

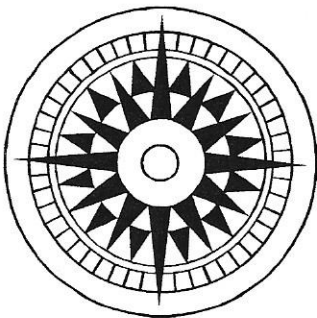
SOS Signal

July 2000

Whole Number 12

Notices / Reminders

- ◆ The US Coyote & Road Runner issue appeared on April 26 and that stamp is on the mailing envelope carrying this issue.
- ◆ Check out the new issues on pages 6 and 8.
- ◆ Please write that article now and mail it to the editor. If it interests you, believe me, it will interest others.



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The March of Postal Stationery

By Gaston Barrette

It can be said that all of us start collecting with stamps, but there comes a time when we have all the affordable stamps in our topic. What to do next? One answer is to add the vast array of other legitimate postal products in our topic issued to carry the mail: postal cards, stamped envelopes, aerogrammes....in short, postal stationery. This is what I did and encourage you to do because the collecting of these items brings the same pleasure and satisfaction as the stamps.

My last article on postal stationery (October, 1999) dealt with new additions to the master list thanks to the cooperation of members. The object of the present article is to give a general idea of the interesting new items that have been issued in the last two years. A list of these new issues is available for \$1 US currency from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Five countries: Romania, Czech Republic, Germany, France and the United States have issued during that period more than half of the items of postal stationery. These countries have been through the years the most active in stationery production.

Postal cards and envelopes are the two types of postal stationery most used by postal authorities. It is also interesting to note that for almost two-thirds of the issues (61%), the stamp represented—Type A, B or SYmbolic—is in the stamp design, the type which is considered to be the purest of the stamp on stamp topic and by some the only one acceptable for their collections.

The list also reveals that the items of postal stationery, just as the stamp issues, fall into three main categories: in

general and for the period under consideration, anniversaries are the most numerous followed by stamp days and finally stamp exhibitions. An item of each category will now be described and illustrated.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary



of its first postal card, Spain issued on May 27, 1998 a postal card of 35 pesetas showing in the stamp design the imprinted stamp design of the first postal card. The cachet is a full view of the postal card in reduced form to which is added a little below to the left Spain Scott #1. This is a typical example of the full use of the available space of the card.

An interesting sidelight to this issue is the circumstance concerning its distribution. About half of the 150,000 cards were sold at face value to standing order subscribers in the philatelic agency program. The other half ended up in the hands of the Stamp Dealers Association. Would it surprise you to learn that the cards were then sold in the stamp trade for about ten times face value? Postal authorities were supposed to have investigated.

(Continued on page 3)

Channel Isles Occupation Issues 1940-44

By Richard B. Howard (Part II)

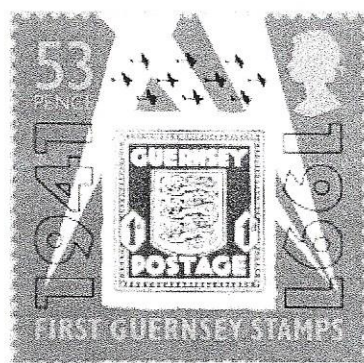
The Wartime 'Arms' Issues. On enemy-occupied Guernsey in the wake of the Christmas 1940 bisect (see Part I in the April 2000 issue), plans were made in the new year of 1941 for a semi-definitive stamp issue to serve throughout the remainder of the occupation period until British stamps could once again come into use following the liberation and a return to normal conditions.

A local artist working for a local newspaper, Edward Vaudin, was invited to prepare a design incorporating the Guernsey and other islands arms of 'three lions passant' as one hopefully acceptable to both the local populace and the occupying authority and which was eventually approved. Production was undertaken by the local Guernsey Press Company who produced the red one penny stamp in sheets of sixty, as the first of what finally became sixteen printings during which time many types of paper and various shades of red inks were used, as shortages allowed. The rouletted stamps were finally ready for issue on February 2, 1941.

Very soon the need for a halfpenny stamp arose, this being produced by the same means, but in green and issued on April 7, 1941. Then when it was found that quantities of these two low values were being used to make up larger franking, authority was given for a twopenny halfpenny blue to be produced which appeared on April 12, 1944.

Subsequently this wartime issue was commemo-

rated firstly in 1971, when special pictorial cancellations were authorized for use on various commemorative covers, the first on February 18, 1971, and a second on April 7, 1971 for the 30th anniversaries of the issuing of the occupation one penny and halfpenny stamps respectively.



Scott # 447 showing Guernsey N2
(reproduced at 1.25x normal)

Twenty years later, in 1991, Guernsey issued a commemorative set of three values in designs reproducing the Occupation Stamps which appeared on February 18, 1991. A pictorial postmark was provided for use of the official FDC's, together with a presentation pack and stamp booklets which contained comprehensive histories of the Occupation Stamps.

It can be added that at the time of Liberation in 1945 and the return to the use of British stamps, there were still some stocks of the Occupation issues which were subsequently used on mail to all corners of the world until exhausted, when the stamps were finally demonetized on April 14, 1946.

Author Richard Howard lives in Southport, U.K.

Rowland Hill, Genius and Benefactor, 1795 - 1879

By Bill Critzer (Part II)

From an early age Hill had been struck by the waste and extravagance of the postal system, and realized that the high costs of postage not only cut off families from each other but were also handicaps to trade and business. As the years passed he amassed facts on which to build a case. From 1836 onwards various committees and Rowland's own investigations began to reveal that something like £1,000,000 per annum was being lost to the Treasury by illegal franking. About that time the records revealed that 'packages' like the following were franked: fifteen couples of hounds; two maid servants; sides of bacon; a cow; a featherbed; a horse and a piano. Many members of Parliament franked letters for their friends and relatives and gave franks as a bonus to their servants instead of additional wages.

Another source of abuse and consequent loss of reve-

nue followed from the regulation that letters were charged postage by the number of sheets, not by weight. To carry the cheapest postal rate a letter had to be written on one sheet; if a second sheet was used or even if the tiniest scrap of paper were enclosed, then the postage was doubled. If an envelope was used, it was held up for examination in front of a candle in a darkened room—a process called 'candling'. The clerk had to check that the destination of the letter did not exceed the permitted mileage; if it did then the postal charge was increased. It was clearly a laborious, time-wasting and expensive use of manpower. To defeat the heavy cost of sending letters and business communications all sorts of cunning ruses were employed and a whole army of smugglers and 'fixers' came into being. For example, London business firms often combined to send one large

(Continued on page 3)

The March of Postal Stationery

By Gaston Barrette

The Italian item chosen to illustrate a stamp day was issued October 13, 1998. This time the cachet is the only part of the item that is of interest for the SOS collector. It is made of 25 identifiable Italian stamps artistically distributed to form the geographical shape of Italy.

Representing the stamp exhibition category is one of the two envelopes issued in 1999 for the Timisoara

Philatelic Exhibition honoring two Romanian philatelic pioneers, Petre Murea and Mircea Telegut. Both cards show a stylized stamp in the stamp design.

It is my hope that some day an illustrated catalogue will be available so that everyone will be able to appreciate the beauty and diversity of these cards, envelopes and aerogrammes.



Destinatar _____

Cedul	Localitatea
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Rowland Hill, Genius and Benefactor, 1795 - 1879

By Bill Critzer

(Continued from page 2)

sheet of paper containing orders and correspondence from perhaps fifty different offices. This was sent at the lowest postal rate for one sheet, to an agent say in Birmingham or Manchester, who would then cut out the separate items and dispatch them to their respective destinations by local delivery boys. Investigations revealed that five-sixths of Manchester's letters were thus illegally carried.

Existing records had shown that it took the postman up to five minutes to knock at a front door, hand in a letter and receive and record payment. A test case provided astonishing evidence; it was found that it took a postman 1½ hours to deliver 67 letters when he had to wait for payment, whereas he could deliver 570 in half an hour if he did not have to wait.

By studying statistical data, Rowland realized that the length of a letter's journey made no appreciable difference to the cost, which proved to him that a uniform rate was economically justifiable. This alone would save an enormous waste of time and labor as at one stroke some forty variations in postal rate based on distance could be eliminated. Rowland saw that his golden rule



Rowland Hill 1837

had to be simplification. For example, by introducing prepayment of postage, thus limiting the postman's task to merely delivering letters, he was later led to the next logical step requiring every house and all business premises to have a letter box. This simple step cut out any waiting on the doorstep. Even a harmless innovation like this in due course brought an irate letter from a noble lord who objected to having to cut a hole in his expensive mahogany front door.

Conscious of the weight of evidence he had amassed, and sensing the rising strength of public feeling in support of his ideas, Rowland and his backers felt that the tide was running strongly in their favor and that the moment had arrived for vigorous action. So, following the publication of Rowland's pamphlet, *Post Office Reform; its Importance and Practicability* in its four editions between January 1837 and 1838, a massive offensive was started on all fronts. (To be continued.)

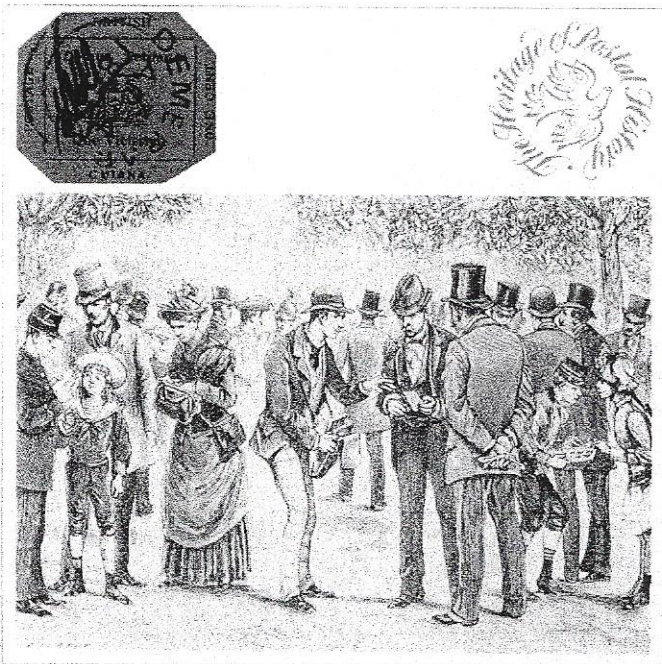
Philatelic Echoes of Empire: Cottonreels of Guiana

By R.B. Howard

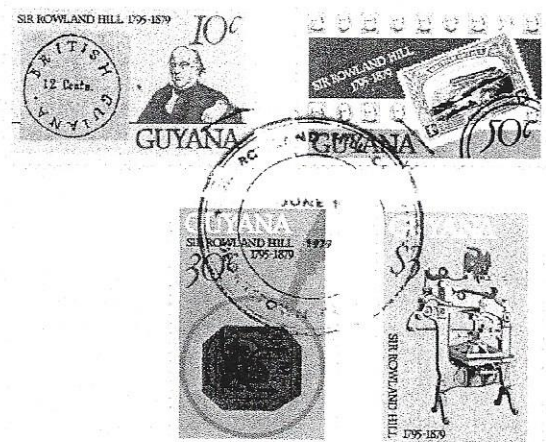
The first postage stamps of British Guiana issued 150 years ago were designed and produced locally at the offices of the *Royal Gazette* in Georgetown in a style which earned them in the annals of philately the nickname of 'Cottonreels'.

Typeset in the basically simple design of a rough circle with 'British Guiana' inscribed within it and with

early 1851. When news of the Cottonreels reached the outside world they were probably already obsolete, and philatelists advertised widely in the *Royal Gazette* for specimens. The biggest subsequent find was made around 1876/8 when a correspondent in Georgetown sent Stanley Gibbons upwards of three hundred of the three high values, but the two cent value was even then rare, and none could be found.



Stamp Market, Champs-Élysées, Paris 1891



This is a Fleetwood cover featuring the 1979 Rowland Hill set on the right. A Cottonreel is shown on the 10c value. At the upper left is the British Guiana 1c of 1856, of which only one copy is known. Although not the highest priced stamp, it still sells for a pretty penny.

the value in the center, all in black, only the colors of the papers on which the four values were printed differing, the two cents on rose colored paper, the four cents on yellow, the eight cents on green and the twelve cents on blue, all imperforate sheets, the numbers of stamps to the sheet unknown.

Because of the possible forgery of so simple a design it was the practice of the issuing officer to initial each stamp as sold, these known in several different colors of ink. Because of its local origins with none of the relevant information accompanying London produced colonial issues, little was known of the issue at the time, though the stamps had brief lives from the time of the appearance of the three higher values in mid 1850, and the low value, ultimately the rarest as it transpired, in

Subsequently the Cottonreels have survived only in prominent collections, The Royal Collection and those of Burras and Ferrary among others, and on the rare occasions values come to auction they command escalating high figures.

Guyana will doubtless commemorate the Cottonreels 150th anniversary in the year 2000, though up to the present their Post Office has only featured the issue on one commemorative, the ten cent value of the Rowland Hill issue of 1979, a value the remainders of which were subsequently surcharged and overprinted in 1985 with '135th Anniversary Cotton Reels 1850-1985'.

Richard Howard is a stalwart contributor to the Signal and reached octogenarian status a while ago. He has a 100 volume collection of SOS items.

Their Passion is Postage

By Diane Gross

In the first-floor parlor of an unremarkable East side brownstone, half a dozen people are hunched over a table examining tiny, sticky pieces of paper. Meet the American topical Association, New York Chapter, a group of mostly older men who represent the last bastion of a national craze that once enthralled Boy Scouts and senior citizens alike: stamp collecting.

Among them is Lou Guadagno, who was only 8 years old when his uncle introduced him to philately, a.k.a. stamp collecting. "He showed me a stamp from France," he said, "and I thought it was the most fantastic thing in the world." Growing up, Guadagno spent his allowance and the local five-and-dime store on 50 cent packets of the paper masterpieces. But it was not until year later, after his wife gave him a box filled with \$50 worth of stamps, that his passion was truly ignited. Today, her gift remains the nucleus of his vast but still growing collection.

On the second Thursday of each month, Guadagno joins the rest of the American Topical Society at the Collectors Club, a landmark building in the heart of Midtown Manhattan. Together, they pour over postage based on specific themes—which can include anything from cats to murders, hotels or movies.

For club member Ed Epstein, a retired art professor, "collecting stamps is a way to save history." Epstein, who collects transatlantic ocean-liner mail, holds the only known postal remnant to survive the sinking of the Titanic. At a recent meeting, he displayed this piece of postal history, a letter on its way to San Francisco and imprinted with a "Titanic" seal.

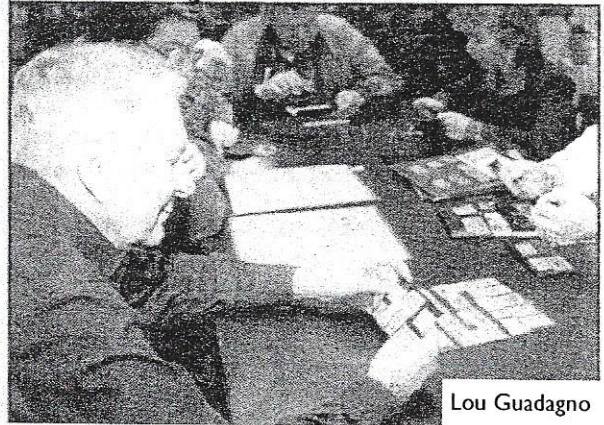
They are the only group of their kind in the Big Apple, and whether the concern is instructing one another on how to mount stamps in an album or on how to find particular topics in catalogs, group members are eager to share their knowledge with fellow collectors. They also share a joke now and again and generally hang out. "The meetings are a social opportunity," explained Guadagno, a frequent lecturer at the club, who admits that stamp collectors aren't the most social bunch. "Most stamp collectors," he said, "are hermits."

Guadagno himself spends between 18 and 20 hours a week on his collection, holed up in his apartment from 11 p.m. until two in the morning.

Guadagno's specialty is "stamps on stamps" which involves tracking down original stamps that appear

in the design of other, later stamps. "Sometimes it takes years to locate all the stamps featured on one stamp," he said. He enjoys the challenge and the history lessons he learns in the process.

"Stamp collecting, however, isn't what it used to be. There just isn't the general interest anymore," explained devoted club member Harlan Hamilton. At a recent night out with the Topical Society—dinner in a Chinese restaurant near the Collectors Club—Hamilton lamented that "people have just stopped coming to ATA meetings." During the 1930s and '40s, stamp collecting was a big deal—everyone did it. But while children of that bygone era looked at stamps to explore the world, the kids of today have



Lou Guadagno

considerably more accessible outlets like television and the internet. "There isn't any place that is so esoteric anymore," said Guadagno. In the information age, the club is an anachronism.

Nonetheless, the American Philatelic Society—the largest association of stamp collectors in the world—claims to have 55,000 members. And according to a recent press release from the United States Postal Service, "kids across the country," are "going buggy over stamp collecting." The Postal Service predicts that more than 3 million children will participate in October's National Stamp Collecting Month.

Guadagno doesn't buy the hype—he says the figures are inflated—but he also knows there are philatelic enthusiasts who have yet to find their way to his club. While thousands of stamp collectors are expected to attend an international convention inside the cavernous Jacob Javits Center on November 18, getting philatelists to attend weekly meeting is, he says, "like pulling teeth."

New Issues

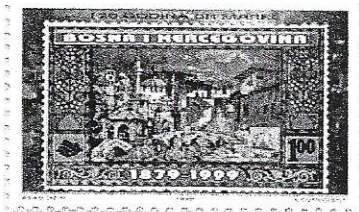
edited by Lou Guadagno and Judy Hornaday (new on list = *)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
99 11 11	Cyprus	* 30c	Cyprus #???	Removal of Turkish Occupation	940
99 00 00	Chile	* \$140, 450	SY—Pseudo Stamps	China '99	To come
99 00 00	Algeria	* 5.00	Algerian Stamps	???	To come
99 10 05	Bermuda	* 30c-\$1	Bermuda #6,49,121,142	????	783-6
99 11 17	Cayman Islands	* 10c-\$1	Cayman #242,532d,749,431	Christmas 1999 (4 stamps, S/S of same 4)	787-790a
99 00 00	United Nations	* 4 x 33c	SY—Stamp on Envelope	125th Anniversary, UPU (Block of 4 se-tenant)	To come
99 00 00	UN-Geneva	* 4 x 70f	SY—Stamp on Envelope	125th Anniversary, UPU (Block of 4 se-tenant)	To come
99 00 00	Slovenia	* 70	SY—Stamp on Envelope	????	To come
99 00 00	Belgium	* 0.42	SY—Pseudo Stamp (SUG)	Millennium Issue (One stamp in a sheet of 20)	To come
99 12 11	Cuba	* 1p	SY—Stamp Collecting	12th Congress Cuban Philatelic Federation	4050
99 07 02	Gabon	* 225f	France #3	Philexfrance '99 (Hologram)	952
98 05 12	Uruguay	2x3.50, 2x4p	Switzerland #5, Uruguay #1	Int'l Topical Exhibition, Nueva Helvecia (S/S)	1722
98 11 06	Uruguay	* 2x3.50, 2x4p	Germany #1592, Berlin #9N584	Uruguay—Germany Philatelic Exhibition (S/S)	1754
99 12 23	Maldives Islands	* 25r	SY—Pseudo Stamp	Philexfrance '99 S/S	2413-4
99 12 01	Wallis & Futuna	* 65f	Wallis & Futuna #86	150th Anniversary, French Stamps	524
97 11 06	Wallis & Futuna	* 1000f	Many W & F Stamps	Air Post Issue of Salon Type of 1997	C198
99 10 18	Yugoslavia	* 10d	Yugoslavia #2438	Stamp Day	2453
99 10 30	Azerbaijan	* 500m	Azerbaijan #1,3,7,10	???? (S/S of 4)	692
99 07 01	Bosnia & Herzeg	* 1m	Bosnia & Herzegovina #??	120th Anniversary, B & H Stamps	334
99 00 00	Qatar	* 1-1.50r	SY—Pseudo Stamps	Arab Gulf Countries, Fifth Stamp Exhibition	929-30
00 01 03	Spain	* 12 x 35p	Spain Type A1	150th Anniv., Spanish Stamps (Sheet of 12)	3022
99 07 02	Tunisia	500m	Tunisia #1185-8,1136-7,1139	Philexfrance '99	1194
99 11 12	Turk Rep N Cyp	* 75000l	SY—Pseudo Stamp	UPU, 125th Anniversary	488
99 12 25	Tajikistan	* 100r	SY—Pseudo Stamp	5th Anniv., Central Asian Postal Union	106
99 12 06	Belgium	* 17fr	SY—Pseudo Stamp	The 20th Century (sheet of 20)	1779t
99 10 22	Italy	* 1500l	Italy #506, 518	Goffredo Mameli, Lyricist of National Anthem	2311
99 07 30	Uruguay	* 2x3.50, 2x4p	Uruguay #C60	Millenium (S/S of 4)	1807



Kazakstan #To come

Malaysia #To come



Bosnia & Herzegovina #334

Italy #2311



Classifieds featuring dealer-members

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SOSCC News

By Bill Critzer

Auction Survey Results—Let me begin with thanks to the 28 members who returned the auction survey that was enclosed in the last issue of the newsletter. Three were bidders in the last SOSCC auction, the rest (89%) did not bid. That result was expected since participation was so low in the last auction that we felt we needed the survey to find out why. Apparently the problem isn't due to lack of interest, for 50% answered yes, they were interested in bidding in future club auctions and another 36% answered maybe. Only 14% said they weren't interested. The question "would you like to be a consignor/seller in future auctions" was answered yes by 26%, no by 30%, and maybe by 44% of the respondents.

Some interesting results came from the question asking "if you have not been active in club auctions, please tell us why". The most common response (32%) was from members who were not actively buying for their SOS collection at present. The next most common response (28%) was that "the material being offered was not what I need". Another 20% put the list aside and never got around to bidding. A few members (16%), including several new members, said they were not familiar with how to bid in the club mail auction. Various other reasons were given by individual respondents, including advancing age; exchange rate problems for members living outside the U.S.; a dealer reluctant to bid against some of his own customers; and too many other competing sources for obtaining stamps.

What would members like to see in future auctions? Our survey showed that buyers are looking for older SOS issues (29%); new SOS issues (23%); postal stationery (18%); first day or special event covers (18%) and commercial covers (12%). Several individuals added

their individual tastes, including centenaries, ephemera such as flyers, seals, labels, trade or cigarette cards; and stamps or first day covers offered in bulk lots or collections. I also received some useful detailed suggestions to improve the timing and format of future auctions.

I appreciated the helpful spirit with which you responded to the survey. Many of the respondents acknowledged that running club auctions of this sort is a large and thankless task. Thanks again for this valuable feedback that will help us evaluate and plan the best services we can offer to SOSCC members in the future.

Wes Shellen, President

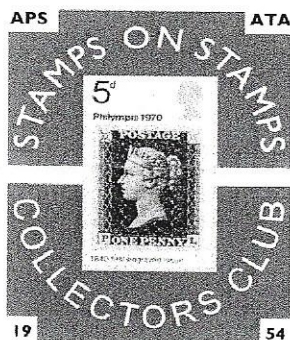
Make my job more exciting by writing an article for the Signal. You will win my everlasting gratitude and may be rewarded beyond this life. Remember, SOSCC will reimburse you for out of pocket expenses. What to write about? If it interests you and has an SOS theme, write about it. Write about one stamp, one set of stamps, or a multi-year series of stamps. Talk about what, where, when and why. I will edit it for spelling, grammar and clarity and fit it to the allotted space. President Shellen has told me if I continue to do a good job he will double my salary next year. Please—write that article now.

The May 1, 2000 issue of Linn's contained on page 46 an article about collecting SOS by Senior Editor Michael Baadke. Michael was particularly taken with the quality of the SOSCC web page which he mentioned in a private communication to me. Once again, congratulations are in order for our super webmaster, Dr. Russell Skavaril, Professor Emeritus, Molecular Genetics, Ohio State University. Thanks, Russ!

STAMPS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS CLUB

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Visit us on the web:
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/soscc>

The SOSCC was founded in 1954. It is a non-profit philatelic organization serving a worldwide membership and is open to persons interested in stamp on stamp designs, stamp anniversaries and related topics. Dues are \$8 per year for members residing in North America and \$11 elsewhere. Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the unit. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please write to the Secretary-Treasurer for more information or to become a member.

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More New Issues

By Lou Guadagno and Judy Hornaday



St. Lucia # 1110
Netherlands Antilles #879
Wallis & Futuna #524

