

The Philatelic Communicator

Quarterly Journal of
Writers Unit 30, American Philatelic Society

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Third Quarter 2004

OUTREACH

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

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

Here's a run-down of the material:

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

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

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

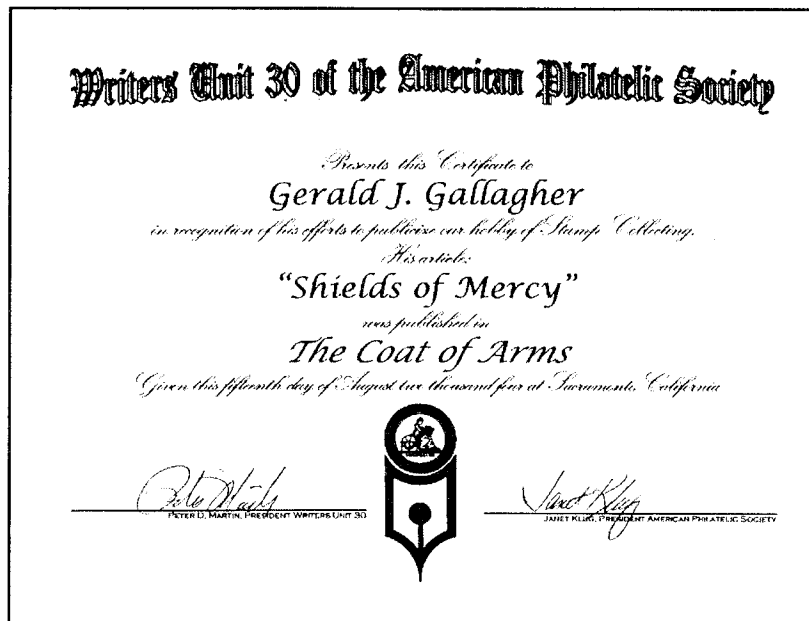
The Autumn 2003 issue of *The Coat of Arms* featured an article by Gerald J. Gallagher titled "Shields of Mercy. In a well-documented story, Gerald clearly shows how our stamps can relate to history.

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

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

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

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



The Philatelic Communicator

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

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

DEADLINES—For receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter Jan. 15

Second Quarter April 15

Third Quarter July 15

Fourth Quarter Oct. 15



The Quill

Joe Foley

CHANGE

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

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

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

REVENUE SOURCES

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

LITERATURE SOURCES

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

NAVIGATION

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

& IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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

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The WU30 Council includes:

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

USPS Zip code address

\$15.00

Canada & Mexico

\$17.50

All other addresses

\$20.00

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

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President's Message

by Peter Martin



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Literature Exhibition Calendar

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

October 19-21, 2004

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

November 19-21, 2002

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

April 8-10, 2005

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

June 3-5, 2005

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

August 4-7, 2005

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

WRITING/LAYOUT MENTORING

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

How Many Ways Can You Misnumber an Issue?

by Ira W. Cotton

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

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

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

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

Table 1, Duck Tracks Issue Numbering

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

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

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

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

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

—E. L. Doctorow

WU30 WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE AT STAMPSHOW

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., AUGUST 13, 2004

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

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

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

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

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

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

A definite interest in a philatelic style guide was

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

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

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

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

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

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

JEF

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

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

—Francois-René de Châteaubriand

Writers' Breakfast at Sacramento

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

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

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

Janet Klug's comments that follow were well received:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harry Myron Konwiser

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stephen G. Esrati

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

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

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

►►continued on page 17

Computer Corner

by Kendall C. Sanford

CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

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

PROBLEM FORWARDING AN EMAIL WITH A GRAPHIC?

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

STRIP ALL THE JUNK OUT OF AN EMAIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPYBOT SEARCH AND DESTROY

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

FREE MANAGER PROGRAM FOR WINDOWS XP

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

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

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

ate backup.

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

QUICK TIP AFTER A SYSTEM CRASH

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

A GOOD USE

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

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

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

NEW EDITORS

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

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

The very best of success to the new editors. □

The Word Processing System of Choice is .

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

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

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

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

Ken Trettin

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

Joe Foley

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

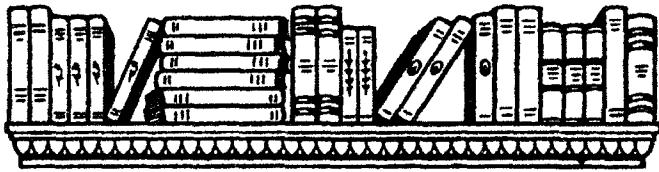
WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

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

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

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

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



REVIEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alan Warren

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

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

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

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

background, development and postal history of the railway on the island of La Réunion from 1882 to 1956. This article also has a bibliography.

Keith Fitton's "Early Seychelles Air Mails 1926-1971" concludes the issue. The ending date, 1971 was picked as that was the year the international airport opened. Considerable rate and route information is provided as well as official notices and announcements. A bibliography is provided.

As in previous numbers, there is a lack of consistency in style, typeface and editing in general. There is also some variability in the quality of illustrations. However, there is a commendable level of scholarship and the information provided on these slightly esoteric subjects is of value to the hobby.

JEF

***The Congress Book 2004*, Richard W. Helbock, editor, American Philatelic Congress, Ross A. Towle, Secretary-Treasurer, 400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, 2004, 229 + iv pages, 7 x 10", hard cover, illustrations, included with membership of \$32.50, ISBN 0-929333-30-6.**

In August, the American Philatelic Congress released *The Congress Book 2004* at APS STAMPSHOW in Sacramento, CA. This hardbound anthology of major philatelic articles, was the fourth edited by Bill Helbock, and the seventieth published by the Congress. This year's 229 pages included articles on pre-statehood mails from Sacramento, postal history of the National Parks, postal history of Tennessee, Haiti revenues, conquest of space, Laos, Egyptian official seals, and Algerian maritime markings, and a brief history of the American Philatelic Congress itself.

The eleven page article on Sacramento pre-statehood mails consists of selected covers and descriptions from Sherry Straley's exhibit "City of Sacramento, 1849-1869". Peter Martin continues his series on National Park postal history, with a 15-page article on the 19th Century Postal History of Yellowstone National Park. Peter discusses all the post offices and illustrates all known postal markings. This is the eighth consecutive *Congress Book* in which Peter has published an article, setting a new world and Olympic record.

Paul Phillips discusses the early postal history of Tennessee in his fifty-three-page article. The article discusses the political and economic history of the Colonial period and relates that to the postal needs, then does the same for the Revolutionary and Confederation Congress periods, the State of Franklin, the Southwest Territory, and statehood (from June 1, 1896). In the statehood period, the author covers the private posts, the major routes into

Tennessee, the routes to the Mississippi, routes to the Gulf and the internal mail routes. The article is well illustrated.

In his thirty-page article on Haiti revenue paper, Gerald Boarino describes in a clear and detailed manner, the 1867-1918 tax laws and tariffs. There are few illustrations, but many tables. Ben Ramkisson discusses the conquest of space from an astrophilatelic perspective. His eighteen-page article is profusely illustrated, and begins with a cacheted postal stationery envelope for the 1904 rocket balloon in McConnellsville NY. It ends with a cover carried on the 1948 guided missile flight of the Nike R-16 in White Sands, NM.

Kenneth Thompson's thirty-four-page article describes and illustrates specialized Laos collecting, including essays, specimens, proofs, imperforate stamps, and souvenir sheets, and categorizes these in some detail. Jim Kotanchik catalogs and illustrates the official seals used in the Egyptian postal system, from as early as 1864 to as recently as 1996. He also discusses and illustrated numerous other commercial and other nonofficial seals in his twenty-one page article. Finally, Ken Nilsestuen describes and illustrates the maritime markings from French Algeria (1810-1875) in his thirty-nine page article, and in the process updates Raymond Salles' *La Posta Maritime Française - Historique et Catalogue*, Vol. 1.

I recommend this book, and all *Congress Books* (although I'm biased — I'm on the APC Council).

John Kevin Doyle

***The Postal History of Spanish New Orleans* by Dr. Y. H. Kouri, Stuart Rossiter Trust, UK, 2004, 306 + xiv pages, A4 size, soft cover, perfect binding, illustrations, maps, tables, index, bibliography, \$84 from Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY, 40233, ISBN 0 9530004 9 4.**

This book deals with the Spanish period from 1763-1804. It covers, in great detail, the development of the posts to and from New Orleans.

Before delving into the philatelic aspects of this book, a careful reading of the "Historical Background" chapter will enhance the appreciation of what follows. There is a considerable amount of original research in this study. The author has carefully documented his sources and fully acknowledged those who provided assistance. As the author notes, given the times, this book also deals with the British, French and American postal systems that interfaced or dealt with the Spanish in or about the city of New Orleans.

While profusely illustrated, many appear to be photocopies with their inherent quality limitations. They suffice for identification.

JEF

New Zealand and Dependencies—A Philatelic Bibliography compiled by David R. Beech, Allan P. Berry and Robin M. Startup, published by Berry & Beech, 238 Waikiekie Road, Thames, New Zealand, 2004, 288 + xv pages, AR size, hardbound, \$NZ 80.00 + 29 shipping to U.S., ISBN 0-476-00516-7.

Work on this book started some forty years ago, with an initial portion prepared in manuscript form by Startup in 1967 and updated in 1986. A preliminary bibliography of forty-four pages was published in 1990, in *New Zealand: A Philatelic Miscellany*. Each of the compilers fulfilled a vital part of the work: Beech with the resources of the Royal Philatelic Society London and the British Library; Berry with his extensive personal library and tireless search for publications that relate to New Zealand; and Startup with his prodigious writings on postal history and work in many capacities with various groups including the archives of New Zealand Post.

The product of their effort is fascinating. At first, one would wonder how so many different sources could be written about New Zealand philately, but then one is struck at how much had to be left out. Of particular note is that articles about various New Zealand subjects are not covered, simply because that might have resulted in a book at least double the size of this volume and would have added decades of further work.

The initial section covers "Monographs," which, after a careful definition of the term, is shown to include anything from a single sheet to books of more than 800 pages. This is followed by "Manuscripts and Grey Literature," all of which seem to be of limited availability, then "Background Literature: National and Local Histories of the Post" and finally "Biographies and Autobiographies." In each of these chapters, listing is by authors' names, which might cause problems in searching for specific subjects. However, the following chapter gives an index of subjects that corresponds to the various numbers assigned to the entries in the preceding chapters.

A second section starts with lists of various periodicals that concern New Zealand and Dependencies. Many of these changed names over the years, so a reference to one will show that another listing existed either before or afterwards. This could involve page-turning to find a different reference, but often the names are slightly changed and fall adjacent to one another. Next comes stamp catalogues, and this chapter of seventeen pages is remarkable in the sheer number of different catalogues that have existed over the years.

Perhaps the most useful section to collectors is the chapter of "Auction and Sales Catalogues." Trying to find a named sale can often be a difficult task. Here the listings are by auction houses and include the sales that the

compilers considered to contain material of importance, so it is not exhaustive. It is nevertheless a fine resource when used in combination with extensive library holdings of auction catalogues such as at the Collectors Club, reducing the need to look through many sales for appropriate listings. "Exhibition Literature" deals with New Zealand exhibitions, and in many cases the listings are of single pages of flyers or brochures.

The final section contains "Official Publications" and covers 128 pages. Examples of some of the listed items are not known to exist, but were taken from earlier listings of official nature. These may have been discarded when reprints were issued, but are listed here more to keep the record complete.

The work that produced this volume was prodigious. Trying to make such information useful is equally a challenge, and usually requires striking a balance between a bare listing and one that is fully cross-referenced but that requires a much larger volume. This leans toward the former and requires a bit of perseverance to extract the desired information. Yet it is obvious that many answers, sometimes to questions that the reader did not know to ask, are available in its study. Although not an easy read, this certainly can reward the person who is diligent enough to peruse the sections that might yield information of interest.

Robert P. Odenweller

The Cumulative Index to BNA Topics 1944-1997, compiled by P. Charles Livermore, British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), 1998, 284 + viii pages, 8½ x 11", spiral binding, available from Ian Kimmery Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1P 5B6 (<http://www.iankimmery.com/boutique/books.html>), \$34.95 Cdn (approx \$26.25 US), BNAPS members 40% discount, shipping + 10% Canada, 15% US, 20% overseas, ISBN 0-919854-18-4.

Fifty-four years of study of British North America philately are contained in *BNA Topics*. But where, what issue? This cumulative index provides the answer and is particularly well done. The fact that the compiler is not only a well-respected collector (recently elected president of BNAPS) but a librarian of long standing, currently with St. John's University in New York City, may have more than a little to do with this being a user-friendly index.

The three-page introduction succinctly sets forth the compiler's approach and provides guidance on the use of the index. There is considerable cross indexing, some articles having as many as ten headings. The author index is intermingled with the entire index rather than given separately. Articles not adequately defined by their title have concise abstracts.

Anyone contemplating doing a cumulative journal

index might consider this as a guide.

JEF

DALLAY – Catalog de cotations des Timbres des DOM-TOM 2004-2005 [Priced stamp catalog of the Overseas Departments and Territories, 2004-2005], published by DALLAY S.A.R.L., 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris, France, 2004, 864 pages, 14.8 x 21 cm, soft cover, color illustrations, for sale via web site: <http://www.philatelix.fr/produits/Cat/Dallay2004C.cfm> at 34.90 euros plus postage, ISBN 2-9516689-7-X.

While perusing the latest editions of *Timbres* I became aware of the new Dallay French Colonies catalog. A Google search led me to the web site to see the promos. There has been no comprehensive attempt at a catalog for the French Colonies since the old *Yvert Tome II* of 1936, and with a total price of a bit more than 51 euros shipped via air mail, I thought it worth a try to see what had been done.

After having had the catalog for a month and using it as the basis for some recent ebay sales, I must sincerely congratulate the producers on the fantastic job that they have done in bringing this catalog to the philatelic world.

This catalog only covers the DOM-TOM – i.e. those colonies that were/are part of the overseas departments and territories. Included in the order presented are Saint Pierre & Miquelon, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane, Inini, Réunion, Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mayotte, Mohéli, Comores, Nouvelle Calédonie, Tahiti, Océanie, Polynésie, and Wallis & Futuna. It is printed in a 14.8 x 21-cm format on quality paper. There are more than 6,000 color illustrations of colonial stamps! This is the first of three catalogs that will cover all of the French Colonies. That for Africa is promised for next year.

Overall I have to give the producers very high marks for having succeeded in producing a wonderful example of the first modern comprehensive colonial catalog. An introductory section that sets the stage for the catalog is followed by a brief history of the French Colonial Empire, and then sections on the General Issues (including all the subsequent large and small colonial series that followed the GI's), the North American colony of Saint Pierre & Miquelon, the Antilles, the Indian Ocean Islands and the Pacific Islands. Each colony is preceded by a short history of the colony. The initial section on the General Issues is used to introduce the stamps – their use is comprehensively covered in the individual colony sections.

Catalog values for mint, unused, used (standard cancels) and on cover (more on this later) are provided, with premium factors for multiples. The catalog page is divided into two columns with two stamps pictured side-by-side in each column, with detailed information on date of printing,

use and printing numbers listed under each stamp – to the extent this information is available. Listings are provided for shades, blocks, reprints and varieties as relevant are then provided for the two issues. This is a very clear and simple way to keep the stamp illustrations and information close.

The illustrations for the key plate varieties (5c without parenthesis, *timbre couché*, recut 4's on the 40c Ceres, Types I and III for the 25c Ceres and Types IIA and IIB for the Sage issues are beautifully presented, and the less common ones noted. All issues from the Eagles to the Dubois are covered. Preceding the Duval Colonial due stamps are the millésimes, with a color example for each of the stamps and prices for each millésime as mint or unused.

The catalog hits full stride with the listings for the individual colonies. The approach is similar throughout, so I will only consider the Guadeloupe section in detail. The colony is introduced by a one page history, followed by a section on cancellations (well illustrated), a listing and history of the individual offices and a listing of the local postal lines. All of this is from the Dubus book, and it is nicely summarized in these few pages.

The section on the use of the stamps of France in the 1851-53 period is comparable to that in current catalogs. Thereafter the General Issues are illustrated in the same double format as before, but now with a typical cancellation of the colony. Each of the stamps chosen for the illustrations are first rate copies with striking cancellations. Values are presented for the stamps used singly and on letter, with many of the possibilities (lozenge cancels, GPE lozenge cancels, army correspondence, circular datestamps, small village cancels, anchor cancels, etc., etc.) valued. This is the first attempt at providing this information for collectors of which I am aware. The same approach continues through the provisional and definitive periods. The overprint illustrations in this area are superb – again available elsewhere, but now presented in one place.

The modern issues (post 1905 for Guadeloupe) are priced mint, unused, used and on cover, with frequent special values for single use on cover. Again, the literature has been collated in the due section, with great attention to the plate variations in the early typeset dues.

Colonial nuances abound throughout. Chance use of French stamps from individual colonies are noted. The F.M. stamps are cataloged used and on cover for relevant colonies. The Amazon issues are noted for French Guiana, as is the use of due stamps for regular postage on the island of Réunion in 1901. Even a *ballon monté* is pictured for New Caledonia.

The ultimate success of the catalog will rest on its acceptance by the philatelic community. Are the prices recorded a true reflection of the market? For the use of the

issues of France from the Colonies, a 50% premium for a European destination seems very low, given that only one cover is known to other than France from any of the four colonies using the French Ceres stamps. However, my first reading suggests that values in general are high. The pricing of covers for the General Issues is especially difficult, given that the postage rates did not necessarily correspond to the stamp values. What does a value for any 4c Group Type stamp on cover really mean? Used singly this would be a grand rarity – I have never seen one. But I actually have a few covers franked with 10 x 4c stamps prepaying the 40c registered French community rate. Typically one sees the 4c stamp in combination with other values prepaying a common rate, and the true value of the cover is governed by other factors. Are the values for material from the plethora of small offices correct given the scarcity of this material?

The producers have made a solid attempt to bring together the vast colonial literature and modern dealer, net price and auction sales. Yes, there are problems, but I consider these small relative to the undertaking and its overall success. Possibly they should have sought out a few more colonial specialists to review individual colonies, but this is a minor point. In my view, this catalog and the two to follow to complete the colonies will become the bibles for colonial collectors. Bravo Dallay!

Ed Grabowski

...And I Would Do All Of It Over Again, by Clyde Jennings, I. B. Koller, 2004, 167 + ii pages, 5½ x 8½", perfect bound, color illustrations, available from the author, 319 West 70th Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208 at \$53 postpaid.

It arrived, appropriately, in a plain brown wrapper. In this autobiography, the author takes us from gestation to elderly adolescence and back again, and back and forth, and 'round the corner and so on.

Most of the illustrations are in color—can't really imagine Clyde in black & white! If you think so, take a look at the illustration on page 83—Clyde's collection (of sport coats). There are some delightful vignettes of stamp collectors and dealers, some well-known and some not so well-known. The little story about Port Lavaca "peels the onion" a bit and shows a very kind and sensitive side of the author. Then again . . .

You don't have to know Clyde to appreciate this little book—but it helps. It really is a delightful read, although a sub-title might have been *The Stories Pat Herst Didn't Dare Tell!*

JEF

Oblitérations Suisses 1843-1854 et Raretés des Émissions de Cette Période (Swiss Cancellations 1843-1854 and

***Rarities of the Issues of This Period)* by Henri Grand, no publication place, publisher or date, 327 + 8 pages, 9¼ x 12", hard covers, perfect binding, color illustrations, 150 Swiss francs, from Ventés aux Enchères Giorgino, P.O. Box 790, CH-2501 Bienne, Switzerland.**

Students and exhibitors of early Swiss stamps no longer have to imagine what the perfect collection would look like because it now exists – on paper – in this large, colorful book by a still very active Swiss exhibitor who won the international grand prize at PARIS 1982 for his display of classic Swiss stamps.

To illustrate everything about cancels known to date, he cites three sources: his *prix d'honneur* exhibit of Swiss cancels at the TICINO 2003 exhibition in Switzerland, more than fifteen years of auction catalog clippings, and other collections including that at the Swiss Museum of Communication in Bern. His stated purpose is to promote research into the history of Swiss cancels, a vast subject with the origin of some still unknown and new examples appearing each year. This book also reflects his thesis that Swiss cancels, with their different colored inks, give a particular attractiveness to letters from the period. His achieved goal is to provide pleasure for the eye.

To organize this visual feast, the author has divided the book into three sections, cancels on Swiss cantonal stamps in use from 1843 to 1854, on federal stamps available during 1850-1854, and on rare frankings throughout both periods. This range of dates takes in the Zurich, Geneva and Basel cantonal stamps, their transitional stamps, and the federal Rayons and Strubels.

Since marcophily has moved beyond the days of showing different cancels in chronological order without commentary, the author takes a postal history approach, using his years of study to document where, when and why certain cancels were applied to certain stamps. As a result he has taken a big step beyond two of the most widely known Swiss books on Swiss cancels, *The Postage Stamps of Switzerland 1843-1862* by Mirabaud and Reuterskiöld in 1899 and *The Great Handbook of Cancellations on Swiss Stamps 1843-1882* by Andres and Emmenegger in 1931, which was updated by Müller and Lipp in 1969.

To orient the reader, the author makes two early distinctions; first, the difference between a Swiss postal marking and a cancel. The earliest handstamped postal marking is De Genève applied by a French office in Swiss territory on a letter dated 1695, long before the introduction of adhesive stamps; whereas the earliest cancel on an adhesive stamp appears on the Zurich 6-rappen cantonal issue on a letter dated March 2, 1843, which is pictured on the book's cover.

The second distinction divides all cancels into mute and

“talking.” Mute cancels include the cantonal rosettes and the federal grills. Talking cancels include all with a letter or number as well as those with a word or name. Examples include P (payé), LBpH (lettre de Bâle pour Huningue), RL (rayon limitrophe) and 2 (kreuzers). A unique federal grill with diagonal bars surrounding St.G (for St. Gallen) combines both mute and talking characteristics.

Along the way the author slips in all the rate information based on distance and/or weight that prevailed during the cantonal period and under the first federal tariffs of October 1, 1849, and January 1, 1852. This information is particularly helpful in the case of Geneva, which initially continued to use French centimes after the rest of Switzerland agreed on German-Swiss rappens.

The book reaches its climax in the third section where the different cancels appear on rare frankings: half, quarter and two-thirds bisects; Rayons with frames or no frames around the central cross in the design; combinations of the eight Rayons; and Rayon-Strubel mixed frankings (I believe the author shows all eleven recorded to date). Among exotic destination letters is one in 1854 to the Crimean War.

What appears at first to be only a pretty coffee-table book turns out to be a valuable, fully illustrated text on the postal history of Swiss cancels (and uses of early Swiss stamps).

Harlan F. Stone, CPhH

***An Introduction to the Postal History of Denmark 1624-1950* by David Cornelius, Stuart Rossiter Trust, UK, 2004, 344 + xxii pages, A4 size, hard cover, illustrations, maps, tables, index (selective), bibliography, \$82 from Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY, 40233, ISBN 0 9545207-0-X.**

Treating more than 300 years of postal history in a single book is a daunting task, but rather well met by the author. There is a comprehensive section of forty pages providing historical and background information that includes some basic data on postal markings.

The next two sections deal with domestic and foreign mail respectively. Within the sections are chapters initially arranged chronologically followed by special services and, for foreign, various postal arrangements.

The next section treats the various forms of mail transport: land, sea, rail and air. Wartime and military mail follow. Sixty pages are devoted to an extensive discussion of rates, fees and charges, replete with tables.

The book concludes with notes, references, index, an index of abbreviations and a complete repeat of the book list already given on pages vi & vii. A very worthwhile reference.

JEF

***The Essays and Proofs of Tibet*, by Armand E. Singer, Geoffrey Flack, Box 16011, Lynn Valley Postal Outlet, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7J 3S9, Canada, 2004, 30 pages, 8½ by 11”, stiff covers, Cerlox bound, color illustrations, \$38 from the publisher.**

Professor Singer continues to enrich the philatelic literature of the Himalayan area, especially in conjunction with dealer-publisher Geoffrey Flack. Although the subject of essays and proofs of Tibet is a somewhat narrow field as revealed in the number of pages, readers are rewarded with full color illustrations of the material discussed. Another benefit to collectors is that the material extends beyond that reflected in the title to include facsimiles, locals, labels, and other peripheral item of interest.

The 1912 issue proofs drawn from the wood blocks are described along with the Waterlow “die proofs” in various colors. A pen and ink essay exists which presumably was used by Waterlow to prepare their proofs, and several tracings are also known. A native proof of the 1-sang is known in violet rather than the issued green. Singer mentions that there are no essays or proofs known of the 1914 4- and 8-trangka issues, but he holds out hope that they may one day be discovered.

Proof “sheetlets” of the 1933 issues are known except for the ½-trangka value. They appeared as miniature sheets with only two copies of the stamp. There are wider borders between the stamps than in the normal sheets of twelve, and the proof sheets show the two adjacent clichés in positions that are not found in the issued format. Several of the 1933 proofs are known used and on cover.

Among the peripheral items described, that are not really proofs or essays, are the third issue items overprinted PHARI / TIBET, Heinrich Harer’s proposed stamp issue for Tibet, the two Tibet government in exile sets, and the specimen overprints of the Chinese Offices in Tibet series. Still other items of marginal interest are the Nelson Eustis promotional souvenir sheet of the ¼-trangka first issue on wove paper, the Human Rights labels, and the various reproductions by Senf and Crow.

Additional discussions are presented on the floral cancels, a specimen seal, a recently discovered Tibetan revenue, and a theory offered by publisher Flack that the so-called “official” stamps of Tibet may in fact be proofs of stamps never properly issued. A bibliography would have been useful but detailed references are cited throughout the book so that students can refer to the earlier work of others.

Alan Warren

***Fakes Forgeries Experts, Vol. 7*, Knud Mohr editor, Association Internationale des Experts en Philatelie & Federation Internationale de Philatelie (AIEP & FIP), 2004, 200 pages, A4 size, soft cover, perfect binding,**

color illustrations, available from Leonard Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233 at \$70, ISBN 87-990127-0-7.

The new editor continues the same high standards as his predecessor. *FFE* is now produced in Denmark. There are twenty-six articles on subjects ranging from Himalayan phantasies to an analysis of the papers and colors used by Sperati in his Newfoundland "creations." Illustrations in just about all cases are outstanding.

In addition to what might be termed "housekeeping" items, the volume includes some reviews of recent literature of related subjects, a continuation of AIEP biographies, a cumulative index of all seven volumes as well as an author index. All of the text is in English, occasionally repeated in other languages.

JEF □

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (As of September 18, 2004)

We welcome the following new member:

1895 Wallace A. Craig, P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92834-3351. Publisher of the *Federation Review*. Sponsor: Alan Warren.

Change of Address:

0637 Ralph L. Sloat, 3144 Gracefield Road, Apt. 217, Silver Spring, MD 20904-5880.

1265 Thomas E. Gill, 5525 North Stanton Street, El Paso, TX 79912.

1598 Peter P. McCann, 6660 Saint James King, University City, FL 34201-2238.

1684 Garvin F. Lohman, 445 Grafton Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112-2235.

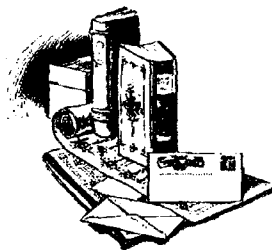
1877 Jerome Kasper, 2718 Vanderbilt Lane, #B, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-3322.

Membership Dues:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses.....	\$15.00
Canada and Mexico.....	\$17.50
All Other Addresses.....	\$20.00

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.

Keep your mailing address current. Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay. This will also save WU#30 more than one dollar because the USPS charges fifty cents when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.



LETTERS

From George Griffenhagen: In response to Jane K. Fohn's letter on page 18 of the Second Quarter 2004 *PC*, let me provide more information on the difficulties that the American Topical Association is having in the preparation of a Membership Directory. More and more members, and even some authors of articles in *Topical Time*, are demanding that we not list their mailing addresses. As early as 2001, ATA claims director Frederick Campbell asked the ATA Board of Directors to discontinue the publication of a Membership Directory, citing the similar actions taken by many other philatelic organizations, including the Writers Unit #30.

However, since one of ATA's objectives is to "provide a means of exchanging information between stamp collectors worldwide," the ATA Board established a procedure whereby any member who desires to have their mailing address or e-mail address listed must so advise ATA. The results were very disappointing since a large number of members failed to return their response form and therefore the majority were listed by name only in the 2002-2004 Membership Directory.

Members who expressed their disappointment were advised that "if they want to reach another member whose address does not appear in the 2002-2004 Membership Directory, they should send their letter to ATA headquarters and it will be forwarded to the desired member." But even this did not satisfy ATA's overseas members. One wrote, "if the U.S. does not permit the publication of all addresses, at least publish the mailing addresses of all ATA members who live beyond their authority of the U.S. government."

Therefore to accommodate the more than 30 percent of ATA members, in June 2004 the ATA Board of Directors authorized the publication of mailing addresses for all ATA members residing overseas unless they advise ATA that they do not want their mailing address listed in the 2005-2007 Membership Directory. This still does not resolve the problem of U.S. members since the ATA general counsel stands by his original decision that ATA must receive written authorization to publish their mailing address.

Even the present procedure is fraught with complications. ATA executive director Ray Cartier explains how he made several errors when a copy of *Topical Time* was returned with a change of address notification, but he forgot

to check the membership database to see if the member had previously advised ATA that they did not want their mailing address released to anyone. As many have said, this flap over the type of information to be included in a Membership Directory is nonsense because anyone can get on the Internet to find not only the mailing address but often a good deal of other personal data about most U.S. members of any organization. □

►► **Writers' Breakfast** (continued from page 7) simply republished in, *Linn's*, *Canadian Stamp News*, *Stamp Collector* and *The American Philatelist*.

In 1981, Esrati was bitten by a new bug, plate number coils. He organized a few enthusiasts into a study group, published an annual catalog, and put out a bimonthly magazine. Since PNCs were printed at the same time as the original Great Americans, he delved into those as well, and has written an encyclopedic review of everything that can possibly be found out about that set of stamps.

Esrati also has been published in the *American Philatelic Congress Book*, *Deutschland-Sammler*, *Sammler Lupe*, and *The Canadian Philatelist*. As a professional journalist at the *Boston Herald-Traveler*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and other newspapers, he crusaded against secrecy in the U.S. Post Office Department and in the U.S. Postal Service. His nonphilatelic writings include a novel about World War II, *Comrades*, *Avenge Us*, and a memoir of being taken hostage in Lebanon in 1948, *The Tenth Prayer*.

Despite having published several books, edited periodicals and written hundreds of articles over nearly fifty years, today's Hall of Fame induction is the first time Esrati's philatelic writing has ever been recognized by any award, medal or other honor. □

I don't know any but the simplest rules of English grammar, and I seldom consciously apply them. Nevertheless, I instinctively write correctly and, I like to think, in an interesting fashion. I know when something sounds right and when it doesn't, and I can tell the difference without hesitation, even when writing at breakneck speed. How do I do this? I haven't the faintest idea.

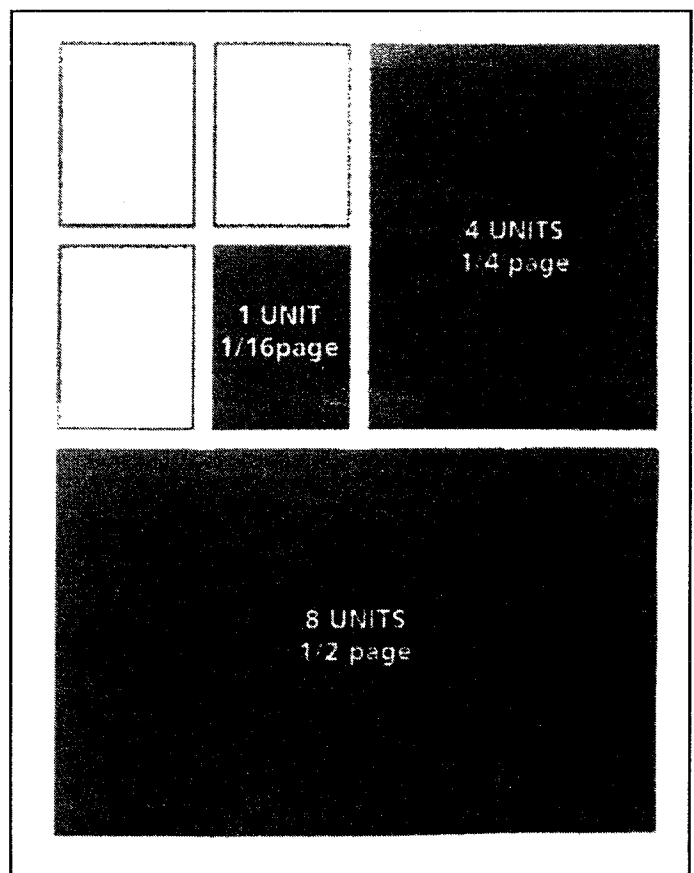
—Isaac Asimov

Editor's FAQ

by Larry Goldberg

Q. My printer talks about using a grid in my layout. What does he mean?

A. A grid is an invisible sort of framework that one uses in laying out a page. I use a grid in *George VI*, for example, within the four margins that divides the page into four vertical columns and four horizontal rows is separated by a space equal in size to the gutters between columns. Generally, (there are exceptions) I try to make things fit within each of the grid zones (see reduced layout below). Each of the 16 grid units measures 9.75 picas wide by 13.625 picas high. So, all photos, tables, text, etc., will fit into units this size or multiples thereof.



If you use three columns, you might set up a nine or eighteen unit grid.

I rarely use less than a quarter page.

Q. How do I determine what letterspacing to use?

A. From an esthetic standpoint, I like text to be a little tight, but actually normal letter spacing provides better legibility with most text fonts. □

Flood Hits Bellefonte

Hurricane Ivan was not kind to the American Philatelic Center, but it could have been much, much worse. Like so many communities throughout the eastern United States, the Bellefonte-State College area suffered serious flooding on Friday night and Saturday morning (September 18 and 19) as Hurricane Ivan dropped four to seven inches of rain on the area overnight. The damage from flooding was unwelcome and annoying, but the major functions were not impacted. Both of the library buildings were unaffected. Key areas like the Library reading room received no water at all and there is no apparent damage to the structure itself. The Sales Division and Internet Sales were also safe, although there was a small amount of water in the Sales Division. Expertizing was also safe.

The greatest amount of flood water was in the old loading dock area that now houses the administration offices and accounting. Carpets in about forty-percent of the renovated building got wet and supplies stored in boxes on the floor suffered water damage. On Monday, the greatest loss seemed to have been boxes of stationery and other supplies in two storage areas.

Professional cleaners are drying the carpets and cleanup is underway. The Society and Library were open for business on Monday, September 20, and services were available to members on a normal basis.

There is flood insurance and representatives of Hugh Wood Inc. were on the scene, evaluating damage for a possible insurance claim.

This is nowhere near as bad as it could have been; and a great deal of the country has suffered far worse from this year's rash of devastating hurricanes.

The Centre Daily Times reported severe flooding throughout the county. Spring Creek which runs through Bellefonte was over its banks in several places. Not as fortunate as the APS/APRL buildings was the nearby Schnitzel's Tavern which wound up with three feet of water. The paper showed an awesome picture of the creek running higher than the restaurant's first floor windows.

Editor's Note: Compiled from APS reports and press release and reports on *The Centre Daily Times* Webpage. □

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. □

One of the disadvantages of wine is that it makes a man mistake words for thoughts.

—Samuel Johnson

False Positives

by Lloyd A. de Vries

You know how you go to a stamp collecting site on the Internet, and there are those ubiquitous Google word ads — for rubber stamps? That's because the Google ads are using the keywords "stamp" or "stamps" (which the Google system pulls from the content of the site) and the interface isn't smart enough to differentiate between "postage stamps" and "rubber stamps."

That's always the danger of using automated feeds with keywords. I use a couple of programs at my "day job" (CBSNews.com) that track new stories, from the Associated Press and Reuters, with keywords. Of course, "stamp" is one of them. However, it's amazing how many false results come in. First, it seems to be in the wire service style guides that every politician is putting his stamp on this policy or that one, or is pledging to stamp out corruption or drug trafficking or, more likely, his opponents. Parliaments always seem to rubber-stamp despots' decisions, too.

There are frequently stories on the wires about food stamps. Then there are the stories from Arkansas. If they don't originate in the town of Stamps, then they feature someone whose last name is Stamps. If New Jerseyans hadn't misspelled the town name, I wouldn't be pestered by so many stories about Westampton! And any story from Italy is likely to include a reference to its major newspaper, *La Stampa*.

Cheer up, my fellow scribes! The automated feed is not about to replace us! □

C-Nile Virus

from Ken Trettin

A NEW VIRUS... Just got this in from a reliable source. It seems that there is a new virus out there called the C-Nile Virus that even the most advanced programs cannot take care of, so be warned, it appears to mostly affect those of us who were born before 1958!

Symptoms of C-Nile Virus:

1. Causes you to send same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send to wrong person.
4. Causes you to send back to person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the

□

Desktop Publishing (& Other Things)

by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

I have never used any specific Desktop publishing system as I am really not a secretarial-type person. However, the typesetter I use to perfect my creations uses the *Adobe Illustrator* system. In the early days I would deliver the articles to her - she would set them up and I would paste them down. As Desktop Publishing evolved, I now deliver the articles to her and she sets them completely removing me from the past-up job. This makes the entire process quicker and cheaper thus giving us (the Éire Philatelic Association) the benefit of expanding technology. Namely, I have eliminated one full step in the former production cycle. Naturally, it costs a slight bit more but the benefits are a reduction in production time of about one to two weeks depending upon her work load and it makes my life just a bit more pleasant. I can now concentrate upon writing filler-type articles and major articles when the need arises. Just a slight shift in what I myself do.

If I have to retype anything, I use *Microsoft Word* - some form that I can swap off to the Typesetter and she can translate into something she can use. One of my problems between myself and the typist is the computer systems we use: she has an Apple & I use an IBM compatible. But we have always been able to communicate effectively.

The idea is to keep the time between the deadline date and the publication date to a minimum. My system is as follows:

A. Deadline date = day 1. Consolidate all articles and start putting the issue together. (Typist) The articles have been arriving during the period preceding the deadline date or have been left over from the last issue. The time used for this step varies but is usually about two weeks.

B. She sets up the issue in pages and reproduces the issue (what she has) in 11x17" paper and sent to the Assistant Editor for proofing - This is important: The assistant Editor has nothing to do with the actual production of the issue up to this point. He is used strictly to review the issue for content, logic, spelling and does everything make sense. This normally takes two full weeks as he reads the issue twice, completely.

C. Issue is returned to the typesetter who makes the corrections (Bob, my asst. editor, is known as Mr. Comma) Decisions on the front page is made at this point and a final overall review is conducted by myself.

D. The issue goes to press. This process takes about one week mostly due to scheduling and the color necessary for the front and back pages. We have a single color used on the cover as follows: Spring - Green; Summer - Red; Fall - Brown and Winter - Blue.

E. When the issue is ready for mailing I pick it up and prepare it for mailing. This is a rather complicated process in order to comply with all of the Post Office's requirements but I have gotten it down to a method that takes my one day. I have the mailing divided up in the following way: Officers - generally First class or Priority Mail; Overseas: Canadian Mail - Air Mail; Australian Mail & South Africa - Individual Air Mail; Ireland - Air Small Packet and All others - Air Mail to Scotland. NOTE: to Ireland & Scotland I drop ship all issues to one address who re mails them to the appropriate address in Europe.

I then drop off the entire shipment at the Post Office and give them about four hours to process the shipment. Return and pay the bill.

Then I pass out and relax as another issue is down the tubes and I can rest for a few weeks.

Pat Ryan is the editor of *The Revealer*, journal of the Éire Philatelic Association—a position he has held since 1986 & not missed a single issue. Ed. □

Our wonderful English language !

from Augustine Serafini

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meaning than any other two-letter word, and that is "UP." If you are not confused after reading this you must really be messed "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list but when we waken in the morning, why do we wake UP. At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special, and this is confusing.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP.

To be knowledgeable of the proper uses of UP, look UP the word in the dictionary. In a desk size dictionary, UP takes UP almost 1/4th the page and definitions add UP to about thirty.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP , so I'll shut UP... □

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