

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

Joseph E. Foley, Editor

P.O. Box 183

Riva, MD 21140-0183

e-mail: jfoley4197@aol.com

phone: (410) 974-6380

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

WRITERS UNIT 30

Peter D. Martin, President

P. O. Box 791

State College, PA 16804

814 234-8484

e-mail:

pmartin2020@aol.com

George B. Griffenhagen,

Secretary-Treasurer

2501 Drexel Street

Vienna VA 22180-6906

703 560-2413

e-mail: ggriffenhagen@aphanet.org

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

Vice-president, West

David L. Herendeen

5612 Blue Peak Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89131

702 658-8582

Vice-president, East

Barth Healey

86 Bar Beach Road

Port Washington, NY 11050-4029

516 944-9690

The Executive Committee includes the above officers plus Editor Joseph E. Foley and Dane S. Claussen, of Pittsburgh, PA (immediate past president).

The WU30 Council includes:

Lloyd de Vries

Ernest E. Fricks

James W. Graue

Ronald E. Leshner

Augustine Serafini

Jay C. Smith

Kenneth Trettin

Partamus, NJ (2003-7)

Blackwood, NJ (2001-5)

Valleyford, WA (2003-7)

Easton, MD (2003-7)

Oshkosh, WI (2001-5)

Snow Camp, NC (2001-5)

Rockford, IA (2003-7)

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*. □

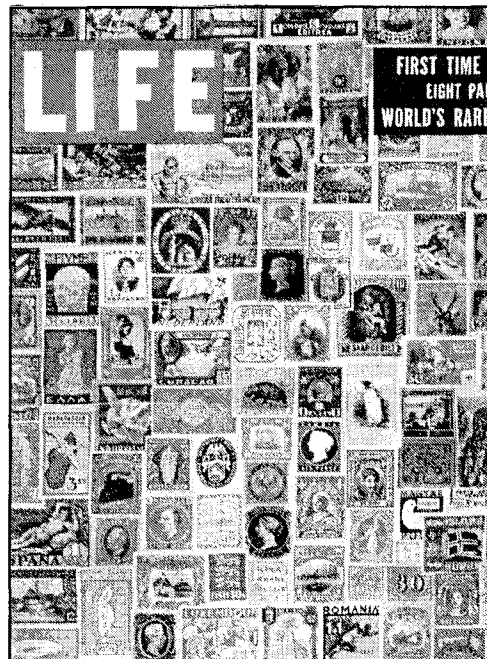
Who casts to write a living line, must sweat.

—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. □