

The Philatelic Communicator

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First Quarter 2006

Scanners and How They Can Help You

by Robert P. Odenweller

Scanners have a wide range of uses, but are a particularly essential piece of equipment for the author and editor. Mine sees action daily to make illustrations for articles for the CCP (one just arrived in the mail asking me to make the proper scan), illustrations to send to others, conversion of text submitted instead of electronic copy, which I convert by OCR (Optical Character Recognition), and expertizing. A few other uses creep in, but I couldn't imagine life without one.

Let's assume you already have access to a scanner but have not been able to see what it can do for you. Each scanner, when delivered, will have some sort of entry level program that can be put to limited use. These programs are often just a come-on to get you to buy the full bells-and-whistles version, which is almost guaranteed to have far too many things you'll never need.

Selecting a proper program is another subject. For the moment, let's see what you can do with what you have. Although each scanner will have different controls that you use both as buttons on the face and electronic selections on the screen, they will generally have the same basic selections available. Primary of these is the number of dots per inch (dpi) you can use.

Current scanners routinely deliver 1,200 dpi if you need it. Earlier ones were limited to something on the order of 300. So what do you need?

Consider this basic rule of thumb: Deliver the final image at 300 dpi for virtually any top level printing job and you'll have a fine level of sharpness.

I say "final level" for a reason: A cover scanned at 300 dpi and intended for printing at life size should do just fine. A stamp or marking scanned at 300 dpi and blown up to show some smaller detail will suffer, depending on how much you blow it up. If the final size is double the original, you will wind up having half of the 300 dpi, or 150. A three times enlargement yields only 100 dpi, and so forth.

To get the proper level of sharpness, then, you must multiply the 300 dpi end-product output by the amount of the enlargement. Thus, a double size stamp must be scanned at 600 dpi (2 x 300), and a triple size at 1,200.

Unless you have a huge storage capacity in your computer, you'll want to scan at a size that will reflect any future need, and not just at the highest level. For example, a full 300 dpi color scan of a standard 8½ x 11 page will yield a 24 MB file. That goes to 96 MB for 600 dpi and a whopping 385 MB for 1,200. Drop that to a greyscale image and you still have 8, 32 and 128 MB, respectively. Individual covers will be a portion of those figures, but a #10 cover will still be about 45% of each of the above file sizes.

How these are saved will make quite a difference. Retaining the full amount of information of the scan will require saving as a TIF file (Tagged Image File Format), but that will result in the largest size. A small cover I just scanned (measuring about 5.4 x 3.1 inches), gave me a 3.7 MB file. This is much more than you would want to send to anyone electronically unless you both have a very high speed connection. Even then, it's a bit much. For this, and certainly for more than one image to be sent, a CD in the mail is the best solution. All this is, of course, dependent on the type of production involved in the final journal. For the CCP, we can handle up to 375 dpi in color on surfaced paper. For the journals that are printed in black and white or that don't use such high tech equipment, such as Kinko's, you can get away with less than 300 dpi. And remember, too, that any reduction of size gains in the other direction. If a cover is to be shown at only half size, then you can get away with 150 dpi since it will again return to 300 for the final image. Just understanding the trade-off is enough. Each requirement will be different. Once you have

➤➤ *continued on page 4*

Gene Fricks, Editor pro tem

25 Murray Way e-mail: genefricks@comcast.net
Blackwood NJ 08012-4400 phone: 609-254-6264

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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.

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WRITERS UNIT 30

Peter D. Martin, President

P. O. Box 4503
Danbury, CT 06813
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: Kenneth Trettin, P.O. Box 56, Rockford, IA 50468-0056, 641 756-3542
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).

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

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The Quill Gene Fricks

STANDING WITH YOUR BUDDY

When Joe Foley told me of his medical problems and asked for help with the Communicator, I thought of how a similar request almost 30 years ago led to an almost 20-year stint at the Collectors Club Philatelist. However, when your buddy is hurting, you stand with him. So here I am and I trust that I can depend upon each of you to help continue the fine effort Joe has spearheaded on our behalf.

So, if you deserve a first-class product, let's collaborate to make it happen.

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Peter Martin



Editorial Opening

In his fourth quarter 'The Quill' column, Editor Joe Foley announced that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer and that he would begin treatment right away. Gene Fricks, a longtime council member and former editor of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, agreed to step in on an interim basis

I am pleased to report that Joe appears to be winning his battle with the dreaded disease. But the situation has caused him to reassess his priorities. The end result is that he is limiting his outside activities so that he can

spend more time with his family. Regrettably, he has submitted his resignation as editor of *The Philatelic Communicator*, a duty that he has done with energy and enthusiasm for a prolonged period of time.

Joe revitalized the journal and has produced excellent themed issues. He sought out experts to provide their insights into the writing and editing craft with the goal of improving the skills of our members. He worked tirelessly to provide a quality journal and on behalf of the officers, council and membership I offer our sincere thanks for a job well done.

Joe's departure opens an opportunity for someone else to showcase his or her skills. Gene Fricks has produced this issue and has agreed to hold down the fort until a new editor is selected but he hopes that time will be very soon because his schedule and commitments will not allow him to continue long-term.

Anyone interested in accepting the challenge, or who would like additional details about the job, should contact me immediately. In fact, I'd like to appoint an editor and one or more associate editors so that we ease the burden on any one person and provide a possible training ground for writer's wishing to add editorial experience to their list of accomplishments.

The Philatelic Communicator is the main communication and educational tool of the organization. The Writers Unit needs your talent. Will you answer the call?

Washington 2006

Washington 2006, the once-a-decade U.S. international philatelic exhibition is scheduled for May 27-June 3 in Washington, D.C. A number of you have asked if we are going to have a WU#30 breakfast during the show. We normally have our winter meeting coinciding with the APS winter show which, this year, is at Washington 2006.

Unfortunately, event coordinator Ken Martin informed me that the convention center cost for a breakfast would be prohibitive and that there were no suitable restaurants within easy access of the venue. Therefore, our only formal meeting of the year will be on Sunday at the August STAMPSHOW in Chicago.

Hall of Fame Criteria.

In my fourth quarter column, I highlighted the effort to establish HOF guidelines and a complete nomination program. You were invited to comment and, I must say, the response was underwhelming. Surely you have opinions about the guidelines listed in that column. Admission into the WU#30 Hall of Fame is the most prestigious award that we offer. Your comments are solicited. Take a moment to write or e-mail today.

Final Call for Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame 2006 Nominations

This is the final call for nominations for the Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame class of 2006. Anyone may

▶▶▶Continued on p. 17

determined the level, the balance needed to get each image correctly produced will become fairly routine.

Other Options

However, other options exist.

Compressing the information in the scan by using JPG (JPEG File Interchange) allows you to reduce the size of the file, but in doing so, you will reduce some of the detail. This is fine for sending for someone to view (the typical resolution of a computer screen ranges from 72 dpi to 96 dpi) but not very good for publishing. As a result, I ask my submitting authors for full TIF files for the *CCP*. (Unfortunately, some people believe that to satisfy that request they have to take JPG files and reconvert them into TIF files, but that's not what I want, and it loses detail anyway—each should just be scanned as TIF and left that way.)

JPG compression can give a wide range of results, depending partly on the size of the file you are willing to live with as an end result. The cover that is 3.7 MB will compress from 1.7 MB to only 57 KB on my equipment, depending on what I want to do with it. A compression factor of 7 gives the file a much easier to email size of 476 KB.

The program I use to manipulate scans is a fairly simple and inexpensive one, but one that unfortunately is not available any more. I like it particularly for the ease with which I can rotate scans to the fraction of a degree to get them perfectly squared.

To throw another choice into the alphabet soup, I have to mention PDF (Portable Document Format) files. These allow the person viewing them (usually) to see the file just exactly as you produce it on your computer, using a program that others may not have available. In this case I say "usually" since there are four different levels of PDF files, and only the lowest is available to most computer programs that offer the ability to generate them (using "PDF Writer"). On top of that, unless you have the ability to store your own font metrics in the file you generate, it could be that the computer that receives the file will have a similarly named font (Times Roman?) that will not be identical to yours, which will throw off your intended pagination.

The proper program to create a PDF is Adobe Acrobat Distiller, which has the other three levels I mentioned (Press Optimized, Print Optimized and Screen Optimized, in my version), in descending order of size of the file and sharpness. These would require a different discussion, and I've mentioned some of that previously so it may be sufficient to know that they exist. Any editor of a journal who will be doing his own layout and design should have

the Distiller available, however, since it avoids a lot of problems when the final product is delivered. As an example, I deliver the entire *Collectors Club Philatelist* on a CD, 64 pages in color plus the four pages of the cover, along with the original PDF files of each advertiser, and it fills only half of a single CD. The printer, however, can take that and go directly to the press, so it takes a very short time after I've finished with it before it is in print.

Scanners

If you don't already have one, good quality scanners are cheap and don't take up much space.

For example, a Canon LiDE 60 has a list price of \$80 and should be available for even less at your favorite discounter. I have an earlier version of it (the Canon LiDE 50) and used it for the major part of the illustrations in my Samoa book. At about inch thick and weighing less than four pounds, it is a flat-bed scanner that will accept standard size pages and deliver 1,200 dpi quality, if you need it. All that and it's powered through a USB cable. It's highly portable and can be stood on its side when not needed (and has a small stand to allow you to do just that). Instead of a fluorescent tube, it uses LED illumination, which is much less likely to harm any stamps of sensitive color. So much for the "commercial." (Full disclosure—I get absolutely nothing out of the recommendation.)

Other Uses

Just in case you can't see the essential nature of a scanner, consider a few other uses you might find handy.

An inventory of your exhibit or collection. Although color photocopies might be useful and relatively easy to make, an electronic record created by scans can be far more useful. If storage space is a problem, groups of scans can be made and stored on CDs, after which the files can be erased. (Make two copies of the CD, just in case one gets compromised.)

Anyone who will give a talk will want the alternative of "slides" for PowerPoint presentations. Computer projectors are now becoming more widespread and the flexibility of having a good set of scans can overcome many of the problems found in trying to get it all right with a 35 mm camera.

For those who want distortion-free inspection of magnified portions of stamps or covers, high level scans viewed on screen are eye-opening. They certainly beat a microscope or pocket glass, and if made at maximum dpi can allow you to go deeper into the image than you ever dreamed possible. I use this routinely to plate stamps such as the Samoa Express.

Keeping track of all examples of covers can become cumbersome using traditional methods. Consider making a census by scanning each item and keeping it available for comparison. How to do this, in detail, can also be the subject of another article, and I've covered it elsewhere, so it's enough to know that it is a possibility. It is particularly useful as an adjunct to a database.

The AIJP Phoenix Rises Once Again

by Alan Warren

The *Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques* (AIJP) has certainly had its ups and downs since it was founded in 1962 by the late Pierre Séguéy. The organization is intended for professional journalists, i.e. philatelic writers and reporters, and one of the benefits to members is a press card to gain admission to exhibitions for the purpose of reporting on them.

In recent years there have been rather frequent major changes in officers. It seems that every time a new set of officers is elected or appointed, they charge ahead and then gradually run out of steam. Dues notices were not sent out, the appearance of their own journal, the *AIJP Bulletin*, was sporadic, and then a change in management would be needed to turn things around. Often the records were not kept up to date due to health reasons of those responsible.

The latest changes appear to be based in Germany. The President is Wolfgang Maassen of Schwamtal and the Secretary General is Jochen Stenzke of Unterschleissheim. Aad Knikman of Huizen, Netherlands is the new Vice President, and the Treasurer is Hans Salzmann of Biel-Bienne, Switzerland. The Press Secretary is John Moody of the U.K. Maassen edits the *AIJP Bulletin*.

The recent changes in management occurred during an AIJP meeting held at Brno, Czech Republic in 2005. Some of the changes brought about by the new team include establishment of a website www.aijp.org, preparation of a new issue of the bulletin dated October 2005 (no. 118), analysis and financial planning to attract sponsors, and establishing a meeting schedule. An updated membership list will be published late in 2006.

Unfortunately that meeting schedule does not include the Washington 2006 FIP exhibition. I have attended AIJP meetings at previous United States and Canada internationals. They were usually chaired by veteran reporter and author Otto Hornung. I made an inquiry to the new management and was told that there was insufficient time to make such an arrangement.

The new AIJP guidelines seek to obtain patronage at venues where it will hold future meetings. Such patronage has been obtained for 2006 at the international stamp fair in Essen in May followed immediately by the international

Use of OCR to convert a text page or a typed submission (and occasionally I get that or a printout) and for expertizing are another subject. The list could go on. These thoughts simply scratch the surface of the usefulness of a scanner. If you don't have one yet, get one. If you do have one, learn to use it. It will reward you in many ways. □

stamp stock exchange in Sindelfingen. The 2007 meeting takes place in Leipzig during the philatelic literature exhibition there to be organized by the German Philatelic Federation.

Improvements to the journal are seen with the October 2005 issue. In addition to news of the officers there is a report on the Brno meeting, biographies of recently deceased members Pierre Séguéy and Alexander Kroo, and several articles by president Maassen including one on advice to authors and another (Part 1) on philatelic libraries.

Many of the articles are in both German and English but some of those by Maassen are in the German language only. The next issue of the *AIJP Bulletin* is planned for March 2006. Membership information can be obtained from the association's website or from Secretary General Jochen Stenzke, c/o Schwaneberger Verlag, Ohmstrasse 1, 85716 Unterschleissheim, Germany.

□

Letter to Editor

Dear Joe,

I just got an email from a contact in the Netherlands pointing out that members of the *Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques* will have free access to the Michel Online Catalog (close to 600,000 stamps are featured there).

There are other benefits as well so maybe this is something for members of WU30. Membership is 30 Euros (about \$ 35) a year.

Have a look on <http://www.aijp.org/> The English version could use some editing; we could help there.

Hans Kremer

The Seventh Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition Results

by Joseph Monteiro

The Seventh Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition was held in conjunction with STAMPEX from October 14th to 16th, 2005. One of the key organizers and coordinators termed it as 'the most important philatelic literature exhibition in the world this Year'. I have a good deal of respect for this claim as provided by the excellent certificate award, critique sheet and medal provided for this philatelic literature event. The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance provided the medal. The coordinator and jury certainly did an excellent job of reviewing the more than 170 entries.

The Seventh Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition (C7NPLE)

The C7NPLE at STAMPEX 2005 paid tribute to a number of writers who contributed articles for the STAMPEX brochure.

The literature exhibition consisted of 181 entries in various classes from all over the globe. The various classes of entry consisted of: Class A - Handbooks (92); Class B - Catalogues (32); Class C - Periodicals or Newsletters (48); Class D - Newspapers (2); and Class E - Electronic publications (7). The entries covered a wide range of topics from post cards in Zanzibar to the first Olympic games.

The Seventh CNPLE Results

The results of the seventh Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition and their awards are briefly described hereafter. The awards were: 3 gold with felicitations; 25 gold; 3 vermeil with felicitations; 37 vermeil; 72 silver; 35 silver bronze; 1 bronze; 1 certificate; and 2 Hors Concours.

The awards in the top categories were: 1.66% gold with felicitations; 12.1% gold; 1.66% vermeil with felicitations; and 20.44% vermeil. The majority of awards fell into the silver (39.78%).

Since, the contestants winning gold were only 13.76% of all the entrants, it indicates that winning gold is quite difficult. It not only depends on the quality of research involved but also on how the exhibit appears (i.e., is it printed or photocopied, is it in color or black and white, is it produced on high quality paper, is it hard cover or soft cover, etc). Therefore, those contestants who aspire to go to the top should keep these factors in mind as there are usually more than a hundred exhibits at national literature exhibitions and several hundred exhibits at the world literature exhibitions.

Book manufacturing is an art and ensuring high quality production normally requires several thousands of dollars. However, for literature lovers all is not lost with the development of modern technology. Personal computers enable one to print high quality scanned color pictures that can make the publication quite attractive. In fact, if one has a great deal of skill with his personal computer and has a color printer one can make the exhibit as good if not better than one printed on a printing press.

The Countries That Fared the Best at Philatelic Literature

The countries that received the highest awards (gold with felicitations, gold and vermeil with felicitations) were: USA (5); Canada (5); Great Britain (4); Italy (4); Germany (2); Spain (2); Switzerland (1); Greece (1) and Australia (1). The Grand Prix of the exhibition went to the four-volume *Prephilatelia Espanola: Catalogo de las Marcas Postales de Espana y sus Dominos de Indias, Siglos XVIII y XIX*. Other prizes went to Wolfgang Baldus, Lucette Blanc-Giradet, Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris. Fifteen of the golds were in Class A, six of the golds were in Class B, three were in Class C and one was in Class D. Percentage wise this is 16.3%; 18.75%; 6.25%; and 50% of the entries in each class. Class D fared the best; however, too much weight should not be attributed to this factor because of the very small number of entries in the Class D. Class B fared better than Class A.

Concluding Remarks

In sum, C7NPLE was a significant philatelic event. CNPLE is getting better over time as this time they provided exhibitors with real medals rather than stickers which many contestants complained about. There was the usual exhibition and literature awards ceremony in addition to other events. The Palmares for the philatelic literature were printed together with the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance brochure. It was certainly a success and with a number of individuals showing an interest in the literature exhibition, it certainly seemed the most important philatelic literature exhibition in the world in 2005. □

REVIEWS

***Danish Advertising Panes* by James A. Gaudet. 8 ¼ by 11 ½ inches, 230 plus xxiv pages, hardbound, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, Exton PA 2005, ISBN 0-936493-19-4. \$65 postpaid in the USA from Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, PO Box 39, Exton PA 19341.**

This book is the culmination of many years of collecting and researching these special issues of Denmark by the author. He has won gold medals and research awards for his exhibits of this material.

During the period 1927 to 1934, Denmark issued booklets of stamps that carried advertising labels se-tenant with definitive postage stamps. The collecting of pairs and multiples of these issues on and off cover has been a highly specialized niche among students of Danish philately.

The advertisers included automobile manufacturers, insurance companies, a coal and coke firm, a popular newspaper, a candy manufacturer, and a charity among others. Author Gaudet has built on the earlier work of Niels Finn Olsen and others on the plate flaws of the wavy-line definitives. He then takes these advertising issues to a new level of understanding.

Following a glossary of terms, the background of advertising stamps is presented along with observations on format and pricing. Production details include printing plate assembly, proofs, plate flaws, fabrication numbers, watermarks, perforation, and distribution and sale of the stamps. A chapter is devoted to the sponsoring advertisers and their booklets.

The bulk of the book details the plate flaws of the stamps as well as the advertising labels with excellent illustrations and tables. The vast number of varieties found and described in such detail reflects the serious study over many, many years that the author has invested in his subject.

One interesting chapter suggests ways for collectors to begin in this complex field by limiting focus to such areas as proofs, errors, on-cover usage, socked-on-the-nose cancels, etc. Some dazzling usages are shown near the end of the book such as Sunday covers, combination franking, and

foreign destinations.

As detailed and seemingly complete as this book appears to be, the author suggests areas for continued study such as additional printing background-- possibly from the printer's archives, earliest known uses, when the flaws first appeared, and census data among others.

References and sources appear at the end of the book. This highly specialized study, nicely laid out and illustrated, sets a good standard for detailed plate studies of other issues.

Alan Warren

***First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets Revealed* by Richard Monty et al, Volumes 1-6, plus *Alphabetical Listing of Cachetmakers*; 8 ½ by 11 inches, stiff covers, 3-hole punched, 1596 pages, F.D.C. Publishing Co., Stewartville NJ 2005. Prices for each volume are \$49.95 or \$59.95 plus shipping, 3-ring binders extra, from FDC Publishing Co., PO Box 206, Stewartville NJ 08886.**

For those who have depended on the first seven editions of the catalog of first cachets by Richard Monty et al, *First Cachets Revisited*, the same team has now published with the help of many others the long-awaited fully illustrated version. This project has taken some 28 years to get to this point! In fact the team has grown to include those involved in scanning the figures and compiling the database as well as several who provided market valuations.

This is a priced catalog of the first cachets produced by cachetmakers and sold or distributed in a quantity greater than one or two copies for personal use. Cachets produced by stamp clubs and philatelic federations are excluded.

The big advantage of this new multi-volume work is that one can now see the illustrations of these first cachets as opposed to the descriptive listings in text-only format in the earlier editions. If one picture is worth a thousand words, then these thousands of pictures are worth more than many thousands of words.

The listings are in order of Scott catalog number beginning with Sc. 551, the half-cent Nathan Hale issue. Volume 1 covers the first cachets of the 1920s and 1930s, volume 2 1940s and 1950s, volume 3 1960s, volume 4 1970s, volume 5 1980s, and volume 6 1990s to 2005.

In addition to regular stamps issues the semi-postals, airmail stamps, and postal stationery are included. A seventh volume, not illustrated, is an alphabetical listing of cachetmakers in the format used in the previous editions of the Monty catalog. These tables also show the date of the stamp issue for the cachetmaker's first cachet and its Scott catalog number, the last stamp the maker published a cachet for if known, and a comment column indicating if the cacheted cover was signed, hand drawn, contained a stuffer, and other remarks.

Most of the black and white illustrations are quite good. For a few the authors seek better quality scans from collectors along with any additions to the listings.

This work is a monumental undertaking. The text version of the first cachets catalog has been available for many years. It is constantly being updated with an ongoing column in the American First Day Cover Society's journal *First Days* as well as periodic revised and expanded editions.

With the wonderful addition of the actual cover illustrations, collectors can readily identify their first cachets. Information is also available at www.FirstCachets.com. The new catalog is a great addition to the long list of photo cachet monographs and catalogs that Michael Mellone has been publishing for the FDC hobby.

Alan Warren

***German Prisoners of War in Norway 1945-1947 and their Prisoner Mail* by T. Larsson-Fedde, Erik Lørdahl, and John Torstad. 8 ¼ by 11 ¾ inches, soft covers, 144 pages, perfect bound, War and Philabooks Ltd., Tårnåsen, Norway 2005, ISBN 82-995588-9-1. \$50 plus shipping from War and Philabooks Ltd., Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.**

The Norwegian War and Fieldpost Society continues to publish books in English that expand our knowledge of mails related to wartime Norway. In this case we have a study of POW mail between

German internees in Norway and their families immediately after the war.

Introductory sections establish the conditions in Norway with summaries of the surrender, liberation, German personnel in Norway in May 1945, the camps or reservations, tracing methods, and repatriation. Further sections address postal controls in the various zones in Germany, the control of civil mails in Norway from May 1945 on, American and British FPOs in Norway, and the POW mails themselves.

Special post cards and letter sheets were provided to the prisoners with a reply area in the letter for relatives to respond. Used examples of this stationery are illustrated as well as some examples of mine sweeper mail that was handled in sealed bags. A list of historical and postal events and dates begins with the Allied invasion of Germany and concludes with the ending of Austrian censorship in the early 1950s.

Censor handstamps and sealing tapes are nicely illustrated although no valuations or scarcity indicators are given. A bibliography provides resources for further study of this subject. More than half of the book is devoted to a series of appendices and supplements. These include general historic documents as well as those specifically directed to postal control and therefore postal history.

A list of the reservations includes location, name, number of POWs, and German Fieldpost numbers used during the war. The zones are Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger, Lillehammer, and Tromsø. Other documents shown cover regulations, International Red Cross inspections, and various circulars in Norwegian, German, or English pertaining to handling of mail in 1945 and 1946.

The authors have drawn extensively from Norway's national archives in researching much of this material. The story focuses on a time period after the war ended but still of interest to military postal historians.

Alan Warren

***Katalog over Norges Byposter (Catalog of Norway Local Post Stamps)* by Bjørn Schøyen and Finn Aune. 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, 164 pages, hardbound, in Norwegian, Skanfil AS, Haugesund, Norway 2005, ISBN 82-92535-03-9. 236 NOK**

(approximately \$35) plus shipping from Skanfil AS, Box 2030, 5504 Haugesund, Norway.

Collectors of the local post stamps of Norway will be pleased to see this long overdue compendium of these early stamps, now shown in color. A brief introduction discusses printing, paper, perforations, essays, specimens, pricing, and forgeries. Background information tells how and when local posts were established in various towns in Norway.

The catalog listings are typical of stamp catalogs showing each denomination by town from Aalesund to Vardø. Values are given for mint, used, and on cover.

Each town listing is enhanced with rate tables for the periods of use and examples of the hand cancels used on these stamps. Major stamp varieties are shown and the color illustrations are very good. Where needed, for example with Bergen, the distinguishing features of counterfeits are identified.

A separate section at the end of the catalog deals with Spitzbergen and its various tourist stamps and cancellations. Polar postal historians will be interested in the treatment of this material. This catalog is *the bible* on Norway local post issues.

Alan Warren

***Norgeskatalogen 2006.* 6 by 8 ½ inches, 458 pages, perfect bound, soft covers, Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo, Norway 2005. ISBN 82-7319-197-4. \$59 plus shipping from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349-0650.**

This 58th edition of the catalog of Norway's postage stamps maintains the excellent quality established by its recent predecessors. Sections of the text are in both Norwegian and English and a glossary in Norwegian, English, and German helps in understanding the descriptions.

Illustrations are in excellent color throughout. Explanatory text precedes many sections such as those on franking labels, booklets, official stamps, vending machine issues, the legendary Posthorn stamps, and marginal markings. Rate tables add considerably to the utility of this catalog.

As usual, there are two special articles, found only in this year's edition, and in Norwegian only. One details varieties of Norwegian stamps, and the

other focuses on the manuscript town and other markings found on 19th century stamps and covers. This is *the* tool for students of Norway philately.

Alan Warren

***Mail Censorship and Postal History 1935-48* by Peter M. Jangaard. 8 ½ by 11 inches, 168 pages, comb bound, self published, Halifax, Nova Scotia 2005. ISBN 0-9689965-2-3, \$60 U.S. in color, \$20 in black and white, \$20 in color on CD plus postage from Peter M. Jangaard, 278 Milsom Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3N 2B9, Canada (jangaard@eastlink.ca).**

Although the title of this book is misleading, it is amplified by the subtitle, "With Personal Notes on Wartime Experiences in Aalesund, Norway: Letters and Post Cards from Norway, Portugal, Spain, United States, Canada and Other Countries." The Norwegian author has reproduced the fronts and backs of envelopes used in correspondence, principally with his father. Intended as a record of family history, the book will also be a delight for postal historians.

Peter Jangaard's father spent several years before WW II in Spain and Portugal on business. Later in the war he became Norwegian Vice Consul in Halifax and finally was named Commercial Counselor at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington DC.

The book is a treasure chest that not only reflects family history but also provides raw material for postal history study. Although the author indicates the location where censorship markings were applied, the handstamps and resealing tapes are not identified using standard reference works. However, students of military and civil censorship will find wonderful examples of censorship devices used on mail to and from Ethiopia, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Norway, Canada and the United States.

The book is a visual delight not only for the franking and censorship markings but also with the added effects of the view side of picture post cards and a number of photographs related to war activities. Some 1941 letters from Aalesund to Halifax went via the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Brooklyn.

Later in the war letters from Norway were sent to the "secret" Norwegian Legation in Lisbon where

they were readdressed to Halifax. Some related events are depicted with photographs or covers including the sabotage at Telemark, Little Norway in Toronto, and the London series stamps on ship mail. A brief bibliography concludes the book.

Alan Warren

Dallay Catalogue des DOM-TOM, edition 2004-2005. Publisher, Dallay S.A.R.L., 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris FRANCE. ISBN 2-95 16689-7-X. Available Vera Trinder Ltd., £25.00.

Many will have already heard of, or indeed examined, companion volumes to this title (France and Andorra-Monaco-TAAF), but for others the title may need explaining. Dallay is a newcomer to the French catalog field; DOM-TOM are the French Départements et Territoires d'Outre-Mer, a politically defined selection of former French colonies comprising those in North and South America, plus Réunion, Comoros and all the Francophone South Pacific territories except – collectors of this area please note – Vanuatu (not a DOM-TOM). Scott, Gibbons, Yvert, Cérés and Michel all cover these areas in more or less depth. What does this new Dallay offer that they do not?

Format, layout and numbering

At 864 two-column A5 pages, on glossy paper, this is a bulky volume. Much of the bulk, obvious on the most casual inspection, is taken up with lavish full-color illustrations – not just of varieties, but of the basic stamps themselves, every value of every set, pre-1958 issues being enlarged to boot. Even sets of little philatelic interest receive this treatment: French Guiana's 1946 Dulac *Série de Londres*, for instance, filling four columns. Other space is unarguably well used. Fifteen introductory pages include notes on condition, printing, sheet layout, expertization markings, a brief glossary, and generalized notes on forgeries. A subsequent eight-page article describes 'The Rise and Fall of the First French Colonial Empire'. Each colony's listings are prefaced by a further page of historical background, plus a map of greater or lesser use depending on the available scale. Reunion (a single island) is good, but Polynesia's component islands are scattered over too wide an area for any small map to be

meaningful. Some map place-names are modernized, startlingly to those of us accustomed to postmark spellings – Mohéli for Mohéli, Mata-Hutu for Mata-Utu, Cambustan for Cambuston. Sigave, main town on Futuna (and a quite desirable cancellation) is either off the map altogether or is now spelled Fikavi.

Being arranged on a geographical rather than alphabetical basis, the DOM-TOMs themselves appear in the following order, momentarily confusing to browsers perhaps: General Colonies, then Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana/Inini, Réunion (including the CFA surcharges) and Comoros; New Caledonia, Tahiti-Oceania-Polynesia and finally Wallis and Futuna. Comoros are listed chronologically: Mayotte first (the 'Table' types), then the equivalent issues for Anjouan, Great Comoro and Mohéli before the combined Comoros issues from 1950 to 1975, then Mayotte again from 1997.

Dallay's catalog numbers are rarely interchangeable with Yvert's, or anyone else's. Chronological rethinking affects the ordering (and numbering) even of 19th century provisionals, here listed piecemeal (and numbered accordingly) rather than grouped together with hindsight into sets. Colonial period airmails are listed among the basic postage stamps (like Gibbons and Michel but unlike Scott, Yvert or Cérés), but post-colonial airmails, and postage dues of all periods, are grouped separately (like everyone else but Gibbons). Miniature sheets and combination proofs (*épreuves collectives*) are listed with the basic stamps they contain, while *Bloc Spéciaux* (those containing, for example, the first three Comoros airmails, or the first 1962-3 Polynesia fish – unknown to many of us, I suspect, and usually expensive) are grouped separately. Similarly treatment is accorded to the millésimes, parcel post and booklets. Scan listings carefully, something apparently missing may have been compartmentalized elsewhere. Conversely (and usefully) a Dallay illustration may profitably draw your attention to a "sideline" item listed so discreetly in other catalogs that you may have overlooked it altogether.

Pricing

Dallay's minimum price is 0.20€, its expression as

0,2 quaintly recalling décimes. Differences (sometimes huge) between the same item mounted or unmounted mint should give vendors and buyers pause for thought. Prices for a stamp on cover (higher still for a stamp used alone on cover) will cheer up many owners while making others blink: any 45c Tablet stamp used alone on cover is a howling rarity, and interested buyers would be more than happy to purchase at "full Dallay".

Used (off cover) prices are more debatable. The preface claims the catalog norm to be a light postmark or a heavier one showing correct usage in the period (i.e., not philatelically used up years after the withdrawal date). Worse examples (wavy-line postmarks, and/or heavy and illegible postmarks) should be priced down, so that "in no circumstances can they be worth more than the same stamp(s) mounted mint," an exhortation frequently repeated throughout the listings. So far so good. Apart from the 1937 Expo miniature sheets, and (oddly, given their rarity whatever the colony) the 1939 French Revolution set for St Pierre et Miquelon, no used stamp is actually cataloged more than mounted mint in any case, legible in-period postmark or no.

This pricing may be in keeping with the French market (a point that habitual sellers - and particularly buyers - at Gibbons' arguably inflated used prices may care to remember) but Dallay's argument remains slightly ambiguous. Genuine collectors of used might consider that for really scarce items (the 1944/5 *Entr'aide* commemoratives, or the 3F60 and sundry lower values of most 1947 sets and any contemporary postage dues) Dallay might have paid at least a token nod to Gibbons' way of thinking. Scope for over-pricing among collectors and dealers remains, nevertheless, and **users should bear in mind the superb quality on which the French market is based**. No one should necessarily buy or sell postmarks at "full Dallay" if the cancellation is recognizable but incomplete, faint or not upright.

Scope

Examination of Dallay's General Colonies listing shows the catalog's depth and strengths from the outset. Every basic stamp from 1859 to the closing (1893-1908) postage dues are listed and illustrated, enlarged and in full (and generally well-matched) color; some varieties are enlarged even further.

Shades are copiously listed and whenever possible allocated to particular dated printings (no less than nine for the 10c Eagle, for instance). Prices are for unmounted mint (alone or in combination), mounted mint, used, and singles on cover (alone or in combination), plus blocks of four (mint and used). "*Fiches techniques*" inserted beneath each stamp illustration advise (where known) of issue and withdrawal dates, printing quantities and purpose of issue - a priceless resource carried through the whole catalog even though many blanks remain to be filled.

The General Colonies listing stops at 1908, the 1943 '*Aide aux Combatants*', '*Résistants*', '*Solidarité*' and postage dues being buried among the omnibus listings and priced there only in sets. The true, and immense, value of the rest of the catalog lies in the 'General Issues used in the Colony' pricings with which each territory's lists begin. With obvious exceptions (the Cérés 2c and 4c used only in Cochinchina, and a few Napoleon and other Cérés issues), every General Colonies stamp is again listed - and priced used - in each territory. Listed, priced, and illustrated too - though this "reference collection to die for" (complete sets all bearing clearly legible cancels of St Pierre et Miquelon, Martinique, Mayotte or whatever) has actually been created by computer trickery. The game is given away by identical centering, imperf margins or odd short perfs on the same basic stamps recurring through each colony. No matter: the pictures forcefully remind us what to look for. Different types of cancellations are listed (described but not illustrated) and individually priced - cue for glee or despair, depending on whether you still have your duplicates or have unwittingly sold them off priced as normals. The same "in situ" listings are awarded to wartime General Colonies (like Pétain, PEIQI, and '*Combattants/ Résistants/ Solidarité*') in those territories proved to have used them.

The General Colonies continue with millésimes (on the Dubois 5c and all the postage dues), priced unmounted and mounted. One of the many helpful notes advises that millésime pairs mounted only on the intervening gutter may be considered as unmounted. The subsequent "*Grandes et Petites Séries Coloniales*" (omnibus) listings may spur collectors to enlarge their thematic or political sideline collections, for they include, as sets, individual colony overprints on Dubois (1891-3)

and Sage overprinted for French Pos (1894-1900). Oddly perhaps, the omnibus listing stops at de Gaulle, 1971, though many later contenders exist.

Individual colonies

Here too, coverage is more detailed than a first glance reveals. Current stamp-issuing territories are listed to around 2003. "Fiche technique" information matches that for General Colonies issues: yellow panels that describe pricing criteria are systematically repeated, as reminders to those collectors who fail to read catalog introductions! *Millésimes* are listed and priced throughout: there are a few proofs but no postal stationery. Many varieties are included, probably new (and nice surprises) to all except those lucky owners of the long-out-of-print Yvert Specialized of 1936.

Most valuable, and possibly the single feature that makes Dallay stand out from all competition, are in situ tables of local postmarks for various periods, with mark-ups for their occurrence on loose stamps or on cover. This is still "work in progress": New Caledonia's listings, for instance, range from 1881 (35 post offices) to date (over 80). Guiana's cover 1892-1944, while Guadeloupe (34 offices) and Martinique (24) cover only 1905-29. Modern stamps are not neglected. Post-1947 French stamps used in Guadeloupe or Martinique (towns unspecified) increase threefold in price whether loose or on cover; France used on Guiana covers increase sixfold. Scope for treasure-hunting is considerable; any 1945-59 New Caledonia stamp canceled 'Olane', for instance, increases its price by 12€ loose, or by 115€ (!) on cover.

Further examples from individual colonies will show the scope. St Pierre et Miquelon, although a highly-priced territory now, shows many typical features. The two 25 on 1F imperf Sage (Yv 2-3) add 23 varieties between them (compared to, say, Yvert's nine); the 05/SPM on 20c Dubois (Yv 11) is awarded postal status even when surcharged on the interpanneau gutter. The 1892 Table types, here and for every territory, include – possibly for the first time in any catalog – a few shades: four for the 1c, three for the 2c, etc. Collectors will cheer, but will also know (a) that this is not all... (b) that Dallay's note about country-names' existence in red or rose

is welcome, but could have been extended to the blue, particularly on the 2c, which is easily found in any shade from light blue to navy – and ©) Dallay's listed shades cannot possibly exist for all colonies, since some of them relate to the early printings while Mohéli's "1892" issue, for example, did not appear until 1906. Never mind – some very collectable broken-letter varieties (like, here, the missing "E" in "ÉT") are mentioned, and marked up 100%.

The 1909 pictorials are prefaced by a blanket mark-up for British paquebot cancellations. The basic stamps ignore all shades and thin-paper printings but include essays, misplaced-center varieties and several values mysteriously perfed 11. Similar perf varieties recur for Martinique, Réunion and Comoros and their provenance is quite unknown to me or the Yvert Specialized. What are they?

Guadeloupe shows tabulated sheet positions for those tiresome 1903 overprints; the 1905 pictorials add five shades (a good start, but many more exist), and 34 out-of-town postmarks are listed, with mark-ups from 3€ to 100€. The closing 1947 pictorials include imperf and *de luxe* proofs! More interestingly, French F.M. stamps used in Guadeloupe are priced loose and on cover (a valuable listing carried through to other colonies too).....

And so on, and so on. Experienced collectors, and discoverers of new varieties eagerly awaiting catalog recognition may on rare occasion be disappointed – but for most of us there will be something new on nearly every page. Dallay is to be congratulated whole-heartedly on adding so much to French colonial knowledge. Buy without hesitation! Many hours of absorbing reading await us all.

Michael Round

Ed.: Appeared in somewhat longer form in *The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, December 2005. Any WU30 member interested in the more detailed review may contact the editor *pro tem*.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Hi Joe,
Just thinking about you and hoping you are doing OK. My *Communicator* arrived yesterday. In reading it I thought of an idea. Why not ask writers to send in some their favorite pieces that they wrote and tell why they like it, or what set this apart in their minds? This way everyone gets to read a variety of material and learn the methods of writing from the creators.

Stay well and keep the faith.

Best,
Janet [Klug]

Dear Editor:

I must compliment *The Philatelic Communicator* for printing Alan Warren's "Writing Book Reviews" in the Fourth Quarter 2005 issue.

As one who has reviewed hundreds of books in the non-philatelic press and several dozens in the philatelic press in the last 30+ years, I was pleased with the admirable job Alan did in his exposition. Book reviewing does require a genuine love of books which Alan has. I have worked on philatelic literature juries with him, so I am familiar with his approach. The features he cites about reviewing are well presented.

I certainly want to accent his comment about using the Writer's Unit 30 critique services or hiring a professional editor, especially for those who plan to self-publish their work. I see too many self-published and unedited philatelic and non-philatelic publications that are of poor quality because they lack the critical and honest eye of one who has written and published books.

Thanks, Alan, for telling it so succinctly and sincerely.

Michael O. Nowlan
Oromocto, New Brunswick Canada

Dear Editor,

Just a nitpick about accuracy. In the last *PC*, page 12, first paragraph of Dave Kent's article, Ernie Pyle was killed on Ie Shima, a small island off the coast of Okinawa. I was in the Okinawan campaign in 1945 at the time. Ie Shima does sound kind of like Iwo Jima doesn't it?

Niles Schuh
nilesschuh@charter.net

NOTORIETY MYSELF

by Gene Fricks

I've noticed a pronounced proclivity in public pronouncements to misusing reflexive pronouns [how's that for alliteration?]: in particular, badly using 'myself'. It seems that 'I' and 'me' have fallen out of popular use. What brought this to a head was publication of a statement by an eminent philatelic friend of mine, and (I thought) an accomplished user of the King's English: "please contact myself or ..."

However, the explanation for this situation is at hand. National Public Radio recently carried a program featuring a well-known psychologist. He said this the overuse of 'myself' represents an

unconscious effort to escape responsibility for our opinions and statements.

So there. And you thought that everyone just wanted to sound like a professional basketball player.

Notoriety is another misused word. It has always had a negative connotation. Imagine my surprise, then, to read in a recent thematic periodical that "St. Francis of Assisi had gained notoriety for his work among..." Similar occurrences crop up frequently in the daily press. I think the word they search for is 'fame' or (ostentatiously) 'approbation'.

PRESS RELEASES

by Gene Fricks et al

Recently Peter Martin, WU30 president assigned each of the Board members an area of responsibility. My assignment is doing publicity for the group. So, back in October, I generated a story about the Hall of Fame selections this year and forwarded it off to the various philatelic news outlets. By Christmas, nothing had appeared and I don't now hold out much hope that anything will appear.

In the meantime, while backstopping Joe Foley for the *Communicator*, I have received a number of press releases from Alan Warren. It occurred to me that many of us who write or edit publications for the various philatelic groups often end up with the 'additional duty' to produce publicity. I asked several of our members what their experience has been and if they have any tips or ideas in how to maximize the probability of a release seeing print. At this point, I have a response from Alan that I will excerpt:

"My experience with PRs to the philatelic press is that they are a roll of the dice. I send them individually (not as a group) to Schreiber, Baadke, Brandweie, Dunn, and sometimes Hotchner by email. Then I keep my fingers crossed. Sometimes they appear and sometimes not. There is no control over what happens after the PR is in their hands. In a few cases I complained to *Linn's* when they a) rewrote a PR to the point where they introduced errors, and b) in one case where I sent a PR for PNSE in March announcing the prospectus, and *Linn's* printed it in August after the entries had been closed."

Obviously, a release should cover the 'who, what, why, where, when' concisely. Just as obviously, some sort of story should be a plus. Editors tend to treat most press releases as filler and having some interest factor should be a plus. Good writing, with lots of active verbs, and a spare style helps too; give the editor something with which to work. However, I would appreciate any other insights that our membership can provide to this continuing situation.

Some examples:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 10, 2005

Military Society Elects Officers

Alfred F. Kugel was elected president of the Military Postal History Society for the 2006-2007 term. The well-known military postal history exhibitor moves up from vice president of the society, and will continue to chair the World War II study group. Immediate past president Myron Fox will serve as a director.

Anthony Brooks becomes the new vice president and will be responsible for membership. Robert Kinsley steps down as secretary of the MPHS after many years of service. He is replaced by Ed Dubin. Dubin's collecting interests include the World War I era. He has been active with the Plymouth (MI) Stamp Show. Dubin will also handle requests for back issues of the society's journal.

Norman Gruenzner was reelected treasurer and is responsible for publications such as books and monographs. The remaining directors of the society were also re-elected.

Charles LaBlonde will serve as director and also APS representative and literature award chairman. Director James Boyden chairs the World War I Study Group. Director Harvey Tilles continues as awards coordinator and director Alan Warren continues as publicity and conventions chair.

The Military Postal History Society focuses on collecting and exhibiting military related mail including army post offices, prisoner-of-war mail, military censorship, occupation mail, and related subjects from any war operation of any period. Membership information can be obtained from Secretary Dubin, PO Box 586, Belleville MI 48112-0586, or at the MPHS website www.militaryPHS.org

W2006 Welcomes a "Computers in Philately" Booth

The Virtual Stamp Club will sponsor and operate the Computers in Philately booth at Washington 2006.

"We expect to offer Internet access, demonstrations of software and web sites, and informal lectures by publishers," said Virtual Stamp Club president Lloyd de Vries.

The four-sided Virtual Stamp Club Computers in Philately area will be located near the Youth and Literature Reading Areas. It will be staffed the entire run of the show.

"Computers are such an integral part of stamp collecting now," said de Vries. "We use them for communication, for cataloguing, for commerce, for exhibiting, for research. We hope to show all these facets at Washington 2006."

Additionally, the VSC will be planning a series of interviews, informal talks and demonstrations throughout the eight-day show. An advanced schedule will appear on the group's Web site and should be considered as "a work in progress." Daily updates will be at the booth and online.

The Virtual Stamp Club is one of the Internet's top English-language sites for philatelic news, information and discussion. The group's membership numbers in the thousands. It is a chapter of both the American Philatelic Society and American First Day Cover Society.

Their web site, at www.VirtualStampClub.com, contains hundreds of pages, with weekly show calendars, audio features, one of the most up-to-date U.S. stamp program listings anywhere, and more. The site typically gets 30,000 hits a day, with more than 1,100 unique visitors. An average of 200 collectors visit their active message board daily, which is monitored around the clock by a volunteer staff of 12. All is offered free of charge.

For more information, contact de Vries by email at stamps@pobox.com or visit them online.

Thomas M. Fortunato
28 Amberwood Pl, Rochester, NY 14626-4166
Washington 2006 Media Communications
Chairman
Visit our Home Page :
<http://www.washington-2006.org/>

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Virtual Stamp Club Covers APS Board Meeting Live

In a first for philately, members of The Virtual Stamp Club were able to get real-time reports online from the December 7th meeting of the American Philatelic Society's Board of Directors in Bellefonte, Pa.

VSC staffer Foster E. Miller III delivered "play-by-play" via his laptop computer, plugged into an Internet port in the Bud & Dodie Hennig Room at the American Philatelic Center. As many as a dozen VSC members at a time were able to read Miller's reports and even ask him for clarification or further details on a couple of points.

The results can be seen at www.virtualstampclub.com/disorderly_succession_chat.html

The board meeting was called because of dissatisfaction by some APS directors with the way the job posting for the Executive Director position was being handled. Six of the directors were present in Bellefonte, while the other five participated by telephone.

Initial questions about the wording of the job posting were also raised in discussions in the Message Board of The Virtual Stamp Club, and word of the call for a board meeting by four of the APS directors was first published in the VSC, too.

In fact, The Virtual Stamp Club's part in the discussion about the job posting came up several times during the meeting, Miller reported. One of the virtual spectators at the meeting, Charles Posner, was sitting in the office of the Under-Secretary of State for Education in the Federal District of Mexico during the session. Another was David G. Jones, in Ottawa, Ontario. Both are APS members.

The Virtual Stamp Club, at www.VirtualStampClub.com, is the Internet's top English-language site for philatelic news, information and discussion. It is a chapter of both the American Philatelic Society and American First Day Cover Society, and features hundreds of web pages, weekly show calendars and audio features, one of the most up-to-date U.S. stamp program listings anywhere, and an active message board. All is offered free of charge.

- 30 -

STAMP COLLECTING IN THE NON-PHILATELIC PRESS

Doing the PHLNDX project for the American Philatelic Research Library exposes me to an extraordinary volume of philatelic periodical literature. I recently became aware of a fair amount of philatelic subjects published, especially in the 1980s, in the nonphilatelic press.

Articles like "Concrete on Stamps" for the American Concrete Institute, or "Collecting Stamps, Coins and Paper Money" in *Popular Mechanics* were fairly common at the time. George Griffenhagen's byline appeared frequently in the pharmaceutical trade press. Comparing that condition with what appeared as the century (and millennium) rolled over, we see a marked diminution. Now a half decade later, it seems as if philatelic opportunities like these have largely dried up and blown away. Is it a lack of opportunity or do editors no longer welcome philatelic writing? About the only publication of this type of subject in 2005 seemed to be *The Puppetry Journal's* Fall 2005 colorful coverage of the semi-centennial of the Muppets.

We certainly do not lack for subject matter as the proliferation of postal emissions provides plenty. Just as in the case of the 1956 *Life* magazine showcasing of rarities energized the hobby, a wider exposure in the nonphilatelic press cannot but contribute to sparking more public interest today. □

PHLNDX UPDATE

I spend most of my spare time assembling new entries for the APRL's PHLNDX journal article database. Right at year's end, update 75 with another 2,000 entries, made its way to Bellefonte. We now have surpassed 190,000 entries and at the end of January, we have about half of update 76 assembled.

Some notable accomplishments for 2005 include a thorough coverage of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* through 1965. Most of the later volumes were tackled in earlier years of the project.

During 2006, I hope to finish the *SPA Journal*, get back earlier than 1958 for the *American Philatelist*, and get more done of the *Confederate Philatelist*. For the last, I need access to a long run

of the publication. I've stopped purchasing journal runs for the project due to the expense. As I begin disposing of my philatelic collections, I will be dropping memberships in many of the groups currently covered in the indexing project. Other means of access to their publications will be required if the effort is to continue.

I now better understand some of William Ricketts' comments regarding his indexing project back in the 1920s. His database on 3x5 file cards covered some 40,000 entries. Unfortunately, I have been unable to directly introduce his file into PHLNDX without redoing all his work. For most of his entries, Ricketts did not include article titles. The cost of continuing the project, combined with the lack of interest and encouragement of colleagues in the New York philatelic scene, brought that effort to a close.

The immediate goal is to get to 200,000 entries. As I noted in previous reports, access to the database is through the APRL website. □

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.

May 27 - June 3, 2006

WASHINGTON 2006. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC. Entries have closed. For information consult the Bulletin at <http://www.washington-2006.org/draob/bulletin.pdf>

August 4-7, 2006

A.P.S. STAMPSHOW, Chicago IL. Donald G. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd, Rosemont IL. For information contact Ken Martin, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823, phone 814-933-3803 ext. 218, fax: 814-933-6128, email: stampshow@stamps.org. Website (which contains prospectus and entry forms): <http://www.stamps.org/Stamp>Show/Intro.htm>.

November 17-19, 2006

CHICAGOPEX 2006. For information contact John Kevin Doyle, 5818 Lenox Rd, Lisle IL 60532-3138. Email: doyle-stamps@att.net. Website: www.chicagopex.com. □

WORLD EXHIBITIONS

WASHINGTON 2006 - see above.

October 7-14, 2006

ESPAÑA 2006 - Malaga, Spain. Entries are closed.

November 16-20, 2006

BELGICA 2006 - Brussels, Belgium. Entries closed.

May 14-22, 2008

ISRAEL 2008 - Tel Aviv, Israel.

June 15-22, 2008

EFIRO 2008 - Bucharest, Romania.

September 12-14, 1908

PRAGA 2008 - Prague, Czech Republic. □

WRITING/LAYOUT MENTORING

Barth Healy, 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 to 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 Rd, Port Washington NY 11050-4029. (Supplying return postage, if required, would be nice gesture.) □

WU30 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 30 days.

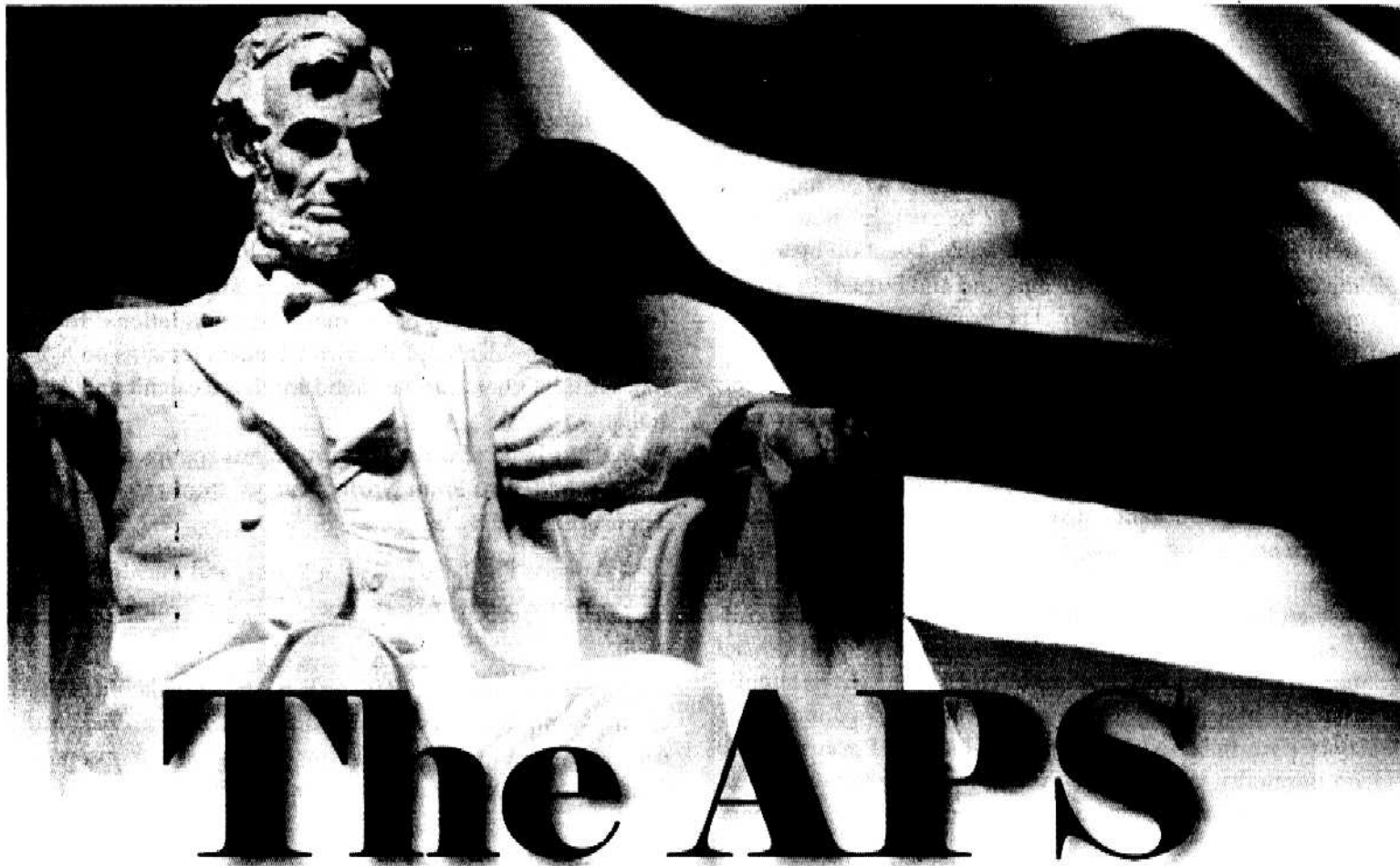
Books/manuscripts - Inquire before sending, with a brief description of the item. Please include a stamped addressed reply envelope. The time element for a book or manuscript can vary depending upon length, other similar requests at hand, and other commitments.

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

▶▶▶Continued from p. 3

submit a nomination by writing or e-mailing the nominee's name and up to a two-page reason for the nomination, which should focus on the nominee's writing and/or editing excellence. Nominations must be received by February 28, 2006. Submit nominations by e-mail to pmartin2020@aol.com (Subject: WU#30 HOF) or by mail to WU#30 Hall of Fame Nomination, POB 4503, Danbury, CT 06813.

I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me at pmartin2020@aol.com or write to POB 4503, Danbury, CT 06813.
Peter Martin



The AIPS

at WASHINGTON 2006

May 27-June 3 • Washington Convention Center

Join us as we celebrate the hobby!



- APS Tiffany Dinner
- General Membership Meeting
- Seminars on APS Services
 - APS Youth Area
- Membership Specials
- Specialty Items
- Publications
- and more

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

of January 26, 2006

New Members

1913 William F. Sharpe, 455 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90402-1935. Author: *Linn's Guide to Stamp Collecting Software*; Columnist: *Linn's Stamp News*. Sponsor: Al Gore.

1914 Richard E. Burdsall, P.O. Box 1023, Palatine, IL 60078-1023. Assistant Editor: *Hebert's Standard Catalogue of Plate Numbers* (American Plate Number Single Society); Webmaster: American Plate Number Single Society. Sponsor: Foster Miller.

Resignations

1820 Jun Ichi Matsumoto, Tokyo, Japan
1843 John D. Neefus, Chesapeake, Virginia

Change of Address As

1448 Frank L. Shively, Jr., MD, 590 Isaac Prugh Way, Apartment 120, Dayton, OH 45429-3475.
1629 Joann Kenz, P.O. Box 296, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0296.
1783 Harold M. Stral, 4601 West Touhy Avenue, Apartment 704, Lincolnwood, IL 60712-1633.
1877 Jerome Kasper, P.O. Box 3470, Clovis, CA 93613-3470

Contributions

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the following contribution over and above the payment of membership dues.

1905 Alfred Carroccia \$ 5.00

Dues Notice

On December 30, 2005, we sent 2006 membership dues notices to 155 members. The remaining 62 members had previously paid either through 2006 or 2007. As of January 26th, 115 of the 155 have paid their 2006 membership dues. However, 40 have not yet paid their 2006 membership dues. This will be the last issue of the *Philatelic Communicator* that these 40 delinquent members will receive unless they pay their 2006 membership dues.

Membership Dues

The membership dues remain at:

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.

Updating Your Mailing Address

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 seventy 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.

George Griffenhagen
WU30 Secretary-Treasurer
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA 22180, U.S.A.

WRITERS UNIT 30, APS
 (GEORGE GRIFFENHAGEN)
 2501 DREXEL STREET
 VIENNA, VA 22180

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May 27-June 3, 2006
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Table of Contents

Articles		
Scanners and How They Can Help You by Robert P. Odenweller.....	1	Committee Chairmen
The AIJP Phoenix Rises Once Again by Alan Warren.....	5	Letters to Editor
The Seventh Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exhibition Results by Joseph Monteiro.....	6	Notoriety Myself
Press Releases by Gene Fricks et al.....	14	Stamp Collecting in Non-Philatelic Publications
		WU30 Critique Service
		Literature Exhibition Calendar
		Reviews:
		<i>Danish Advertising Panes</i>
		<i>First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets Revealed</i>
		<i>German Prisoners of War in Norway 1945-1947 and their Prisoner Mail</i>
		<i>Katalog over Norges Byposter (Catalog of Norway Local Post Stamps)</i>
		<i>Norgeskatalogen 2006</i>
		<i>Mail Censorship and Postal History 1935-48</i>
		<i>Dallay Catalogue des DOM-TOM, edition 2004-2005</i> 10
		Secretary-Treasurer's Report
		19
Departments & Short Items		
The Quill (Editorial)	2	
Deadlines	2	
President's Message	3	