

The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society

Volume 38, Number 1, Whole Number 143

First Quarter 2004

How Can You Help?

by Janet Klug

Writers Unit #30 President Peter Martin has mentioned that I approached him in November with an idea on how members of WU#30 could help promote philately.

The idea is actually very simple. We are all familiar with magazines, periodicals, and newsletters that are “non-philatelic.” Maybe these are large magazines in general circulation with readers numbering in the millions; or maybe they are small trade or professional periodicals. Pick one of them and write an article about stamps, covers, or a postal history aspect that parallels the focus of one of these specialty magazines. Be sure to mention that more information about stamp collecting can be found through the American Philatelic Society and other philatelic organizations.

Let’s take a few examples. Suppose you receive a medical or pharmaceutical journal. Writing a broadly encompassing article about physicians, pharmacists, or pharmaceutical products that have appeared on postage or revenue stamps or illustrated advertising covers might be of interest to one of these periodicals. An article about anthrax in the mails is both timely and topical. Ending the article with a plug for the APS and

the ATA would certainly provide additional support for the budding philatelist and the philatelic community.



Airline inflight magazines might be another good prospect for “philatelic propaganda.” Picking out stamps, stationery, and other philatelic items that tell the story about a popular destination is only one method that a writer could get his or her “foot in the door,” perhaps enlarging your personal readership. A bonus is that some of these periodicals pay decent money for articles they publish!

Each magazine has a policy on whether or not it accepts unsolicited manuscripts. Check first before submitting and don’t let yourself become discouraged. Remember, if you are already a reader and subscriber, it is more likely you will be listened to when you approach an editor for publication.

This year I urge each member of the Writers Unit to write an article about some aspect of stamp collection for a non-philatelic periodical. We will expose tens of thousands of people to our great hobby this way.

Won’t *you* help?

The Philatelic Communicator

ISSN 0147-3646

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

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

DEADLINES—For receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter Jan. 15
Second Quarter April 15
Third Quarter July 15
Fourth Quarter Oct. 15

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

USPS Zip code address

\$15.00

Canada & Mexico

\$17.50

All other addresses

\$20.00

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

The Philatelic Communicator is printed and distributed by Wilcox Printing & Publishing, Inc., Madrid, Iowa.



The Quill

Joe Foley

Just about all WU30 members also belong to the American Philatelic Society. However, just in case you didn't take a close look at the February 2004 *American Philatelist*, check out the article "Where Have All the Readers Gone?" by WU30 president Peter Martin. This subject is receiving more than it's usual attention. See John Dunn's article in the last issue of the *Communicator* and John Hotchner's follow-up on page 6 of this issue. John Dunn will comment on the impact of the 'net in a future issue.

Perhaps most important—something is being done! . . . and we have been asked to help. See Janet Klug's *Call to Arms* on the front page, Barth Healey's comments on page 13, Peter Martin's "President's Message" on page 3 and the recognition program on page 7.

It brings to mind these words:

A friend of mine who has been deeply involved in stamps since 1928 recently remarked to me that philately is a dying hobby. There is a danger that comments like this could become self-fulfilling prophecies. However, certain facts demand recognition. Prime examples are measures such as the circulation of some of the stamp weeklies, the "aging" of the collecting body, and our own relatively flat membership.

. . . pastimes, like any other endeavors, need to be nurtured to ensure their continued good health. Stamp collecting is no different. The APS must continue its efforts to reach out and nurture the hobby, and it must increase these efforts considerably. . . We need to create an atmosphere that encourages and rewards initiative and innovation in the management of our Society. We need to provide more meaningful encouragement and help to younger collectors. And we need to do much more of all this in the future than we have done in the past.

. . . The choice is ours, and the mandate should be pretty clear to those who have been chosen to lead us.

Let's do it.

This was written almost thirteen years ago when the Society had about 10,000 more members than we have today. It's taken awhile, but it certainly looks like we have someone at the helm who is facing up to the challenge.

There is much to be done and we writers can do our bit. We have all gained much from this hobby—it's time to help out and put something back. □

President's Message

by Peter Martin



The American Philatelic Society's AmeriStanip 2004 winter show, January 30 to February 1, in Norfolk, Va., hosted the Writer's Unit #30 Sunday breakfast and another fine turnout of 52 writers and friends were on hand.

Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen and editor Joe Foley gave us an update on their respective responsibilities.

During ceremonies at the breakfast, two excellent additions to the Writer's Unit #30 Hall of fame were inducted: Alan Warren and Justin L. Bacharach (1907-1995). Past president Dr. Dane Claussen read the citations (see page 4). Alan is a WU#30 past president and continues to support the organization.

He was also the guest speaker and updated us about "The Impact of the New Literature Rules." A "before and after" comparison was made. However, the relatively small number of entries for the same publications limited any conclusions.

As usual, a spirited drawing for door prizes concluded the session.

The Writer's Unit #30 Board met after the breakfast to discuss some of the programs and activities that are being considered.

Secretary-Treasurer George Griffenhagen gave an update on our healthy finances and Joe Foley provided a progress report for the review of the WU#30 bylaws.

Significant discussion was held about ways to implement an initiative to place articles into nonphilatelic publications as a means to reach a broader audience and hopefully add to the roles of hobby organizations. APS President Janet Klug had asked that the WU#30 take the lead in this effort and Barth Healey has agreed put together proposals of ways to accomplish the objective for presentation at the WU#30 board meeting after the breakfast at STAMPSHOW in Sacramento. We're examining what publications to contact, what core information should be included with each article and what writers are interested in participating in the project. If you have ideas or would like to participate, contact Barth or myself at the addresses on the masthead.

In conjunction with this effort we're also working with the APS to reinstitute the Lidman Prize, an annual competition, discontinued in the 1990s, that presented awards to the

top articles published in nonphilatelic media.

Also at the meeting, Jay Smith stepped forward to set up a WU#30 website and to serve as webmaster. Some organizations are getting up to 50 percent of their new members on the Web and it's time for WU#30 to have a web presence.

An initial discussion was held about the possibility of WU#30 conducting author signing ceremonies for Washington 2006, but the discussion was tabled pending receipt of a formal request from Washington 2006.

Work continues on the *APS Writer's Unit #30 Guide to Philatelic Style and Usage* and a number of editors have already provided their style guides and specialized terminology. Remember, for the next six months, make a note of any style, spelling or usage problems that you encounter in your work and mark down how you ended up treating the problem. By June 30, mail or e-mail your list to me so that I can compile all your comments for a meeting of the publications committee at STAMPSHOW 2004.

In conjunction with the issue of the First Quarter 2005 *Philatelic Communicator*, we also plan to publish list of current philatelic periodicals in the United States and Canada, along with contact information. A listing sheet will be distributed in the near future.

We're also working with the APS on a joint mailing to all APS club and society presidents and editors. The goal is to have all of them as members of the APS and WU#30. We will also be recommending that the clubs and societies pay the WU#30 dues for their editors.

We have a lot of initiatives in the works. If you would like to contribute your talents, or if you have some creative ideas of your own, contact me at: POB 791, State College, PA 16804 or e-mail: pmartin2020@aol.com. □

MONTE-CARLO COMES TO CHICAGO

About a year ago, the Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) sent out a release that the truly outstanding display put on by the 100 members of Le Club de Monte-Carlo was available on their Web site: <http://www.askphil.org/Monaco/Mon-index.htm>

Termed the *Rarest of the Rare*, the 125 individual items were displayed at a non-competitive exhibition held Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2002 at the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies in Monaco under the patronage of Prince Rainier III.

The CCC thanks the president of the Club of Monte-Carlo, Monsieur Alexander D. Kroo, for granting permission to display this remarkable exhibit on AskPhil. □

APS Writers Unit Hall of Fame Inductees

by Dr. Dane S. Claussen

Justin L. Bacharach (1907-1995)

On December 21, 1942, on the second page of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, a new column appeared for the first time. It was called "Sees All." The author, Justin L. Bacharach, did not receive a byline, but his was not the first or last *Mekeel's* column without the author's identity disclosed. In fact, in January 1942, *Mekeel's* had published an editorial defending the use of pen names to facilitate contributions by writers who otherwise couldn't or wouldn't contribute. In any case, neither the writer nor the readership could have imagined that "Sees All" would become a regular weekly column, which would appear in every issue for almost fifty years. Only in September 1992, following a near fatal accident when Bacharach lost the ability to concentrate and work on stamps in a meaningful manner, did the column finally end—nearly 2,600 columns later.

Bacharach was born in Philadelphia on December 30, 1907, and died in Great Neck, N. Y., on February 9, 1995. Stamps had been a casual hobby while he was growing up in Philadelphia, attending Boys High School and then, for two years, the University of Pennsylvania's engineering school. In 1937, he went to New York, where his chatty writing style resulted in his being appointed Stamp Editor of the Hearst-owned *New York Journal and American*. Bacharach was paid by the column inch for "Stamp Review," and his editor often thought Bacharach was costing the newspaper too much; several times he was fired on payday and then rehired the next week. To supplement his income, Bacharach wrote *A Guide to Stamp Collecting* in 1939; in 1941, he edited a booklet called *The Presidential Series* and started dealing stamps from his home. In 1942, he was co-editor, with Beverly S. King and George T. Turner of *Revenue Unit Columns from the American Philatelist* and began writing the *Mekeel's* column. It usually appeared on the back page or second to last page. In the 1960s, the byline was changed to his dealing business's name, Lee Stamps, and in the 1980s, his own name finally appeared on the column.

Over nearly fifty years, "Sees All" covered stamp dealing news and gossip, interesting auction items, new material on the market, the problem of forgeries, and other information and observations, eventually first-hand tales about stamp dealing in other lands, such as Easter Island, and memories of his decades as a collector, dealer, and columnist. Bacharach was not a philatelic scholar, nor an editorialist, but a storyteller—like Herman Herst Jr. and a few others—who engaged readers while informing them, and an informal writer who bridged the gap between dealers

and average stamp collectors. *Mekeel's* editor John F. Dunn, upon Bacharach's passing, praised his contributions—especially in recording the stamp dealing business for future generations—and noted the faithful contributor's "wide and faithful following."

Today, the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit is honored to induct Justin L. Bacharach into its Hall of Fame.

Alan Warren

Today's second inductee into the APS Writers Unit Hall of Fame has been writing a column for nearly fifty years—an accomplishment that only a few philatelic writers have matched. His first column, in the first issue of *First Days*—for the Fourth Quarter of 1955—was called "Watermarks of Stamps on Covers," and Alan Warren has been writing "The Question Box" column ever since. That work alone would make Alan a good candidate for the Hall of Fame. However, he also has written hundreds of articles, columns, book reviews, obituaries, and other items for more than forty different philatelic publications in the United States and abroad, most notably *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *German Postal Specialist*, *Ice Cap News*, *Postal History Journal*, *Posthorn*, *Philatelic Literature Review*, *Scandinavian Scribe* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, in addition to *The Philatelic Communicator* and *First Days*.

Alan has long been an APS-accredited philatelic and philatelic literature judge, and has served on the organizing committees for numerous major philatelic exhibitions, including Secretary of INTERPHIL 76 in Philadelphia, Secretary of NORDIA 2001, and Secretary, for more than thirty years, of Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (formerly SEPAD). He was instrumental in the founding of, and continues to be critical to the operations of, the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, which publishes both English language translations of philatelic books published in other languages and new titles in English.

In addition to this *First Days* columns and articles, Alan has worked tirelessly for the American First Day Cover Society, especially in chairing its judges' accreditation committee; that organization gave him its distinguished service award in 1981 and an honorary life membership in 1996. Among other posts, Alan has served as President of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, which gave him its Carl Pelander Award in 1990, and as President of the Writers Unit, from 1995 to 1999. Most recently, he served philatelic literature significantly by chairing the APS committee that wrote the current guidelines for judging philatelic literature. Alan also has been an officer of the

American Philatelic Congress, American Society of Polar Philatelists, the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle and the Military Postal History Society. In 2002, he was honored with the Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately.

Alan Warren has been a prolific and successful exhibitor. His exhibits have included the *3 Cent Byrd on First Day Covers*, *The John Ericsson Issue and Its First Day Covers* and *Denmark: Cachet Varieties of the Horsens Filatelistklub for the Vitus Bering Issue*, for all of which he has won gold medals. His vermeil medal-winning exhibits have included, *Censored First Day Covers of the Nordic Countries*, *The Christian X Issue on First Day Covers*, and *The Frederik IX Issues 1948-1960 on First Day Covers*.

Finally, it must be noted that Alan Warren is an example for all of us as philatelic writers, exhibitors, judges, and leaders: He is exceptionally knowledgeable and extremely hardworking, yet always friendly and modest in every interaction with fellow collectors, with whom he also displays his much appreciated sense of humor. There surely isn't anyone in philately who knows Alan, who doesn't like, as well as respect, him. For all of these reasons and more, the Writers Unit is thankful to Alan Warren and more than pleased to bestow upon him the overdue recognition of induction into its Hall of Fame. □

WU30 SCANNER FOR SALE

JEF

When I took on the job of editor in 1996, Joe Frye was the "publisher." He did most of the key-stroking that was needed and arranged for printing and mailing.

About a year or so later, Joe became ill. At my request, and to ease the portion of Joe's "keypunching" that I picked up, WU30 authorized me to purchase a scanner. (HP ScanJet 4P) As I recall, the cost was in the range of \$400. That would buy 3 or 4 scanners of better quality today!

The scanner did yeoman service, until I replaced it about a year ago. It has a large footprint and at times made an ominous grinding sound as the bulb cartridge advanced. It also requires a board to be inserted in the PC. It is resting quietly in my basement.

On the advice of our president, the scanner is available to any member at a "best offer + shipping" basis. Contact the editor by April 15, 2004 □

I don't know anything about inspiration because I don't know what inspiration is; I've heard about it, but I never saw it.

—William Faulkner

William S. Dunn, 1927-2004

by Joe Foley

Bill Dunn died after a valiant fight with cancer on February 22 in Denver, Colorado. He was a stalwart supporter of our hobby and in the tradition of the late Dan Vooyo, believed in "putting something back."

He served philately in many capacities: president of the Bureau Issues Association (now the United States Stamp Society), consultant to the *Scott Catalogue*, led four Colorado stamp clubs and ROMPEX (now the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show).

During AMERIPEX, Bill and I shared a hotel room. He was then president of the BIA and no organization ever had a more conscientious leader. 99.9% of his attention throughout the show was with the BIA.

His chief interest during the past ten years was the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Bill was one of the founders of the Library and at various times served as director, vice-president and secretary. He wasn't one to just collect titles. Behind the title there was a tremendous amount of effort. He was indefatigable. He continued his efforts even during his illness.

Bill Dunn will be missed. □

Revisions to Literature Judging Score Sheet

by Alan Warren

The critical eye of our Editor Joe Foley detected some differences in the proposed literature judging score sheet that appeared in *The Philatelic Communicator* (vol. 37 no. 1 First Quarter 2003), and the one that is available from APS. He is quite right. The proposed sheet had "Articles" included in the column for Periodicals/Journals.

The committee that prepared the new philatelic literature judging guidelines realized that articles seem to fall into two distinct areas. There are general articles that can be informative, newsy, entertaining, or give an overview of a subject; and there are specialized articles that present significant new information or new interpretations of existing knowledge.

Both types of articles were therefore removed from the periodicals and society journals category and were separated into two areas for more appropriate evaluation. General articles are now evaluated with the criteria and points used for newsletters and columns. Specialized articles that provide new information or insight are evaluated with the same approaches used for handbooks, monographs, and special studies.

This separate treatment of the two kinds of articles took place just after the publication of the proposed score sheet shown in the 1st Quarter 2003 *PC*. The distribution of points was not altered. Articles were simply moved from the journals/periodicals column and separated into specialized articles (evaluated similar to handbooks) and general articles (evaluated similar to columns and newsletters). □

Philatelic Periodicals Losing Subscribers: Is It Inevitable?

by John M. Hotchner

Reprinted from the February 2004 issue of *U. S. Stamp News (USSN)*, courtesy of John Dunn, publisher.

As has been written about elsewhere, it is an unhappy fact that the leaders in the realm of philatelic print journalism have been losing subscribers for the past several years. This was clearly shown in the chart, printed with John Dunn's article, "Circulation Changes of Stamp Publications" in the Fourth Quarter, 2003 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. The question was asked in that article and others: How can this be reversed?

Indeed, can it be reversed? I have no excess of wisdom here, but I will try to answer both questions. First, yes it can, but it is going to be an uphill struggle. I believe the primary reason for loss of subscribers is that increasing numbers of people can and do get all the philately they can stand on the Internet; where the information is more focused to their interests, and it is easier to avoid the advertising if you want to; and to use it if you are oriented in that direction.

The newest people coming into the hobby simply don't think they need the services of print journalism because they think their needs are being met without it. A secondary motivation is that stamp collectors are thrifty. Notice I did not say cheap. We as a group have money, and we are willing to spend it. However, we are most oriented to spending it on stamps and covers for our collections, not on ancillary things like subscriptions—unless somehow the subscription is something we can't live without.

This is tougher and tougher because by their nature, the biggest stamp periodicals got that way by covering the waterfront. And that was fine because the majority of collectors did, too. They collected their own and multiple other countries. My observation is that collecting patterns are changing. Those who collect widely are now in the minority and the trend is to single country collecting, or collecting by theme, or even by era or issue. A general interest publication for which they have to pay significant dollars does not have the appeal it once did.

But I said we can recover. Maybe what I meant to say was that we have a fighting chance of stopping the net losses and rebuilding a bit. To do so we will need to ruthlessly examine our product and match it to our potential audience. Again I will make general comments because I do not wish to be cast in the roll of critiquing any of the publications we have. Each has its strong and weak points, but as one who subscribes to each and every one, I believe the loss of any would be a tragedy. Besides, the question is

how do we make our publications a "must read" for the thrifty collector. As with marriage, there are a few tried and proven ways to succeed, and ten times as many ways to fail. Embracing the former may not always be our first choice, but we must keep our eye on the gobbler.

I would suggest that our model is the daily newspaper. As you may have noticed, it is less and less about the daily news, and more and more about features that have long term value and interest to the reader.

This is not to say that news is not important. In philately the news matters, and it must be timely, accurate, and relevant to the readers. This is where our publications best meet the goal, but not perfectly. There is news and there is news. Our press tends to cover things happening, but it ignores almost completely the people who make it happen. I was told a number of years ago by a senior member of the philatelic publishing elite that people are not news and that collectors don't care about people. My own experience tells me otherwise.

Making the human connection with readers is critical, and this can occur in many ways. One is writing about people, their accomplishments, their interests, and even on occasion, their failures. Probably the most popular, best-read ads in the philatelic press are those done by Andrew Levitt in which he features a continuing series on people who have built our hobby over the years, under the heading of "Our Philatelic Heritage." Oddly enough, there is nothing else in the philatelic press that replicates that feature; curious because it is a basic human need to measure ourselves against other people. We do it even if we don't especially want to.

Another way in which the human connection is fostered is through the loyalty that is developed to regular columns and columnists. When a reader feels they know a writer, and look for his or her work, and find it with some regularity, they are simply less likely to drop the publication that carries it. How to enhance that connection? There are a dozen ways. For the most part our philatelic publications do none of them. Nor do they encourage their regular writers to get involved with their readers.

Interactivity with the readership is really important. It builds brand loyalty. And it makes the publication more relevant. Again, there are many ways to do this, and you see some in the philatelic publications of today, but not uniformly, and certainly not all in any one publication. You see more in the non-philatelic press, and usually all in a single issue. In the former we have Letters to the Editor,

Questions and Answers (of several types), reader surveys, and Puzzles. In the latter we have humor in the form of cartoons (an extremely popular part of most papers—and laughter is something we need every day; a basic human need that is largely absent from the philatelic press—which reflects more the deadly serious nature of how we tend to take our hobby.)

The daily paper also has a challenging crossword puzzle, notes with feature articles that tell you “how to contact our authors,” gossip columns who (responsibly) present inside information in short vignette form on the “princes” and “princesses” of our society, and short, clever, focused contributions from readers, with their pictures, all in each and every issue. This does not exhaust the possibilities, but is meant as a place to start to think about how we might adopt such methods.

The third area I want to mention is the subject of opinion. We like to be told how to think. Or at least we like to know what others think, as presented in short, pithy, well-written summaries. Every newspaper worth its salt has an editorial page in which they critique, stroke, endorse, suggest, and explain their point of view on the issues of the day. Perhaps our philatelic editors and publishers are afraid they will offend readers by doing this, because on the whole they don't. If so, I disagree with the premise. I subscribe to a daily newspaper featuring editorials that I regularly disagree with, although they're well-written, thoughtful, and devoid of personal attacks. I learn from them. The paper's management includes contrary feedback in Letters to the Editor, and I cannot imagine not having this paper to learn from—despite the fact that I'm not “in synch” with its viewpoint. Having no editorial viewpoint is a far worse sin, and while advocacy has its pitfalls, I think our philatelic press ought to do more of it. The one area to be careful about is the cross between opinion and straight reporting. Our philatelic press has on occasion allowed opinion to be cast as fact in articles. It is important that opinion be labeled as such wherever it appears in the paper.

This publication [*USSN*] is one that could do more in these realms, and the Publisher and I will be talking about ways we can become more a model for success and for others. Meanwhile I would be interested in your viewpoints on this subject. What makes a publication a must-read for you? Drop me a line. (John Hotchner, *USSN* Editor, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125, or by email to jmhstamp@ix.netcom.com).

Editor's Note: Your thoughts would also be welcome in the “Letters” section here in *The Philatelic Communicator*. □

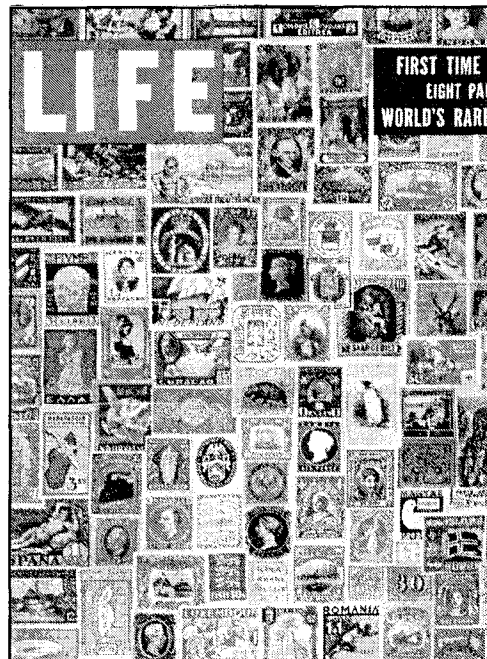
Who casts to write a living line, must sweat.

—Ben Jonson

Writers' Outreach Recognition

As part of our effort to spread the word about our hobby, we plan to recognize writers who have published in the “non-philatelic” press. This will take place at the Writers Breakfast at STAMPSHOW this August. Both WU30 president Peter Martin and APS president Janet Klug have enthusiastically approved this recognition project.

What do we mean by “non-philatelic” press? Just about anything that is not normally associated with our hobby. In addition to print media, other forms such as radio or TV are eligible. The key is something that brings stamp collecting to the attention of some segment, or all, of the general public. It can range from the newsletter of the local Lions Club to something like that great 1954 cover story in *LIFE* magazine. (You do remember *LIFE* magazine as a weekly, don't you?)



Any and all efforts will be recognized—no gold, silver or bronze. The only criteria is that it must be published or aired. Certificates signed by Peter Martin and Janet Klug will be presented at the Writers Breakfast. Copies of the

articles, etc., will be on display during the show.

Entering is simple, just send a copy of the article to Joe Foley (address on page 2). If the name and date of the publication is not apparent, just note what it is. A photocopy will suffice. For broadcast media material, a transcript or tape will do nicely.

We need a name for this project. A few are being considered. If you have any thoughts, let's hear them.

JEF □

CLAUSSEN HONORED

WU30 past president Dr. Dane S. Claussen received his twenty-five year membership certificate and pin at the American Philatelic Society general meeting in Norfolk. □

The Word Processing System of Choice is . . .

In "The Quill" for the last issue I mentioned that in a future issue choices of word processing systems would be discussed. This was followed with an e-mail to several authors and editors:

In a forthcoming issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*, I am planning a series on word processing system preferences. I think our members will find it interesting.

Will you take a little time and jot down your favorite system and comment on why you chose it and are still using it?

Many thanks.

Here is the first round of responses. I'd welcome your thoughts.

JEF

I personally prefer *WordPerfect* because I am comfortable with it as it is the first system I used.

In addition, the ability to easily reveal codes used to format the text is a great boon. Finally, the way *WP* allows side-by-side columns to be worked is more convenient for me when I wish to write side-by-side bilingual texts.

Chas. Verge

My favorite system is *WordPerfect*. I began using *WP* to avoid becoming a hostage to the Gates empire and have continued thru release 11.0. A number of my clients used the system so it served to facilitate communication. Originally, I found it to be less cumbersome to use than *Microsoft Word* although as *WP* has tried increasingly to ape *Word*, this has become less of an advantage. I still use *WP 6.2* for placing graphics and doing album pages because of its flexibility. I have served as a beta tester for *WP 9, 10* and *11*.

Gene Fricks

I use three different text editors/word processors on my MAC. For most of my editorial work and advertising, I use *MS Word* as found in *MS Office*. I am not fond of it, but use it because most people who send files to me also use it. I also use *Excel* for tables, as keyboarding is much easier. I then save it as a tab-delimited text file and import it into *Word*.

I also use a program called *NISUS*. This is also a word processor but has the flexibility to switch back and forth between languages, an asset when writing a sermon and making reference to original text in either Hebrew or Koine Greek.

Last, but not least, I use *BEdit* for writing *HTML* and *XML* code. It is a text editor, but has a lot of stock macros that aid programming tremendously.

A program called *TextEdit* is furnished with *MAC OSX*, but I never use it. Extremely limited.

Larry Goldberg

I started with *SuperScripsit* on my TRS-80 in 1980 and then dabbled with *WordStar* for a while, until I heard the palindrome "Rats drown in *Wordstar*" and had to agree. A brief encounter with the word processing part of a package that was way ahead of its time (similar in concept to *Microsoft Office*) followed, but eventually I settled on (Microsoft) *Word* and *WordPerfect*.

Both were necessary since at that point in time I was editing doctoral dissertations, and had submissions in each. The fourth of these was given to me in *WordPerfect*, and the problems it created caused me to raise my rates by 50% for any more manuscripts delivered in *WordPerfect*. These problems were created when I moved the edited version into my desktop publishing program, *Ventura Publisher*. All of the stray bits of formatting played havoc with the text, and I had to go back and work extensively with the "Reveal Codes" mode to get rid of the parts that were orphans. It seemed as though it took forever.

Word, as a part of *Microsoft Office Professional*, had its growing pains as well. Ultimately it adopted style sheets (which I believe were pioneered by *Xerox Ventura Publisher* when it was still at the top of the DTP program list), and in more recent years has made the goal of commonality of menus between various programs much closer to reality. It is not perfect, and in keeping with the attempt by each new version of such programs to offer more bells and whistles has added some features that could be annoying if you couldn't turn them off.

The same holds true for *WordPerfect*. Its greatest attribute was in the way it was offered to large corporations for internal use at little or no licensing cost. The employees had to learn it as a part of their jobs, but couldn't get a copy for home use except by buying it for themselves. The sales were assured. Hardly anyone would use one tool at work and then go out and get a different one with a similar function to use at home.

Somebody years ago said "Computer programs are as personal a choice as toothbrushes." In the end, I find that the ease of sharing *Word* files as the dominant program has

had as much to cement me to using that as Reveal Codes has had to driving me from *WordPerfect*. Yet I know people who say that they really like the Reveal Codes feature.

In the end, I doubt that anyone is likely to change programs unless they have a strong outside pressure to do so, such as changing jobs between companies that use different ones.

Robert P. Odenweller

I use *WordPerfect 10* (2001) because it came with my Dell computer. It works; does what I need it to, and I feel no need to mount an expedition to go out and find something better. Hope this helps.

John Hotchner

WordPerfect. I originally started with it, found myself comfortable with it, and never changed.

Les Winick

For several years I used *Amipro*. With acquiring new computers came new software—now *Word 2000*—to which I have adapted well, and find it easy to use. For the straightforward manuscript preparation application that I primarily use, *WORD 2000* is quite adequate.

Ben Ramkissoon

Microsoft Word 98 is my preferred software system. My installation also includes *Microsoft Business* but I have not made any significant use of this software. I do not consider myself an expert user of the computer for a wide variety of possibilities as do many. My use of the computer is almost exclusively used for email communication with family, friends and some business contacts and preparation of articles for philatelic publications. Surfing of the internet is primarily limited to bidding on ebay and a few other locations for collectibles, visiting used book sellers for publications needed, visiting a few, largely philatelic, web pages, and accessing email when away from home. I do not use internet to any degree for bill paying, bank account and investment account access, or other commercial activity as many users do.

With this limited activity I find *Microsoft Word* fine and adequate for my needs. It has a wide variety of fonts and sizes available for printing work. The ability to use bold face, underlining, italics is straightforward and simple. Sheet margins are easily adjusted as needed and text can be justified with highlighting and a single stroke, as can margins, page layouts and page size. Print preview is available readily and can be enlarged for easy review. Instructions for printing are clear and understandable and envelope addresses are stored for use and easy printing

without repeating when letters are completed. Pagination, dating and insertion of a variety of headers and footers for articles is useful and accessible. Access to ancillary printers with appropriate directions are clear and simple. Error undo access is easily available. Spelling and grammar checks are included. Boxes for text and tables are easily inserted. Copy and paste capabilities are useful.

Preparation of folders for article storage and recovery are available and easily recoverable, including ability to attach to email. I use the computer capability regularly in conjunction with an HP scanner and Epson Stylus Color 740, Epson Action Laser II and LexMark printers for both black and color photos of hundreds of illustrations for my articles. I suspect that most of this description of why I like *Microsoft Word* shows more a lack of computer sophistication on my part, and the familiarity of continued use of the system for several years for limited purposes, than it does of the systems enormous capabilities that I barely tap!

F. Burton Sellers

In your column in the 4Q03 *Philatelic Communicator*, you asked inter alia how we prepare our journals. I use *Microsoft Word* to prepare the text master for *VORLÄUFER*, and then hot-wax paste in the illustrations. I probably should move to *Microsoft Publisher*, but ...

Kevin Doyle

As for my word-processing system, I use (and just barely) *Publisher 98* — good enough for my exhibits, and certainly good enough for my journal's typescript, inasmuch as layout and printing are done out-house.

Stan Luft □

WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

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

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

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

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

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Authors' Guide

As promised in "The Quill" in the last issue, here is the *Authors' Guide* for *The Collectors Club Philatelist* (CCP). As noted in the November 2003 issue of the CCP, this was not a one-person-undertaking. In addition to the Editorial Board, Harlan Stone, former editor of *Postal History Journal*; Alan Warren, past president of WU30; Kenneth Trettin, editor *American Revenuer*; James W. Graue, editor *Airpost Journal*; Barbara Boal, editor *American Philatelist* and James E. Kloetzel, catalogue editor, Scott Publishing, all provided valuable comments on the draft.

What follows is actually issue "1 1/2." A few things have come up since publication that are included here. Also, in actual form, the *Guide* is a tri-fold that fits neatly in a #10 envelope.

JEF

The Collectors Club, established in 1896, first introduced its journal, *The Collectors Club Philatelist* (CCP), in 1922. Begun as a quarterly, it has been issued bimonthly since 1950. Through-out its history, the CCP has been noted for scholarly articles of lasting value, timely commentaries and thoughtful reviews.

We continue to welcome original articles that provide a source of significant information as well as commentary. Readers tend to expect a certain degree of consistency in a journal such as ours. To this end, the Editorial Board has prepared this Authors' Guide and trust it will prove helpful.

Joseph E. Foley, Editor
Post Office Box 183
Riva, Maryland 21140
Phone: 410 974-6380
e-mail: jfoley4197@aol.com

Editorial Board:

The Editorial Board of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* is composed of a small group of individuals with technical, philatelic, writing and editing skills. They assist the editor in various ways including: obtaining manuscripts, advising on technical matters, reviewing drafts, assisting with graphics and working with authors. Current members are: Ernst Cohn, John D. Dowd, E.E. Fricks, John Lyding, Robert P. Odenweller, RDP, Edward J. Siskin and Dr. Peter A. S. Smith.

Type of Articles Desired:

In general, original articles that promise to be of

interest to the membership, contain new information and are considered to be of lasting value are desired. Technical accuracy, citation of sources, acknowledgments and quality illustrations are considered essential.

Timely comments on any aspect of the hobby, i.e., "op ed" pieces, are welcome as are reviews of current philatelic literature. Comments on an article or review published in the CCP will be referred to the author of the original piece before being published.

Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editor.

Communications:

Ongoing communication between the editor and authors by e-mail has been found to be most effective. It's quick and provides both parties with documentation for further reference. Additionally, authors should provide the editor with day and evening phone numbers.

Editing:

All manuscripts and other copy are subject to editing.

Scheduling:

Once accepted for publication, the article will be tentatively scheduled for publication. Factors affecting scheduling include: balance (this article vis-a-vis others in the same or recent issues of the CCP), space required vs. space available, timeliness requirement, resolution of problems to include graphics, open questions and details to be worked out before publication. In most instances, publication of a serialized article will not commence until the editor has accepted all sections.

Electronic Media:

Authors are encouraged to use electronic media, either disk, CD or e-mail attachment for manuscripts. At present, WordPerfect 8, Rich Text Format and Microsoft Word 97 are acceptable. A hard copy should *always* accompany this type of submission.

Paper (only) Manuscripts:

When only hard copy is submitted, it will be scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to convert the text to a word processing system. If using a typewriter, use underlining exclusively to indicate *italics*. Generally, typeface smaller than 11 point, carbon copies, drafts printed [typed] on both sides or typed with worn ribbon are not acceptable.

Graphics:

Our hobby is a visual one. Thus, the quality of illustrations is critical. Our printer uses scanning to prepare illustrations.

Good results have been obtained from:

- 1.) Color photocopies.
- 2.) Scans of 150-line screen or 300 dpi. If they are digital, the camera should be set at its maximum resolution.
- 3.) Well-focused black and white photos.

Unacceptable are:

- 1.) Black and white photocopies.
- 2.) Scans coarser than 300 dpi.
- 3.) Most half-tone illustrations from other sources—a moiré pattern frequently appears due to the convergence of the half-tone dots. The usual approach to reduce this is to lessen the focus, which is also undesirable for our purpose.

Arrangements can be made to assist authors in the New York City metro area in securing good quality graphics. Contact the editor.

It is assumed, unless otherwise stated, that material being illustrated is the property of the author. When this is not the case, it is expected that the source will be acknowledged at the end of the caption or beneath the illustration if there is no caption.

Please do not write on the back of illustrations or secure them with paper clips. Even slight indentations may be picked up by our printer's scanner and distort the illustration.

Technology in this area continues to advance, and it is advisable to contact the editor if there is uncertainty in this area.

Color would enhance just about all illustrations, but prudence requires due consideration of cost.

Reviews:

Reviews of current philatelic literature are welcome. However, please contact the editor before writing an unsolicited book review. Otherwise there is a risk that the book may already be under review by another writer. Except in very unusual cases, book reviews should fit on one page of the *CCP*, approximately 600 words. Reviews from those having an interest in the item such as authors, publishers, distributors, etc., are declined.

Bibliographic information is given at the beginning of a review in the following sequence: *Title in Italics*, by author/s, name and address of the publisher, the year of publication, number and size of pages, binding, illustrations, (if present, note bibliography, maps, use of color, tables, index, etc.) language if other than English, cost (note currency if other than US \$), source (if other than the publisher), ISBN.

Reprint Policy:

1.) Reprint of Material Appearing in the *CCP*:

The editor should be approached directly. Permission of the author is mandatory and will be requested by the editor. It is expected that prior publication in the *CCP* will be acknowledged in the reprint, with full bibliographic reference and that a copy of the publication containing the reprint will be furnished the author and the editor of the *CCP*.

2.) Reprint by the *CCP* of Material First Published Elsewhere:

An article of merit published elsewhere will be considered for publication in the *CCP* if it is felt that it has not already come to the attention of most members of The Collectors Club that have an interest in the subject. The original source will be cited in the *CCP* and the author furnished copies of the *CCP* containing the article.

3.) Translations:

Publishing articles originally appearing in a language other than English will generally follow the procedure in (2.) above, with a member of the *CCP* Editorial Board assisting or arranging the translation.

4.) Simultaneous Publication:

Arrangements require coordination between the author and the respective editors. Authors are expected to advise the *CCP* editor if this is their intent when first submitting a manuscript.

Source Citation:

The *CCP* is a journal of record and as such it is essential that authors cite their sources. There are a number of ways in which this can be done. However, the method of choice for the *CCP* is endnotes. These notes are keyed by superscript numbers in the text. The notes then cite the source in sufficient detail to facilitate further study by the reader. If a bibliography is also provided (this is encouraged), the endnote may be condensed and linked to the bibliography where full bibliographic data is provided. A short-title form is preferred to op. cit. or loc. cit.

Examples:

Set off by 2" line flush left.

Notes [smaller font than text]:

1. John Smith (author), *Title of book in italics* [English translation if title is in foreign language, Roman type in brackets] (City of publication: publisher, year of publication), page reference.
2. John Smith (author), "title of article," *Title of journal in italics*, volume & number (date), page reference.

Civility:

When expressing a point of view that differs from another or in writing a critical review, disparaging remarks are unacceptable.

Style Guide:

There are many useful style guides that are available. The one used by the editor is the 15th Edition (2003) of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. This reference sets the standard for the *CCP*. It is available in most libraries and bookstores.

CCP Conventions:

Except when making a direct quotation, American conventions of spelling, punctuation and word usage are the standard.

With the exception of denominations and rates, numbers less than 100 are spelled out [ex.: ninety-six, 101].

Fractions are to be expressed as ¼, ⅓, ⅕, ⅞ and not 1/4, 1/3, 1/8 or 7/8.

The use of **boldface** is generally limited to subtitles and the **figure no.** in an illustration caption. *Italics* should be used where emphasis is intended.

Single quotation marks ['xxxxxx'] are limited to a quote within a quote. Double quotation marks ["xxxxxx"] are used in all other cases.

Punctuation at the end of a quotation will precede the final quotation mark.

Dates are to be expressed as month, day and year with the month given in full, not abbreviated [January 31, 2003]. Exceptions are direct quotations or describing a postmark. In these cases, follow the convention of the postmark itself.

Italics are used for:

Titles of publications.

Titles of exhibits.

Foreign words or phrases unless commonly used in philately or in the English language [ex.: tête-bêche].

Emphasis.

Names of specific aircraft and ships, but not such abbreviations as SS and HMS that may precede them [ex.: SS *United States*].

Symbols for monetary units are acceptable [ex.: \$, ¢, £, /, d, €]. The symbol for euro [€] sometimes does not successfully translate from one word processing system to another—a further reason for the importance of hard copy. In British currency, “d” is used for pence in the sterling system and “p” in the decimal.

A comma is *not* used following the penultimate in a series [ex.: this, that or the other].

At the end of a sentence, a single space follows the period or other final punctuation.

Underlining is not normally used.

Generally, it is preferred that the name of a state be given in full, i.e., Massachusetts. If the author has

a strong preference for an abbreviation, the conventional one should be used, i.e., Mass., and not the postal abbreviation, i.e., MA.

Author Emoluments:

Authors are eligible for a modest honorarium, really just a token of our appreciation. Out-of-pocket expenses may be reimbursed, but should be approved by the editor before the expenditure is undertaken. The *Collectors Club Medal* is presented to the author of the article judged the best during the year.

Advertising:

All arrangements regarding advertising are to be taken up with the Executive Secretary, 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016. Current rates are published in the *CCP*. Copy must be camera-ready. The advertising manager is Harvey Mirsky. Please do not send ads or correspondence concerning ads to the editor.



February 25, 2004

□

Literature Exhibition Calendar

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

June 4-6, 2004

NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corder, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, Virginia, entry fee \$25, entries close March 1, 2004. Information available from Charles Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, Maryland, 20726, e-mail: cjp7777@aol.com, Website: www.napex.org.

August 15-8, 2002

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

November 19-21, 2004

CHICAGOPEX 2004, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005, entry fee \$25, entries close August 15, 2004.. Information is available from John Kevin Doyle, 5815 Lenox Road, Lisle, IL 60532-3138, e-mail: doyle-stamps@att.net, Website: www.chicagopex.com. □

Footnotes to Janet's Appeal

by Barth Healey

Let me add a few footnotes to Janet's appeal (and she is indeed very appealing).

Even for members of something called the Writers Unit, breaking the ice with a publisher outside the hobby can seem daunting. It need not be. The key point is that publishers of general-interest magazines want to be as inclusive as possible. A specialty philatelic publication might be quite thrilled to get an article on the plating of the long-lost 7½-cent 1847 U.S. issue; for that editor, the research is paramount. For general-interest magazines, readability is paramount.

Some thoughts:

Overviews of the stamps of a particular country or region served by a particular airline, e.g., Scandinavia for SAS; of French overseas departments for Air France. You get the idea. The focus should be on topical, historical personalities, traditional arts and architecture, things that a tourist or traveling business executive would be interested in reading about.

Overviews of a topic specific to a trade or hobby publication. As Janet notes, medicine is a hot topic. But don't neglect other hobbies. I suspect there is a "collector's" gene, so getting a colleague to extend her collection from Lionel trains to trains on stamps, or from ceramic pigs to farm animals on stamps, should be an easier sell.

Offer illustrations; most publishers would have no idea where to look for them. This can be an inexpensive handful of newer stamps or first-day covers that you can send to the publisher when your manuscript is accepted. Be sure to get them back so you can make a scrapbook later with a copy of your article and mounted stamps or covers used to illustrate it, a handy tool for later "show and tell" sessions at school stamp clubs and the like.

It would be nice to make a few dollars, but the competition for space at the better-paying publications is stiff. We are looking for different, longer-term rewards: a stronger hobby will benefit us all. So try some lower-profile magazines first. Clips from those outlets will help you get noticed at larger places.

And if you want an editor to offer further guidance about general-interest publications or to read your piece before submission, I am always available at BarthHealey@aol.com.

Good luck!

REV. SERAFINI ELECTED COROS PRESIDENT

WU30 Council Member Rev. Augustine H. Serafini was recently elected president of the Collectors of Religion on Stamps (COROS). Fr. Serafini continues to serve as editor of *The COROS Chronicle*, a position he has held since 1985.

Bob de Violini

by Alan Warren

Bob de Violini Long time APS member and the major sparkplug in the Philatelic Computing Study Group, Bob de Violini, passed away January 15 of an aneurysm. He was a founder and, for many years he was President, Secretary, and Webmaster of the PCSG and editor of its quarterly journal *The Computelists*. Bob helped organize and run the APS Computers in Philately booth at the society's Stampshows.

He was past president of the Writers Unit, and chaired the APS Affiliates Committee for twelve years, writing a column in the *American Philatelist* on affiliate activities. Bob was also past president of the Ventura County (CA) Philatelic Society and chaired its VENPEX exhibitions. From 1978 to 1982 he served as president of the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California and in 1984 received the Federation's Distinguished Philatelic Service Award for his work as executive director of the OLYMPHILEX 84 held in Los Angeles. He served SESCAL in many capacities including publicity and awards, and organized and ran their philatelic literature competition for a number of years.

Bob was past president of the American Society of Polar Philatelists and edited their first handbook. He has served as assistant commissioner and judge at literature exhibitions outside the United States and was an APS accredited chief judge in literature. The Arizona State Philatelic Hall of Fame recognized him with its Phoenix award in 1987. He was an APRL patron and served as Secretary of PACIFIC 97.

In 1997 he was awarded the American Philatelic Society's John N. Luff Award for outstanding service to the APS. Bob de Violini was a meteorologist and climatologist, and retired from Federal service in 1986 after 34 years of providing technical information for the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Weather Bureau, and the Department of Defense.

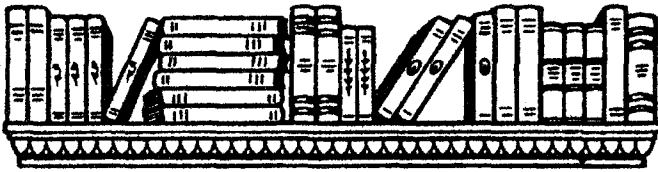
COLLECTORS CLUB PICKS BEST ARTICLE

At their annual meeting, the Collectors Club in New York announced that "The Mystery of the 'IRELAND' Handstamps" by Colin Breddy of Glasgow, Scotland, was selected as the best article in volume 82 (2003) of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

The article was subsequently reprinted in *The Revealer*, journal of the Éire Philatelic Association and *Notebook*, the journal of the London Postal History Group.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

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



REVIEWS

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

***Postal History of Svalbard from 1896*, by Arne J. Bay, published by the author, 2003, 262 pages, 6½ x 9½", soft covers, perfect binding, English text, Oslo, 400 Norwegian krone plus postage from the author, Karl Andersens vei 52, 1086 Oslo, Norway.**

It has been almost twenty-five years since the author's first book on Svalbard, the group of islands off the coast of Norway and above the Arctic Circle, of which Spitsbergen is the best known. Arne Bay has specialized in the postal documentation of this area for many years, and this book, filled with wonderful black and white and color illustrations, covers the Svalbard horizon with maps, photographs, cancellations and other postal markings, picture post cards, registration labels, covers, government documents, telegrams, postage stamps and essays, labels, and meter stamps.

The variety and completeness of the items seen attest to the author's dedication to the collection of these materials. All of the postal artifacts, bearing descriptive captions, dominate the book, and there is little narrative text. The book also lacks a table of contents and an index, which somewhat limit the utility of this reference work.

The author begins with the early postal history of Spitsbergen and its use as a springboard for Arctic exploration. Rare materials from Advent Bay and Spitsbergen related to early tourism and Andrée's balloon flight set the tone for the book. In 1925 the well-known Polar Bear definitives were issued to commemorate Amundsen's Polar flight, and covers bearing these stamps are shown. Other Polar expedition mail and artifacts include material related to Amundsen, Ellsworth, Nobile, and Wilkens.

For the remainder of the book, material is grouped geographically by post office and then chronologically within. Highlights include Longyearbyen, Kings Bay (Ny-Ålesund), Bjørnøya, Jan Mayen, Sveagrøva, and Green

Harbor among others. One nice feature is a listing of Svalbard place names with descriptions of why they were so named. An illustrated appendix shows cancels and registration labels of the major post offices and how they evolved with time.

The list of literature sources is not sufficiently detailed for further research, as it consists only of titles or authors' names. Despite the technical shortcomings, this book is a feast for the eyes of postal historians. Arne Bay is to be commended for sharing these gems with us.

Alan Warren

***A Postal History of the Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in East Asia During the Second World War, Vol. 2, The Dutch East Indies 1942-1946*, by David Tett, BFA Publishing, 2003, 469 + xx pages + advertisements, 8 x 10¾", hardbound, illustrations including 8 color plates, glossary, bibliography, index, tables, maps, available from Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233 at \$60.00 post paid. ISBN: 0-9544996-0-3.**

This is the second in a series on the mail of prisoners of war and civilian internees in East Asia during world war II (see *TPC* First Quarter 2003, page 10, for a review of volume 1). It is a carefully crafted and extensive treatment of the subject.

As a prelude, the author provides a comprehensive account of the geography and wartime history of the area. The historical treatment continues throughout the book, including some very poignant vignettes. The association of postal history with the particular correspondents adds a significant dimension of understanding.

Careful consideration is given to postal markings and censorship. There is a particularly useful chapter on the relevant postal stationery of the Dutch East Indies. A concordance with the *Geuzendam* postal stationery catalog would have been a useful addition to this section.

Illustrations, for the most part are quite good, although some appear to have been made from black and white photocopies. While these might suffer a bit aesthetically, they are quite adequate for study. The eight color plates are very fine. The book's dust jacket illustrates three additional covers in color.

The fifty-five pages of appendices include an extensive bibliography and several other helpful sections including detail about the various camps.

A chapter is devoted to an update to the earlier volume.

This is a book that not only provides a significant contribution to the knowledge of postal history, but an understanding of the circumstances surrounding the post as well.

JEF

História Postal Del Correo Aéreo Del Paraguay, (Air Mail Postal History of Paraguay) by Osvaldo Portaluppi, Anthony Chytil & Ramón Benitez Ciotti, published by the authors, CP29, Foz do Iguassu PR, Brazil, 197 pages, 7 x 10", soft cover, black & white and color illustrations. US\$30.00 plus US\$7.00 surface postage worldwide.

This is a complete catalog of the air mails of Paraguay, which is an often overlooked country in aerophilately. The first chapter covers historic, pioneer and experimental flights up to 1928. The first aircraft flight in Paraguay took place in 1912. Some experimental flights were made in 1914 when the first souvenir air mail cards were carried between Asuncion, Paraguay and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Other experimental flights were made in 1921 with De Havilland aircraft and special covers were prepared and flown.

The Italian Francesco De Pinedo made a special flight to South America in 1927, which stopped in Asuncion and special covers were carried. The chapter closes with the experimental tour by Curtis Airplane Export Company in 1928, which carried souvenir covers from Asuncion to Rio de Janeiro.

The next chapters cover the first regular airline services to neighboring countries, including rates, each chapter covering a separate year—1929, 1930 and 1931. Shown are post office rate charts, covers and stamps. The next chapter covers the air mail services during the Chaco War, between 1932 and 1935, which was the result of a territory dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay. Most of the services were of course, operated by the Paraguayan military units.

The following chapters cover the stamps and rates for the services by Condor, Air France & Deutsche Lufthansa catapult flights where mail was carried to or from Paraguay. Other chapters cover stamps, rates, military air mail services, and rates for mail carried by specific airlines, such as Condor Lufthansa, Panair do Brasil, LATI, and other airlines up through 1945.

Subsequent chapters cover the air mail services of airlines, such as La Corporación Sudamericana de Servicio Aéreo, CAUSA, ALFA, Pan American Airways, Braniff, Alitalia, Aerlineas Argentinas and other airlines through 1959. There is a separate chapter covering the South Atlantic Zeppelin services, stamps, flights, routes, rates, and special postmarks connected with Paraguay

There are a number of tables covering rate changes between 1927 and 1959, Zeppelin rates to South America from specific countries, such as England and Germany, and rates for mail carried by specific airlines. There are twenty pages of reproductions of government decrees on the carriage of air mail.

There are two pages called "Anécdotas &

Curiosidades" (Anecdotes & Curiosities), but I am not sure exactly what they say, as my Spanish is very limited. There is an extensive bibliography, which lists 130 different publications, and an Index.

The book is very well done and contains a vast amount of information on the air mails of Paraguay. Even though the text is in Spanish, with the aid of a Spanish dictionary, it will be easy to use. I recommend it for the collector of South American air mails.

Ken Sanford

Numbered Navy & Marine Corps Post Office Locations, Vol. 3, 7th edition, by Russ Carter, Military Postal History Society, 2003, 288 + iv 3-ring punched pages, 8½ by 11 inches, loose leaf, member prices postpaid \$27 in the U.S., \$31 to Canada and Mexico, \$40 abroad; \$55 for nonmember, from Military Postal History Society, Box 32, Cypress TX 77410-0032.

The Military Postal History Society's documentation of Army and Fleet Post Office numbers and locations in a new edition continues apace with this third volume of the seventh edition. Building on the previous work of George Cosentini and Norman Gruenzner, author Russ Carter has again waded through government archives to expand the listings here for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

The wading is difficult for there are even more archives to be searched, including some still closed for security reasons. However, the numbers in this volume are essentially from the WW II period with a few that were still in effect into the 1970s. Some of the difficulty in achieving completeness of this documentation is not only the sheer volume of the archived records, but also other matters such as the confusion over the term "branch" in the Navy records, and the complexity of the Fleet Post Office system. Mobile FPOs are undocumented.

Despite these barriers, Carter has expanded earlier listings and identified more of the locations of numbered offices than previously known. Introductory materials include abbreviations used, an explanation of the Navy postal system, and a description of how the catalog listings are organized.

The listings are numerical in categories such as FPOs, air bases, seaplane bases, depots, hospitals, radio facilities, construction units, and many others. A useful index is a listing of the numbers by service branch and country. Several illustrations throughout show cancellations and return addresses – clues that help identify covers.

A bibliography includes the Record Group numbers in the National Archives used to compile some of the data. Carter is to be commended for expanding the APO catalog to a new level, so much beyond that envisioned by the early compilers.

Alan Warren

***Carrying Norwegian Mail Abroad up to UPU*, by Harry Snarvold, published by the author, 2003, 308 pages, 8½ x 11¾", sewn, hardbound, English text, Göteborg, Sweden, 500 Swedish Kroner plus postage from the author, Eneliden 11, 43364 Sävedalen, Sweden.**

This new book essentially replaces Snarvold's earlier work, *Norwegian Letters to Foreign Destinations 1855-1874* (1990). It is greatly expanded in scope and time period and now includes tables with postal rates and routes.

Since much of the early mail from Norway to Europe went through Hamburg, the author begins with a brief discussion of the Danish, Swedish, and Thurn and Taxis offices in that city. The destinations begin with covers to the nearby countries of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Russia. These are followed by other European countries and then North and South America, Africa, the Far East, and Australia and New Zealand.

Each country section begins with a review of postal arrangements, treaties, and rates. Using France as an example, covers are illustrated to reflect the depreciated currency period, disinfected mail, censorship, maritime mail, and different routes depending on political conditions at the time. The book is wonderfully illustrated with examples of covers, many of them shown in color, although in some cases the colors are not a true reflection of the originals due to the method of copying. Preceding many of the destinations are discussions of steamship lines and other aspects of routing the mail.

The book concludes with a bibliography and a listing of currency equivalents. This work with its detailed analysis of the many illustrated covers is a great postal history resource on the early mails of Norway that were sent abroad.

Alan Warren

***Collection Canada 2003*, Canada Post, 2003, 99 pages, 10¼ x 10¼", perfectbound, color illustrations, CDN\$49.95 from: National Philatelic Centre, 75 St. Ninian St., Antigonish, NS B2G 2R5 Canada, (800) 565-4362**

Collection Canada 2003 is Canada Post's annual yearbook of new issues. Past years have seen attractive coffee table style books in unusual sizes and the 2003 edition continues this tradition. The attractive 99-page hardcover reference includes information about all of Canada's 2003 commemorative and definitive stamps.

From the odd-shaped Chinese Lunar New Year stamp, to the NHL all-Stars pane to the tribute to Canadian Astronauts you'll find them all described and illustrated. In fact, this year there is a pocket with a full-color poster in support of the Canada in Space theme. The poster depicts the international Space Station and space stamps from countries participating in the Space Station project

Eight essays addressing a wide range of topics, from migrations across the seas to painting freedom in Montreal, are featured.

The layout and design are exceptionally well done and write-ups are in English and French, the two official languages in Canada. The high-quality production is sold with a plastic slipcase. My copy fit in so tightly that it was a struggle to remove, but once I finally got it out the process was much smoother.

The mint stamps amount to a face value of CDN\$36.15, so the book's price of CDN\$49.95 is a great deal. The clear mounts for the stamps are already affixed to the pages making the mounting of stamps a simple procedure.

Anyone with an interest in Canada and its postal emissions will want a copy of this book on their shelves.

Peter Martin

***The Nile Post. Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps* by Joseph Chalhoub with contributions by Charles F. Hass. Self-published, 101 Upper Bellevue, Westmount, P.Q., Canada, H3Y 1B7; 2003. xxix + 788 pp. + 32 pp. of color plates, hardbound, US\$115.00 (postage & handling: US\$8.00 to addresses in USA; US\$12.00 to Europe by surface mail; US\$15.00 to the rest of the world), ISBN 0-9733373-0-3.**

As each new philatelic work on a subject builds on what has gone before, we should expect that it is more thorough and more in depth, not to mention more up to date. This catalog fulfills the expectation outstandingly. It is nearly as big as a volume of Scott's that covers multiple countries.

This book is sharply focused on stamps, not postal markings, pre-stamp handstamps or covers. Starting with the 1866 issue, essays, proofs, and a surprising number of plate and perforation varieties are listed in meticulous detail (selected essays, color trials, and rarities of some issues are collected in a separate section, in color). This thorough treatment is maintained throughout, even to the issues of the twenty-first century. The abundance of illustrations, many enlarged, makes the catalog especially valuable.

Mr. Chalhoub has bravely attempted to put prices on every item listed, and has succeeded remarkably well. For the rare items, recent auction realizations are used as the basis, or in their absence, the number known or printed. In general, the prices are reasonably close to current retail prices (for some of the varieties, however, pricing is understandably somewhat arbitrary).

The "Royal" proofs of the King Fuad and King Farouk era (with drastically skewed perforations, or imperforate or thin card with "Cancelled" on back) are found, curiously listed as varieties of the issued stamps. The listing of them appears to be thorough, and some errors in the earlier catalog-listing by George Lee have been corrected.

Booklets are described with each definitive issue, from the rare first booklets of 1903 to the lone booklet issued by the Republic. They are also gathered together for convenience in an Appendix. The coil stamps of 1910 and the abortive ones of 1924 are also discussed.

The increased interest in postal stationery in recent times is reflected in a separate section of the catalog. Although there seems to be nothing startlingly new, the listing is quite thorough, and includes proofs and many informative footnotes (essays are gathered in a separate section at the beginning of the catalog). The prices for many of the scarcer items will surprise many readers.

The stamps for the British Forces in Egypt in the 1930s and 1940s are properly included, with many well-illustrated plate varieties and new information on the make-up of the overprinting forms for the 1935 Silver Jubilee commemorative.

Consistent with the focus on stamps, those of the French post offices in Alexandria and Fort Said are covered only from 1899, when the first specially overprinted stamps were issued. The little-known 1899 local provisional overprints of Port Said are thoroughly treated. These French issues are covered in great detail, with valuable information about forgeries, producing the most comprehensive treatment yet to appear.

The relation of Sudan with Egypt was once so close that it was in fact considered to be part of Egypt. Consequently, Chalhoub has included the stamps and postal stationery of Egypt overprinted for Sudan, in a listing rich with detail. The collaboration with Charles Hass shows up strongly in this section, as it also does in the sections on Official stamps and on the French post offices. His unmatched experience and expertise with overprints are clearly evident. Results of his unpublished research are a valuable part of the treatment of overprints, even though the underlying evidence may be incompletely defined.

Should one invest in this catalog even if one already owns one of the excellent earlier catalogs? I would certainly recommend it, for so much has been added to what has previously been published.

P. A. S. Smith

Handbook of Hellenic Philately—Handbooks, Monographs, Articles, Bibliographies, Indexes, by A. B. Virvilis, Vlastos Ltd., 40 Vas. Georgiou Str. GR- 15233, Halandri, Greece, 2003, xviii + 96 Greek & 96 English pages, 23½x17cm., soft bound, US \$40.00 in combination with two other items, ISBN 960-87512-0-8.

As a companion to Vlastos 2003, stamp catalog, A. B. Virvilis' Handbook of Hellenic Philately joined the ranks of invaluable books of Hellenic philatelic literature. The author is well known for his philatelic activities not only within Greece but also abroad with particular interest in philatelic literature.

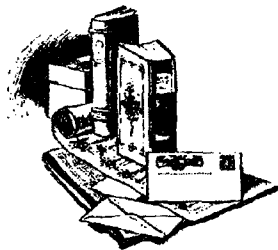
The book is the collection of references of most, if not all, of the major works of Hellenic philately in Greek and foreign languages. Although previously many attempts have been made to gather all references, most were limited either to only foreign or only Greek material. The most aptly named project UTOPIA, the brainchild of Mr. Virvilis, introduced in 1985 still remains unfinished. However, several areas have been completed. The vacuum left from the still unfinished monumental Utopia project is filled with his painstaking efforts and long years of study to compile his Handbook. The willingness of the Vlastos House to support this effort is to be commended. Offering it at the modest price of US \$40.00 in one package together with its two other publications (Vlastos 2003 stamp catalog in two volumes and its pocket edition Vlastos Smart '03) is innovative as well.

The Handbook is introduced by Frances Kiddle RDP, FRPSL, Chairman of the FIP Commission of Philatelic Literature followed by the author's own introduction detailing his aims and purposes in doing so.

The Handbook is in Greek and English, ninety-six pages in each language and is divided into eight parts plus an appendix. Part I: after listing 114 Greek and foreign philatelic and non-philatelic magazines, is devoted to an introduction to philately and lists twenty-seven major references to general philately. Part II is devoted to the stamps of Greece beginning with general works (20) and followed by the large Hermes heads issues (9 chapters with 111 ref.), small Hermes heads (15), Olympic issues (12), common and commemorative issues (98), Airport issues (11), Charity issues (19), Postage Due Stamps (9), Booklets (5), ATM stamps (6) and perfins (10). Part III includes the National Resistance issues (9), unofficial and private issues (6), forgeries and fakes (23). Part IV is on Postal History with 15 chapters dealing with tariffs and all types of cancellations (177), Part V is on the New Territories and Foreign post offices in the Hellenic area (Mt. Athos, Dedeagatz, Dodecanese, Thessaly, Thrace, Epirus, Imbros, Cavalla, Limnos, Macedonia, Asia Minor and Mytilene with 185 references), Part VI is on the Autonomous Postal authorities (Ionian Islands, Icaria, Crete and Samos with 86 references), Part VII is on Postal Stationery (32), Revenues (9), Thematic philately (18), Maximaphily (5), Philatelic Exhibitions (9) and Part VIII indexes the Hellenic philatelic bibliographic references. The Handbook closes with the reprinting of the UTOPIA project and the Federation of European Philatelic Associations' (FEPA) action-plan to promote philatelic literature as a cultural commodity, each a concept of the author, and lastly lists the Hellenic Philatelic Literature awards.

I found the Handbook useful. The publishing of this information is an important service to philately. Such an undertaking should be imitated and supported by other

►►continued on page 19



LETTERS

From Gene Fricks: I think that one of the most useful functions of an editorial board hasn't been mentioned in the *PC*. [See "The Quill" in the last issue, ed.] The board can be a useful backup in the event of illness or incapacity of the lead editor.

From Bob de Violini: The following input is from a sketchy memory of what Jim Chemi told several times, and what I could find in the early issues of the *WU News Bulletin* that I have here - but they don't start until Fall 1971. Some of what I have in the first two paragraphs might be refined by what might have been published in earlier issues of the *News Bulletin*, but I don't have anything earlier than that issue. Maybe you do. Was that 1967 Newark convention meeting at a NOJEX? There is no show name given in what I have - just the city. My gut feeling is that it all happened in New Jersey.

Here's some more on why this group is WU30 vice WU27. (see p. 14 of #142.) Joe Foley is right. Coincidence played no part in it. It was a scheme set up by Jim Chemi and the others when the group began. Chemi often told about the formation of the Writers Unit. I don't recall where he said the initial meeting took place, but it may well have been prior to the APS Convention in Newark, New Jersey in September 1967, because that is where the WU30 was announced as a Unit of the APS. Of course Jim may well have maneuvered things so that it *all* took place during the Newark meeting.

The instigators were Chemi, Chuck Cratsenberg, Dave Lidman, George Martin and possibly one or two others. They were all at a stamp show (possibly at breakfast) and the discussion turned to writers and philately. What came out of this was the feeling that the formation of an association of philatelic writers was a good idea, and that it should, of course, be associated with the APS.

Specialty societies were already associated with the APS (See my article in *The American Philatelist*, August 1987, pp. 769-772) as Units of the APS, so the second word of the writers group's name was set. It would be the Writers Unit. Chemi, as you recall, was the editor of the *AP*, and knew that the Unit numbers then being assigned were in the mid 20s. But he asked the powers that be, that, in consonance with the newsman's use of the number 30, this new group be given that number and not the next one

due, which would have been 27.

That happened, and the APS Writers Unit 30 was one of several new APS Units announced at the meeting in Newark. Other Units announced at that time included the JPA (26), Machine Cancel Society (25), and the predecessors of SAS/Oceania (23 and 24). It was not until two years later that the three blanks had been filled in.

[Sadly, Bob is no longer with us, see page 13, ed.]

From Pat Ryan (editor of *The Revealer*, journal of the Éire Philatelic Association): In a recent discussion with my local postal people who handle my mailings of *The Revealer*. The subject was mailer endorsements and USPS handling. What I discovered was very interesting and I intend to change my options.

This is something that no one will ever know or find out about if they do not specifically look into it. It can, however, save the organization money, especially if the membership moves a lot and does not tell you about it in advance. I noticed two problems with the *Communicator* in the mailing portion of the cover.

First, the mailing indicia is not correct. Regulations have changed. Instead of reading: "BULK RATE / U.S. Postage / Paid / Madrid, IA 50156 / Permit No. 10," it should read: "PRSR STD / U.S. POSTAGE / PAID / Madrid, IA 50156 / Permit No. 10." No savings, but the wording t changed last year, I think, or shortly after we went to standard mail.

Here is the saving and the reference. A list of mailer endorsements is contained in the USPS Domestic Mail Manual (DMM). [Accessible on the 'net at: <http://pe.usps.gov/>] Section 015 of the *Quick Service Guide* has a section titled "Ancillary Endorsements."

The endorsement you are using is "ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED." According to the manual service under this endorsement for Standard Mail (there is no such service as Bulk Mail anymore) is "Weighted fee charged." The service given for this fee is "Returned if Undeliverable or if addressee refuses to pay postage due. Forwarding (if attempted) and returned postage charged at appropriate single-piece rate." In the footnote the Weighted Fee is the appropriate single piece First class or Priority Mail rate for the piece plus the non-machinable surcharge, if it applies E130 (and it does) multiplied by 2.472 and rounded up to the nearest cent.

The charge and service I believe we all can live with is "CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED." New Address notification is provided at a cost of 70 cents for a manual return.

I have been paying both of these charges and I feel they are excessive. Firstly, the PO will not forward third class

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

(As of February 18, 2004)

Welcome Our New Members: .

1891 Harvey M. Karlen, 1008 Marion Street, Oak Park, IL 60312-1373. Assistant Editor, *Illinois Postal Historian*; Free-lance Writer: *American Philatelist*; Cyprus Study Unit; Military Postal History Society; Postal History Journal. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1892 Robert E. Lamb, 1340 Oak Ridge Avenue, State College, PA 16801. Columnist in *The American Philatelist*; Free-lance Writer on various philatelic publications in *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

1893 Tom Neuffer Emswiler, 4402 Doverbrook Drive, Champaign, IL 61822-9363. Editor, Yule Log, Christmas Philatelic Club. Sponsor: Christmas Philatelic Club. Samuel B. Treat, Jr., 513 South Sanders Street, Ridgecrest,

Contributions: We thank the following members for making a contribution over and above the payment of their membership dues:

Diane D. Boehret (\$5.00); Eliot A. Landau (\$10.00); Charles J. Peterson (\$5.00); Robert D. Rawlins (\$5.00) and Steven J. Rod (\$15.00).

Change of Addresses:

0069 Lester E. Winick, 2286 Windish Dr., Apartment 3, Galesberg, IL 61401-9792.

1366 Kenneth P. Martin, 400 Toftrees Ave., Apartment 306, State College, PA 16803-1904.

1350 Paul A. Mistretta, 4148 Commodore Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341-1533.

1527 Barth Healey, 86 Bar Beach Road, Port Washington, NY 11050-4029.

1557 Michael Rogers, 660 West Fairbanks Avenue, Suite #4, Winter Park, FL 32789-4779.

1690 Robert F. Taylor, 674 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27332-8587.

1716 Joseph Monteiro, 89 Vaudreuil Rue, #1002, Gatineau, Quebec, J8X 4E8, Canada.

1877 Jerome V. V. Kasper requests his mailing address not be listed.

Resignations:

1845 Douglas N. Clark of Marstons Mills, Massachusetts

Closed Albums:

0654 Robert de Violini (1929-2004). Obituary on page 8.

Membership Dues Status:

On December 15, 2003, membership dues notices were sent to our 237 members. We thank the 179 who have paid their 2004 dues as of this date, but we still have 58 whose dues are now delinquent. In the next several weeks a final reminder will be mailed to these delinquent members reminding them that this will be the last issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* that they will receive unless their membership dues are paid by the time of the mailing of the next issue.

Membership Dues:

The membership dues are noted on page 2. Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order, payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes by certified mail.

Please keep your mailing address current and notify us of address changes to assure that you receive each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay.

►► Letters, Pat Ryan (continued from page 18)

mail unless the addressee asks for and pays for it. Ergo if you elect the auto forwarding the Post Office collects twice for the same service. I just had two *Revealers* returned to me at a cost of \$2.06 each. Ridiculous! If you feel that you have a similar problem you might try asking your Post Office for help. They don't mind explaining the system if you ask the *right* questions.

►► Reviews (continued from page 17)

firms/businesses. FEPA's action-plan is interesting, ambitious and aggressive. Its scope and aims are visionary and, hopefully, the UTOPIA project will be completed in the near future.

Virvilis' *Handbook* will be a standard reference not only for the neophyte collector by providing him a firm basis to start his work/research but will help the student, beginner or advanced, to find his way through the labyrinth of the accumulated philatelic literature.

The book is a must for the connoisseur of Hellenic philately and the serious collector. It is strongly recommended to all that are involved in studies and research in this area.

N. Asimakopulos, MD, FRPSL

Editor's Note: We had a plethora of reviews for this issue and several have had to be kept over for the second quarter.

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WRITING/LAYOUT MENTORING

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