



The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society.

Volume 26, Number 2, Whole Number 100. Second Quarter 1993.

U.S. Stamps & Postal History Magazine: An Update

By Randy L. Neil

Over a year ago, there was much speculation by the editor of *The Philatelic Communicator*, as well as many others in and around the philatelic publishing world, about the prospects for a new magazine devoted to United States philately. Was it needed? Would it succeed? *Et cetera, et cetera*. As I write this, our project to introduce *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* magazine is one year old and a lot of horses are now in the barn. Ken Lawrence has asked me to do an update on *USS&PH* and where it stands today.

I'd be remiss if I didn't begin by remarking that it's been a terrific amount of work . . . and John Hotchner and I have loved every minute of it. We've had some ups and downs—none of which, oddly enough, were unexpected—but largely, the start-up of this new magazine has been blessed with success almost from the very beginning. Here are some facts about our first year, followed by what we perceive as our potential growth for the future:

- Before our very first issue was released in May 1992, over 1,000 subscribers had come on board. Steadily, the subscriptions have risen to their present point of over 5,300, well on our way to our goal of 10,000 in paid circulation. And they continue to rise daily.

- Our actual readership, though, is now over 10,000, for we continue—as we have from the beginning—to mail additional copies of each issue to a vast array of mailing lists of U.S. collectors. In fact, our database now includes over 20,000 U.S. specialists plus over 1,300 dealers. So in essence we are giving our valued advertisers the kind of readership they are seeking from a database that is exclusively oriented to United States collectors.

- To our pleasant surprise, we have dramatically exceeded our projected advertising lineage, and did so right from number one in May 1992. In fact, the cost of publishing and mailing each issue is now only a few hundred dollars away from being paid for entirely by the fine advertisers who showed confidence in us from the start.

I might add here that the project's success can be attributed, greatly, to a growing cadre of commercial firms who see the value in a colorful, slick-paper magazine that exudes the positive flavor of our hobby, rather than the negativism that seems to pervade a segment of philately. Over 90 percent of our original contract advertisers have renewed their contracts with us. That is the first telling factor in a new magazine's potential for success.

- The above points have given us "black ink" at the end of our first year. Succinctly, *USS&PH* is thus here to stay. We did not anticipate earnings from our investment for the first three years. To have earnings beginning to come in after only 12 months is, to us, a "stamp of approval" on our original projection that, yes, such a magazine was definitely needed in philately.

- The early success of *USS&PH* can also be substantially attributed to the advent of desktop publishing technology. Our

hardware and software, to put it concisely, is capable of producing every conceivable magazine format. In fact, when we were learning the technology, we experimented with it by actually replicating pages from major consumer magazines to see if we could produce the kind of quality product we were seeking. The cost savings inherent in desktop technology has given us the ability to keep our costs down and our quality high.

For the computer literate among our WU30 members, *USS&PH* is produced on Aldus Pagemaker with help from other programs including: Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Picture Publisher, Calera WordScan, Micrografix Draw, HiJack, True Effects, and Microsoft Word. Our main computer (we have four of them) is an IBM 486DX/66 with 32MB RAM and a 540MB hard drive and CD-ROM drive. It is equipped with VESA local bus and a non-interlaced monitor. We also employ a Microtek 1200 dpi color scanner and a Laser Master 1200 dpi printer. In essence, *USS&PH* is state-of-the-art from a publishing standpoint. As this is being written, we are upgrading to Aldus Pagemaker 5.0.

All this technology gives us the chance to "play around" a lot. For instance, we have built a file of over 15,000 pieces of clip art—everything from Stan Laurel holding a postage stamp to 19th century woodblock prints—and can bring them to bear in any part of our magazine at will. In fact, one of our hardest jobs is to remain constrained from going hog wild with layout and design. We also have over 400 typefaces in our library, which continues to grow monthly.

Plans for the future:

- We are just now mailing our first renewal series to the early subscribers. Our original budget calls for a 65 percent renewal rate, which is gauged to be somewhat low for a hobby publication. To promote renewals and gain additional readership, we are offering each subscriber who renews the chance to sign up a free gift subscription for a collector of his or her choice. This form of circulation promotion was done successfully by New Hampshire-based *Yankee* magazine in 1992. The eventual renewal rate for the "gift subs" will not, of course, be as high as renewals from our paid subscribers, but considering the cost of obtaining new subscriptions (advertising, free samples, etc.), the costs of working such a "free gift sub" promotion are quite effective.

If our renewal rate comes in at 65 percent or better, then—along with our growing advertiser base—we will be right on track for our eventual goal of 10,000-plus paid subscribers and a decent profit margin.

►► *USS&PH*, page 46.

Ballot Inside—Cast your vote
for WU30 Officers and Council!

The Philatelic Communicator

ISSN 0147-3646

The Philatelic Communicator, quarterly journal of Writers Unit 30 of the American Philatelic Society, 2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180.

The Producer-Publisher is:

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P O Box 22308
Memphis TN 38122-0308 (901) 327-8984

The journal is mailed by: Bulk Rate, permit 957, Memphis, TN, to U.S. ZIP code addresses; First Class to Canada and Mexico; AO Airmail (Printed Matter rate) to all others. Please report address changes to the Secretary-Treasurer as soon as known in order to avoid loss of issues.

Writers Unit 30 has as its primary objective the encouragement and improvement of philatelic writing in all of its various forms.

All Writers Unit 30 business *except* editorial matter for this journal should be handled through the Secretary-Treasurer:

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All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of their authors, but not necessarily of APS Writers Unit 30, its officers, or agents. Letters received by the editor may be published unless labeled "Not for Publication."

Officers of Writers Unit 30, a non-profit corporation, in addition to the Secretary-Treasurer and Editor, are:

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The Executive Committee includes the officers plus Robert de Violini (immediate past president) and Steven J. Rod (elected vice-president), both *ex-officio*.

Council

Dane S. Claussen
Janet Klug
Norma L. McCumber
Robert de Violini
George M. Martin
R. V. Skavaril
William L. Welch

DEADLINES

For receipt of copy by the editor:

Third Quarter 1993 July 20, 1993
Fourth Quarter September 20, 1993
First Quarter 1994 November 20, 1993

Literature Exhibition Calendar

June 1993

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

July 30-August 8, 1993

Brasiliانا 93, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For information write to John E. Lievsay, U.S. Commissioner, 20 Center Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

August 19-22, 1993

STaMpsHOW 93, Houston, Texas. Information from American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

September 22-26, 1993

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

October 1, 1993 (Entry deadline)

Seventh annual Lidman Prize Competition for writers of philatelic articles published in the non-philatelic press. For information and entry forms write to Council of Philatelic Organizations, P.O. Box COPO, State College, PA 16803-8340.

October 1-10, 1993

Bangkok 1993. Bangkok, Thailand. For information write to Mary Ann Owens, U.S. Commissioner, P.O. Box 021164, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0026.

October 8-10, 1993

Sescal 93, Los Angeles, California. Information from James A. Bowman, 3459 Township, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

October 17-24, 1993

Philterna Philatelic Literature Fair International, Milan, Italy. For information write to George Guzzio, U.S. Commissioner, 3134 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

November 12-14, 1993

Chicagopex 93, Rosemont, Illinois. For information write to Chicagopex Literature Exhibits, P.O. Box A3953, Chicago, IL 60690.

January 27-30, 1994

Hafnia. Copenhagen, Denmark. For information and applications write to Charles J. Peterson, P.O. Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726.

June 8-16, 1996

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

May 29-June 8, 1997

Pacific 97, San Francisco, California. Information from Pacific 97, Quinby Bldg., Top Floor, 650 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90017-3878. □

President's Message

By Charles J. Peterson

Writers Unit Elections

This is an election year, and ballots are enclosed in this issue of the *Philatelic Communicator*. Thanks to Jane King Fohn for serving as the chair of the Nominating Committee.

With only one declared candidate for each open position, the election can hardly be considered a cliff-hanger and it's certainly not as exciting as the APS race.

Don't let that deter you from voting!

This is a membership organization, and the biennial elections provide a specific occasion for members to make themselves heard. Your expenditure of a few minutes time and 29 cents postage will let the officers know you're interested in the Unit's well-being. The higher the percentage of response, the greater the charge placed on the officers to be responsive. Conversely, a minimal "I don't care" response can only convey a sense of member apathy that will be hard to ignore.

There's also ample space on the back of the ballots for comments and suggestions—and if you've got lots to say, feel free to add more paper. (Obviously, signatures are unnecessary; voting is by secret ballot.) As some of you have already found out, your suggestions are considered seriously and acted on promptly.

So just because there are no offices or bylaw proposals at stake, don't think your vote doesn't count—it certainly does as far as I'm concerned.

Annual Meeting

The 1993 annual membership meeting of Writers Unit 30 will be at the Writers Breakfast in conjunction with STaMpsHOW 93, Sunday, August 22, in Houston, Texas. You'll find details page 48 this issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, but it's worth special mention here as well so that you don't overlook an important event. In addition to the culinary, social, informational, and organizational offerings, there's a plenitude of door prizes that are well worth the price of admission. (Public thanks are due to Ken Lawrence for obtaining and bringing a goodly number of those prizes.)

Foreign Affairs

In 1992, the International Association of Philatelic Journalists (Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques) (AIJP) amended its statutes to allow for organizational membership, in addition to the personal membership on which the AIJP had been based since its establishment. Otto Hornung, AIJP president (who has been elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists later this year), discussed this change during the Writers Unit 1992 annual meeting; those present authorized the WU30 Board to pursue organizational membership in the AIJP.

Since that time, the AIJP Board has prepared several draft proposals regarding the establishment and operation of such organizational members. So far, the emphasis seems to be on making organizations responsible for collecting and forwarding the dues of personal AIJP members (similar to the earlier practice employed for AIJP groups in Communist East Europe). Until we can get a more suitable clarification of relationships, we'll continue to remain interested, ready . . . but uncommitted.

More recently, I was formally asked by the president of the British Philatelic Writers Society if we could establish a loose but official cooperation between our two societies. I'm a member of both groups (as is the current PWS president), and can see many points of common interest. I think a closer relationship could be mutually beneficial.

I've therefore accepted the offer on a non-binding basis, pending more detailed evaluation and approval by WU30 members on any aspects that may be beyond the jurisdiction of its

officers. It will start with a formal exchange of journals and an informal exchange of ideas. We'll see how this develops. In the meantime, this seems to present some of the positive features offered by the AIJP relationship, in a more equitable and easily achieved manner, and may in fact be a helpful step in establishing a more effective AIJP.

Nominations to Philatelic Writers' Hall of Fame

Each year, WU30 recognizes distinguished philatelic writers, editors, columnists, and publishers who have made notable contributions to the field of philatelic literature, by electing them to the Philatelic Writers' Hall of Fame. Those selections are announced at the Writers Unit Breakfast held in conjunction with the annual meeting (which this year will be August 22, in Houston). Names of honorees are inscribed on a plaque which hangs in the American Philatelic Research Library.

The Hall of Fame Committee always welcomes nominations for this award, but particularly solicits recommendations from members during the quarter preceding the annual elections. Please submit your suggestions for suitable candidates, living or deceased, with brief comments on the achievements you feel warrant their selection. Nominees do not have to be members of the Writers Unit or of the APS. Committee chairperson, to whom nominations should be sent, is Barbara R. Mueller, 225 S. Fischer Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549-2125.

No Answers for the Congress Book?

In my review of the 1992 *American Philatelic Congress Book*, in the last issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, I offered a philatelic prize for anyone who could identify the three minor typos I unearthed—and I gave the applicable page numbers.

Well, I've found no winners, although there were a few brave tries, so I'm closing the contest. For those of you who may have been waiting breathlessly for the answers, you can now breathe again:

Page 35, note 5, should cite C.E. Severn (not *Severin*);

Page 65, line 5, should read Dahmann (not *Dahlman*);

On page 181, the entry for *Congress Book* Number 9 bears an asterisk (*), signifying the book died in office that year; obviously, that note refers to APS President Eugene Klein, who is listed on the following page, and not to the publication.

Ken Lawrence got one of the three, speculated on the other two, and came in later with a different typo I hadn't spotted ("wth" vice "with"). He gets the trophy for his great effort. And for the record, I found two more during my several additional readings of Hal Vogel's "Doubly Extraordinary Polar Expedition," in preparation for the recent Canadian philatelic literature show in Ottawa: on page 156, where the caption refers to "a an officer"; and on page 163, "obtained" vice "obtained."

And to Michel Forand, congratulations again for his exceptional job with the *Congress Book*! □

Election Time

By George B. Griffenhagen, Secretary-Treasurer WU30

In accordance with the WU30 Bylaws (Article IV) "The officers shall be elected for two-year terms, while members of the Council shall serve terms of four years, with one-half of the Council being elected at two-year intervals. Elections shall be held in the odd-numbered years by mail ballot of the membership. A simple majority of the ballots shall be required for election."

"A nominating committee shall be appointed by the president [and] the election ballot shall be prepared by the secretary-treasurer, and shall be distributed to the membership in the official publication of the Unit mailed not later than June 15 of each odd-numbered year. Only those ballots received by the secretary-treasurer (or designate) no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the A.P.S. convention (STaMpsHOW) will be counted." ▶▶

Since STaMpsHOW '93 will be held August 19 to 22, the deadline for receipt of ballots is August 9, 1993. Since there are no contested races, it was decided there is no need to publish short biographical sketches of the candidates as was done in the last election.

The ballot is lightly stapled in the centerfold of this issue. Pull it out, vote by marking "X" in appropriate boxes—you may "write in" names if desired in any or all contests. Comments and suggestions solicited and welcomed—on the back (blank) side of the ballot. Use another/more sheet(s) of paper if needed!

Place ballot in an appropriately-franked envelope addressed to George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180, and mail.

It is not necessary to use a return address on the envelope if you wish your vote to be completely secret. Do not sign or otherwise indicate your identity on the ballot.

Remember, ballots must be received no later than August 9, 1993. □

Procedures for No-Fee WU30 Critique Service

1. Submissions accepted only from WU30 members.

2. *For periodicals:* Submit the most recent issue(s)—if applicable, 3 or 4 consecutive issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee for WU30 mailing expenses; any unused amount will be returned.

3. *For books/book manuscripts:* Inquire before sending, with brief description of item; please include stamped, addressed envelope for reply.

4. All submissions/correspondence to: Charles J. Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726. [Phone (301) 776-9822.] □

Editor's Bulletin Board

By Ken Lawrence

Your editor has moved. Please note my new address and telephone number in the masthead. It is possible that some submissions may have been mislaid in the transition. If your article or letter has not been acknowledged or published, please accept my apology, and please write again.

Charles J. Peterson, president of Writers Unit 30, is the new editor of *The Chronicle* of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. Congratulations, Charlie!

Dane S. Claussen, a member of the WU30 Council, is the new editor of *The Heliograph*, journal of the Postal History Foundation. Congratulations, Dane!

Richard L. Sine seeks manuscripts of exceptional merit on any philatelic subject for his *Envision Monograph Series*, a new concept in stamp hobby publishing. Write to him at 625 South Ohio Avenue, Sidney, OH 45365.

Ken Palke sent a copy of *Stamp Collector's* in-house newsletter for its writers, which summarizes the recent subscriber survey. Readers' collecting interests, in order, were: U.S., Canada, first-day covers, United Nations, British Commonwealth, Western Europe, U.S. plate number coils, Great Britain, postal history, China, Duck stamps, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Japan, and others. Thanks, Ken.

Clyde Jennings, whose accomplishments as a philatelic writer are discussed elsewhere in this issue, has achieved a record unmatched in the hobby. He has now judged at least once at all 34 APS Champion of Champions shows. Congratulations, Clyde!

WU30 Recruiting champions Tom Current, Dick Graham, Diana Manchester, Randy Neil, and Alan Warren tied for first place among non-officers. In a tiebreaker drawing at the Spring Writers Breakfast, Diana won the USPS framed papier maché "philatelic collectible."

Also at the Breakfast, Steve Suffet bid \$12 to purchase the coveted cover with the WU perfin, which will now enhance one of his prize-winning exhibits. A 1932 metered Eberhard Faber

advertising cover with a bright yellow chromograph illustration of a pencil went for a hammer price of \$11 to Lanny Peterson, agent for an undisclosed bidder.

FIP take note. French Polynesia, one of the world's most conservative (and popular) stamp-issuing entities, is now selling both officially and privately issued telephone cards through its office of posts and telecommunications.

The Arthur Salm Foundation is now studying plastic materials used to store and preserve philatelic materials, many of which ruin the stamps and covers they are supposed to protect.

The Germany Philatelic Society has matched the APS for election excitement this year. Incumbent president Albert Jaeger and his running mate John Neefus are opposed by Mike Jolly and Diana Manchester. In addition, eleven candidates are vying for six directorships.

"The best journalists are almost the antithesis of professionals. The horror of disrepute, the preternatural respect for authority and the fear of controversy that so benefit the professional are absolute handicaps for a journalist." (From *The New Republic*, April 19, 1993)

Coins take the lead in the merit badge sweepstakes. By the end of 1990, the Boy Scouts of America had awarded 360,043 stamp collecting merit badges since the start of the program, as against 378,028 for coin collecting. But it's only in recent years that the coin hobby has really trounced us:

Merit Badges per Year Awarded	Stamps	Coins
1986	2,125	3,909
1987	1,788	3,753
1988	1,665	3,560
1989	1,844	4,085
1990	1,663	3,949

Correction 1. James Mackay pleaded guilty more than 20 years ago to theft from the British Museum, *not* the royal collection. I apologize for that mistake in the First Quarter PC.

Correction 2. The price of *The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* is \$60 postpaid (*not* £60) from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus. The incorrect price appeared above Alan Warren's review in the First Quarter PC.

Correction 3. In our Fourth Quarter "Pick of the Literature Award" we gave the wrong post office box for the publisher of the honeybee thematic newsletter *Ar Gwenan*. The correct address is One Better Publishing Company, P.O. Box 240, Litchfield, OH 44253-0240.

Deadlines extended. Third Quarter, July 20. Fourth Quarter, September 20. First Quarter, November 20. □

Philitex '92 Revisited

By Bob Rawlins

Back when I was in postgraduate school, one of my engineering courses was in Probability and Statistics so, after receiving the *Philitex '92* Palmars, I decided to run a statistical analysis of the awards.

Why? Well, I had submitted the Universal Ship Cancellation Society *Log* in the competition and was curious to see the distribution of awards in the Journals and Society Organs classification. Additionally, I thought it would be instructive to compare awards distribution between the Journal and Reference Book categories.

Statistical theory tells us that, if a sample size is sufficiently large, a plot of a selected variable versus quantity will form a bell-shaped curve. A bell-shaped curve is just what it sounds like—a silhouette of the Liberty Bell, for example, but without the crack.

With a sufficient sample size, the ideal bell-shaped curve is symmetric about the median, *i.e.*, the arithmetic mean of the lot.

In this case, with nine award levels, the theoretic median should be centered at the Large Silver award level.

Analysis of the Palmares indicates that 550 entries were judged competitively, a quantity sufficiently large so that the resultant plot should be statistically valid. Figure 1, a plot of the total awards distribution, indicates that the roughly bell-shaped curve is skewed to the right of the theoretical median line; the actual median is 13 percent below the top of the Silver award level.

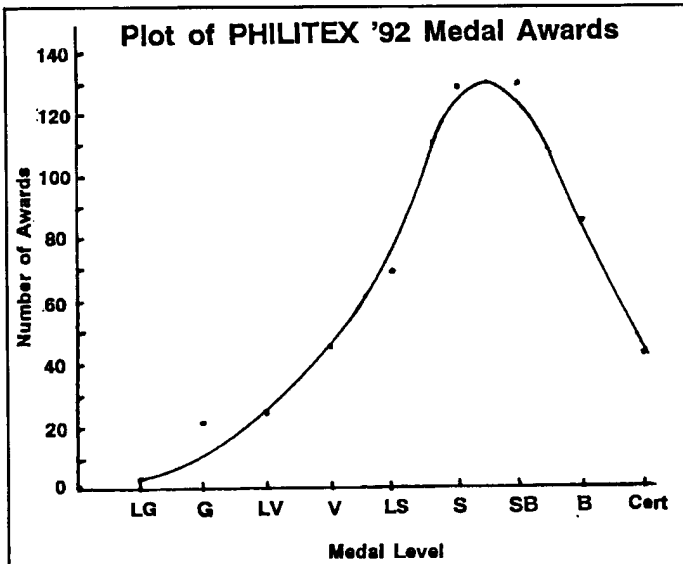


Figure 1.

Reference Books and Monographs, classes A-1 and A-2, comprised a total of 186 entries, a good sized sample. Class D-1, Journals and Magazines; D-2, Newspapers; and D-3, Society Organs totalled 153 entries, close enough for a reasonable comparison of the two categories.

The plot of medal distribution in each of those categories is shown in Figure 2. The curve of Journals and Society Organs, hereafter Journals, is reasonably bell-shaped although skewed considerably to the right about a median 18 percent below the top of the Silver Bronze level.

The point-to-point plot of Reference Books and Monographs,

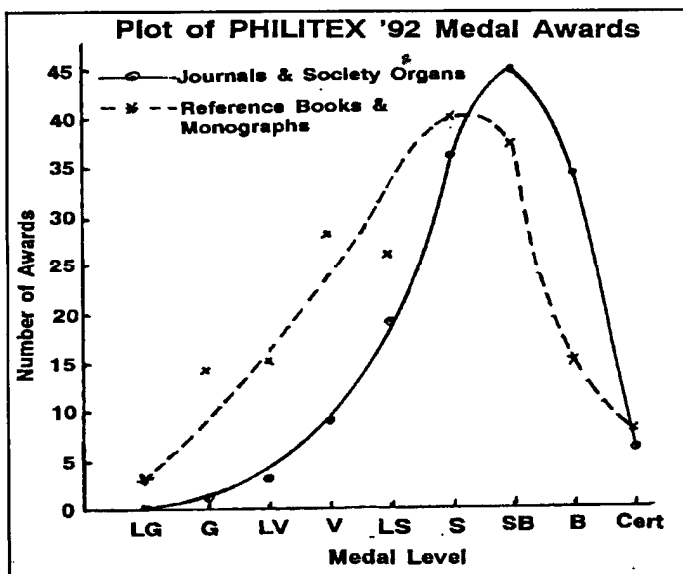


Figure 2.

hereafter Books, is a bit ragged although an average drawn through the individual points is sufficiently bell-shaped to validate the analysis. The plot does suggest, however, that gold and vermeil awards were a bit generous and large silver less so. The actual median of Book awards was 18 percent below the top of the Silver award level.

Several possibilities might explain the median shift in all three plots to the right of the theoretical: (1) the sample size was insufficiently large, (2) a significant number of superior journals failed to enter the competition (not quite the same as 1), or (3) the judges held entries to an exceedingly high standard.

Option 1 probably can be discounted; a total of 550 entries is substantial. It is possible that top drawer entries stayed away in droves, but not very likely given the amount of publicity concerning PhiliteX 92 in the philatelic press.

Most likely, given the fact that all three plots follow the same general pattern, we can conclude that the standards established by the judges caused the rightward shift of the median in all cases. Whether this is desirable or not is not at issue with this writer—someone else can debate that item.

However, what does interest me is the fact that the median of the Journal curve is one medal level below that of the Book curve. Why should that be?

Discounting options 1 and 2 for similar reasons to those given in the foregoing discussion, it would appear that the judges exhibited a bias in favor of Books or against Journals, as you prefer.

This observation is reinforced by a comment made by a judge during a critique of a literature competition in a large show last year; the judge opined that the average journal would never achieve the same award level as the average reference book. I find that attitude highly annoying.

I cannot recall how many times I've read or heard that its journal is the glue that holds the you-name-it Society together. And it's true, without the routine publication of a journal, members of any society with a widespread membership would be bereft of a vital communication link.

Moreover, the journal fills a distinctly different need than a reference text. That difference should be acknowledged and considered in judging the two. True, criteria for judging reference texts and journals have many commonalities, but they should not be identical.

Without debating the need, wisdom or desirability of literature competitions, all we journal editors ask for is a fair shake vis-a-vis reference books. □

Simply

By Joe F. Frye

A hox on their pouses!

"Simply," indeed! Ptui, *monsieur et madame!*

It is insufficient sport for the computer program composers/typographers/ writers/geniuses to include seven thousand zillion unnecessary dashes, horizontal line spaces (spacebar strokes), and much other cutesy-pie clutter.

They have to start telling you something with "simply." Frequently it *is* simple. Sometimes it is not. I resent being addressed—by allusion, if not overtly—as a simple(ton).

Yes, I know I'm one. Especially in computer stuff.

Thing of such when you write philatelistuff. Or edit it.

A few more of my little hates: Double line spaces (spacebar strokes) following a period. " instead of " and ". *Anything* with "turbo" in the text, title, or copyrighted tradename.

"Turbo" makes me think of fish (I don't know why—I seldom eat fish). " are rabbit tracks, not quotation marks. I have eat many, many rabbits whose " I was able to follow in the dirt or snow. My abhorrence for white space (the wasted second line space) is legendary. ▶▶

I'm tempted to add: iddy-biddy type/font(s)/typing in text I must read (especially if I have to keyboard it); single- rather than the thoughtful and much-appreciated double-spaced vertical lines to leave room for editing marks and make typesetting easier; and the use of underlines/boldface/italics/all-capitals *except* when the italics are the *exact title* of a publication or similar proper usage of italics. Yes, Twillowdean, *exact title*. At least oncet in the piece, thereafter you can start using its initials if you're that lazy or the title (as many sadly are) is long-winded.

This journal is *The Philatelic Communicator*. Not *Philatelic Communicator*, the *Communicator*, et al. That estimable lady, our former editor, Barbara Mueller and I had a conversation about that "*The*" when the name change was being considered. Use it. *The Philatelic Communicator*. You will make me smile.

The editor will do the u/b/i/a(s) where needed, rest assured. If he failleth, call him a gentleman pup. □

Philatelic Writing from the Inner Self—Articles

By Robert W. Everett Jr.

As philatelic Writers, articles probably comprise 95 percent or more of our submissions to editors. From my experience there are two definite types of philatelic articles. The first concentrates on stamps alone. The second type of article attempts to present stories behind the stamps.

Pat Herst and Ken Wood are examples of writers of the second category article. They are popular writers because every article presents some interesting information about stamps.

A very interesting article by John T. Coates titled "A Visit to Pitcairn's One-Room Post Office" appeared in the January 6, 1992, issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. It describes a visit Coates made to the Pitcairn post office while on a cruise in the Pacific Ocean.

This article about the famous *Bounty* island gave a bit of history, life on the island today, and information on Pitcairn Island stamps and its post office operated by Dennis Christian, a descendant of Fletcher Christian. In addition, Coates gave an accurate address for collectors to write Dennis Christian (Office of the Governor of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno Islands, c/o British Consulate, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand), something many writers may have omitted.

I was surprised to learn from Coates's article that the Pitcairn post office accepts personal undated checks or cash when ordering its beautiful stamps. As soon as I finished reading this article, I decided to make contact with Dennis Christian. I sent him an undated personal check for \$5.00, asking for any low-value stamps available. The round trip of my request and the return of stamps took three months. Christian signed the return envelope.

The return envelope had 42 mint stamps, many showing 18th and 19th century sailing ships. In addition to the stamps, Christian sent me three post cards showing island life. One card showed a longboat under construction, another depicted a simple grinding device for sugarcane, and the third was a photo of the huge wahoo fish caught by trolling. Also enclosed was a legal-size mimeographed fact sheet about life on this one- by two-mile isolated Pacific island.

I used all the information I received to write an article on Pitcairn Island. It was published in the November 28, 1992, *Stamp Collector*, titled "A Trip by Mail to Pitcairn Island Nets a Cover, Commemoratives, and More." My article encouraged other stamp collectors to take a similar trip.

I sent a copy of my article to Christian, indicating to him that I hoped my article might stimulate stamp sales. More recently I sent \$10.00 in cash to Reynold Nola Warren (at the address previously cited) for a hand-carved small-size bird. I thought this would be a nice addition to my stamps from Pitcairn. She also sells hand-carved sharks, turtles, dolphins, and fish.

I believe this is an excellent example of how one writer

(Coates) led another writer (me) to compose an article on Pitcairn Island.

In the February 1993 issue of *The American Philatelist* was a most interesting article on primates. The article by M. D. Mueller was titled "Up the Monkey Puzzle Tree of Philately." Instead of simply presenting a topical article on the primate stamps, the author elected to do a detailed article on stamps and general interesting information on the primates around the world.

Articles can often lead writers in unknown directions. It amazes me how a certain sequence of events can take us down one path and, if one element in the sequence is broken, we move down another path.

In 1975, I began preparing covers cacheted with drawings of old streetcars. My wife Marilyn prepared an artistic sketch of the last New Orleans mule car of 1890 vintage. Using her artwork, I prepared some covers and sent one to Elaine Boughner at *Linn's Stamp News*, who asked me to prepare an article about them. "Evolution of New Orleans Streetcars" was published in *Linn's* April 2, 1979.

While writing the article on New Orleans streetcars, I began subtracting dates and realized that 1982 would be the 150th anniversary of the streetcar in America (New York, November 1832). My initial thinking about commemorative stamps for this anniversary, of course, included New York City and New Orleans (1835) with the second streetcar line in the U.S.

Further research work indicated that Montgomery, Alabama, had the first successful city-wide electric trolley system in 1886. Sulphur Rock, Arkansas, was credited with the last mule car operation, which ended in 1926.

Using the above information, on June 13, 1979, I submitted to USPS a proposal for four historical streetcar stamps. In addition, I wrote another article for *Linn's*, published July 16, 1979, outlining my proposal and asking help from collectors.

After four years of work, the stamps were issued on October 8, 1983. USPS missed the 150th anniversary, but issued the stamps as a historical set.

It is obvious that a definite sequence of events led me to propose these stamps. If I had not sent the cover to Boughner the sequence would have been broken and I doubt if the idea for the four stamps ever would have entered my mind.

During the past few years most of my articles have been published by *Topical Time*.

In 1988 I wanted to try an entirely new form of article. The first one was published by *Topical Time* (January-February 1989), titled "This is My Life."

On two letter-size pieces of paper I began writing a brief synopsis of my life. Wherever possible I inserted a stamp. For example, for "Born in New Orleans," I used the 4 cent Louisiana stamp, Scott number 1197.

My wife did the calligraphy for the written part. It was my hope that this stamp presentation would encourage other collectors to do similar autobiographies for their stamp albums, adding personal interest to their collections.

A second presentation titled "What Stamp Collecting Can Mean To You" appeared in *Topical Time* of January-February 1992. Surely there are other innovative ways of using stamps within an article.

My most recent article for *Topical Time* appeared in the November-December 1992 issue: "Streetcar Covers." I suggested to collectors that topical philatelic covers can enhance any topical stamp collection. In fact, more information is shown by a cover than can be shown by an individual stamp.

In the article I used nine covers to depict the history of our famous St. Charles Avenue line, which is the world's oldest continuously operated line. Other famous streetcars were shown by cacheted covers. In discussing each cover, I tried to give some interesting story about the cover.

As writers, I think we all enjoy seeing our thoughts in black-and-white on the printed page. The next time you read a philatelic publication note how few articles really hold your interest. Those with stories behind the stamps are the ones that really succeed. Those with words and Scott numbers only just do not hold the readers' attention. □

Toll-Free Gets A Lot of Calls

By Joe F. Frye

When you receive a new issue of a magazine, what is the first thing you do with it? Glance at, or inspect more carefully, the cover, perhaps? I do.

What next? My habit, particularly in computer-related magazines, is to rip out and discard, after a glance to see if indeed there is any interest to me, all the reply cards and other stiffer-than-normal things the issue brings.

After that débridement, I give it the thumb test. Hold the magazine by the bound margin—or spine—flat in the left hand, grasp the entire piece on the right (cut) edge between thumb and first two fingers, bend all the pages downward together about an inch, and allow the thumb to slip the pages upward. If the pages slip one at the time, or nearly so, I am then ready to begin looking inside.

Many publications lack page number references in the teasers on the front cover. That forces one—after the obligatory cursing—to the table of contents, index, or whatever they chose to call it. Many such are nearly as difficult to use as a computer keyboard in Russian language would be to an exclusively English-language user.

These tables, indexes, etc., have cutesy little dropped letters, color blocks that frequently make included text difficult or nearly impossible to read, and other offspring of the graphic artist (?).

There is usually a distribution, in many levels, of features, articles, product tests, tips, manufacturers, etc., of topics into subheadings that make you cry trying to find what you're looking for. It is rare to find a sequential listing of the front cover teasers by page number. They are usually scattered randomly through the table or index, sometimes not even accented to call attention to them.

Perseverance is called for and, sometimes, rewarded. Think about this in your layout efforts.

A very few of the computer-related magazines have begun explaining at least some of the newer acronyms, e.g., WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get). Most readers need all the help they can get in such instances. Keep this in mind in your writings.

One last point: Compare the titles in the index, or whatever, to the text they apply to. Can you get even a general idea of what to expect in text from most of the titles?

If you can, call Mr. Toll Free's number for the publication and compliment them! □

LETTERS

Reaction to Judges' Critiques: The following comments are extracted from a letter by an exhibitor in a recent U.S. philatelic literature competition:

"Please convey to your jury my sincere thanks for the detailed critique of the journal that you sent. I note in your letter that 'the jury prepared a *brief* [italics mine] critique of each competitive entry.' The critique was certainly not brief but very detailed! All the points made by your jury for suggested improvements to our journal are sincerely appreciated.

"In receiving next to no comments from judges in other literature exhibitions the whole exercise of entering such competitions has been questioned. At times I have wondered if judges do little more than 'thumb through' the publications entered in competitions. However, the comments made by your jury clearly

indicate that a conscientious effort was made for a professional judging job."

Further commentary unnecessary. □

From Gini Horn to WU30: Thank you for the swap of philatelic literature: Yvert & Tellier, 1993 *L'Officiel Des Telecartes*, 1988 *Tome 7 Supplements*, 1987 *Tome 7 Supplements*, 1986 *Tome 7 Supplements*, and 1986 *Tome 5 Timbres d'outre-Mer A-H*; Butler, *Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: DNK Deutschland Briefmarken-Katalog 1992*; and Wisnietsky, *Confederate Patriotic Covers*, to the American Philatelic Research Library. Acknowledgement of your donation will be listed in *The American Philatelist*.

Your continued support of the APRL is appreciated. If we can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact us. □

From Gary A. Van Cott: I would be interested in seeing a discussion of advertising in *The Philatelic Communicator*. While there may not be too many advertisers among the membership of WU30, there are certainly quite a few who publish advertising. PC also represents more of a neutral ground for discussion than other venues such as *The Stamp Wholesaler*.

Since late 1990, I have been advertising the Stamp Auction Information Service. This service provides copies of selected auction lots to its subscribers. The subscribers are primarily collectors and dealers with specific interests who want to see more material. The service also saves time and money (auction catalog subscriptions can be expensive).

I run a two-inch display ad each month in *The American Philatelist*. I have tried somewhat larger ads, with no noticeable difference in impact. For the past nine months I have been running "wordy" ads, which provide a few details about the service. Response has increased during this period, but this may not be directly attributable to the ads.

While I have run ads in other publications my *American Philatelist* ads have been the most productive by far. While there is often a peak in the number of responses after a new issue comes out, I continue to receive inquiries throughout the month. To achieve the same impact in a weekly publication would take an ad every week at a much higher total cost.

My biggest advertising disappointment has been *The Philatelic Exhibitor*. Who, after all, is more interested in finding elusive material than exhibitors? While there is probably a large overlap with the APS, I can afford a larger, more visible ad in *The Philatelic Exhibitor*. However, I received hardly any response from these ads. Perhaps it is just a matter of numbers.

I have also tried society publications. Advertising in these publications can be time intensive since you need to find which publications accept advertising, in what size, and at what price. In fact, the search for this information was the genesis of my book, *Philatelic Periodicals of the United States and Canada*. While I have had some response from ads in society journals, it has been limited.

That is a summary of my experience. My goal is to make my ads as effective and economical as possible. I would welcome comments from other members on this subject. □

From Gary Dunaier: Charles J. Peterson's comments on the titles of some *First Days* articles in his review of the *First Days* cumulative index First Quarter 1993 *Philatelic Communicator* pages 15-16 was of great interest to me, because I've been contributing to that sacred journal since 1986.

I've contributed my share of "cutesy" titles to the *First Days* legacy, although none as extreme as those cited. When I was thinking up names for my articles, my aim was to come up with something jazzy and fun. Since the majority of my articles were first day reports, I tried creating puns revolving around the name of the postal item in question.

I thought I did pretty good with such titles as "Unofficially Lovely" (the 1986 Love stamp) and "Publicly Hospitable" (the 1986 Public Hospitals commemorative). ▶▶

Later on, I made my titles more reference-friendly, although I continued to use whimsical titles. I incorporated the stamp's first day in the name.

First Days readers were thus treated to such titles as "September 16, 1988: Imagine the Empire State Building Without An Elevator" (the 1988 5.3¢ Elevator coil) and "June 28, 1991: A Yankee Debuts In Flushing" (the 1991 Yankee Clipper 40¢ postal card, issued in Flushing, New York; the pun was that Flushing is the site of Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets, crosstown rival to the New York Yankees [although the card itself was not baseball-related]).

Presumably, the specialists would know the first day of the stamp they're researching; putting the date before the title was my way of saying "Hey! You! Read *this* one!" regardless of how "cute" the rest of the title may have been.

By the way, if Ken Lawrence and Steve Krieger are both young at 50 (Krieger's letter in First Quarter 1993 *PC*, page 9), what does that make me? I'm only 30! □

From Jeanne H. Zonay: Robert W. Everett Jr.'s article published in the last *Philatelic Communicator* was of great interest to me, since he was the first columnist who wished to touch upon philatelic fiction writing. However, he offered not one source who might be willing to publish fiction.

For quite some time, I've tried to get a well-written article, both interesting and of interest to many philatelists, published with no luck what so ever. In despair, finally I removed every trace of philatelic meaning, my main objective in the first place, and entered the story into competition elsewhere. How sad.

Editors of philatelic publications apparently are fearful of the unknown; they lack the initiative to take a chance. Who knows, a little fictitious philatelic writing might attract new blood into this divine hobby.

No one has ever said that philately can't be fun. By adding a smidgeon of mystery and humor into the serious side of stamp collecting, there is no telling what spirits could be awakened.

Some folks are just now catching on to topical/thematic collecting; becoming aware of the history each stamp enhances, so why can't we introduce fiction, too, and totally bog their minds? □

From Robert W. Everett Jr.: On page 6 of the First Quarter 1993 *Philatelic Communicator*, Barbara Anderson severely criticized my use of the story setting in the movie *The Gods Must Be Crazy* to write an entirely different story about "The Kalahari Bushmen and the Postage Stamps" (*Stamps*, November 30, 1991). If Barbara Anderson has seen this movie and read my entire story, she should have realized the great story difference between the two.

In her criticism, she indicated that my story was not original, it was not personally creative, and the concept did not spring full-blown from my mind. She also concluded her harsh criticism by suggesting that I took the original concept of another writer and made minor substitutions in the scenario.

The substitutions in the scenario were not minor as she contended. They are two completely different stories about the Kalahari Bushmen. The stamp story is original because it differs greatly from the movie version in content.

Since my stamp story is quite different from the movie version, I contend that it is personally creative. In my original article (Fourth Quarter 1992 *PC*, page 78) I clearly stated, "The original movie activated the creative process." This was my admission that the basic concept about Kalahari Bushmen did not spring full-blown from my mind.

There are two definite types of criticism. Constructive criticism attempts to aid a fellow writer and move him in a positive direction. Destructive criticism is often based on emotions and puts down a fellow writer, attempting to move him in a negative direction.

I sincerely regret that Barbara Anderson selected the latter type of criticism. To answer her final statement, "Yes, I was offended by her negative input to my article on creativity." □

From Bob Rawlins: So, now we have a call to spice up *The Philatelic Communicator* with invective, insult, and innuendo. I sincerely hope not. If two writers want to engage in a verbal blood feud, let them do it courtesy of Ma Bell, via facsimile or the U.S. mails or, best of all, face-to-face but out of my hearing.

I can think of no valid reason why the *PC* should be the vehicle for one writer to attack another. Let them wage war in their own journals.

When I took over my editorial post, a close friend suggested that I join WU30 for professional reasons. It will help you be a better editor, he noted. I'm not sure that most of my improvement wasn't gained by other than trial and error, but I will acknowledge that I've learned a good deal from articles in the *PC*. However, I learned nothing from the poison pen commentary that we have seen in these pages some years past, nor was I secretly titillated.

I'll stipulate that writers may have strong opinions on any number of subjects. But if they are what they profess to be, then those same writers should be able to present their arguments in a rational, persuasive manner and without resorting to name calling.

There's nothing wrong with a splash of humor or tongue-in-cheek comment—we definitely should not take ourselves all that seriously. But derogation and personal attacks . . . no.

The question is: Do WU30 readers want a professional journal or not? I vote for the former. I suggest those who want the latter or are bored with the *PC*, simply trade their subscription in for one with the *New York Post* or the *National Inquirer*. □

From Tom Maeder: The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Board has voted to pay the *Coil Line* editor's yearly dues to APS Writers Unit 30. □

The editor comments: What a fine idea! Thanks, Tom. (Tom Maeder is president of PNC3.) Charlie, take note. Maybe the way to recruit cheap or reluctant editors is to ask their society leaders to cover their WU30 dues. □

From Douglas A. Kelsey: In response to your "Editor's Bulletin Board" remark about me, I'd like your readers to know that you haven't been spending your time looking over my shoulder to know for a fact that I have been spending most of my "time lately promoting meter collecting." In fact, I spend my working hours at my regular job as executive director of the AFDCS. This constitutes most of my time.

Alan Warren's report of the AFDCS Executive Committee meeting that you cited was a meeting held July 1992 reporting on the Society activities of 1991—before my involvement with *First Days*. At our July 1993 meeting to be held in Boxborough, Massachusetts, I will report on the Society's advertising revenues for 1992. At which time, I anticipate that the report will show, at the very least, consistent revenue per issue; or, most likely, an increase in revenues and no delinquent accounts.

Measures discussed to lower costs of *First Days* in Alan Warren's report have not had to be implemented. *First Days* has been produced in such a manner as to remain within the budget approved by the Board of Directors (and continues to do so.)

By the way, I am not a meter collector nor am I promoting meter collecting—it is illegal to own (postage) meters in this country. My interest in meter stamp collecting, as it is properly known, is just one aspect of my interest in United States postal history. The last few years I have begun to specialize in the mechanization of mail—which includes meter stamped mail. I devote my off-duty hours to the study and promotion of this subject—as you would know had you been looking over my shoulder. □

From Otto Hornung to George Griffenhagen: I have read with interest in *The Philatelic Communicator* the remarks concerning my report about the re-introduction of blocked values in Russia. Just to set the record straight:

I made it abundantly clear that I had received the information from a friend in Russia. I was not at the meeting of ASCAT, nor at the meeting in Moscow. So, the rat is not my rodent. No one has queried the fact that this was said by Mr. I. Panfilov.

I don't know whether he or someone else from Russia had been at the ASCAT meeting or if someone from Russia talked to Scott's somewhere else.

It is quite possible that it was all misunderstood by the Russians, but I have another suspicion. They needed good arguments to persuade their philatelists that the re-introduction of blocked values was necessary. So, it is quite possible that Panfilov or someone else invented the "quotation" attributed to Scott's.

It might also interest you that my correspondent in Russia did not send his letter with the information through the Russian post, but it was taken (smuggled) by someone from Russia and posted in Germany, in Reutlingen. I have taken the precaution to keep the letter as it arrived together with the envelope.

Actually, I sent this report also to *Michel Rundschau* in Munich, and the editor, Gerhard Webersinke, contacted me. He had been in Monte Carlo at the ACTA meeting, and he told me that this remark about Scott was not true. Nevertheless, he decided to publish it as I had written it, but added a footnote. This is a very good way how to tell your readers who was telling the truth and who was not. □

From Norman Williams: The First Quarter 1993 *Philatelic Communicator* has seemingly been delayed in reaching me.

The factual information in this letter you may wish to publicize because you have perpetrated a libel in your "Editor's note" to the review of *The Guinness Book of Stamps: Facts & Feats*. It was from the British Museum (British Library) collection, not the "Royal Collection," that the abstractions were made and to which the plea of guilty was entered.

You will appreciate that the difference is substantial. Theft from an institution is one thing, theft from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is quite another. Certainly in this country, the statement could be the subject of substantial damages on a claim for libel. An apology would, doubtless, result in diminution of the damages.

Whatever the feelings and thoughts about the work's author, and they are universally mixed, such a publication may be thought to do the writer no credit.

Perhaps you, by now, will have received other comments. I know not whether the author reviewed is a member of WU30, but, in any event, I thought that you might welcome a friendly warning about the possible consequences. □

The editor replies: I welcome the correction, and am pleased to be reminded how Britain is still so deferential to class distinctions that a theft from Her Majesty is regarded as a serious infraction, in contrast to a mere theft from the people.

Therefore, I regret that I relied on an unsigned review (evidently not written by Norman Williams) in the July 29, 1989, issue of *Stamp Collector*, which referred to James Mackay as "a full-time author and journalist since pleading guilty of stealing progressive proofs from Queen Elizabeth's collection about 1970." To my knowledge, Mackay never sued Capital Cities/ABC, which has very deep pockets, for having subjected him to such a libelous indignity.

Norman Williams is absolutely correct on the facts, as reported in the London magazine, *Stamp Collecting*: "... on May 11th, James A. Mackay, Assistant Keeper in charge of the philatelic collections at the British Museum, was charged with stealing seven stamp proofs, the property of the Crown Agents, in 1966." (May 27, 1971) "Mr. Mackay is charged on 12 counts concerning seven stamps and 67 progressive proofs, the property

of the Crown Agents on loan to the British Museum in 1965. A further four charges allege the theft of Canadian stamps and postal history material, the property of Mrs. Norah Kathleen Clougher, widow of Nugent M. Clougher." (January 6, 1972) "On September 5th before His Honour Judge Marnam, Q.C., James Alexander Mackay, Assistant Keeper in charge of the stamp collections in the British Museum, pleaded guilty to five charges of stealing progressive proofs from British Guiana, Virgin Islands, Malta, New Hebrides, and Jamaica and not guilty on two further charges of stealing proofs. He also pleaded not guilty to five other charges of stealing covers belonging to the British Museum, the proofs belonging to Colonel H.W.P. Harrison and other material belonging to Miss Antoinette Powell-Cotton and Christopher John Garratt." (September 14, 1972)

In the plea bargain arrangement, the Crown accepted Mackay's guilty plea on just the five counts, and did not pursue the additional charges. Mackay's counsel told the court that Mackay had exchanged the stolen proofs with a stamp dealer to obtain Churchill material for his personal collection, and thus did not make any financial gain from the thefts. The court imposed a £1000 fine, and gave Mackay 12 months in which to pay.

As to the cultural and legal differences between our two countries, I think most Americans would regard the crimes to which Mackay pleaded guilty, and others alleged against him (such as theft from a widow), as more serious than stealing from the Queen, not less. (Note that my mistaken reference to the royal collection was entirely in lower-case letters, in the American style, not capitalized, as it is between Norman Williams's quotation marks, and that the royal capitals in this note are facetiously intended.) Either way, were he to bring a libel action in this country on the strength of such evidence, it is likely that he would end up paying the defendant's costs for pursuing a frivolous lawsuit, not collecting damages.

Besides the factual correction, I am grateful to be reminded that Britain has the most unfree press of any modern country. □

From Barbara L. Anderson: Give me a break!

I have just finished *not* reading an article in a philatelic publication that shall remain nameless. I say not reading because after perusing the first few paragraphs, I was sufficiently turned off (a gross understatement, believe me) to proceed to the next page.

We're talking cute, folks. And I mean cute.

I might mention that the article in question was written by a man, proving that perky writing is not the exclusive province of female authors.

I don't know about other philatelic writers, but I engage in a whole lot of editing, streamlining, and general polishing before committing to the final copy. Philatelic details aside, the tissue that holds the stamp facts together should be informative and enlightening, setting the stage for the star performers.

This does not include isolated ramblings about one's family, stream of consciousness notions, or peripheral thoughts that have no relevance for the issue at hand (no pun intended).

I can't believe that this writer does any editing whatsoever. How easy it would be to just peck out whatever popped into one's mind and mail it off!

Payment from this particular organ is modest indeed, but the readers deserve the best a writer has to offer. We're all busy people and there's rarely enough time to stay on top of the deluge of reading material we all receive. We shouldn't be expected to wade through a morass of verbiage that may please the author to set down, but does little to enrich or expand our horizons.

Let me hasten to add that I'm not some sort of intellectual snob—the Serrane Guide, serialized in *The American Philatelist*, and other profound scholarly philatelic research, bores me to death. But all that has a purpose.

There are those who like the "personal touch," and if done with finesse and wit, there is a place for it, even in the philatelic literature.

They say "cute sells." Well, maybe it does, but I'm not buying! □

From Janet Klug: Philatelic writers are the "ambassadors" of our hobby. What we write and how we write can profoundly affect the way others perceive philately. My vision of WU30 is an organization that will help provide active and/or aspiring writers with the tools and confidence to do the job.

I abhor censorship and I stand firm against those whose publishing policies suppress unpopular views or unpleasant news. Such practices are a disservice to the hobby and do far more harm than good. □

From Gene Fricks: At least one ½-cent Postage Due (Scott J88) cover does or did exist, as I obtained it in the 1960-61 period on a cover that arrived at my home (deliberately) underfranked.

After I offered to give it to Clyde Jennings, I could not find it, and still do not know if it is lost, given away, sold, or whatever. In any event, it is a very difficult usage.

I do have a used block of the stamp with a roller cancel. Oh that it was still on the cover!

Almost as rare is the 17-cent Postage Due on cover. □

From Roger G. Schnell to C. J. Peterson: Although I am not a member of Writers Unit 30, an affiliate of the APS, I did have the opportunity to read the First Quarter 1993 *Philatelic Communicator*. On page 11 editor Ken Lawrence has penned an article "What Happened to the Other Half, Clyde?" which is purported to be a book review. My concerns are two-fold.

First, the philatelic literature is not a place for discussions of personalities, nor should it be a "soap box" to champion one's personal feelings, prejudices and opinions. In this case the editor, rather than dealing with "scholarly precision" and factual analysis, has intermingled innuendos and inference. Instead of just expressing his personal opinion about the facts in the book, the editor has expressed his opinion about an individual. Unfortunately, this critique is more on a man, his actions and his character, when it should be a book review. The factual analysis of the data presented in the book, as correct as it may be, is lost amid the bluster regarding philatelic exhibiting, and the editor's diatribe concerning the author. Ken Lawrence should be reminded that personal opinions regarding individuals and their actions have no place in the philatelic literature, no less a book review.

Secondly, as an elected official of the APS it is imperative that officers do not express their personal feelings and biases, particularly about other philatelists, in print. The officers should remember that they are elected to serve all the members.

Hopefully, as president of the APS writers affiliate, you will exert your highly regarded expertise so that publications in the future will be on a higher plain. Philately must retain its integrity. If this is lost, we have "nothing." □

Reply by Peterson: As Dr. Schnell notes, his letter expresses more than one concern; he sees it as two-fold, I would suggest it's three-fold.

On the nature of book reviews. I've probably crafted more philatelic book reviews than most folks now writing, and I've come to recognize that such items ideally serve different purposes and take different forms depending on the venue.

In fact, I never write the same book review for different publications. For a general readership journal (e.g., *Linn's* or *The American Philatelist*), a review is very much a news item, concentrating on the basic content and applicability of the item and how it may be ordered. The *Philatelic Literature Review* is a journal of bibliographic record; there I'm likely to go into comparison with earlier editions and related works, and to give bibliographic considerations as much weight as I do to the actual content. For a specialty journal, I'll go into detail on the content,

emphasizing any new findings but also highlighting all the technical warts and blemishes of probable interest to the readers of that journal.

The Philatelic Communicator is a philatelic writers' journal, and Ken Lawrence deliberately (and correctly, in my view) tries to provide reviews that focus on the process of writing, editing, and publishing; content is secondary, at best. My own review of Israeli postmark catalogs, elsewhere in this issue, hews closely to that philosophy.

With that as preamble, I think it's certainly appropriate to evaluate Clyde Jennings' monograph from the point of view of how a book differs from an exhibit, and how the devices (a kinder word, perhaps, than "misdirection") used to make an interesting exhibit may not be valid in producing a book.

Attacks ad hominem. I most definitely agree with Dr. Schnell's sentiments regarding personal attacks. In this instance, however, I think the call has to be "not proven." If we can accept that the book derives immediately from the exhibit, and agree that Clyde's exhibits are very much a reflection of the man (a realistic and non-judgmental view), there's a strong but impersonal nexus. To call Clyde a "showman" is as much recognition of reality as it is to call Pat Herst a raconteur. Did the review go beyond the bounds of pointed but respectful analysis into disrespect and invective? I didn't see that—but I must admit I went into it with an awareness that Ken *does* respect Clyde, and so I didn't read the review with an eye for possible maliciousness. Certainly the unexpressed point is also well taken, that irony easily can be misunderstood as sarcasm and the choice of words and styles can have unintended results. We've all learned "the medium is the message," without necessarily understanding the implications.

APS officers expressing bias/prejudice. That's really a question for Bud Sellers or his successor, not for me. Still, I think it's necessary to define that much more closely, and use some modifiers such as "unduly" and "unwarranted." I expect organizational leaders to have biases—in favor of the organization, against forgers, on behalf of their own areas of specialization; all the current candidates for APS presidency have expressed strong personal feelings for and against various issues, in the form of an election platform. I know that on occasion I've made some rather strong statements of personal bias/prejudice/antipathy with respect to individuals I've felt were misusing the hobby. Put the necessary qualifiers in, add "in an official capacity" or "in a manner bringing discredit to the organization," and I'd be more inclined to agree. Otherwise, this concern reduces into the previous one of *ad hominem* attacks.

I appreciate the letter, because the issues are important and I'm glad to see there is concern about them. We're all involved with the matter of communicating thoughts effectively and appropriately; airing these comments before the membership serves a useful purpose. □

From Ken Lawrence: Clyde Jennings accosted me at Ropex to plead that my review of his pamphlet *The Half—A collection* had wronged him. I offered space here for his rebuttal, but he declined to submit it, so I shall summarize the discussion, and add some additional points.

Clyde was happy that the exhibit on which his pamphlet is based had won the grand award at Vapex, and thus had achieved even greater recognition than it had when I wrote my review. To me, this was added proof of the double standard that pervades elitist exhibiting. If *The Half* had been my entry, the more conscientious judges would have researched pertinent texts and noted the omission of key items. Because the exhibit belongs to one of their own, they take on faith Clyde's assertion that he has shown everything of importance. He hasn't, as we shall see.

Clyde claimed I was mistaken in asserting that the purpose of the flat-plate ½-cent brown Nathan Hale stamp of 1925 was to revalue stamped envelopes to meet the new third-class rate, and referred to the *Postal Bulletin* as his evidence.

The March 11, 1925, issue carried this notice: "In addition to the issuance of 1½-cent stamps and stamped envelopes for use in connection with third-class matter under the new rates effective April 15, as stated in the *Postal Bulletin* of March 7, the department is also preparing to issue a one-half-cent postage stamp to be used with existing private and post-office stocks of 1-cent stamps and stamped envelopes to meet the increased rates and in combination with stamps of other denominations to cover the required postage where fractional amounts are involved."

This is known as defensive scholarship. When challenged, look it up. (Max Johl wrote something similar, which also could be quoted to support Clyde's belated diligence.) Had Clyde included this somewhere in his exhibit or his pamphlet, he would have deserved credit as far as it goes, and I'd have let the point lie. He didn't raise it until he started rooting around for material to refute my review, so I'll present my evidence here.

Having learned to look up a fact in the *Postal Bulletin*, Clyde now should learn also to turn the page. The March 16, 1925, issue (nearly a month before the new rates went into effect) gave detailed instructions to postmasters on how to handle their supplies of 1-cent stamps and 1-cent stamped envelopes. For the stamps, this was the instruction:

"Postmasters at all post offices are requested to dispose of excess quantities by the sale and use of 1-cent stamps in lieu of 2-cent and higher denomination stamps, as far as practicable, until stocks are sufficiently reduced."

For stamped envelopes, however, this was the instruction:

"Postmasters at free delivery post offices will close out stocks of 1-cent envelopes remaining on hand April 15 as far as possible by affixing ½-cent or 1-cent stamps to the envelopes and their sale to the public for use with first-class or third-class mailings. Similarly, patrons holding unused 1-cent envelopes after April 15 should be requested to affix additional postage and use the remaining envelopes for first-class or third-class matter as desired. When unusual quantities of envelopes are not involved this method of disposition is practicable in most cases with respect to both private and post office stocks.

(Authorization to surcharge unusual quantities of 1-cent envelopes in post office stocks, rather than revaluing them with stamps, was given in the May 27, 1925, *Postal Bulletin*.)

If one studies these materials in context, without an axe to grind, I'm confident nearly every scholar would reach the conclusion I reported. To my knowledge, no one has previously challenged a similar statement by Austin Haller in the United Postal Stationery Society's *UPSS Catalog of the Twentieth Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States*: "A ½c adhesive stamp had been issued specifically for use of private citizens, or firms, who had quantities of 1c envelopes on hand." (1990 edition, page 180.) But for his defensiveness, I doubt Clyde Jennings would have challenged the point either, since it seems so clear and elementary. Using up surplus 1-cent stamps wasn't a problem; using up surplus 1-cent stamped envelopes was.

In any case, philatelic scholarship requires analysis beyond reporting simply what was officially ordered in Washington. Here's the ½-cent Postage Due stamp of 1925 as an example:

According to the April 10, 1925, *Postal Bulletin*, the ½-cent Postage Due stamp was issued "to be used in the collection of postage on short-paid third-class matter," and, since no fractional coins or currency existed, "for an uncanceled one-half-cent ordinary stamp (not postage due) which should, since there is no fractional currency to make the exact change, be given to the addressee at the time the parcel is delivered."

(In the pamphlet, Clyde correctly described an uncanceled half-cent stamp supplied as "change" on page 22, but then misconstrued another as money collected on page 80.)

A philatelic researcher must consider more than official pronouncements. For example, if the introduction of fractional domestic postal rates required fractional postage due stamps in the United States, why were they not required in the Panama Canal Zone? (Because Canal Zone postal authorities rejected them.) For another example, the need for fractional postage due stamps did not begin with fractional domestic rates.

Three foreign countries' first-class letter rates to the United States (Costa Rica's 5 centimos, Ecuador's 5 centavos, and Peru's [via San Francisco] 5 centavos per unit) equalled two and a half U.S. cents when these stamps were introduced, and thus they could have been used on shortpaid letters from those countries. Also, another article (not first-class) mailed from Honduras required 1 centavo postage per two ounces, each centavo equal to ½-cent U.S. postage. By treaty, insufficiently prepaid mail from each of those countries was subject to the collection of only the amount of deficient postage, not the standard Universal Postal Union amount of double the deficiency.

For this reason, Clyde is probably mistaken in his interpretation of his Figure 149 cover, shortpaid to Costa Rica and assessed 10 centimos postage due. If that was double the deficiency, it shouldn't have been. In 1925, 10 Costa Rican centimos equalled 25 gold centimes, which in turn equalled five U.S. cents.

Another cover on the same page has a similar problem. Clyde interpreted the three cents postage due penalty on his Figure 148 cover as double a ½-cent deficiency on a cover franked with an overprinted ½-cent Hale stamp. That cannot be right, because the Postal Laws and Regulations clearly stated, "Double rate of postage shall be charged only on matter reaching its destination with no evidence of any prepayment whatsoever." If deficiencies had been doubled regardless of prepayment, obviously there would have been no need for ½-cent postage due stamps.

A further example of postage due collected in half-cent amounts was undeliverable second-class matter, chargeable postage due at the third-class rate.

The *Postal Bulletin* made frequent complaint of unauthorized and illegal usages of ½-cent regular and postage due stamps, which would themselves be fun to collect and display. These included C.O.D. charges, money order denominations, and aggregate postage for third-class permit mail ending in one-half cent (all required to be rounded to the next higher full cent); assessment of postage due on catalogs of 24 or more pages properly mailed at the third-class rate of one cent for each two ounces (to be verified at the acceptance post office, not in transit or at delivery); and the return to mailers of undeliverable third-class mail with postage due assessed (permissible only on undeliverable foreign mail, unless bearing a return postage guaranteed endorsement).

If these usages occurred frequently enough to invite official reprimands from Washington, they belong in any study of half-cent U.S. stamps that purports to be "complete." They aren't in Clyde's, but the pamphlet does include dozens of contrived usages for which half-cent stamps were unnecessary. Of 110 covers illustrated in the pamphlet, only 31 required fractional postage of any sort. No fractional usages at all are shown for the ½-cent Washington Bicentennial stamp or for either overprinted ½-cent Canal Zone stamp.

Clyde took offense when I said that he would have downgraded any other collector's exhibit that displayed such glaring omissions and discrepancies, but I've witnessed him do it many times, and so have most judges who have awarded gold medals to *The Half*.

Clyde next argued that my comments on the ½-cent Postage Due stamp of 1959 were unfair. I now believe my speculation about internal usage on deposit-account bulk mailing forms was incorrect, since the rule about rounding to the nearest cent seems to have continued as the required practice. I shall leave it to

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readers to decide whether my opinion about the pamphlet's failure "to meet the more rigorous requirements of good literature" was justified, after considering some additional commentary.

Here is how Clyde accounted for the evident scarcity of the 1/2-cent Postage Due stamp of 1959 in used condition and as mint plate number blocks, on pages 82 and 83 of his pamphlet:

"Covers with legitimately used copies of this half-cent stamp are practically unknown. This is due to a number of reasons. First, fractional rates had 'dwindled down to a precious few,' so demand for fractional-rate postage stamps and dues was soon to be no longer there. Second, the postal service had instructed offices not to order stock of this new issue half-cent until all other stock on hand had been exhausted. Third, without warning or fanfare, the half-cent was abruptly discontinued on April 10, 1963, and remaining stocks were ordered destroyed.

"This last action caught a lot of people literally with their pants down. Dealers had not stocked up and collectors had not covered their needs. As a consequence, a real shortage of plate number blocks (Figure 140) was created. In fact, by the Fall of 1990 nice examples were bringing from \$150 to \$175 each."

Once again, Clyde's account is mistaken because he didn't read far enough. The stocks of 1/2-cent postage due stamps that were withdrawn from sale in April 1963 were placed back on sale a few months later; they were not destroyed. This was widely announced in the philatelic press. (See *Western Stamp Collector*, June 29, 1963; *Stamps*, July 6, 1963; *The Bureau Specialist*, August 1963) One fractional single-piece rate was introduced on January 7, 1963, and continued for a year, the 9/2-cent special fourth class rate for up to one pound of books. If the purpose of the stamps was to cover shortpaid postage on individual pieces, that was as plausible a need as the phased-out third-class single-piece fractional rates.

Today's shortage of plate blocks stems from a different problem. Although they could have been purchased from the Philatelic Sales agency, as it was then known, from 1959 until April of 1963, and again after August 1963, these were the required purchases to obtain plate blocks: "1/2c to 20c inclusive, full sheets of each; 25c to 50c inclusive, strips of 20 stamps each; \$1 to \$5, 4 stamps of each." To obtain a 1/2-cent plate block from the Agency, it was necessary to purchase 100 stamps, with no permissible usage of the 96 that were scrap.

The usual stamp dealer solution to this problem was to cultivate relationships with friendly postal clerks, who would supply favored dealers with just the plate blocks and use up the scrap in the normal course of business. The Series 1959 Postage Due stamps complicated this aspect of the stamp trade, because of the problem that Clyde mentioned: postage dues in the new denominations were not shipped until supplies of those denominations from Series 1930 had been exhausted.

The new 1959 denominations that had no 1930 counterparts—4-cent, 6-cent, 7-cent, and 8-cent—were shipped to post offices immediately, but the rest were available only at New York City during the three days of Topex 1959, and after that from the Philatelic Sales Agency. By June 30, 1960, all Series 1930 denominations had been replaced by Series 1959 counterparts except for the 1/2-cent and 50-cent values. During the following fiscal year, ending June 30, 1961, those last two denominations were made available to post offices, but as Clyde noted, only after each station had exhausted its on-hand supply of the 1930 issue.

In practice, that didn't happen for the 1/2-cent due because it was so seldom needed, and during the entire life of the stamp only about two million were sold, which is a number usually required for philatelic sales alone. Fewer than half of those were shipped during the time they could have been ordered by postmasters. Thus stamp dealers never could obtain 1/2-cent postage due plate blocks from their usual suppliers.

During the interim, one plausible use for the stamp evaporated. Effective January 10, 1962, undeliverable third-class and fourth-class mail returned to the sender was charged "at the

applicable single piece rate or 8 cents per piece, whichever is higher," which eliminated all the fractional collections until the introduction of the 9 1/2-cent fourth-class rate a year later.

The theoretical period when those stamps could have been used *on cover* as Clyde seeks them extended from an unknown date after June 30, 1960, until January 10, 1962, on shortpaid third-class mail—realistically, approximately one year—and then, after a year of no plausible need, a new possible usage on shortpaid fourth-class beginning January 7, 1963, and continuing for another year.

Besides the disputes over philatelic knowledge and scholarship, Clyde also accused me of ingratitude. He said that publishing this pamphlet and distributing it free was his gift to philately in return for all the hobby has given him, and he expressed disappointment that so few people wrote to thank him. To me that sounded like the Ford Foundation underwriting a free giveaway brochure on the virtues of Ford automobiles and trucks as a token of gratitude to the multitudes who have purchased them, then expecting bounteous accolades to Ford for its generosity. That isn't the definition of philanthropy I was taught.

Also, since Clyde has no money of his own, he had to secure his son Jay's permission to pay the publishing cost out of his estate. I admit Clyde's confession of poverty left me speechless.

Upon my return to State College, I decided to research areas of *The Half* in which I'm not an expert, as I would do if I were a jury member preparing to judge *The Half*. That's really one of the reasons we devote ourselves to the production and improvement of philatelic literature in the first place, and to the huge expense of maintaining a research library.

The Canal Zone showing is weak, even if we accept Clyde's decision to limit the display to overprinted U.S. stamps, and to ignore the permanent Canal Zone 1/2-cent Bureau issue of 1948. One reading of the wonderful book *Canal Zone Stamps* by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz (Canal Zone Study Group, 1986) teaches that Clyde has ignored the rarest and most interesting overprinted 1/2-cent U.S. stamps.

Overprinted 1/2-cent Nathan Hale stamps were issued as provisional Official stamps with P perforated initials. Official perfins were in use until 1941—even on stamps that otherwise had been withdrawn from use in the Canal Zone (the ordinary overprinted 1/2-cent Hale was withdrawn in 1929)—when they were replaced by Official overprints on regular and airmail Canal Zone issues. For the overprinted 1/2-cent Hale P perfin Official stamps, the period of use lasted 16 years.

The P perfins were used exclusively on foreign mail, on which free penalty mail franks were valueless as postage, by the Canal Zone Executive Office, the Auditor, the Palo Seco Leper Colony, the Paymaster, and the Panama Canal Press. "The perforated P stamps exist unused, used, and on cover. In general, unused examples are scarcer than used, although for a few stamps, particularly the early ones, the reverse is true. Any perforated P on cover is extremely scarce."

I have found no records of covers bearing the P perfin overprinted 1/2-cent Hale stamp in collectors' hands, but the stamps are definitely available off cover. A 1971 census by the Canal Zone Study Group counted 14 unused (including one block) and four used examples. One sold recently in a Schiff auction.

This fascinating story began in 1915, when the Panama Railroad Commissary Department gained the franking privilege, and no longer needed its RPR (big P between small RRs) hand perforator for stamps on business mail. The Director of Posts purchased the device, and had his machine shop remove the RR pins, leaving only the P, to apply perfins to official stamps.

To maximize efficiency of the five-subject perforator, panes and strips of stamps were folded so that a single stroke would apply the P perfin to ten stamps, without regard to orientation. Because of this, P perfin Officials exist in eight orientations: "normal, inverted, sideways reading up, sideways reading down, and reversed in all these orientations. Tete-beche pairs exist."

These certainly ought to be showpieces for any exhibit of ½-cent stamps defined according to Clyde's criteria.

Of lesser importance, but still deserving of inclusion, should be two locally-overprinted precancels of the Canal Zone ½-cent Franklin stamp in the Presidential series, one handstamped, the other monotyped, both of Cristobal, the only city in the Canal Zone that used precancels.

Even material that Clyde does cover seems deficient in light of this book's information. Regarding the ½-cent Hale, Clyde wrote, "No certified first day of issue covers of this overprint have come to light to date." But according to *Canal Zone Stamps*, "The official first day of issue is April 15, 1925, but covers exist as early as April 13, 1925. It was used for circulars." The Canal Zone Study Group rates this FDC as uncommon but not difficult, and worth about \$75. Is Clyde being slick, or what?

The book also explains the origins of and shows how to differentiate the two printings of the overprinted ½-cent Hale, and how to plate the overprint variety spacings that Clyde mentions in a passing phrase. Full 400-subject sheets of the ½-cent Hale were overprinted, but overprints on ½-cent Franklin stamps were applied to finished stock by 100-subject forms, and thus do not exist in all positions of each plate number.

The five printings of the ½-cent Canal Zone Prexies can be differentiated by plate numbers and electric eye plate markings. Several broken relief varieties are recorded for these overprints, and one with a strong offset of the overprint on the back. Clyde wrote that "no major plate varieties are known to exist." Is *major* a tricky adjective here, just as *certified* evidently was for Clyde's statement on overprinted ½-cent Hale first-day covers?

To my knowledge, no one has offered these points in any critique of *The Half*. Yet they are so typical of comments that all juries offer, including especially those that Clyde himself has chaired, that the double standard of judging is inescapable. I freely concede that Clyde has assembled one of the most entertaining exhibits currently on the show circuit, and that aspect is reflected in his pamphlet—its chief feature, actually—as my review said. I have enjoyed the exhibit every time I've seen it, for that reason.

Clyde has always argued that entertainment alone cannot earn a high award, that the late Vernon Moore's exhibits weren't worth more than a bronze even though everyone loved them. Why then must Clyde be petulant when someone points out that the omission of key materials and deficient scholarship evident in his exhibit ought to be judged by the same standards?

In my opinion, the entire purpose of intellectual activity is to elevate human knowledge and experience through exchange—discussion and debate. Those who cannot brook criticism should not publish. Put another way, writers must have thick skins and must tolerate diverse points of view, particularly opinions contrary to their own.

Normally this journal is not the preferred venue for the kind of detailed content analysis presented in this letter. Our purpose in reviewing philatelic literature, as Charlie Peterson has stated repeatedly, is mainly to explore the aspects of authorship, editorship, and publishing that I highlighted in "What Happened to the Other Half, Clyde?" The nits I combed were broadly illustrative of problems, not a comprehensive listing.

(In one instance, I abbreviated my comment too much. The ½-cent plus 2½-cent precancel bulk rate cover that Clyde disparaged might legitimately have been mailed at any of three rates: 2¾ cents, 2¾ cents, or 2⅞ cents. No exact-denomination stamps were issued for any of them, but more of the older 2½-cent stamps and envelopes would have been circulating during the 2¾-cent rate than during the others.)

Now, however, Clyde has carried the whole debate in a new direction, which seems to insist on authority as a precondition for holding an opinion; thus, what appears above.

Clyde seeks to punish me for having dared to worship at a temple other than his by spending some \$1,100 of his son's

inheritance on an ad promoting my opponent in the election for APS Secretary. (The plural signature, "Friends of Patricia A. Siskin," was an editorial affectation.) He then wrote to a number of stamp hobby notables, including some of my supporters, begging money for the cause.

The message is clear: Dare to write the truth about one of the stamp hobby's rich and powerful icons, and you'll risk dire consequences. In fact, others I had asked to write the review declined the assignment for precisely that reason. An honest review of *The Half*, they said, would incur Clyde's wrath and reprisals. Plainly, they were right.

Members of Writers Unit 30 may wish to consider the implications of this as a threat to the integrity of philatelic writing. Others, I'm sure, will be equally vocal in cheering Clyde on, feeling that he's giving me what I deserve. Either way, I'm confident that Clyde will continue to improve *The Half*, as he should, and I'm confident these will not be the last words on the subject.

Roger Schnell's letter to Charlie Peterson, and other feedback I've received from nonmembers and recent recruits to WU30, indicate that this debate has spread considerably beyond our membership and to many hobbyists who aren't familiar with our traditions and our policy on publication, so it may be worthwhile to reiterate that we are pleased to publish opposing points of view.

The Philatelic Communicator is open and fair to all points of view: it is not censored by anyone. In fact, it is to Charlie Peterson's credit as WU30 President that he has shielded this publication from attempts at censorship, and has never asked to see any of our material in advance of publication. □

Reviews

World War II Censorship

By Alan Warren

Civil and Military Censorship During World War II: Postal History by H.F. Stich et al. 6 by 8½ inches (15 by 19 cms), 275 pages, illustrated, soft covers, glued, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, 1993, ISBN 0-9693788-2-3, \$25 postpaid from War Covers, Box 8809, Anaheim CA 92812.

At first glance it seems amazing that the authors have attempted to cover the censorship markings of all countries during the Second World War. This attempt works both for and against the content. By encompassing such a vast subject, it is obvious that one book cannot cover the entire field in detail.

However, as an introduction to censorship throughout World War II and as a handbook for the many censorship devices employed, this little book is an excellent guide and quick reference tool for an important subject. Even some new discoveries found their way into this book.

The authors begin with a brief description of detained mail that was later released. The bulk of the text is devoted to the civil and military censorship markings in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. As might be expected, two-thirds of the pages are devoted to Europe. Countries are listed alphabetically and each entry begins with historical background showing key dates of military or government actions affecting the mails.

How each country handled censorship is described briefly, followed by descriptions of the major censorship markings and resealing tapes. There is no index so the reader must rely on the table of contents, which fortunately is a fairly detailed one. A potential problem is that for several countries the reader needs to look at more than one part of the text. For example, a discussion of censorship in Denmark is found not only under that country, but also under a subsection on Denmark in the entry for Germany.

The section on Africa describes only censorship in Egypt. Descriptions for Kenya, Nigeria, Tanganyika, etc., will not be found there but rather under "Great Britain: Colonies and Self-Governing Colonies." ▶▶

This book includes descriptions not only of military but also civilian censorship. In addition POW and internee mail markings are addressed. Over one thousand illustrations help to identify the various markings and the quality of the illustrations is quite good.

The rich literature available in this field is revealed in the extensive 13-page list of references. The book concludes with a short glossary of terms and abbreviations. The appearance of the text is easy on the eyes despite the wealth of information contained in these pages. The book is highly recommended to students of World War II postal history. □

Undercover Covers Covered Again

By Alan Warren

Undercover Addresses of World War II by Charles R. Entwistle. Revised edition. 5¼ by 8¼ inches, 44 pages, saddle-stitched, soft covers, ISBN 1-872744-04-4. 1992. Chavril Press, Perth; Scotland; \$17.50 from Philatelic Bibliopole, Box 36006, Louisville KY 40233.

The 1990 edition of this booklet was previously examined twice in *The Philatelic Communicator* (Second Quarter 1991 page 40, and First Quarter 1993 page 15). A revised edition is now at hand with an additional twenty pages of text. The author begins with acknowledgments to those who helped him compile the two editions. The number of known undercover addresses used during World War II for forwarding mail has now doubled, although Entwistle recognizes that additional information is still needed to complete this story.

The text is expanded to mention such addresses used in the Spanish Civil War, and also touches on the address in Dundee used by Jennie Wallace Jordan, who then remailed many letters to intelligence agents in Germany in 1937-38. In this new edition the author differentiates between "internal" and "external" addresses. The first category was used to conceal the location and identity of specific establishments, and was used by the Americans, British, and Germans. For example, the "Manhattan Project" had post office box addresses in Washington, D.C., and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"External" covers went between the Allies and occupied Europe. In his discussion of "external" covers, Entwistle uses subcategories such as those for general correspondence, ones used by a service or specialized group, those used by governments and for the armed forces, and clandestine mail. Some of the organizations were devoted to assisting Jews or coordinating food parcel services. An example of a government undercover address was that used by the British Repatriation Office in Lisbon.

The final category of clandestine mail includes not only the Jennie Jordan example above, but also the only address thus far associated with Japanese intelligence. The latter was a drop address in Buenos Aires for an agent who furnished naval intelligence about the U.S. after Pearl Harbor. The author also has expanded his discussion on valuation of covers in this edition.

The number of pages in the new edition devoted to listing the actual undercover addresses is twice that of the previous version, and the comments column has been greatly expanded with additional details on the purpose of each address. The layout of the printed text is easier to read in this new edition, but there are no illustrations of actual covers in either edition.

Still, collectors can use this handy booklet to track down these undercover addresses while browsing through dealer boxes. And the author invites further contributions on this subject be sent to him at Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW, Scotland. □

Holy Land Philately

By James Bendon

Handbook of Holy Land Philately - The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918 - Volume II by Anton Steichele. English

revised edition by Norman J. Collins and Leopold Dickstein, 1991. (4)+v+299 pages, 6 by 9 inches, hard cover, one loose page of Addenda and Corrigenda. Published by World Philatelic Congress of Israel, Holyland & Judaica Societies, Chicago. Available from WPC, c/o Charles Tuteur, 1438 West Pratt Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60626. \$50 plus postage and handling (\$3 domestic; \$5 foreign).

Volume I of this work was reviewed by Ken Lawrence in *The Philatelic Communicator*, Fourth Quarter 1990. This review brought forth an enraged response from Norman Collins who wrote "I hope that if a review copy of volume 2 is sent to you [yes, it has been] that you will pick a more competent reviewer for that."

As I doubt that I am more competent than Ken, I will not attempt to deal with the content of the work in question. Surely most readers of this journal are subscribers to *Philatelic Literature Review* and will have read Charles Peterson's comprehensive but critical review of both volumes in the Third Quarter 1992 (Second Series, Volume 41, Number 3, Whole Number 156) issue.

However, since many members of the APS Writers Unit may be more interested in bibliographic and technical matters than in Holy Land postal history some comments—from a publisher—may be in place.

Peterson in his review mentioned the "grievous omission" of an index. Also missing, but of comparatively minor importance, are a half-title (surely normal in a hardbound book) and an ISBN.

Page numbering is eccentric. The first four pages comprise the title page and verso, and a two-page Table of Contents. These are unnumbered and are followed by five pages of other front matter—Dedication, Preface, and Acknowledgements—with roman page numbers. No, the reverse of page v is not blank but is numbered 197 and starts the first chapter of the volume (Volume I ended on page 195 with a blank reverse). Odd page numbers on left-hand pages and even numbers on the right continue through to page 495, perhaps in deference to the subject matter as this is normal in Hebrew (and Arabic) texts! Pages 394 and 490 are blank except for the page number. As a result, all (unnumbered) chapters, except for one, together with the Appendices and the Bibliography start on a left-hand page.

The almost total lack of running heads is an irritant. Only the Appendix pages have these, but they omit the title. The six chapter titles are set in four different styles: upper and lower case, and three point sizes of caps. Sub-headings show similar inconsistency.

The typesetter appears unaware of the existence and purpose of en and em dashes; as do many, he uses hyphens throughout. And one cannot help wondering whether he has ever seen a professionally set bibliography.

Rather than going on and on in this vein I would like to refer readers (and writers) to *Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources* by James Negus which I had the pleasure and privilege of publishing.

The quality of the illustrations is disappointing. Few of the covers have been screened and reproduced as half-tones, and the bulk of the line-work would have benefited from retouching.

In *Türkei-Spiegel*, the quarterly journal of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, Issue 1/1993, Whole Number 23, it is announced that Collins is planning a translated and expanded edition of Steichele's *Die Osmanische Post in Palästina*. May those responsible for editing and producing this pay heed to the matters raised here. □

Catalog of Israeli Postmarks

By Charles J. Peterson

Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post Part 1 [sic] 1948-1990, by I. Nachtigal and B. Fixler. 112 pages, soft cover, 6½ by 9½ inches, some illustrations. In Hebrew and English. 1990. \$13.50 from Israel Philatelic Service, 12, Sderot Yerushalaim, 68 021 Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel.

Special Cancellations of Israeli Post Part 2 [sic] 1948-1992, by I. Nachtigal and B. Fixler. 184 pages, soft cover, 6½ by 9½ inches, thoroughly illustrated. In Hebrew and English. 1992. \$18.00 from Israel Philatelic Service, 12, Sderot Yerushalaim, 68 021 Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel.

These two volumes offer an interesting example of how to produce a good book . . . and how not to.

In Part 1, the authors provide a well thought out, clean, easily readable tabular listing of all regular Israeli postmarks from the first circular date stamps of the new state (May 16, 1948) to the current postmarks of late 1989. Arrangement is by name of principal locality, in Hebrew alphabetical order, and the charts are arranged and pages numbered from back to front in accordance with Hebrew convention. However, it's a fully bilingual book, and English-only users should have minimal difficulty.

Each locality is assigned a consecutive number, and secondary numbers are assigned to each marking for a given locality, in chronological order; this numbering sequence forms the first column of the charts. Next come the locality name in Hebrew; any postmark device serial numbers used; Western name/transliteration as found on the postmark; code for type of marking (early cds; triangular; later cds of 32 millimeter diameter or less; large cds; machine cancels; experimentals; post paid marks; etc.); number of postal notice announcing issuance of the postmark device; date first used; public notice number announcing withdrawal; last date of use. There's also a seven-page, two-column listing of remarks that address varieties of given postmarks.

The introduction gives a short explanation of the table, and lays out the parameters used in compiling the list. This is followed by a chapter illustrating, defining, and discussing dates of use of the different postmark types. Finally, there's a comprehensive alphabetical index of locality names as shown on the markings, keyed to the sequential numbering system.

Part 2 covers commemorative and other special cancels (but not slogan cancels, which will be treated in Part 3), including philatelic first day cancels, special event cancels (exhibitions, congresses, anniversaries, international events, etc.), cancels for balloon flights and ship launchings, Christmas postmarks, tourist point offices (Allenby Bridge, etc.), mobile post office special cancels, special cancellations of Israeli steamships and motor vessels, and Israeli cancels for foreign cruise ship visits to Ashdod and Haifa. In this volume, all cancels are illustrated, numbering/arrangement is strictly chronological, and for the most part information is limited to date of use, explanation of the related event, and place(s) of use. (Tourist point cancels and steamship/motor vessel markings were also covered in Part 1, and that serial number is used for them here as well. Information on foreign cruise ships is in chart form, with name of ship, country of origin, dates in port, and number of postal notice.)

In short, both volumes are detailed, authoritative and unique publications, and are most decidedly recommended for those interested in Israeli postmarks. So then what's wrong?

Undoubtedly the authors tried to be highly sensitive to users' needs, and to make their work accessible to a wide potential audience. I expect they showed their work at various stages to fellow collectors who expressed enthusiasm and perhaps offered technical comments. What seems to be lacking is what the computer software industry refers to as "beta testing."

"Peer review" involves critique by fellow scholars who

examine a work primarily for technical and methodological validity. Beta testing seeks review of a product under development from users with a wide range of possible applications, who can thereby identify inconsistencies and shortcomings in areas the developers may not have considered.

Part 2, for example, has no index to localities, and no cross-reference by theme or subject matter. It's definitely not user-friendly to thematic collectors, or to postal historians who may be interested in markings from specific towns.

Part 1 listings are arranged according to the Hebrew alphabet, and for certain cancels identification of Hebrew characters is essential. The authors recognize that users may not be familiar with Hebrew, and in addition to the bi-lingual presentation they have provided selected language-specific comments and identifications within the narrative. A simple alphabet table would seem a useful aid—but none is present.

There are some gaps and points of confusion in the narrative material, in part because the authors' approach appears to vary somewhat from widespread philatelic practice. Additionally, the authors seem to have a rather limited, simplistic view of philately/postal history. Some of the generalities expressed in the introduction are surprisingly naïve.

The English language text is welcome, and for the most part understandable. It obviously wasn't written or reviewed by a native fluent English speaker.

There's no date or place of publication, no identification of publisher or printer. The volume designation is incorrect: there's obviously a missing series title ("Postmarks of the State of Israel"?), of which these books make up Parts 1 and 2.

Technical content of these books is excellent; peer review, if practiced, was certainly effective. Usability beyond the confines of those who collect/study the entire range of markings with no sub-specialization is unnecessarily limited, due to lack of some form of beta testing. Just as it's almost impossible for authors to be their own proofreaders, so too is it difficult for them to provide for requirements that are outside their normal frame of reference. □

Sweden's Stamps and Postal History

By Alan Warren

FACIT Postal 1993, edited by Gunnar Joos, 6¾ by 9½ inches (17 by 24 cms), 384 pages, softbound, illustrated, FACIT Förlags AB, Stockholm, 1992. Available from Subway Stamp Shop, 111 Nassau Street, New York NY 10038, \$45.76 postpaid.

Sveriges Frimärken i Färg 1993, Rolf Burström, 6 by 8 inches (15 by 21 cms), 336 pages, softbound, illustrations in color, AB Philatelia, 93492 Kåge, Sweden 1992. Available from the publisher \$35 airmail, \$30 surface.

The Facit postal history catalog is published every two years. This year there are quite a number of changes. The most obvious one is the change in size to the larger format of its sister publication, the Facit special catalog of Scandinavia. The prestamp period of postal documentation at the beginning of the catalog is consolidated with examples of the variety of markings found in this period.

The table of postal rates from 1855 to present and the valuations of covers franked with Swedish stamps follow, similar to previous editions. One new feature of this edition is the listing of covers from the period 1855 to 1891 which sold at auction during the preceding two years, along with the prices realized.

Following the listing of labels or "etiquettes" are the detailed lists of the straight-line, arc, rectangular, and circle cancels of the prestamp and early stamp period. As in previous editions, the bulk of the catalog is devoted to the listings of place name or town cancels found on the various definitive issues of Sweden. ▶▶

The tables of railway cancels now include the PKXP types. The text is in Swedish and English, so that the Sweden specialist should have no problem in finding what he or she needs to know about the basic elements of that country's postal history.

AB Philatelia's lovely color catalog of Swedish stamps is actually a priced catalog as the firm also deals in stamps. The publisher seeks to broaden his intended audience by starting off with a five-page listing of abbreviations and terms in Swedish, and showing the equivalents in English, German, French, and Finnish.

The major attraction of this catalog is the use of color throughout for all stamp issues. Black-and-white illustrations are used for watermarks. Listings for the classic issues include prices for superb examples. Another nice feature is an indication of rarity for strips, blocks, and other varieties of these early issues.

Officials, postage due, military issues, booklets, maximum cards, postal stationery, and first day covers are all listed and priced. Then follows some commercial pricelists of foreign country packet material, topical packets, and kiloware.

However, an added attraction is the inclusion in this catalog of the stamps of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania just since they began reissuing stamps in 1990-91. The catalog's table of contents appears near the end followed by some order forms. The typeface is easy to read and the colors are brilliant if not exactly those of the original stamps. The book is an attractive alternative to the usual Scandinavian catalogs. □

A Famous Cachetmaker

By Alan Warren

Walter G. Crosby: *Philatelic Cachet Specialist*, William H. Stroebel, 154 plus v pages, 400+ illustrations, 8½ by 11 inches, softbound, Burgess Printing Co., Mesa, Arizona, 1992. \$23 postpaid from the author, 1294 Leisure World, Mesa, Arizona, 85206.

While First Day Cover collectors have long sought out the cachets of Walter Garfield Crosby, the prolific cachetmaker also prepared covers for many other occasions, including Tin Can

Mail, atom bomb tests, first flights, patriotic, and a variety of naval events. Many of these subjects are covered with individual chapters in Stroebel's book.

After retiring from his career in the Navy, Crosby opened a collectibles shop and worked as a "servicer" for those who wanted special naval cancellations and event covers. For many years he lived conveniently at San Pedro, California, which served as headquarters of the Pacific Fleet.

Crosby cachets are distinct, frequently containing a paste-on photo that has become a sort of trademark. His cachets are raised from the surface of the cover due to a thermal process that Crosby used in preparing and fixing his cachets. He created a large number of varieties by altering the design for a given First Day or event, and using different colors, thus creating a challenge for Crosby cachet collectors.

The printed text of this book is clear and easy to read. Some minor irritations are a few typos and the author's tendency once in a while to write an incomplete sentence (e.g., verb missing). The illustrations are also clear for the most part, with two to ten covers depicted on a page. The cover illustrations usually appear in blue rather than black ink, and are labeled with letters rather than numbers. This device is explained at the end of the book in the author's valuation guide where dollar levels are associated with each letter up to "J" covers, which are worth \$100 or more.

Other illustrations adding to the interest of this volume are photos of Crosby himself, and some of the ads he placed in various philatelic journals. The numerous cover illustrations make for a valued reference in identifying Crosby cachets. The author placed his bibliography near the front of the book, and a brief cachet subject index appears at the end with reference to page number and illustration.

The book concludes with a separate value listing of Crosby's first-day covers by Scott number. Stroebel was attracted to Crosby cachets when he began collecting 3-cent Pony Express FDCs, and found that many of the cachets for that issue were made by Crosby. This led to his researching the man behind the cachets. During the course of his searches the author met other Crosby collectors, many of whom helped him piece together this wonderful portrait of the famous cachetmaker. □

Literature Awards

Royal 93 Royale at Orapex, Ottawa, Canada's Second National Literature Competition. April 30-May 2, 1993.

Grand Prize: *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations, 1840-1875*, R.P.S., London.

Special Awards: *Stamping Around*, P. Smith. *The Small Queens of Canada*, J. Bendon Ltd. *Ireland's Transition*, M. Whyte Ltd. *British Caribbean Phil. Journal*, M. Forand.

Gold
A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, E. Garrett.
Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources, J. Bendon Ltd.
The Leeward Islands, same.
The Small Queens of Canada, same.
Ireland's Transition, M. Whyte Ltd.
British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations, 1840-1875, Royal Philatelic Soc., London.

Vermeil
58th American Philatelic Congress (1992), M. Forand. (With felicitations)

The Posts of Sevenoaks in Kent on the Road to Rye and Hastings, AD 1095-1985, A. Donald.

Sarawak: The 1871 and 1875 issues - Plating Studies and Postal History, W. Watterson.
Venezia - Storia della posta/Venize - Historie de la poste (5 volumes), F. Rigo.

Les ballons montes, boules de moulins, pigeogrammes, papillons de Metz (2 volumes), G. L'Héritier.

The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine, 1840-1918, World Phil. Congress of Israel.

The Red Cross Civilian Postal Message Scheme with the Channel Islands during the Occupation, 1940-45, D. Gurney.

Commercial Perfins of Australia, J. Grant, J. Mathews.

The Postal History of the British Colonies: Hong-Kong (Volume 1), E. Proud.

The Rarest Mixed Frankings of Hungary, G. Ryan.

Opinions VI, Philatelic Foundation.

Philatélie à la Française, same.

U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations, same.

Postal History of Aegean Islands - Italian Military Post Offices (1897-1943) and Translation, M. Petradakis.

The Micarelli Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps (Regular Issues 1847-1934), Scott Publishing Co.

The Postal History of the British Post Offices Abroad: The British Post Offices in the Far East, E. Proud.

Colour Illustrated Stamp Catalogue of China (1878-1949), Philatelic Pubns. Ltd.

Great Britain Specialized Vol. 1, Queen Victoria, Stanley Gibbons, Pubns. Ltd.

Stanley Gibbons, Part 1, British Commonwealth, Vol. 1, same.

Stanley Gibbons, Part 1, British Commonwealth, Vol. 2, same.

A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks - 18th Century to the Present (Parts I-II), T. Clark.

India Post (1992), India Study Circle.

Postal History (1992), G. Henderson.

Journal of the ROSSICA Society of Russian Philately (1992), G. Combs.

Postal History Journal (1992), H. Stone.

British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, M. Forand.

Silver

Le Collier de Feu, G. L'Héritier. (With felicitations)

Colorado Post Offices: 1859-1989, W. Bauer.

German Submarine Mail of World War I, B. Hennig.

A History of Government Life Postage Stamps, J. Brodie.

New Zealand: A Philatelic Miscellany, A. Berry.

Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, Chr. H. Knudsen. Produksjon, Bind III, Federation of Norwegian Philatelists.

Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, Centraltrykkeriets Produksjon, Bind VII, same.

British Post Office Notices, 1666-1899, Vol. V 1850-1859, M. Raguin.

A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology, K. Ellison.

Vanuatu's Postal History - The First Decade, P. Smith.

Irish Post Offices / Irische Postämter, H. Frank.

Singapore Post Offices and Registration Labels, I. Raybould.

Confederate Patriotic Covers and Their Usages, B. Wishnietsky.

British Postal Rates to Europe, 1836-1876, G. Henderson.

The Bermuda Packet Mails and the Halifax-Bermuda Mail Service, 1806 to 1886, same.

British Postal Rates, 1635-1839, same.

Waterlow Procedures - K. G. VI "Arms to Festival High Values" - Design to Press, Bater.

- Airmail Stamps: Fakes and Forgeries*, A. Newall.
- Canada Special Delivery*, Unitrade Press.
- The Postal History of Kenya*, E. Proud.
- The Postal History of the Occupation of Malaya and British Borneo (1941-1945)*, same.
- On Track - The Railway Mail Service in Canada* / *A fond de train - Le service postal ferroviaire au Canada*, F. Brousseau.
- The History of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists*, J. Bendon Ltd.
- Indian Postal History*, S. Kein.
- The Ring Stamp and Postal Stationery Centennial, May 1, 1991*, Finland's Postal Stationery Society.
- Guía para la reconstrucción de las Planchas de la Emisión Estruch y Emisión Cóndor de Bolivia, Tomos II, M. Escalier.*
- The Place of Stones - Mafeking / Mafikeng: The Siege, Stamps, and Banknotes*, J. Campbell.
- Prisoners of War and Internees in the Pacific Theatre of World War II: Postal History*, H. Stich.
- Nome Gold*, K. Kutz.
- The Queen Elizabeth II Waterlow 'Castle' High Values, 1955-1958*, The Lord Spens.
- Marques postales et oblitérations d'Aix-en-Provence*, M. Monicard.
- Stamp Forgeries of Victoria*, M. Pope.
- Stamp Forgeries of Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania*, same.
- The Dublin Penny Post*, M. Dittmann.
- Postal Route Gazetteer, New York State, 1839*, Printer's Stone Ltd.
- La Compagnie de chemin de fer Québec Central: Études des marques postales utilisées à bord des wagons postaux (1879-1971)*, J.-P. Forest.
- The Emmet F. Pearson Collection of Disinfected Mail*, M. McElligott.
- The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898*, W. Bradley.
- Definitives of Canada: The Last Quarter-Century*, J. Monteiro.
- Les Cahiers de l'Académie - OPUS X, Académie québécoise d'études philatéliques.*
- Etiquettes: Par Avion - By Air Mail*, F. Jones.
- The Mediterranean Mails*, Phil. Specialists Soc. of Canada.
- Weebau - World Space Catalogue, 2nd edition*, A. DeLisle.
- AFA Specialized Catalog, 1987-88*, S. Mejdal.
- Nicaragua to 1940 - A Philatelic Handbook*, C. Maxwell.
- Central Lithuania: Specialized Stamp Catalogue*, A. Pacholczyk.
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- Strike, Courier and Local Post of the Elizabethan Era, 2nd Ed.*, E. Covert.
- Gene Kelly's Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of the Kantone and Gemeinden of Switzerland (5 vols.)*, G. Kelly.
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- Sydney Views* (1992), Australian States Study Circle.
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- Philatélie Québec* (1992), F. Brisse.
- A Doubly Extraordinary Polar Expedition*, H. Vogel.
- Columns and News in "Canadian Stamp News"*, I. Robertson.
- Stamping Around*, P. Smith.
- PhilITex 92*, H. Stone.
- Icelandic Philately and Postal History: A Bibliography*, R. Gísladóttir.
- Cumulative Index to Japanese Philately, 1946-1990*, K. Kamholz.
- Silver-Bronze**
- Cahier d'animation - Handbook - CANADA 92, Canada 92*. (With felicitations.)
- Handbook of Basketball Philately*, G. Killian.
- Dinosaur Stamps of the World*, S. Baldwin.
- Handbook of Disney Philately, Wonderful World of Stamps.*
- The Half-A Collection*, C. Jennings.
- The Post Office on Prince Edward Island (1787-1990)*, D. Murray.
- Senator James A. Calder's Complete Plating of the Canada 17c Jacques Cartier from the 1859 Cents Issue*, C. Verge.
- Strubels - The So-Called Emergency Printings on Thin Paper*, H. Brach.
- NYRBA's Triple Crash and Outlaw Covers and Postal Markings*, J. Grigore Jr.
- The Zeppelin Stamps*, M. Rogers Inc.
- Postal History of the International Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1989-1990*, H. Vogel.
- The Domestic Packets between Great Britain and Ireland, 1635-1850*, G. Henderson.
- A Handbook on Thematic Philately*, V. Gupta.
- The Field Post of the Czechoslovak & Allied Forces in Russia, 1918-1920*, W. Page.
- The Ships of Tristan da Cunha, 1506-1991*, R. Smith.
- The Dublin Spoon: 1855-1857*, C. Dulin.
- Quelle belle invention que la poste*, P. Charbon.
- Philatelic Terms Illustrated*, S. Gibbons Ltd.
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- Prisoners of War, Internees, and Refugees in the European Theatre of World War II: Postal History*, H. Stich.
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- N.S.W. and A.C.T. Post Receiving, Telegraph, and Telephone Offices*, N. Hopson, R. Tobin.
- Stamp Forgeries of New South Wales*, M. Pope.
- Stamps Which Honor and Help the Blind*, K. Stuckey.
- Collecting Stamps for Pleasure and Profit*, B. Krause.
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- South Atlantic Chronicle* (Vol. XVI, 1992), M. Mueller.
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- The Canadian Connection* (Vol. 6, 1992), J. Peebles.
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- Menelik's Journal* (1992), H. Gagnon.
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- Corgi Times* (Vol. 1, 1992), J. Am.
- Small Queen Study Circle of BNAPS* (Vol. 17, 1992) W. Burden.
- The Computelists* (1992-93), R. de Violini.
- Squier's Despatch and Jordan's Penny Post*, G. Stimmell.
- Aids and Appliances for the Blind*, K. Stuckey.
- Austro-Hungarian Gunboat Mail on the Vistula 1914-18*, M. Kamiensky.
- The Birth of the Gay and Lesbian Philatelic Society*, P. Hennefeld.
- Fortress Covers into the Occupied Channel Islands 1944-45*, I. Griggs.
- La croisière d'Italo Balbo d'Orbetello à Chicago*, J. Charron.
- Stamp Corner*, P. McCarthy.
- Stamps Make the News*, I. Robertson.
- Fraser Valley Phil. Club Newsletter*, N. Holden.
- The Texas Philatelist*, *idem*.
- Trident Visnyk* (1992), B. Pauk.
- Programme officiel - CANADA 92, idem*.
- Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter Index Nos 1-100*, E. Toop.
- An Index to Revenue Articles which have appeared in Serial Publications*, R. Riley.
- History of the Calgary Philatelic Society*, D. Speirs.
- L'Almanach de la philatélie canadienne*, D. Masse.
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- Stamps, Coins, Postcards & Related Materials: A Directory of Periodicals*, D. Robinson.
- Bronze**
- Postal Services of UNFICYP*, J. Ertugrul.
- Mostly Dots*, H. Marrior.
- The Influence of the United States Navy upon the Panama Railroad*, J. Grigore Jr.
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- Number One Stamps of the Old German States*, H. Reiche.
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- Die Vorauswertungen von Luxemburg*, E. Poweleit.
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- El Faro* (Vol. 17), J. Brasor.
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- Basketball Philatelic News* (Vol. 5, No. 3 - Vol. 6, No. 2), G. Killian.

The News of Hungarian Philately (Vol. 23, 1992), C. Kohalmi.
Vatican Notes (Vol. 40), W. Wickert.
Lambda Philatelic Journal (Vol. 11, 1992), J. Petronie.
Mask Lore (Vol. 3, 1992), C. Weber.
Nova Scotia Postal History Study Group, H. Rathbun.
Old German States Notes (Vol. 1), Old German Enterprises.
New Mexico on Stamps, J. Kircher.
Calgary STAMPede, D. Speirs.
The Anchorage Philatelist, E. Knapp.
The New Mexico Philatelist, J. Kircher.
Philatelic Show 92, P. Pierce.
Lakeshore 92, F. Brisse.
Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 92 Program, A. Warren.

Eight other entries were entered hors-concours. □

Springpex '93 (March 6-7, 1993)
 [A = Author; E = Editor]
Paragon Literature Grand Award: Congress Book 1992, Michel Forand, E.

Best In Class Handbooks and Special Studies: Congress Book 1992, Michel Forand, E.
Periodicals: British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Michel Forand, E.
Columns and Articles: Anatomy of an Austrian Postal Card, S. Rizza, A.
Gold—Congress Book 1992, M. Forand, E.
Vermeil—British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, M. Forand, E.
Silver—Advanced Stamp Collecting, B. Krause, A.
Gene Kelly's Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Switzerland, Vol. 5, G. Kelly, A.
O.C.R. Coding in New Zealand, D. Smith-am, A.
The Place of Stones/Mafeking-Mafikeng, second edition, J. Campbell, A.
The Canadian Connection, J. Peebles, E.
Forerunners, W. Brooks VI, E.
Silver-Bronze—Gene Kelly's Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Switzerland, Vol. 3, G. Kelly, A.
idem, Vol 4, G. Kelly, A.
The Astrophile, R. Burton, E.
Philigraphy Canada, P. Burega, E.
Trident-Visnyk Newsletter, B. Pauk, E.

Stamps, Coins, Postcards and Related Materials, D. Robinson, E.
Bronze—Anatomy of an Austrian Postal Card, S. Rizza, A.
Postal History-1943 (revisited), S. Rizza, A.
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, J. Zonay, A. □

1992 Cabeen Award

The Cabeen Award for the best philatelic work published during 1992 went to *Sanitary Fairs* by Marjorie and Alvin Kantor. According to a news release from the Collectors Club of Chicago, the decision of the seven-member jury was unanimous.

(No review of *Sanitary Fairs* has appeared in *The Philatelic Communicator* because the publisher declined to send us a review copy.) □

Pick of the Litter-ature Award XII

By Ken Lawrence

For philately to rise from the status of a mere hobby to the cultural and intellectual level it deserves, the first requirement is scholarship that places stamps and covers in the humanities mainstream, as an integral part of art and history studies.

During my time as a consumer and producer of stamp literature, one book has appeared that is a model of serious, disciplined, integrated philatelic/postal/historical/political/legal/industrial/economic/architectural writing—*Chicago's Crabgrass Communities* by Harvey M. Karlen.

That the book is written well, even lyrically at spots, is a bonus that underscores the author's love of all the subjects he embraces in their unified and universal context. If we could produce a dozen books like this in a brief period, we'd have an endowed chair of philately at a major university in no time.

The hardcover, beautifully printed, magnificently illustrated book costs \$34.95 postpaid from the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610. □

►► USS&PH from page 29.

- We have numerous other promotional plans in the works to gain new subscribers and advertisers, but trying to be the savvy business people we want to be, we don't feel at liberty to reveal them in advance.

- The most difficult task of any publisher is to provide the reader with what he or she wants from a magazine. Right from day one, we've queried our subscribers—every one of them—concerning what they like and don't like about the publication. And I don't think I'm being immodest by commenting that they have responded by saying they like about 90 percent of the material we put into each issue. But that isn't stopping us from seeking new things to cover and new ways to cover it. John and I have a constant "idea factory" running in which we, week-by-week, brainstorm new ideas. The goal is to keep *USS&PH* lively, upbeat, pictorially superior, and uniquely informative.

We haven't shied away from being somewhat controversial. One of our writers, Karol Weyna, has just concluded a three-part series that gave a behind-the-scenes, candid look at the auction business and how a collector might successfully utilize it and avoid the pitfalls.

Is there enough material to fill our pages continually? Various people speculated that this might not be possible. Well, our established stable of fine writers—together with a growing

legion of new writers—has given us quite a backlog of publishable material. As each issue gets ready for the press, we are in the position of being able to pick and choose what an issue will contain. We also have actively sought articles on specific subjects that we wish to feature in the magazine.

So . . . *USS&PH* is off the launch pad and well into orbit. We are intensely grateful to the thousands of collectors and dealers who have lent their firm support to us in the early months. Our continuing goal will be to serve them and to keep them.

We are, by the way, always looking for new writers. If you'd like to submit a piece to us for publication, drop a line to John M. Hotchner, P.O. Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041. We'd be proud to have you in our pages! □

The Editor enters the 20th Century

By Joe F. Frye

Ken told me, as he gave me the proof corrections for this issue, that he has entered the computer age, having acquired:

An "IBM Clone" 486-SX/25 with 4MB RAM; 120MB Hard Drive and both sizes floppy disks; 14-inch SVGA color monitor; two serial and one parallel ports; *DOS 5.0*; *Windows 3.1*; a mouse; *Microsoft Works for Windows*; *Smart Suite* bundle of software including *Lotus 1-2-3* and *Ami-Pro 3.0*; and several graphics and fontware programs.

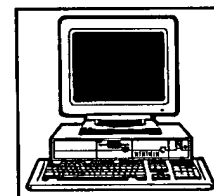
Going entire porker (whole hog), he also acquired a 386 Notebook portable computer with *Microsoft Works*, *DOS 5.0*, and a 20MB hard drive.

He also purchased an Epson *LQ-800* 24-pin dot-matrix printer, and is already thinking about what kind of laser he will add to the hardware stack.

If he sounds strange, is slower than usual replying to correspondence and/or telephone calls, and looks sleepy all the time for a few months you will have some idea of why.

Pretty snazzy move for a non-owner of either a TV set or VCR, don't you think?

Yes, his *AmiPro 3.0* program will work with my *WordPerfect 5.1 DOS*, according to his owner's manual. □



► S.T. from page 48.

1681 Mrs. Franceska Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, HA5 4AL Great Britain. Editor: *Torch Bearer* (Society of Olympic Collectors); Author: *Guidelines for Successful Exhibiting* and *Guidelines for Thematic Judges at Local & Federation Level*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1682 Danilo A. Mueses, CE-239, P.O. Box 025273, Miami, FL 33102-5273. Editor: *El Filotelico* (Sociedad Filatelica Dominicana); Author: *Manual de Filatelia Seebeck: Heroe o Villano?*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1683 Kevin O'Reilly, P.O. Box 444, Yellow Knife, N.W.T., Canada X1A 2N3. Author: *Northwest Territories Postal Cancellations 1907-1986* (Unitrade Press, Toronto). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1684 Garvin Frederick Lohman, 1541 Sacramento Street, #3, San Francisco, CA 94109. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1685 Ronald E. Maifeld, P.O. Box 438, Amelia, OH 45102. Columnist: *Clermont Collector*; Free-lance writer: *The Plate Number*. Sponsor: Janet Klug.

1686 Frank George Jones, 56 Fernleigh Road, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3AH, Great Britain. Author: *Etiquettes: Par Avion - By Air Mail* (Frank C. Jones Associates, 1992). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1687 Steven M. Roth, 1233 20th Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036-2396. Author: *La Posta Monograph #6* (Civil Censorship of International Mail in WWII); Assistant Editor: *The Chronicle* (USPCS). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1688 John F. Lyding, P.O. Box 3342, Crofton, MD 21114. Editor: *The Perfins Bulletin* (The Perfins Club). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

Closed Albums

0087 Joseph L. Eisendrath, Highland Park, IL.
0203 Creighton C. Hart, Shawnee Mission, KS.
0974 Philip Halward, Rickmansworth, England.

Resignations

1069 Richard M. Searing, Yorba Linda, CA.
1541 Ernest A. Austin, Cherry Hill, NJ.
1626 Mirko J. Vondre, Lancaster, PA.
1628 Jeffrey C. Brasor, Parkland, FL.

Dropped for Non-payment of Dues

0552 Arthur J. Warmesley, Portland, CT.
0698 Harold D. Peterson, Portland, OR.
1013 Mark A. Kellner, Woodland Hills, CA.
1429 Douglas H. Henkle, Oshkosh, WI.
1443 Frederick C. Skvara, M.D., Bridgewater, NJ.
1487 Tom Clarke, Davie, FL.
1495 Al Starkweather, Cortland, NY.
1497 Jeanette K. Adams, Indianapolis, IN.
1546 Paul Brenner, Maplewood, NJ.
1583 Christer Brunstrom, Halmstad, Sweden.
1602 David M. Schiller Jr., Albany, OR.

WU30 now has a total of 351 members plus seven complimentary subscriptions for *The Philatelic Communicator* going to the national stamp weeklies and the Library of Congress.

Contributions received

We thank this member for an additional contribution when paying his 1993 membership dues.

1371 Charles Teed, Grand Junction, CO.

Correction

1660 Gary Dunaier, Flushing, NY, is also a columnist for *First Days* (American First Day Cover Society).

USPS Survey Results

Last year, every WU30 member received a USPS survey form. Azeezaly S. Jaffer, newly appointed manager of the USPS Market & Product Publicity, reports that 154 surveys were returned, described as "an outstanding response, since it means that about half of your members took the time to share their comments with us. In general, the respondents seemed to be satisfied with the amount of technical information supplied in news releases. As will always be the case, some felt we did not provide enough technical or background news, and a few thought we provided too much."

Jaffer continued, "The area we received negative comments on was timeliness. Since doing the survey, we have worked very hard to get news releases in the mail at least two to three weeks prior to a new stamp's issuance. At times, such as with the World War II release, factors beyond our control made this impossible, but we have been making the mark most of the time this year."

Jaffer concluded by recommending the following staff members who can answer media inquiries from WU30 members:

Monica Hand . (202) 268-2783
Robin Minard . (202) 268-6353
Valoree Vargo (202) 268-6524

British Philatelic Quill

Newly appointed editor of the *Philatelic Quill*, quarterly journal of British Philatelic Writers Society (PWS), has entered into an exchange with WU30, and the January and April 1993 issues of the *Philatelic Quill* are now in hand. The name *Philatelic Quill* was coined by the first editor, Mrs. Yvone Wheatley, in January 1985. In 1987, Derek Lang took over as editor and continued to serve until April 1992. His successor died before he could see the next issue appear in print, and Tom Wilson, 162 Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9QD Great Britain, assumed the editorship with the January 1993 issue.

Articles in the two current issues of the *Philatelic Quill* include a two-part "Guidelines for the Exhibiting of Philatelic Literature" by WU30 president Charles Peterson; a two-part "Computer Database for Postal Historians" by Alex Visser; "Writing a Regular Column" by Franceska Rapkin; and "Finding a Particular Book in a Library" by Allan Berry. Literature is reviewed, members are profiled, and letters to the editor are aired. One such letter in the April issue suggests that the society should "cater to more than just philatelic writers. We should expand our scope to include archivists, bibliographers, compilers, librarians, literature dealers and judges, public relations officers, publishers, and researchers."

For further information write Allan P. Berry, Membership Secretary, 24 Irwin Road, Guilford, Surrey GU2 5PP Great Britain.

Keep Your Mailing Address Current

Please notify me of address change to assure receipt of each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay.

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

**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE!**

**BALLOT IN CENTERFOLD
OF THIS ISSUE.**

TO:

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (As of June 6, 1993)

Writers Unit 30 Breakfast

The 1993 Writers Unit 30 Breakfast will be held at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 22, at the Sheraton Astrodome in Houston, Texas, during STaMpsHOW. The featured speaker will be Azeezaly S. Jaffer, newly appointed manager of the USPS Market & Product Publicity.

Tickets are available for \$12.00 per person from: STaMpsHOW 93 Preregistration, 1000 Campbell Road, Suite 208-685, Houston, TX 77055. Make checks payable to "STaMpsHOW." Deadline for mail reservations is July 31, 1993. Thereafter attendees must purchase tickets at the STaMpsHOW registration desk that will be located at Astroarena Expo Hall.

Welcome

We welcome the following WU30 new members since our January 30, 1993, report:

1673 Bud Keeton, P.O. Box 523, Warrenton, MD 63383. Editor: *American Indian Philatelic Society Journal*; Columnist: *Philatelic Shopper*. Sponsor: Randy Neil.

1674 John Campbell, P.O. Box 15766, New Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand. Editor: *The Mail Coach* (Postal History Society of New Zealand); Author: *The Place of Stones (Mafeking Siege Stamps and Banknotes)*. Sponsor: Robert de Violini.

1675 Dale R. Pulver, 7725 Beaver Creek Drive, Mentor, OH 44060-7121. Author: *Introduction to the Stamps of Mexico (Linn's Handbook Series)*; Editor: *Garfield Perryscope*. Sponsor: Ken Lawrence.

1676 Ann M. Trigg, 4865 Spaulding Drive, Clarence, NY 14031. Free-lance writer: *Welsh Philatelic Society News*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1677 Alfred A. Gruber, P.O. Box 1073, Newark, DE 19715. Free-lance writer: *The American Philatelist, Philatelic Exhibitor, and The Posthorn*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1678 George Kay Kramer, P.O. Box 2189, Clifton, NJ 07015. Author: *U.S. Telegraph Stamps and Franks* (Collectors Club of New York); Free-lance writer: *Western Express*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1679 David Jickling, 2475 Virginia Avenue, N.W., #518, Washington, DC 20037-2639. Editor: *Guatemala Philately* (International Society of Guatemala Collectors). Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

1680 Peter A. S. Smith, 811 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Author: *Travelling Post Offices of Egypt* (MPOS); Free-lance writer: *Camel Post, Collectors Club Philatelist, and L'Orient Philatélique*. Sponsor: Charles J. Peterson.

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