

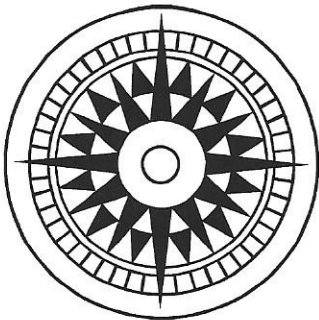
SOS Signal!

April 2001

Whole Number 15

Important News

- ◆ A record 16,107 stamps and souvenir sheets were released worldwide in 1999. The number was 14,580 in 1998.
- ◆ In 1999 there were 275 SOS items, or 1.7% of all stamps!
- ◆ Please let the editor know what you are doing to cope with this new issue tidal wave.



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Cinderellas of the Penny Black Centenary

By Wes Shellen

The onset of World War II was not a favorable time to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Penny Black, philately's first centenary. Plans for celebrations and commemorative stamp issues worldwide were halted in an effort to show neutrality by nations wishing to avoid the appearance of alliance with England. Even in Great Britain, the celebrations were limited to two exhibitions; the Royal Philatelic Society's Exhibition in London, and the World Philatelic Congress Exhibition in Bournemouth. The British Commonwealth of Nations, which had successfully cooperated in two previous worldwide omnibus issues, were quiet. Burma was the only Commonwealth nation to issue a stamp celebrating the centenary and ironically, two years later, were one of the first to be overrun and occupied by the Japanese.

Despite rumors of a 5¢ US commemorative stamp planned for release at the 1940 Washington Philatelic Society Exhibition, an April press release from Postmaster James A. Farley declared that due to American neutrality in the war, no postage stamp or souvenir sheet honoring the British Penny Black would be issued. Other nations such as Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, and Nicaragua issued stamps or souvenir sheets in honor of the centennial but neglected the Penny Black in favor of stamp-on-stamp designs showing their own nations' first stamps! Of all the countries in the world, only Mexico actually illustrated the Penny Black on a set of ten

stamp-on-stamp issues in May, 1940.

Despite the paucity of official stamp issues, interesting Penny Black centennial souvenirs exist in the form of unofficial seals, cachets, postmarks, and other philatelic ephemera available to collectors.

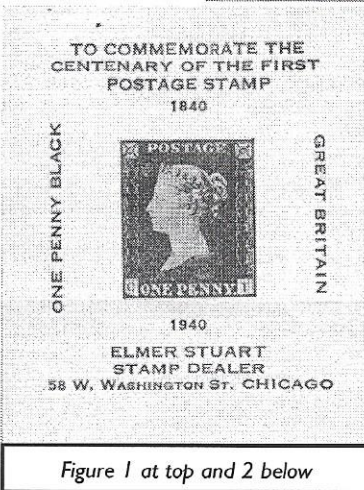
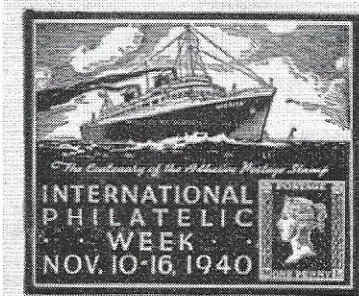


Figure 1 at top and 2 below

I am particularly interested in cinderellas, or stamp-on-stamp-like objects, that were issued privately during the period to commemorate the centenary. Since I know of no checklist of these Penny Black cinderellas, this article will illustrate some that I have accumulated. Perhaps you readers can help me build such a checklist by reporting on any others you may have in your own collections (my address is on the last page of this

newsletter).

One of the most common of these cinderellas is a small gummed seal printed in dark blue, issued for the International Philatelic Week in November, 1940. The design (figure 1) includes the ship "America," a Penny Black, and the inscription "The Centenary of the Adhesive Postage Stamp." Several stamp

(Continued on page 3)

Cinderellas of the Penny Black Centenary

By Wes Shellen



Figure 6. This sheet purporting to commemorate famous women, is comprised of four stamps honoring Eve, the Queen of Hearts, Queen Victoria, and, of course, Mrs. Stewart.

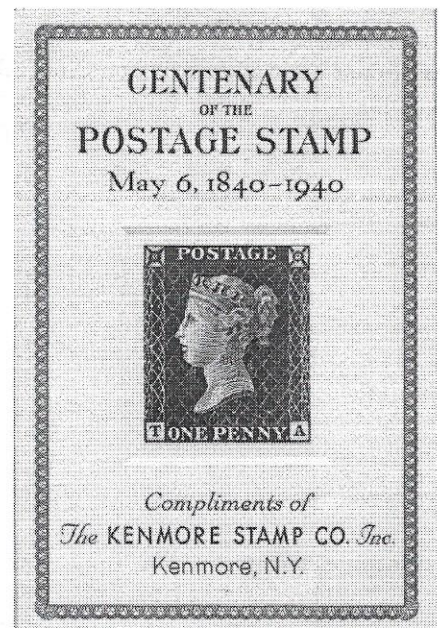


Figure 3

Called Hart House in memory of the late Hart Massey, the entire building, fully equipped, was presented to the University by the Trustees of The Massey Foundation. The Great Hall is recognized as one of the finest dining halls possessed by any university in the world. Their Majesties, the King and Queen lunched here on May 22nd, 1939.

The Penny Black Centennial Dinner

sponsored by
THE COMBINED TORONTO STAMP CLUBS
Hart House, University of Toronto
May 6th, 1940

<p>MENU</p> <p>Fruit Juice</p> <p>Cream of Green Pea</p> <p>Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding</p> <p>Persillade Potatoes Fresh Asparagus au Beurre</p> <p>Raspberry Parfait Small Cakes</p> <p>Coffee</p>	<p>TOAST</p> <p>The King</p> <p>Chairman's Remarks Mr. Fred Jarrett</p> <p>Entertainment</p> <p>The Speaker Rev. T. Christie Innes, M. A.</p> <p>Five Minute Auction</p> <p>The Raffle</p>
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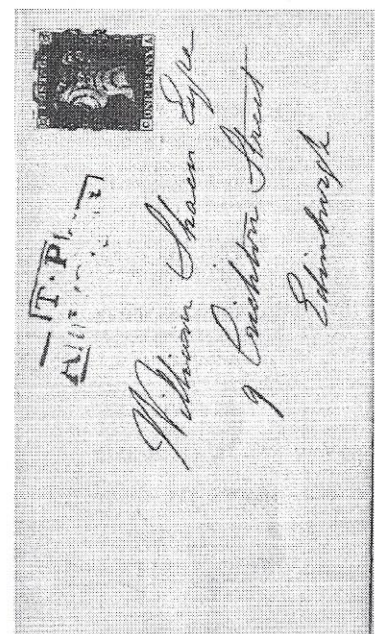


Figure 7. A very different kind of Cinderella is this representation of a cover franked by a Penny Black. When unfolded, the cover reveals the menu for the Penny Black Centennial Dinner, hosted by the Combined Toronto Stamp Clubs at the University of Toronto, on the 100th anniversary of the stamp's first day of issue, May 6, 1940. No doubt a good time was had by all, as they celebrated the first 100 years of postage stamps while dining that night on Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Persillade Potatoes, and fresh Asparagus au Beurre.

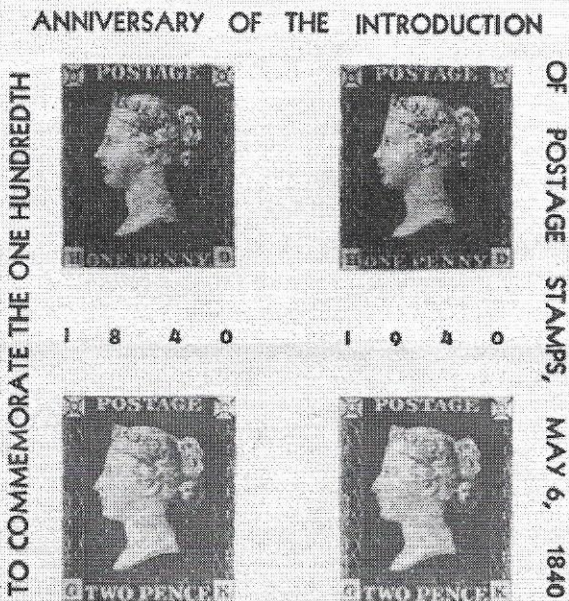
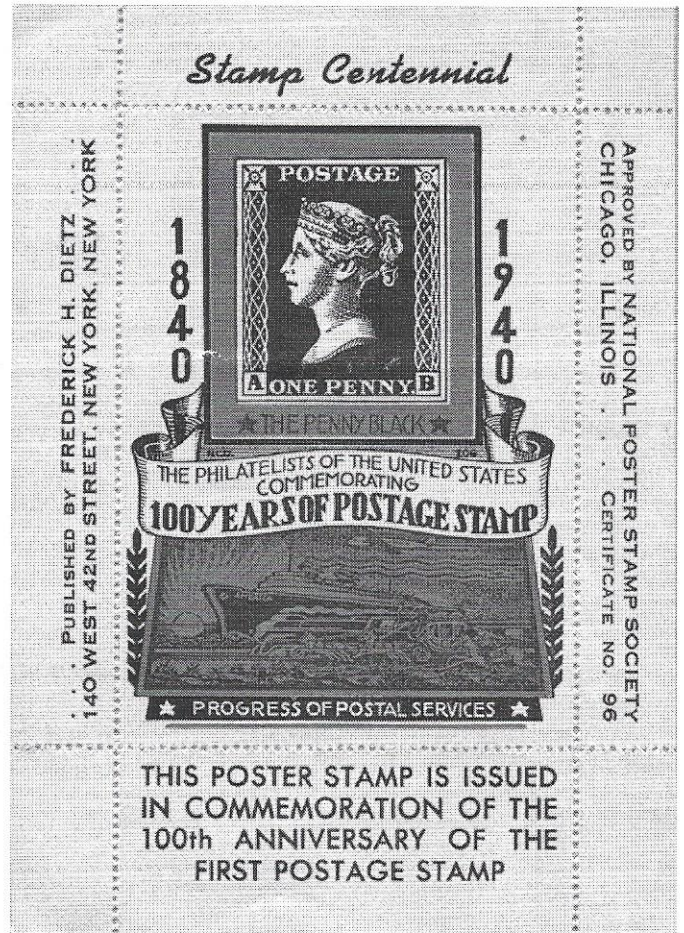
Cinderellas of the Penny Black Centenary

By Wes Shellen

(Continued from page 1)

dealers put their advertising on Cinderella souvenir sheets, including Chicago dealer Elmer Stuart who issued this label in an odd shade of orange-red (figure 2). The Kenmore Stamp Company issued an elegant souvenir which looks a little bit like an engraved sunken die proof on heavy card stock (figure 3, page 2). Another souvenir sheet with reproductions of both the one penny and two penny stamps in black and blue was printed by Kay-Marshall, Inc., of Medford, Oregon (figure 4, below).

A very fancy black and gold perforated Cinderella souvenir sheet issued by the National Poster Stamp Society illustrated a Penny Black, symbols of postal progress, and the legend "The Philatelists of the United States Commemorating 100 Years of Postage Stamp" (figure 5 at right). Finally, my favorite Penny Black Cinderella is another perforated souvenir sheet issued as an advertisement by Mrs. Stewart's Bluing Company, to promote their laundry product. This souvenir sheet (figure 6, page 2), in blue and red, is actually one of several stamp parodies issued by Mrs. Stewart's Company during 1939 and 1940. This sheet purporting to commemorate famous women, is comprised of four stamps honoring Eve, the Queen of Hearts, Queen Vic-



MEDFORD, OREGON — MAY 6, 1940

The original stamps printed by Perkins-Bacon Co., in London—1840

These reproductions printed by Kay-Marshall, Inc., in Medford, Oregon—1940

tor, and, of course, Mrs. Stewart. The label for Queen Victoria shows a Penny Black and notes that she appeared on the first postage stamp issued in 1840.

Finally, a very different kind of Cinderella is this representation of a cover franked by a Penny Black (figure 7, page 2). When unfolded, the cover reveals the menu for the Penny Black Centennial Dinner, hosted by the Combined Toronto Stamp Clubs at the University of Toronto, on the 100th anniversary of the stamp's first day of issue, May 6, 1940. No doubt a good time was had by all, as they celebrated the first 100 years of postage stamps while dining that night on Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Persillade Potatoes, and fresh Asparagus au Beurre.

Dr. Wesley N. Shellen is a professor of communications at the University of Montana. He is a life long collector and is in his second term as President of SOSCC. A sequel to this article, showing additional material, will be published in the April 2002 issue.

2nd Philexafrique Issue February 14, 1969

By Bill Critzer

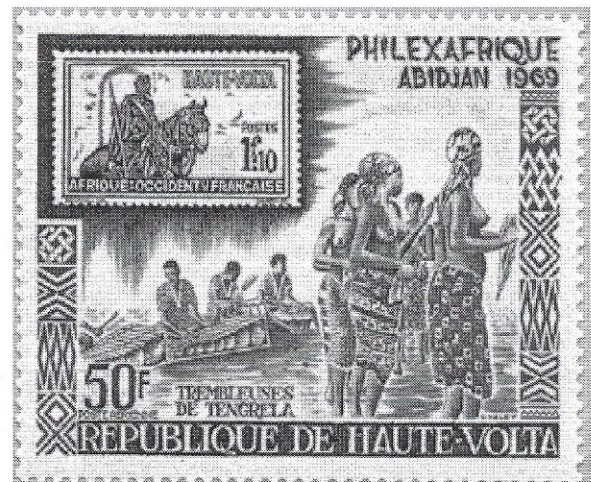
The French domain in West Africa began unraveling in the 1950's as the various colonies became independent. Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast hosted the 2nd Philexafrique Exhibition which opened on February 14, 1969 and ran until the 23rd. These unusual and distinctive stamps each show a local scene and a stamp of the issuing country. Here's a classic and nostalgic treatment of stamps as I remember them from my earlier collecting days. They have a common design format, but are distinctively pointed to their local cultures.

West Africa today is a bedlam of environmental degradation, rapidly rising population, disease, political unrest and armed revolution. The cultures are tribal, literacy rates are very low and the rural inhabitants are moving to the urban areas and forming villages in rings of slums around the cities. There is no end in sight to these problems and the character of the area is far different than it was in 1969.

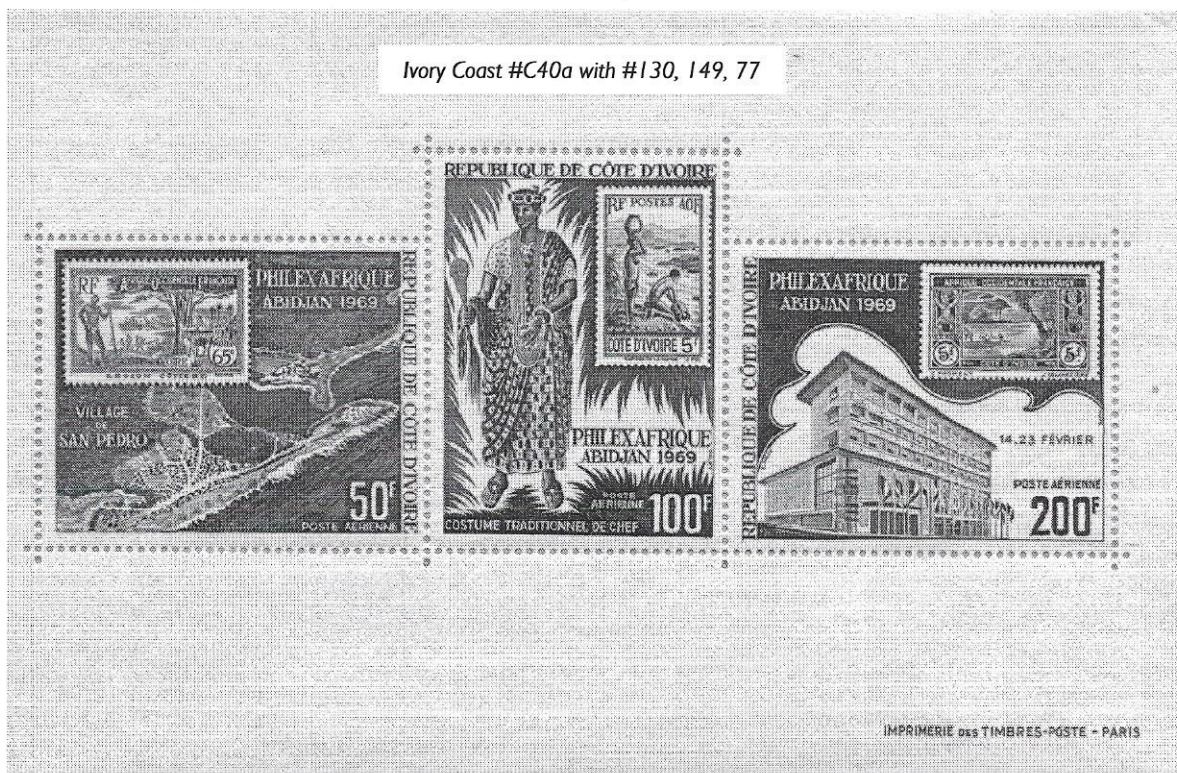
The Ivory Coast has been considered an African success story, and Abidjan has been called "the Paris of West Africa" Success was built on two artificial factors; the high price of cocoa, of which the Ivory Coast is the world's leading producer, and the talents of a French expatriate community, whose members have helped run the government and the private sector. The ex-

panding cocoa economy made the Ivory Coast a magnet for migrant workers from all over West Africa: between a third and a half of the country's population is now non-Ivorian, and the figure could be as high as 75 percent in Abidjan. During the 1980s cocoa prices fell and the French began to leave. The skyscrapers of the Paris of West Africa are a façade. Perhaps 15 percent of Abid-

(Continued on page 5)



Burkina Faso #C62 with Upper Volta #59

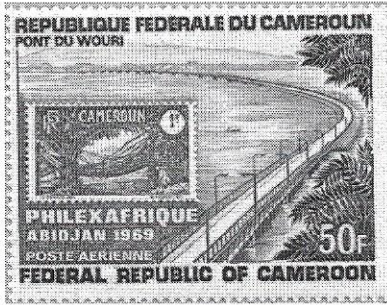


Ivory Coast #C40a with #130, 149, 77

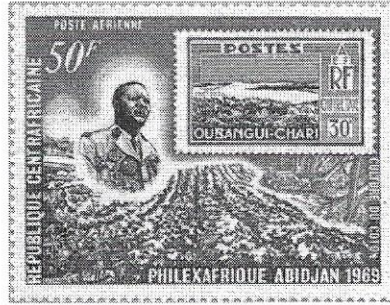
IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS

2nd Philexafrique Issue February 14, 1969

By Bill Critzer



Cameroon #C118 with #199



Central Africa #C65 with Ubangi-Shari #J6

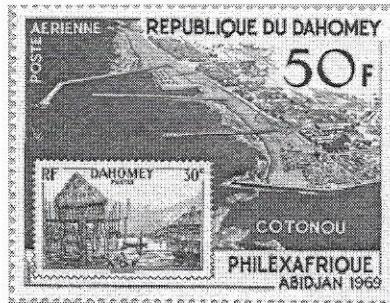


Chad #C48 with #J12

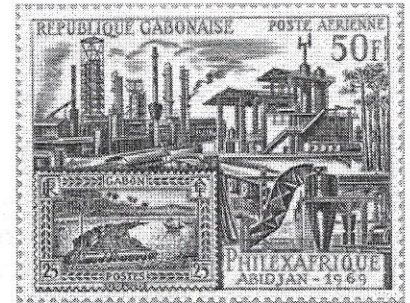
Congo PR #C77 with Middle Congo #72



Dahomey #C94 with #119



Gabon #C82 with #131



(Continued from page 4)

jan's population of three million people live in shantytown slums and the vast majority live in places that are not much better. Sixty percent of the population is urban and the net population growth is 3.6%. Ivory Coast's 13.5 million people will become 39 million by

2025, when much of the population will consist of urbanized peasants living in slums. The idyllic jungle-cave of women balancing earthen jugs on their heads will be long gone. The Ivory Coast, once a model of third world success is becoming a case study in third world catastrophe. Another area of the world to watch closely!



Malagasy #C92 with Madagascar #274

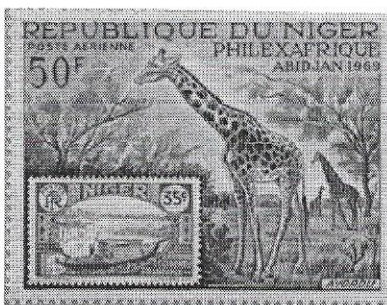


Mali #C65 with French Sudan #64



Mauritania #C80 with #89

Niger #C104 with #41



Senegal #C68 with #160



Togo #C104 with #16



The Bomba Heads of Sicily

By Richard Howard

When stamps for the Kingdom of Sicily were proposed in 1857 with the profile portrait of the king, Ferdinand II, he would not consent to their production without the understanding that a special postmark be devised which would not deface the royal features. One was devised which finally met with his approval in the form of ornamental scroll designs which, when applied carefully by hand, would cancel only the outer frame of the stamp, leaving the center, occupied by the royal profile, unblemished.

Vain, cruel, and treacherous, in 1848 with simmering revolt in the City of Messina, Ferdinand ordered it to be bombed into submission, an act that earned him the derisive nickname of King 'Bomba', and his stamps in the annals of philately, the 'Bomba Heads'.

Successive stamp designs were submitted for his approval, the order finally going to printers in Palermo who produced seven values in sheets of 100, comprising four blocks of 25 per sheet, and many distinct varieties exist of every value. Imperforate and on unwatermarked paper the Bomba Heads were destined for a very short life. Within months of the appearance of the stamps Ferdinand died, and shortly afterwards Garibaldi and his liberation army entered Palermo.

The Bomba Heads were replaced by the stamps of Sardinia, whose ruling House of Savoy went on to rule over a unified Italy.

In 1959 the Italian Post Office issued a set of two stamps in designs that reproduce in fine detail two low value Bomba Heads. This issue coincided with the opening day of an international centenary exhibition in Palermo where centenary postmarks



(Continued on page 7)

The Bomba Heads of Sicily

By Richard Howard

(Continued from page 6)

were in use at the exhibition post office of SICILIA '59. There were a variety of different designs of FDC's serviced at post offices throughout Italy, together with many post-cards, maxim cards, and other souvenirs.

The Republic of San Marino also commemorated the Sicily centenary with the issue of a long set in 1959 of seven values, each one reproducing in miniature stamps of the original set of seven, against scenic views of Sicily or various historical and architectural treasures of the island. Again there was a plethora of souvenirs of this issue in the form of many design of FDC's and maxim cards, some used conjointly with the Italian set at SICILIA '59.

The Sicily centenary was only one of several interesting centenary issues from Italy around this time, commemorating the centenary issues of the many separate regions prior to unification: Tuscany, Sardinia, Parma and Modena, Naples, the Roman States and the Romagna, all stamp on stamp issues featuring early European classics, but none with so fascinating a background as the Bomba Heads of Sicily.

Author Richard Howard is well known to regular readers of this newsletter as one of our most prolific contributors. Richard resides in Southport UK and has an extensive SOS collection, one of the most comprehensive ever assembled.



The San Marino Covers above and below show Scott #439-45 of October 16, 1959 reproducing the seven Bomba Heads of the original 1859 issue of Sicily. The 200 Lire stamp on the bottom cover is #C110.

The cover at the top of page 6 shows Italy #763-4 reproducing Two Sicilies #13 and #15. The bottom cover sports Italy #789-90 showing Romagna #8 and #9.



New Issues

edited by Lou Guadagno

(new on list = *)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
00 07 09	Argentina	\$1.00	Argentina #345, C1	Aerophila 2000 Exhibition	2118
00 09 07	Cuba	* 10-75c	Spain #1-5, Cuba #1	Espana 2000 Int'l Philatelic Exhibition	4102-6
00 10 08	Denmark	5.50k	Denmark #2	The 20th Century-Communication	1184
00 10 12	Germany	1.10dm	Germany #2092	Stamp Day	2103
99 11 14	Jordan	* 100, 200f	Jordan #284, 534H, others	20th Anniversary, Jordan Philatelic Club	1666A-B
00 00 00	Kuwait	* 25-150 fils	Stamps of Six Countries	The 6th Gcc Countries Joint Stamps Exh.	To come
00 00 00	Kuwait	* 1 Dinar	Stamps of Six Countries	The 6th Gcc Countries Joint Stamps Exh (SIS)	To come
00 00 00	Monaco	* 9f	Monaco #1433	Grand Prix 2000 Stamp Show	To come
00 00 00	Monaco	* 6.5f	Three 1851 Stamps ???	150th Anniversary ???	To come
00 00 00	Poland	* 80gr	Poland #2501	60th Anniversary, Polish Workers' Party	To come
00 07 07	Surinam	3575f	Surinam #1208, 1209	World Stamp Expo 2000	1224
00 05 22	Tokelau	* \$8	In Margin: G.B. #1	Stamp Show 2000 (SIS)	283
00 05 22	Tonga	\$1, \$2.50	In Margin: G.B. #1	Stamp Show 2000 (SIS)	1033a-b
00 05 22	Tonga-Niuafu'ou	\$1, \$2.50	In Margin: G.B. #1	Stamp Show 2000 (SIS)	223a-b
00 05 22	Vanuatu	* 107v, 100v	In Margin: G.B. #1	Stamp Show 2000 (SIS)	758a-b
00 05 15	Viet Nam	* 400-12000d	In Margin: G.B. #1	Stamp Show 2000 (SIS)	2965
00 12 30	Viet Nam	* 400d	Viet Nam #621	????????	To come
00 00 00	Yugoslavia	* 10z	Stamps on Postcard	Zeppelin Flight to Buenos Aires Anniversary	To come

EARTHQUAKE!

On February 4, 1976, the day of the earthquake, Romeo J. Routhier left his home in El Cielito at 8 am and walked six blocks to the main post office.

In the P.O. he found all departments operating and the building was in good condition with only plaster having fallen. He decided to make some earthquake covers. The Philatelic Office was opened, stamps were purchased, and a hammer type metal canceling device was loaned him. This was adjusted to read "4-2-76—9 hours" and he proceeded to cancel the covers. The round stamp of the Departamento FILATELICO was placed and a back cancel (at right) obtained in the local mail department.

At 10 am the P.O. was closed and the personnel allowed to go home. It did not reopen until the 9th. One could go into the P.O. Sec-



tion but all departments were closed. Later two rubber stamps were made and used. The first was a two line cancel reading DEPARTAMENTO FILATELICO / ABIERTO ESTE DIA (PHILATELIC OFFICE OPENED THIS DAY). The second was a map of Guatemala with the words "DOWN BUT NOT OUT" 4 Feb 76 and "GUATEMALA ESTA EN PIE". These were applied on February 23rd. Although the cover did not pass through the mails (there wasn't enough time), it was duly cancelled in the P.O. the day of the earthquake.

The stamps on the cover are Guatemala #C574 at bottom and #329 at top. The top stamp looks like a type SY pseudo stamp that has not been previously identified.

Classifieds *featuring dealer-members*

TOPICAL FIRST DAY COVERS

Dozens of topics available, including of course, Stamps on Stamps.

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Members: CSDA, ASDA, APS, ATA and Others

SOSCC News

By Bill Critzer

Welcome to new members Lloyd V. Gilbert of Winnipeg, Canada; Jerry Hallead of Traverse City, Michigan; Joel Martin Aurnou of White Plains, New York.

We had a very robust membership renewal period and the life membership offer was acted upon by Joel Aurnou, John Cali, Laurence Hausman, Judy Hornaday, Michael Merritt, Lee M. Roberts, Harry Skallerup and Julian Smith. Donations were gratefully received from Dr. James F. Harris, Robert Juceam, Boris Politziner, Faith Sagar and Joyce Storms. My thanks to all members for your responsiveness and support of SOSCC.

Michael Merritt volunteered in December to be Webmaster following the untimely death of Russell Skavaril. Michael has done a forceful job in handling the transition. Michael and the editor agreed that the time had come to again strengthen our presence on the web and we now have a registered domain name and a new internet host for the site. Go to www.stampsonstamps.org to access the site. The internet has proved to be a key place for philatelic communication. Our objective is to improve the accessibility of SOSCC and our ability to economically deliver useful and colorful information to existing and prospective members. Thank you, Michael, for taking on this important responsibility.

Joyce Storms, retiring vice president and election monitor, reports that she did not receive any adverse votes for the candidates for SOSCC office for the next two years. Therefore, the officers shown on page 10 will serve in their elected capacities until December 31, 2002.

Russell Skavaril

1936-2000

Russell V. Skavaril, age 63, died unexpectedly at his home in Columbus, Ohio, November 29, 2000. He was born December 6, 1936.

Dr. Skavaril was a member of the Columbus Philatelic Society and an international philatelic literature judge.

He was a past editor of the St. Helena and Dependencies Philatelic Society newsletter. He was vice president of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

Among his many philatelic endeavors he was the Webmaster for the Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club and several other collector groups.

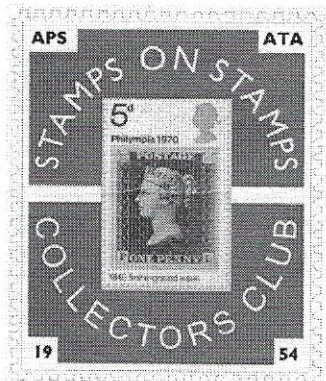
Dr. Skavaril, a professor emeritus of the Ohio State University, is survived by his wife Mary, daughters Kim Gonzales and Julia Charvet, sons Mike and Greg, sister Loraine Brittell and brother Vincent.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of SOSCC and it was his vitality that first enabled the club to be on the internet. He was thoughtful and encouraging in all the matters concerning the development of SOSCC and he will be missed.

STAMPS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS CLUB

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Visit us on the web:
www.stampsonstamps.org

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 \$9 per year for members residing in North America and \$12 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.

President	Wesley Shellen	1650 Sunflower Drive Missoula, MT 59802
Vice President	Gaston Barrette	403-2766 Chemin Sainte-Foy Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4S4 Canada
Secretary-Treasurer	Bill Critzer	1360 Trinity Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025
Webmaster	Michael Merritt	73 Mountainside Road Mendham, NJ 07945
New Issues	Lou Guadagno	1772 E. 51st Street Brooklyn, NY 11234

More New Issues

By Lou Guadagno



Clockwise from right:
Monaco
Monaco
Vietnam
Poland

See listings on page 8 for more information.

