* * *

Scott 1988 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps.

What can one say about this old reliable? Perhaps because we love it so much, we feel free to criticize it, to hope that improvements can continue. Given the economics involved, we know that no one in Sidney, Ohio can wave a magic wand and give us new, clear illustrations, but oh, that they could. Have you ever looked at the illustrations of the stamps in the relatively recent addition "Identifier of Definitive Issues"? Surely no one will ever be attracted to philately by the clarity of say, type A10 or A22 or A29! The economics also necessitate the advertising, but how infuriating and intrusive it can be, interrupting the natural flow of the listings. And in the copy at hand, the page trim in certain parts such as the officials and envelopes comes perilously close to clipping off the used value column on the recto pages. One striking anomaly is the listing for commemorative panels which still unexplicably stops at 1979, the Viet Nam Veterans issue. This listing occupies page 744 and directly opposite is a full page ad for such panels through 1986 using the USPS numbers!

Of course, the publicity that accompanies the review copy plays up price changes, which are not of primary significance for philatelic communicators. Perhaps some day soon the PR people can point with pride to substantive physical and make-up changes and improvements that will make the collector/student/writer happy.

* * *

Porte de Mar, by Karl H. Schimmer, published by Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society, International as special supplement to *Mexicana*, October 1987. \$10.00 from MEPSI, 4337 E. 5th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85711.

(Continued on page 8.)

An humble looking monograph from a production standpoint that can stand tall and proud for its philatelic academics is this 8½ x 11 paperback. Offset printed from a perfectly typed manuscript in one column full width, justified right margin, it has only modest typographical variety, but legibility is more than adequate. The single-spaced manuscript together with ample and clear illustrations yielded 138 pages jammed with information on every possible aspect of the use and printing of these primitive lithographed "stamps".

To refresh your memory, "Porte de Mar" is, according to Ken Wood's *This is Philately* (see how handy his compilations are!) the "inscription found on labels issued by Mexico to indicate the amount due ships' captains for carrying letters to foreign ports. The labels did not pay any part of the postage. Their use was during the mid-1870s." They are listed as Scott JX1-31.

The ultimate accolade can be paid this study – it almost induces a jaded reviewer to take up these philatelic intricacies.

* * *

Rocket Mail Flights of the World to 1986, by Dr. Max Kronstein, edited by Joseph L. Eisendrath, published by the American Air Mail Society. Hardbound, 6 x 9¼, 191 pages. \$20.00 from AAMS, c/o Dan Barber, P.O. Box 23055, Lansing, MI 48907.

Publication of this book is a tribute to one of the most prolific and yet most overlooked philatelic writers, Dr. Max Kronstein, known affectionately as "Doc Max" to his associates in the AAMS. To quote from the editor of the book:

"A man of many interests, Dr. Kronstein (our Doc Max) has long been an aerophilatelist, recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on such things as international movement of mail through the skies. This has been evidenced by the many series of articles over the years he produced as a staff member for *The Airpost Journal*, monthly publication of the American Air Mail Society. (and in the many books he has authored.) These cover a variety of subjects. This book is intended to be an update of such works, and covers the rocket mail field from its beginnings right up to date. It has been my pleasure in various editorships to work with Doc Max for over thirty years.

His participation in affairs of the AAMS has been as prolific as his facile pen. This book appears in published form shortly after his ninetieth birthday!

He continues, with Mrs. Doc, long after his retirement,

to work with graduate students of Manhattan College, despite his emeritus status. He travels widely to participate in scientific seminars and to address learned groups – even at age ninety."

There is no index to this rather unusual volume but rather an expanded Table of Contents. One article follows hard on the heels of another in much the same form as the originals that appeared over the years in *The Airpost Journal*. In addition to the expected illustrations of stamps and covers, there are "action photos" of the people and flights involved, the sort of embellishment which brings the facts and figures to life for the reader. These illustrations cannot be used in philatelic exhibits, saith the judging establishment, but thankfully they can be included in the books which form the basis of such exhibits. Nothing fancy here in the way of typography or layout – just easy reading – no mean accomplishment in itself.

* * *

The EFO Collector, published bimonthly by the EFO Collectors Club, edited by Howard Gates, 615 Lakeview Parkway, Box 955, Lake-of-the-Woods, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

Reviewed are the August, October, and December 1987 issues under the new editorship of Howard Gates, successor to Lou Novacheck, who has moved to Germany. Howard's comments in the August issue describe much better than any outside reviewer's the trials of a new editor installing a new format:

"When John Hotchner called to tell me of my appointment as editor of this journal, I was painting concrete blocks – sixteen thousand pounds of concrete blocks, in the torrid Virginia sun – to create what I was afraid would become "The Howard P. Gates, Jr. Memorial Driveway Edging", if my hyperthermia progressed any further. So I was delighted with the opportunity of editorship. Beats concrete block painting all hollow, I thought.

"Now, up to my armpits in paper scraps, I have to wonder about my judgment. I thought to alter the style of the *Collector* just a little, with a two-column format and large margins, and never dreamed how many retypings, how many trips to the only available copy machine at Wilderness (VA), how much cutting and how much pasting it would take to arrive at just a few (count 'em) finished pages. Easy chair, phaugh.

"So much for style. As to the *substance* of the publication, that's up to you – the members. Your contributions will constitute the content of future issues."

(Continued on page 9.)

In the August issue Gates himself contributed a well illustrated survey of "those marvellous misperfs." In the other issues, he, like so many other editors, doubles as writer/columnist with similar surveys. Fortunately, he is helped by the traditional club auction which requires 12 or more pages, about half of each issue. The quality of the illustrations has improved dramatically and thus does much for the overall appearance of the journal.

The first page of *The EFO Collector* is a self-cover and includes the masthead, president's message, and at the lower third, "Contents" enlivened by repeats of illustrations from various features of the month. The editorial, business notice, list of society officers, etc., is on the back of this cover (page 2). The editorial has a varying title — "The Editor's Spacefiller", "The Editor's Thanksgiving", etc.

Most of the copy comes from a computer printer but some was evidently offset printed directly from a typed manuscript, full-page width one column, as in A. S. Cibulskas' study of plate number coil varieties complete with tables. The alternate two-column layout of technical articles is evident in Clyde Jennings' "Cracked Plates and Fractured Skulls" in the October issue. These columns are 20 picas wide, ragged right margin. Gates does not hesitate to show the varieties in different sizes to the point of narrowing the gutter between the columns to accommodate an enlargement. One wonders how many readers notice these niceties.

* * *

Philatelic Quarterly, published by Lundy Collectors Club, edited by Roger Cichorz. \$9.00 annually, from Duane Larson, 2021 Ridge Rd., Homewood, IL 60430. 5¼ x 8¼; 20 pages average.

Some of us might doubt that there is enough to the philately of Lundy Island and its local "stamps" to warrant the existence of a specialty society and journal, but judging from the contents of the latter, there is. The collectability of this material is another matter which does not concern us here.

At hand are four issues of the *Philatelic Quarterly*, a rather vague name which is evidently proving troublesome for its producers in literature competition. Each issue is offset printed from very much reduced typed manuscripts, ragged right margins, single column. Two of the more regular features which contain the meat of the editorial matter are "Question and Answers" and "Lundy at Auction." Both are handled

by editor Cichorz, who does much of the other writing, as do so many hard-pressed editors. The auction report is more than a mere tabulation of auctioneers' descriptions and prices realized. Instead, the various offerings are analyzed and put in the proper perspective so that they form a source of reference on the finer items in the field.

Roger Allen contributes "notes" on Lundy postal history. Other articles are reprints from various British publications. It is true that some critics frown on reprints and downgrade a publication for that reason. But such reprints from overseas publications or those in unrelated fields are a distinct service to club members. An alert editor who scans the wider world of literature for such applicable reprints should be congratulated, not censored.

The Lundy folks also do a good job on reporting club activities; the issues reviewed spanned the AMERIPLEX period and covered the big show in detail. Yes, in spite of these pluses, there is room for improvement in such technical matters as layout, but they should improve with time. *B.R.M.*

Douglas Henkle Wins AFDCS Writing Prize

The American First Day Cover Society has presented its Philip H. Ward, Jr., Memorial Award for excellence in writing on first day covers during 1986 to Douglas H. Henkle of Oshkosh, WI. His article, which appeared in *First Days*, was "US Virgin Islands: Part 2 — Scott 799-802 Laird Cachet Varieties." Criteria for the Ward Award include scholarship, readability, and impact on philately.

Linn's "Guidelines for Writers" Available

Four years ago Michael Laurence, editor of *Linn's Stamp News*, wrote down a list of do's and don'ts for would-be writers interested in contributing to the pages of his publication. These have been reprinted at times in the old *NB* of *WU* 30. Now, however, his seven-page set of instructions, typed and photocopied, has been printed in the form of an eight-page booklet. It is available for an addressed business-size envelope bearing 22¢ postage from *Linn's*, Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365.

"Fred" Folvary — not "Fold". Fourth quarter 1987 *PC*, page 72, retiring editor for *Topical Time* is "Fred", not "Fold" Foldvary. Sorry, Fred.

Marketing Philatelic Literature to Non-Philatelic Audiences

by Barbara R. Mueller

Hobby leaders are trying all the old tactics to stimulate interest in philately and at least one new one — Les Winick's free COPO-sponsored newspaper column. Another print media strategy is the distribution of philatelic magazines/newspapers to more newsstands and store outlets. As it is now, one can find an impressive looking publication devoted to nearly every other hobby, why not stamp collecting? I personally recall the late 1930s and '40s when Harry Lindquist's *Stamps* was available at large hotel newspaper outlets and railroad station stands. With its bold logo and cover color, it was a silent salesman for the hobby. Today one is hard put to find any philatelic magazine on the newsstands.

An Associated Press feature article carried in the Oct. 22, 1987, issue of the *Milwaukee Journal* described the wide array of specialty magazines available in the Pan Am Building newsstand in midtown Manhattan — “a publishing industry institution and a magazine junkie's heaven.” Occupying 1,200 square feet of choice lobby space near the entrance to Grand Central Station, the newsstand is believed to be the largest in the country, with sales of about 2,500 magazines daily.

Its location makes this possible: some 125,000 people a day, including Madison Avenue publishing and advertising executives, stream through the building's 45th St. entrance and ride the escalators to Grand Central. They find the magazines stacked floor to ceiling, divided into 18 interest sections. There are 19 magazines about guns, 13 about wine, two about chocolate, and a row devoted to professional wrestling. For nostalgia buffs, there is *MacEddy Today*, published by the Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy Friendship Club, now celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Mentioned in the AP article were *The Humanist*, *The Harmonist*, and *The Futurist*; CQ; MGF, BBW, VM, and *BMX Plus*; *Hoop, Ring, and Wire*; *Croquet Today*, *Firehouse*, *Mountain Biking*, *North Texas Golfer*, and *Opera Fanatic*. Not mentioned at all was a philatelic publication, but the fact that introduced in 1986 were 33 new sports magazines, 20 automotive magazines, 21 about music, and 20 on dressmaking and needlework was noted.

“Publishers are constantly scanning the American horizon for new interest areas”, said David D. Lee, senior vice-president of the Magazine Publishers Association. “A growing skill has developed in the last 15

years to target very well-defined interest areas and hobbies.” The conclusion is that “a better educated population with more disposable income, greater advertising expenditures, and new business and leisure areas like computers and personal health have spurred growth.”

Will some WU member in the New York City metro area please stop by this shop and see if any philatelic magazines are there? If they are represented, they may be of British or continental European origin, since the shop has a large foreign section, and the foreign philatelic periodicals are more flashy and colorful than ours.

In this same vein, Steve Rod editorialized in the Aug. 15, 1987, edition of *Stamp Collector* on the theme “Hobby's image needs help.” He applauded the international exhibition efforts and the COPO column, but he bemoaned the lack of philatelic books and magazines on sale in general — not hobby-outlets. He told of a recent visit to the Smithsonian Institution's bookstore, where he checked the section on antiques and collectables. There he found a total of 361 books, comprised of 66 different titles, and broke them down into these areas: coins, 14; general eclectic collecting, 8; antiques, 7; clocks, 7; glass and paperweights, 4; guns and pistols, 3; thimbles, dolls, and autographs, 2 each; and 19 miscellaneous.

Yes, there were two copies of a book on stamp collecting — *Getting Started in Stamp Collecting* by Burton Hobson, published by Sterling Publishing of New York City. Since Steve was unfamiliar with it, he bought it, thus leaving one book on stamp collecting for sale at this prestigious institution's bookshop.

Steve later checked out many other stores of the B. Dalton, Waldenbooks type, as well as local shops with the same results — two, one, or no books on stamp collecting.

Then he turned to periodical literature and noted the number of philatelic publications there as compared with those on numismatics: “We usually lose by a score of two or three to zero”, he concluded. “If book and magazine stores throughout the United States had more philately-oriented items on sale, it would go a long way to enhance the hobby's image. We'd be in front of the public as frequently as coin collecting and baseball card collecting seem to be.”

Steve asked, “Why does this situation exist? What can be done about it? I hope the new stamp season will see a solution to filling this major void in our otherwise dynamic hobby.” Has anyone given you the answers, Steve?

(Continued on page 11.)

Mike Laurence's Analysis

In this connection, we might mention the usual uninspiring circulation figures for the commercial stamp publications, revealed in the October 1987 post office reports. Thanks to Mike Laurence for the following chart of average annual paid circulation for the weeklies over a seven-year period:

WEEKLY PHILATELIC PRESS
Average annual paid circulation

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Linn's</i> | 80,929 | 83,702 | 81,476 | 84,746 | 77,181 | 75,195 | 74,289 |
| <i>Stamp Collector</i> | 28,784 | 24,493 | 21,169 | 19,342 | 21,340 | 22,656 | 21,940 |
| <i>Stamps</i> | 21,607 | 19,417 | 17,605 | 16,729 | 14,608 | 11,372 | 13,971 |
| <i>MeKeel's</i> | 6,907 | 5,931 | 5,283 | 4,507 | 4,239 | 3,976 | 3,737 |
| Years: | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 |

Source: Ownership statements; annual averages for year prior to October filing date.

Mike's analysis of the figures makes for interesting reading:

"The good news is that overall circulation for the four stamp weeklies increased a bit during 1987. This has to be regarded as an encouraging development, since the overall number has been declining since 1981.

"However, examination of the figures gives less cause for celebration. All of the category growth is attributable to an increase at *Stamps* magazine, which under new ownership has experimented aggressively with various circulation-boosting devices, including cut-rate subscriptions, free subscriptions, and participation in mass mailings involving direct marketers such as Publishers Clearing House.

"The conventional wisdom in stamp publishing — which I've come to endorse after five years at the helm of *Linn's* — is that gimmick circulation-builders don't work . . . Nonetheless, we don't want to diminish *Stamps'* accomplishment, which is substantial. The publication's average annual circulation went from 11,372 in 1986 to 13,971 in 1987 — which represents a very impressive increase of 22.8 percent."

B. R. M.

Short and Simple — one word can substitute for a wordy phrase.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Instead of</i> | <i>Try</i> |
| At the present time | now |
| Prior to the start of | before |
| In the near future | soon |
| On a few occasions | occasionally |
| According to our records | we find |
| As a matter of fact | in fact |
| Be in a position to | can |

The Last Roundup

of Comments on 1987 Literature Competitions, Their Conduct, and the New FIP Guidelines

(Editor's Note: As promised in the last issue, here is a compilation of comments, criticisms, and complaints about various philatelic literature competitions in 1987. With this round-up, we close the books on this particular period. I can see no benefit from continuing the discussions. After all, the WU does not set the rules for competitions; neither does it sponsor any. Keep that in mind!)

I. Judge's Critiques

Expressions of dissatisfaction with the written judges' critiques are numerous. Many centered on STaMpsHOW 87, which sent out "illegible scrawls on lined composition paper" from the jury. For example, the critique for the *Philatelic Quarterly* of the Lundy Collectors Club read: "Type size too small; name of journal Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly yet title page does not state 'Lundy Collectors Club.'" This entry received a silver-bronze.

Editor Roger Cichorz did not quarrel with the award level, but wrote: "What any editor should expect, though, is a decent, constructive critique, and being aware of the recent criticisms expressed in the philatelic press against past STaMpsHOW juries for the literature competition, I thought the '87 judges would 'try harder'! Evidently not, though, judged from the nature of the critique I received, a veritable waste of my 22¢ stamp and envelope."

Cichorz later had a response from Richard Drews, one of the judges, who wrote: "I'm sorry the 'critique' was so unhelpful to you. Let me try to recall some of our deliberations. It was noted that Lundy, no matter how charming, is of very limited philatelic significance. Secondly, the content of the *Quarterly* is weighted heavily towards member info, stories about Lundy history and goings on and auction results. The philatelic content has become secondary since there isn't that much to write about. Given these restrictions, improving the production values is one of the areas that can be addressed.

"I find the publication very easy to enjoy but hard to read. I bought all the back issues and read them over a week. What eyestrain! I realize the budget constraints and the desire to cram everything in. All I can say is 'keep up the good work.' Some very serious efforts to cover much more 'respectable' areas of philately have not gotten better than a silver-bronze. I find it hard to see how the *Quarterly* could get to be better than a

(Continued on page 12.)

silver, but I'd love to have you find a way and make me vote for a vermeil!"

To which Roger replied, "Come on, Rich! I suppose with an unlimited budget I could produce a slick resembling *Smithsonian* or *National Geographic*."

Chairman of the STaMpsHOW 87 jury, Les Winick, was asked to state his side of the issue: "Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the complaints about the critiques of the STaMpsHOW Literature Jury. The exhibitors are entirely correct if they received 'illegible scrawls on lined composition paper' as you described. Here is the entire story:

"The Literature Jury decided to give each exhibitor a critique, whether or not they asked for it. I personally told Bill Bauer, Chairman of the Judges Accreditation Committee, Keith Wagner, Executive Director of APS, and John Thornton (then) Show Director, and asked for their cooperation in getting the critique to each exhibitor. Without exception, they all promised full cooperation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Bauer was so impressed that he felt a critique form should be made part of future STaMpsHOW literature competition jury materials.

"The 'lined composition paper' is the summary of the jury notes. Cheryl Ganz and I offered to type them up, or at least rewrite them, but John Thornton stopped us while (we were) doing it and told the entire jury that a typed letter, including a typed critique, would be sent from APS Headquarters to each literature exhibitor. The local stamp club liaison to the jury was present and stated that he would personally see that it was done.

"I personally told Bauer and Wagner about this and they both said it will be done. Based on your letters that you have received, it was not done. The entire Literature Jury was present during these conversations and everything can be verified. On behalf of the four members of the jury, please accept my apology."

We now know that what went wrong was the departure of John Thornton from the APS staff shortly after the show, the vacancy in his office, and the subsequent hiring of a new convention director. In the interim, the arrangements for the critiques fell through the cracks and the result was the unsatisfactory state of affairs described here.

II. The New FIP Guidelines

We have received the following reaction from WU member Edward T. Superson to the new FIP guidelines

for the exhibiting and evaluation of philatelic literature as published in the fourth wuarter 1987 issue of the *PC*. The parts useful to WU members are reprinted here:

"This is with reference to the FIP guidelines, as set forth in the last issue of our bulletin. They nowhere state —

- * that the judging is accomplished to a standard, not one literature piece against another;

- * about any measures to enforce the proper judging;

- * regarding 'rare' rather than 'expensive' quality of books (those expensive books attaining gold medals at national and world exhibitions cannot be bought on the market, as I have experienced this fact at HAFNIA 87; most of such fancy books have been made for shows exclusively);

- * that literature should be judged and not censored, as (it) is at the present time;

- * that constant and repetitious judging of the same exhibit by the same judge(s) is biased and unethical, since a good amount of stagnation on the part of the judges sets in.

"These guidelines should be taken back to the drawing board to be restructured in order to delineate the span of control of judging and also to turn more to the methods of judging . . . The guidelines are reminiscent of a military style of writing; it (sic) is full of holes. It props up the system, but it does not face the naked facts and reality.

"Judging philatelic literature is as simple as judging preservatives (sic) at a country fair. It should be done by its own standard, not one work against the other, unless the other has the same ingredients and the same taste."

III. Adherence to Stated Rules

Ken Lawrence's experience was somewhat different. He writes: "I entered two articles in category E.1: 'Articles, series of articles, unpublished research articles and single columns.' It is clear, both because this rule differentiates between 'articles' and 'series of articles', and also because it lists 'single columns' as an acceptable category, that individual works published separately were invited. Furthermore, James M. Chace, chairman of the literature exhibition, wrote to thank me for my 'fine entries.'

"The judges, however, rejected my strongest entry, 'Collecting U.S. is Fun Again' (an introduction to plate number coil collecting), published in the June 1986

(Continued on page 13.)

American Philatelist, 'Because not a series of four articles (as stated in APS regulations)' (sic), and 'not a special study so Jury did not switch categories.'

This is an apparent reference to a sentence in Rule 5 which reads, 'Two copies of four different articles, which may be photocopies or originals, should be provided for all entries in category (E) (Articles).'

"The substantial point here is not the legalism that rule E.1. clearly invites single articles, and that the purpose of rule 5's ambiguous wording is to set a maximum number to be submitted by authors of series, but rather the judges' preposterous assumption that there is no category at all under which fine introductory articles published in fewer than four segments could be considered."

Ken complained directly to APS and received the following apology from Executive Director Keith Wagner:

"I think you have a legitimate complaint on the judges' roughshod treatment of your *AP* article, "Collecting U.S. is Fun again" I am enclosing a check for \$15 to refund your entry fee."

With that we close the book on 1987!

B.R.M.

The National Writers Union

Stragglers leaving the WU breakfast at Boston in August 1987 found a stack of tabloid newspapers and advertising from the National Writers Union at the door. It seems that WU member Ken Lawrence, who is a booster of the NWU, notified the Boston group that the philatelic journalists would be meeting there, giving them an opportunity to present their organization to us.

I read the literature while waiting for my plane at Logan airport and was suitably impressed, since I came with a previous bias against the NWU as a sort of left-wing, counter culture organization. And like many union papers, the *American Writer* does come complete with a list of boycotts against Coors beer and California table grapes. But aside from this to-be-expected orientation, it contained useful information for small-time writers (which most of us are) battling the press moguls for better treatment and more money.

According to the membership brochure, NWU has 2,000 book authors, journalists, poets, fiction and technical writers whose goal is to improve working

conditions and to shift the balance of power between writers and the publishing industry. "We're different from other writers' organizations," they say, "because we focus on making concrete changes in pay, policy, and treatment of writers. As writers, we face real problems, from unfair editorial practices, to work-for-hire contracts, to pay and royalties that amount to too little and come too late. We are doing something to change the situation.

"Our goal is for publishers to meet our book, small press, technical writer, and model magazine standards. We want authors indemnified by publishers against libel and other suits. We want comprehensible, detailed and prompt royalty statements. We want publishers to promote and distribute the books they take on. We want journalists to be paid on acceptance, and at a higher rate than most now write for."

Membership dues are on a sliding scale based on annual writing income and area of the country in which you are located. For example, an under \$5,000 income person in the Los Angeles area pays \$52.50; in San Francisco, \$51.00; in the Boston-New York City-Washington, DC area, \$50.00; in Chicago, \$45.00; and at large, \$35.00 (including me in Wisconsin where everything is at large!).

For further information write National Writers Union, 13 Astor Place, Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10003.

B.R.M.

Add to Sources of PR on Foreign Stamps

Finland has joined the stable of foreign nations that contract with Unicover World Trade Corp. to act as its official stamp agency in North America and to distribute new issue information. The address is: Cheyenne, WY 82008-0001; contact person is James A. Willms, telephone (307) 634-5911.

A Short Guide to Diacritical Marks

Michael Gartner in his syndicated WORDS column gives a simple guide to diacritical marks used in non-English words. These indicate that the letter above or below has a special phonetic value.

Acute accent – a little line running from lower left to upper right showing a vowel to be pronounced with extra length (blas – e).

Tilde – wavy line over a "n" indicating pronunciation as "ny" (seen-yor for señor).

(Continued on page 15.)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report
(as of February 8, 1988)

Welcome

We welcome the following new members who have joined Writers Unit 30 since our last report:

- 1472 Steven S. Weston, P.O. Box 868, Del Mar, CA 92014. Editor *Tell*, Journal of the Helvetica Philatelic Society. Sponsor: Robert de Violini.
- 1473 William Clifford Brooks VI, 3032 N. Stoddard, San Bernadino, CA 92405. Editor *Inland Empire Philatelist* and *Forerunners*, Journal of the Pre-Union South Africa Study Group. Sponsor: John M. Hotchner.
- 1474 C. Sherwood Kettler, 657 Gaslite Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122-3047. Editor *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*, Journal of the ATA Chemistry and Physics on Stamps Study Unit. Sponsor: Robert de Violini.
- 1475 Henry Ellis Harris, Jr., West Street, Milford, NH 03055. Editor of various postage stamp catalogs through Kenmore Stamp Company. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1476 John A. Cali, 613 West Fourth Street, Fulton, NY 13069. Editor *Stamp Inside*, a publication of the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies. Sponsor: John M. Hotchner.
- 1477 Martin Margulis, 1368 Metropolitan Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462. Free-lance writer for various philatelic publications. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1478 Ian Scott Robertson, 60 Hewitt Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6R 1Y3 Canada. Associate Editor, *County Magazine*, Bloomfield, Ontario. Columnist, *Canadian Stamp News*. Sponsor: Bill Welch.
- 1479 Karen L. Weight, 4184 Rose Court, Middleton, WI 53562-4339. Editor, *The Cete Sayer Speaks*, Newsletter of the Badger Stamp Club, Madison, WI. Sponsor: John M. Hotchner.
- 1480 William Alexander Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3LG Great Britain. Editor: *Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Bulletin*; author: *Czechoslovakian Army in Exile 1939-1945*; columnist: *Philately*, journal of the British Philatelic Federation. Sponsor: Nick Shes-
tope.

- 1481 Francis J. Caprio, 107 West Monument Street, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, MD 21201. Editor: *Maneapa*, Journal of the Tuvalu & Kiribati Philatelic Society. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1482 Michael G. Strother, 848 Prince William Lane, Westerville, OH 43081. Editor: *SOSSI Journal*, Scouts on Stamps Society International. Sponsor: T. P. McDermott.

Resignations

The following have resigned their membership in the Writers Unit:

- 0296 John Birkenbine II of Tucson, AZ.
0161 Lois Evans (de Violini) of Oxnard, CA.
0094 Stanley C. Jersey of Carlsbad, CA.
1327 Harry G. Rickard of El Cajon, CA.
0427 Stephen L. Suffet of Sunnyside, NY.

In addition to the resignations listed above, the following have been dropped for non-payment of dues after two separate dues notices found no response. They are not being sent this, nor subsequent, mailings.

| | |
|--|--|
| Ackerman, Marshall; Allentown, PA. | Mast, R. C.; Navesink, NJ. |
| Ball, Charles I.; Fairview Park, OH. | Nieuwland, C.; Rotterdam, Neth. |
| Beals III, D. T.; Shawnee Mission, KS. | O'Connor, S. F.; Vernon, NJ. |
| Beebe, A.; Dallas, TX. | Phillips, L. G.; NY NY. |
| Brown, H. W.; Sacramento, CA. | Reynolds, F. D.; APO NY. |
| Canman, R. W.; Chicago, IL. | Schoenbuecher, A.K., MD;Mar- ietta, GA. |
| Clark, L. S.; Issaquah, WA. | Sliker, N.L.; Lawrence, KS. |
| Corrigan, B. G.; Sacramento, CA. | Stanford, E. C.; Seattle, WA. |
| Forand, M.; Ottawa, Canada. | Talbot, R.P.; San Antonio, TX. |
| Henkle, D. H.; Oshkosh, WI. | Turner, A. C.; Temple Bar, AZ. |
| Jhingan, M.; New Delhi, India. | Warren, D.C.; Hampton, VA. |
| Margau, B.; N. York, Toronto, Canada. | Willard, J. H.; Denver, CO. |
| Cuscaden, R.; Geneva, IL. | Wilson, I. G., Tucson, AZ. |
| Mallon, M. C.; Canoga Park, CA. | |

Closed Albums

Condolences are extended to the families of:

- 0934 Budd W. Dickey of Bethel Park, PA (died Oct. 6, 1987).
0022 G. A. Henhoeffler of Sun City, AZ (died June 17, 1987).
0797 M. L. Myrick of Southport, CT (died May 1987).

Contributors

Our thanks to the following members who made a contribution to WU 30 over and above their dues:

- 0943 William T. Lockard of Wellston, OH.
0113 Charles J. Peterson of APO New York.

Lost & Found

The following members' mail was returned by the USPS marked "Forwarding order expired", or "No forwarding order on file; unable to forward". If any member knows their current address please advise me.

Bruce G. Corrigan, formerly 1924 4th. Ave., Sacramento CA 95818-3046; Daniel C. Warren, formerly Box 7439, Hampton, VA 23666.

(Continued on page 15.)

WU 30 Affiliation with APS Continues

Several members have confused the action taken by the WU 30 Council in 1986 (removing requirement of APS membership to join/maintain membership in WU 30), believing that we have broken our ties with the American Philatelic Society. Nothing is further from the truth.

The APS Writers Unit 30 was born as an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society, and remains today as one of the most active affiliates of APS. The Writers Unit 30 Council only changed the Bylaws so that membership in APS was not a requirement for membership in WU 30. We continue to encourage all WU 30 members to join APS and retain that membership, however.

Back issues of *The Philatelic Communicator*

Back issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* (formerly known as the *News Bulletin*) for 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987 are still available at \$2.50 per issue postpaid or \$10.00 per year. If interested in obtaining any or all these, send your check, payable "APS Writers Unit 30" to me at address below.

Help Us Keep Your Mailing Address Current

As soon as known, address changes — with effective date — should be sent to me. This saves Unit funds and makes sure you will not miss an issue of this journal.

George Griffenhagen, Sec.-Treas., WU 30
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA 22180.

A Short Guide . . . (Continued from page 13.)

Cedilla — a little tail below a "c", indicating it is pronounced like the "c" in facade;

Macron — a straight line over a vowel to indicate it should be pronounced long (as over "i" in "mike");

Breve — a saucer-shaped mark over a vowel to indicate a short sound (as over "i" in "Mickey").

More Hints from Jane King Fohn, Editor, *The Texas Philatelist*:

Add to my article in *PC* 76, pp. 35-37, the following very useful reference works:

Gray, Bill. *Tips on Calligraphy*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1986.

Gray, Bill. *Lettering Tips for Artists, Graphic Designers, and Calligraphers*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.

Gray, Bill. *Tips on Type*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1983.

DON'T MISS ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE ONE THIS ISSUE ON WRITERS BREAKFAST NEVPEX '88 APRIL 10, 1988 !

COLOPEX '88 Philatelic Literature Prospectus / Rules

[DEADLINE for receipt of ENTRY FORM March 1, 1988.]

1. Philatelic literature includes all printed communications available to collectors related to postage stamps, postal stationery, postal history, and their collecting, and to any connected, specialized field. Entries must be submitted in English to be considered in this philatelic literature exhibition.

2. Entries will be divided into three categories:

A. Handbooks and Special Studies: Separate, self-contained intensive treatments of any aspects of a philatelic subject involving research beyond a standard generalized catalog. This category also includes in-depth treatments of limited aspects of larger philatelic areas, including bibliographies.

B. Philatelic Periodicals: Philatelic society journals, year books, newsletters, and similar publications of a philatelic group.

C. Columns and Articles:

1. Regular column, philatelic press: A regularly published column dealing with any philatelic subject matter which appeared in a philatelic periodical. Select three to six columns for submission.

2. Regular column, public press: A regularly published column of philatelic nature that appears in a weekly or daily newspaper or magazine circulated to the general public. Select three to six columns for submission.

3. Single article, popular subject: Any article or series of articles dealing with any aspect of the hobby that is not the result of original scholarly research.

[NOTE: Commercially-prepared catalogs, magazines, newspapers, bulletins, and price lists are respectfully excluded from this exhibition.]

3. The individual submitting the entry must be the author, editor, or publisher of the work submitted. The date of publication must be not more than two years prior to the exhibition. With respect to entries in Section A, revised editions will be considered only if the revision is sufficiently substantial compared to the previous edition to justify such a designation in the opinion of the Committee. In the case of multi-volume works, the date of each volume shall determine the date of publication. With respect to entries in Section B, the entry shall be the complete number of issues for the most recent complete volume of the publication.

4. The entry fee is \$10.00 per entry, and the entry fee shall accompany each entry form. If more than one item is being entered, each item must be entered with a separate entry form. Checks are to be made payable to The Columbus Philatelic Club, Incorporated.

The closing date for receipt of an entry form for this literature exhibition is MARCH 1, 1988. Entry forms and fees should be sent to: Dr. Jason H. Manchester, COLOPEX 87 Literature, Box 3128, Columbus, OH 43210.

5. An entry should be considered as accepted unless the entrant is otherwise notified. Notice of rejection of an entry will be mailed within two weeks of receipt of the entry form by the Committee and shall be accompanied by the return of the entry fee. Entries accepted but which fail to arrive for the exhibition will forfeit the entry fee.

(Continued on page 16.)

The Philatelic Communicator
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA 22180 - 6906
Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
at Memphis, TN
PERMIT 957

TO:

(COLOPEX 88 Rules (Continued from page 15.)

6. Each entry shall consist of TWO copies of the item being entered, one for public display at the exhibition and the other for exclusive use of the jury. Entries shall be mailed to the address given in paragraph four, above.
7. Entrants may either donate their entries to philatelic libraries chosen by the Committee or request return. In the latter case, sufficient funds must accompany entry form to cover return fee. Entries in Category C cannot be returned.
8. Five levels of medals: Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver-Bronze, and Bronze, will be available to the jury of three APS-accredited philatelic literature judges, who may award them at their absolute discretion. A grand Award and Reserve Grand Award in each of the three categories will be awarded by the jury. Only one award medal will be provided per winning entry regardless of the number of authors, editors, etc. involved. Decision of the jury will be made in consultation among themselves and shall be final and binding.

[Note: The COLOPEX information above has been slightly reworded and there are two other rules applicable. In order to get this into this issue these changes were necessary.]

12th Annual Philatelic Literature Fair and Stamp Bourse at Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, 235 Wellesley Street, Weston, MA on April 16 - 17, 1988

NO fees or forms needed: Literature (order forms welcome too) must be received at the Museum by March 18, 1988. Literature auction will be held on Saturday, April 16. Three expert judges will judge the three categories: books and handbooks; catalogs; and periodicals. Tax deduction may be taken on literature donated to the Museum Library.

PIPEX 88 Offers a 'New Twist' to Lit. Exhibits

Journals and newsletters (only) of specialist societies and interest groups - geographic, topical, or other nature. Subscription/membership information furnished

by participants will be made available to show visitors, and (at option of entrants) their - and much other - literature will be featured at a sales table, operated separately from the exhibition judging. Judges' critique, intended to be constructive and instructive, will be prepared in writing and sent each entrant. Criteria used to measure success of the exclusively specialist society publications event are:

- (1.) Philatelic content, appropriate to the levels of expertise of the membership, and to broaden members' perspectives;
- (2.) Membership content intended to foster the broadest possible participation and interest, the "glue" that holds a dispersed group together;
- (3.) Production qualities appropriate to the size and type of membership, membership fees and technical content of the publication.

NOTE-To allow judges ample time to review the entries in advance of the show, entrants should enter and deliver publications to the exhibition committee by April 1, 1988:

PIPEX 1988 Exhibits Chairman
P.O. Box 734
Eugene, OR 97405.

SESCAL 88 Literature Prospectus Ready

Send a number ten stamped addressed envelope for your copy of the SESCAL 88 Literature prospectus to: Box de Violini, SESCAL Literature, Box 5025, Oxnard, CA 93031. The show dates are October 14, 15, and 16, 1988; new location, the Hyatt at LAX Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Each entrant will receive a brief written critique of their entry from the literature jury. APS-accredited literature jury will have an unlimited number of SESCAL medals in five levels at their disposal to recognize quality and improvement in entries.

[See page one for information on STaMpsHOW 88 Literature event.]