

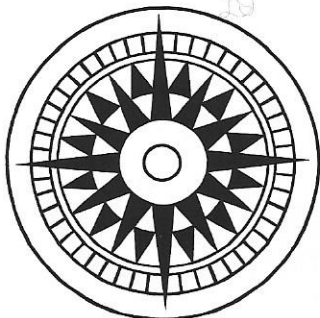
SOS SIGNAL

October 2001

Whole Number 17

Important News

- ◆ There are many new issues and catalogue numbers are slow in coming. The huge quantity of material is clogging the pipeline.
- ◆ A large selection of SOS items are for sale on the American Philatelic Society web site: www.stamps.org.
- ◆ Send me a favorite cover and I will reproduce it in the Signal with your byline. It will be scanned and returned to you promptly.



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United Nations Souvenir Cards and SOS

by Harry Skallerup

In an earlier article I attempted to describe a collecting interest which seems to be neither fish nor fowl in the realm of philately

but is perhaps of possible appeal to SOS members. It was about United States souvenir cards. Now I am continuing by taking a very quick look at United Nations souvenir cards in general, and then focusing on two of its cards that depict stamps on stamps, and two that salute the Universal Postal Union.

The United Nations Postal Authority has been issuing souvenir cards since 1972. Its cards, like those of the United States, are not valid for postage, but differ from them in several other respects. They are issued in recognition of some United Nations interest, event, or theme. The stamps reproduced on them are solely United Nations issues, as opposed to true United States souvenir cards which were produced for philatelic shows or events and mostly featured previously issued relevant stamp designs, some being reproduc-

tions of foreign countries' stamps.

United Nations cards are issued on the first-day observance of certain new stamp issues and may depict one or

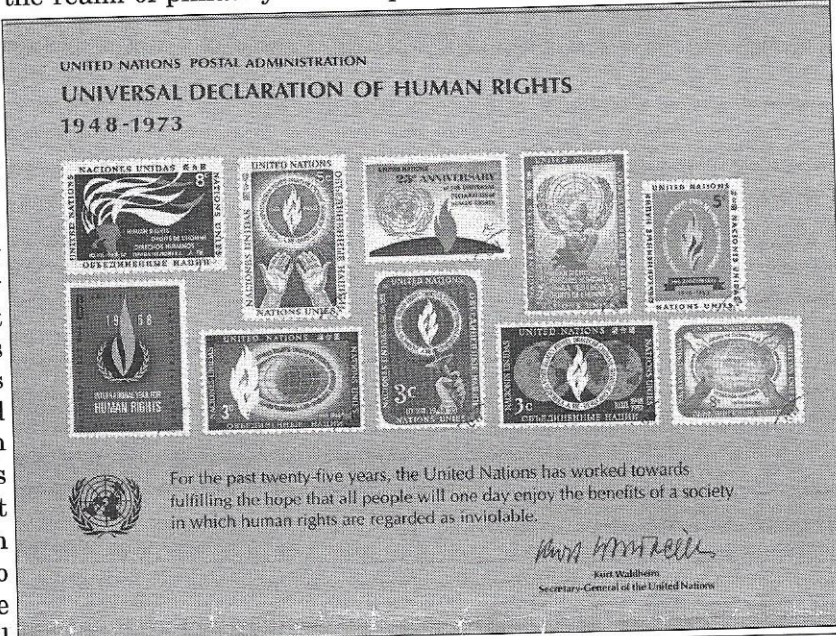


Figure 1. This card issued in 1973 highlights one of the many international concerns of the United Nations, human rights, and contains images of ten stamps on this theme issued between 1952-1973.

more images of other previously issued United Nations stamps germane to the new issue's topic in combination with the new stamps. Usually a short explanatory message or salutation in English by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, along with his signature, make up the textual content. The United Nations souvenir cards are

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United Nations Souvenir Cards and SOS

by Harry Skallerup

(Continued from page 1)

listed at the very end of Scott's 2001 *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*. As of August 1999 there were 54 cards identified and numbered, containing a total of about 388 stamp images. The cards exist in a canceled as well as a mint state and are issued in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. Mint souvenir cards in some sets sell for about the same price or more on the market as the canceled cards. In the canceled state, the newly issued United Nations stamp is affixed to the card and bears a first-day of issue cancellation. New stamps issued at the New York headquarters are canceled in that city, and the complementary stamps of the United Nations Geneva and Vienna offices are canceled on the same date on separate but identical souvenir cards. Since 1980, a complete set of cards consists of four cards, one mint, and one canceled at each location with its own stamp design and denomination.

Figure 2 shows a full set of cards with the theme, "Tribute to Philately," issued in 1997. It is deceptively laden with SOS reproductions, for in effect, it reproduces two generations of stamps on stamps (SOSOS) by depicting six stamps which feature stamps on stamps issues from 1968, consisting of three designs. The first, on UN #714 and UNG #312 is that of a partially magnified image of a stamp (a third generation of that design) which shows a mother and child (UN Type A16, also shown full-size in Figure 1 as UN #29). The second design, on UNG #313 and UNV #228, at first glance looks more like a miniature aerial photo of a rural landscape than stamps; but on

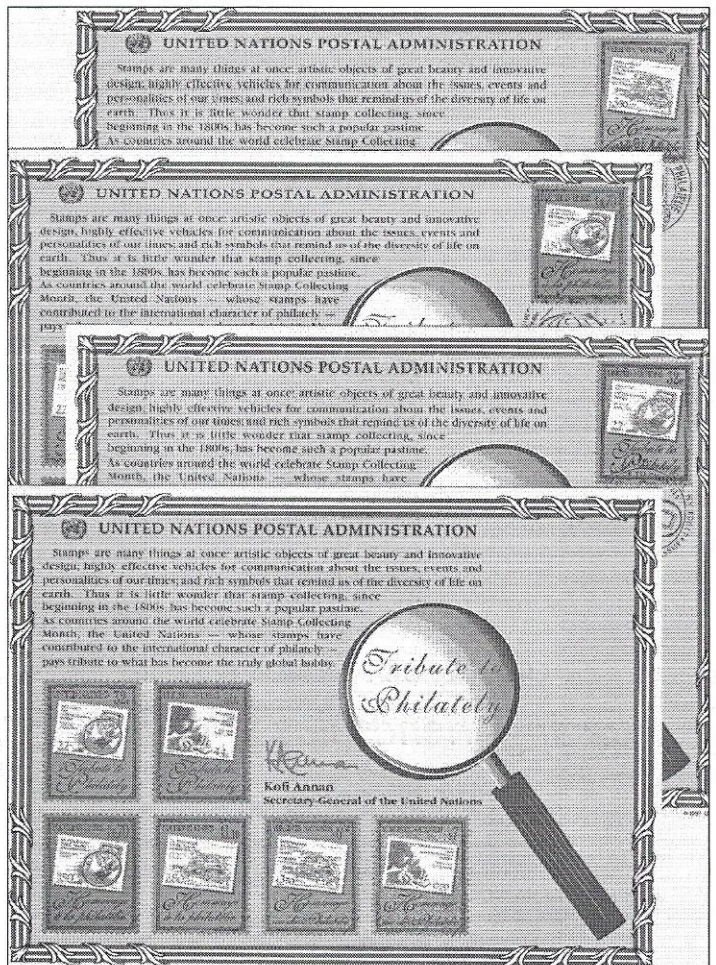
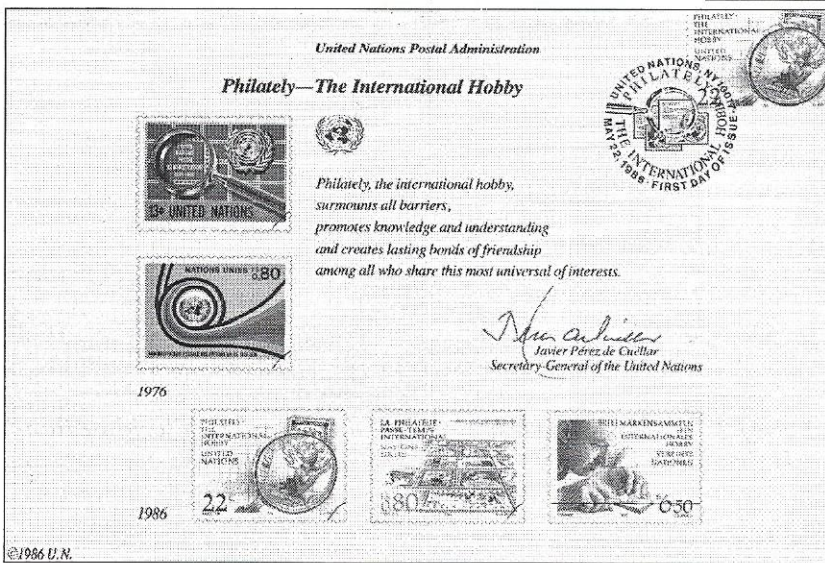


Figure 2 above and Figure 3 at left below. These United Nations cards honor our hobby of philately and a continuous UN revenue source.



closer examination, a "sheet" of stamps can be seen.

In fact, six of the stamps have been identified in the SOS master checklist as UN #30 (Type A16 again) and UN #420, UNG #100,114, 128, and UNV #45. The third design is that of a man examining a pseudo stamp under glass on UN #715 and UNV #229.

The SOS on the "Tribute to Philately" card leads back to the year of their release and to UN card #29, "Philately -- The International Hobby," issued in 1986. Figure 3 shows three of the then-newly issued stamp designs as UN #473, UNG #147, and UNV #63. Also reproduced on the card is a previ-

(Continued on page 3)

United Nations Souvenir Cards and SOS

by Harry Skallerup

(Continued from page 2)

ous UN SOS of 1976 showing a magnifying glass over a grid of pseudo stamps (UN #278) along with its complementary Geneva stamp, a stylized post horn (UNG #61). Both of these stamps had been issued on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Postal Administration.

“Philately, the international hobby, surmounts all barriers, promotes knowledge and understanding, and creates lasting friendships”.

The direct connection of SOS images on the cards ends with the “Tribute to Philately” card. However, the Geneva 1976 post horn design links up with another card issued in 1974 that honors the centenary of the Universal Postal Union (Figure 4). It featured new stamps with a different post horn design honoring the UPU along with two UN stamps (#17-18), issued in 1953, which show the back of a transparent envelope in their design. Now, in the spirit of good fun, if only the front of the envelope had been shown instead, and if a dot of color had been put in the upper right-hand corner of it, the result would have been a Type SY SOS! Well, anyway, souvenir UN cards #29 and #51 contain almost all of the Type A authentic SOS issues of the United Nations. If you don’t have the stamps, you can always opt for reproductions of them in their true colors and sizes on just these two cards. And if you like Type SY, you will be happy to find at least a dozen of them dotting envelopes and parcels on the UPU card in Figure 5!

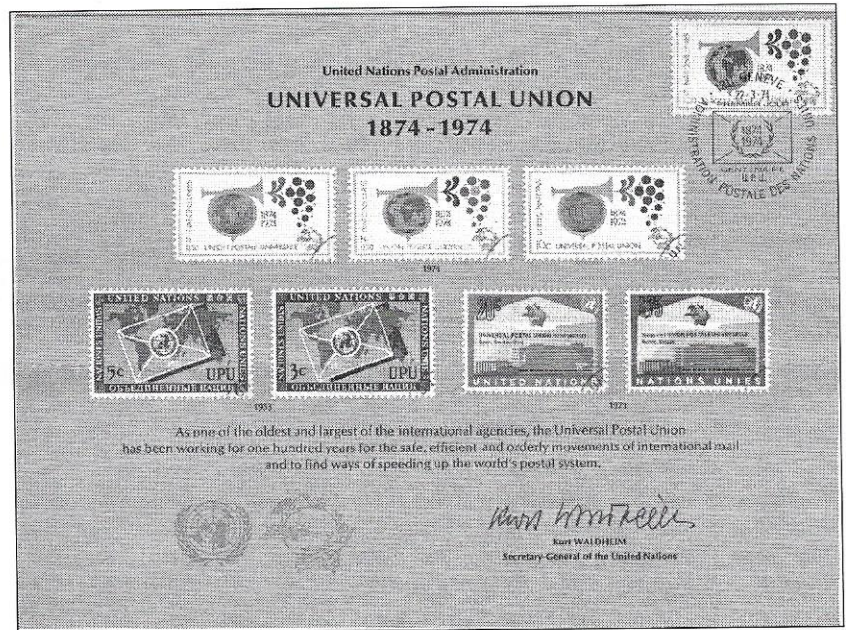
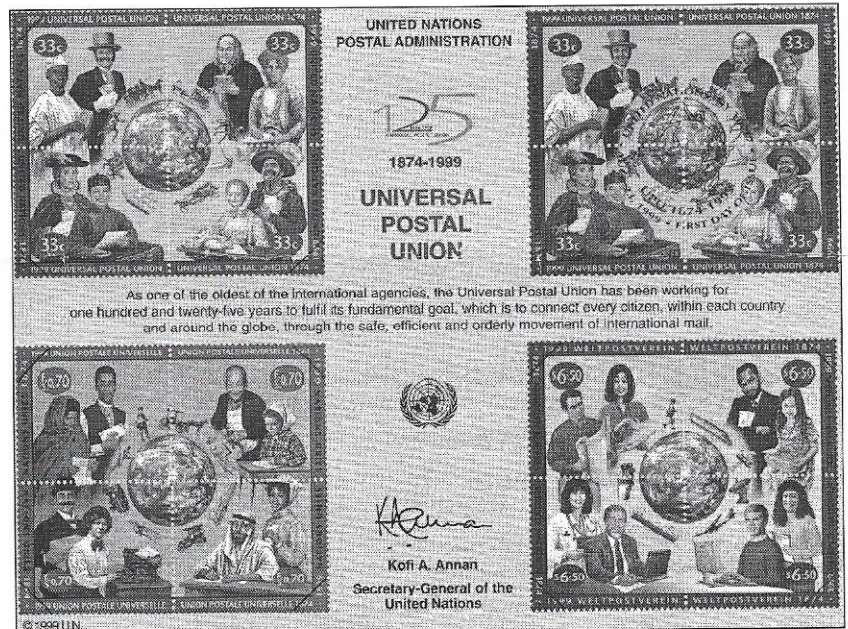


Figure 4 above and Figure 5 below. These United Nations cards commemorate the centenary of the Universal Postal Union in 1974 and its 125th anniversary in 1999. These souvenir cards were issued on 3/24/74 and 8/23/99 and are Sc #5 and #54 respectively.



Harry Skallerup retired in 1991 as Director of the Florida Atlantic University Libraries. His first SOS Signal article appeared in January 2001. The editor hopes Harry will become a prolific SOSCC author.

MORE CINDERELLAS OF THE PENNY BLACK CENTENARY

By Wes Shellen

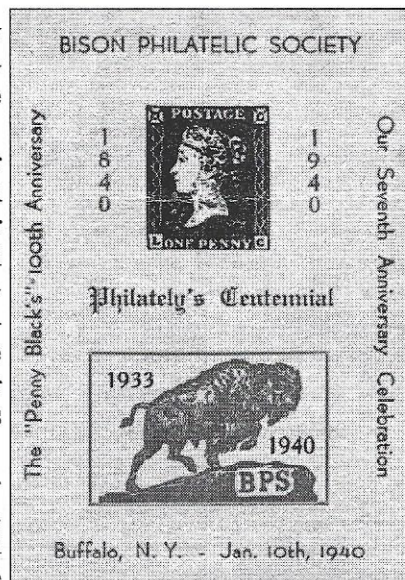
In last April's issue of the *SOS Signal*, I showed some examples of various unofficial souvenir sheets from the 1940 Centennial of the Penny Black. I also wrote that somebody should compile a checklist of these cinderella sheets. Several days after the article was published I received a thick envelope from veteran SOSCC member, Boris Politziner. (Boris was VP of this club when I joined as a beginner over 25 years ago!) In the envelope was an old four-page thermofax checklist of over 80 different souvenir sheets issued in the U.S. for the Penny Black centenary. The list, according to Boris, was prepared many years ago by a collector named S. A. Garnett.¹ Since we now know that such a list already exists, I would like to use this article to show some interesting examples of the U.S. cinderellas from Garnett's inventory. In a future issue of the *SOS Signal* I will conclude this series by showing some examples of foreign souvenirs honoring the centenary of the Penny Black.

My first example is a 1940 souvenir label distributed by Harrisburg, PA stamp dealer Elmer Long with four cartoon drawings by John Coulthard (figure 1). Certainly the artist's caricature of Queen Victoria here was considerably less flattering than the lovely Wyon Medallion portrait after which the Penny Black stamp was modeled.

Most of the American cinderella issues were mementos from various U.S. stamp exhibitions held in 1940 and each took a different approach to the centennial theme. The earliest of these was a small souvenir sheet issued for the Bison Philatelic Society's show in Buffalo, NY in early January 1940. The sheet pictures the Penny Black stamp, a bright red



Figure 1 above, figure 2 below



bison club symbol, and the wording "The 'Penny Black's' 100th Anniversary" (figure 2). The Midwest Philatelic Society of Kansas City, Missouri, published a similar motif, combining the society's triangular emblem with the Penny Black in a small souvenir sheet on yellow paper (figure 3).

The Deseret Stamp Club of Salt Lake City, Utah issued souvenir sheets in two colors, black and blue (figure 4). The design shows the Penny Black and two-penny blue stamps on a background of the Mulready envelope, the world's first postal stationery. This is a nice example, I think, of a design that incorporates all three of the philatelic "firsts" appropriate to the 100th anniversary of the postage stamp.

The Madison, Wisconsin stamp club took a very different approach to the design of the cinderella sheets issued for their exhibition. They employed an Art Deco motif with one-penny stamps from 1840 and 1940 shown next to a figure reminiscent of the two-faced Janus head from Roman mythology (figure 5). These sheets exist in three different colors, magenta, brown, and purple.

Someone employed creativity in a hybrid "stamp" put out by the Michigan Stamp Club. The stamp uses the frame of the Penny Black but incorporates a vignette of Queen Victoria reminiscent of the famous full-face Chalon portrait found on the early stamps of New Zealand and several other British Colonies (figure 6).

The next example of a U.S. cinderella sheet was issued for the Passaic, NJ stamp club that held its exhibition the first week in May, coinciding with the actual May 6 centennial date. The

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MORE CINDERELLAS OF THE PENNY BLACK CENTENARY

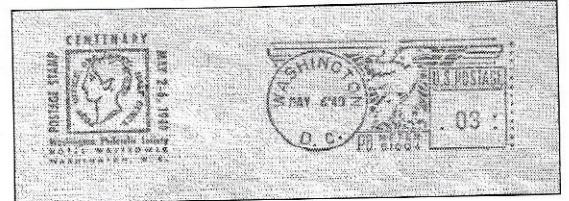
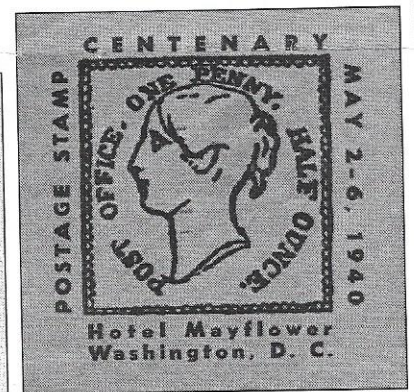
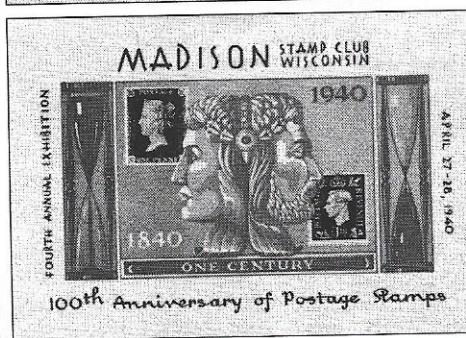
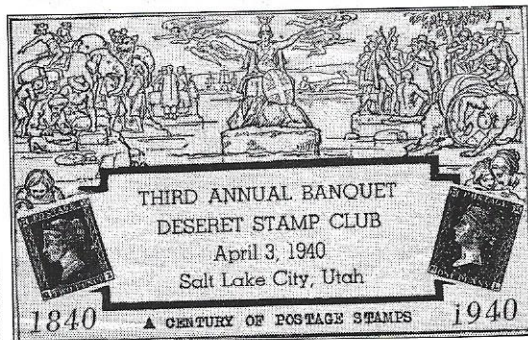
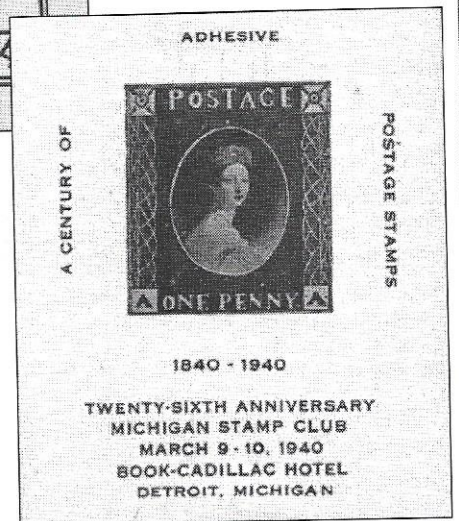
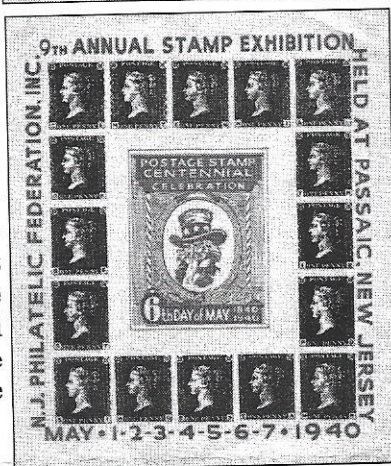
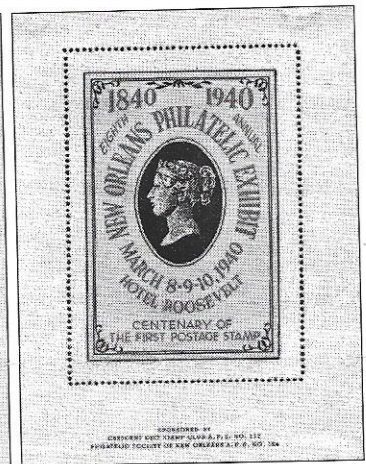
By Wes Shellen

(Continued from page 4)

sheet (figure 7) shows a bumper crop of sixteen Penny Blacks forming a border around another large red and blue "stamp" with a vignette of Uncle Sam. Altogether this sheet strikes me as a colorful but incongruous combination of national symbols.

The Crescent City Stamp Club in New Orleans put out a souvenir sheet with a large perforated "stamp" picturing the bust of Queen Victoria (figure 8). My copy is in three colors, red, black and beige on white paper. According to Garnett's list, this cinderella also exists on four other colors of paper, both perforated and imperforate, making a total of ten different types of this sheet for the specialist to collect.

The Washington D.C. Philatelic Society produced my final example. I have saved it for last because I think it is the most important. This odd little design on yellow paper (figure 9) illustrates an enlarged version of the commemorative meter slogan used in Washington D.C. on the 100th Anniversary of the Penny Black (figure 10). This meter slogan was the closest thing to official postal recognition of the world's first postage stamp that happened in the United States in 1940. All of the other American philatelic reminders of the centennial were cinderellas.



Author Wes Shellen has developed a growing interest in these items during the past few years. S.A. Garnett's list is available from the author for \$1 cash postpaid. See page 8 for his address.

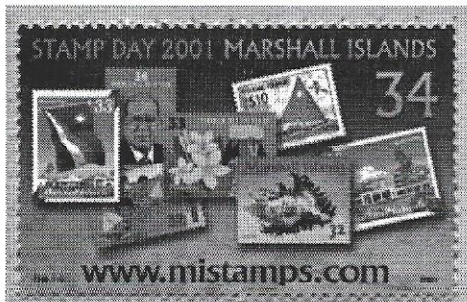
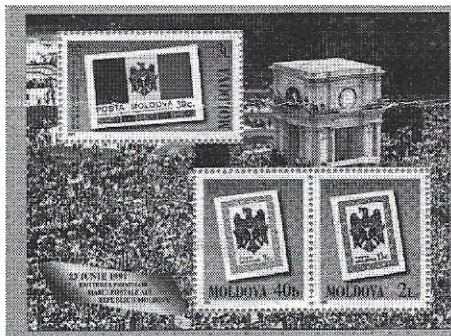
Figures from left to right, top to bottom:
 Figures 3 and 8
 Figures 7 and 6
 Figures 4, 5 and 9
 Figure 10

New Issues

edited by Lou Guadagno

(new on list = *)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
00 12 23	Armenia	* 36 x 110d	In Margin: Many Armenian Stamps	Contribution of Armenians (4 booklets of 9v)	623-6
01 05 24	Ascension	* 15-65p	GB #9	Age of Victoria (6v-1 sos)	To come
01 08 09	Belgium	* 5 x 42f	Belgium #2	BELGICA 2001 (5v-1 sos)	To come
01 06 28	Bermuda	* 35-95c	Bermuda #26	Boer War Centenary (4v-1 sos)	808-11
01 00 00	Bolivia	* .50-2.50B	Bolivia #1079, 1088, 1090 others	Postal Services (5v-2 sos)	To come
01 05 24	Falkland Islands	* 3p-1.50£	Falkland Islands #1	Age of Victoria (7v-1 sos)	To come
01 01 22	Gibraltar	* 4x30-66p	GB #1, 2	Death Centenary, Queen Victoria (4 sheetlets)	860-3
01 05 25	Hungary	* 36, 90ft	Hungary #P1, 2	74th Stamp Day	To come
01 01 22	Isle of Man	* 22-66p	GB #1	Victorian Days (6v-1 sos)	889-92
01 04 18	Isle of Man	* 29-50p	GB #300, Isle of Man #3, 8	75th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II	To come
00 05 10	Korea (South)	* 140w	Korea H&G #1	Centenary, First Postal Card of Korea	To come
01 04 27	Korea (South)	* 2 x 170w	Greece #120	Publicity for International Olympic Fair	To come
05 02 01	Marshall Islands	* 34c	Seven Stamps	Stamp Day (single and tete-beche pair)	C180, a
00 00 00	Mauritania	* 50um	Mauritania #116	40th Anniversary Independence	To come
01 00 00	Micronesia	* ???	GB #1 in margin	Death Centenary of Queen Victoria SIS	To come
01 06 00	Moldova	* 40b-3L	Moldova Mi #1,2,3	10th Anniv., Stamps of Moldova	To come
01 05 01	Monaco	* 2.70fr	Monaco #1952	50th Anniv., Prince Rainier III	To come
01 04 30	Montserrat	* 1.00-3.00\$	Montserrat #686,661	Famous Stamp Personalities (4v-1 sos)	To come
00 11 23	Philippines	* 4 x 5p	Philippines #620, 639, 850, B21	50th Anniv., APO Philatelic Society	2703-06
01 05 24	St. Helena	* 10-50p	St. Helena #1	Age of Victoria (6v-1 sos)	To come
00 11 25	Surinam	* 5900f	Surinam #724,892,957,ten others	25th Anniv. of Philatelic Agent (pair)	1229-30
00 11 25	Surinam	* 125f, 5900f	Surinam #874-5	As above, but SIS of two	1230a
00 10 08	Viet Nam	* 400d	Viet Nam # 820	40th Anniv., Viet Nam Philatelic Association	3003



From top left clockwise:
 Moldova 06/00/01
 Philippines #2703-4
 Micronesia
 Philippines #2705-6
 Marshall Islands #C180

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SOSCC News

By Bill Critzer

Welcome to new members Gerald Barth, Fort Pierce, Florida and Richard Little, Fort Worth, Texas. Our membership is steady in number at 65 with a turnover rate of about five members a year.

We want to express our appreciation to Donald Brenke of the American Topical Association. He always provides a nice review in *Topical Times* of the most recent *SOS Signal* and has been responsible for capturing the interest of several new members over the past few years.

Vice President Gaston Barrette continues his extensive and exhaustive research on postal stationery with SOS themes. The list of over eight hundred items that now exists would never have been compiled without his tireless effort. And this list is still growing! We hope to bring you an article describing his methods and updating his results sometime soon.

Do you have a favorite item in your SOS collection? Let me know what it is and get your name featured in a byline in a forthcoming issue. Just tell me a little about it and why you like it. If it interests you it will interest others. My contact addresses are on page 8.

Don't forget some of the subtopics in our topic, for example: cinderellas, souvenir cards, SUGs, ugliest, most beautiful, most meaningful to you, etc. There is no end of things to write about in our marvelous topic. Take a clue from Richard Howard, our most prolific author. He writes in longhand on lined paper and provides photocopies of his material. The method is simple and direct and the result is fascinating!



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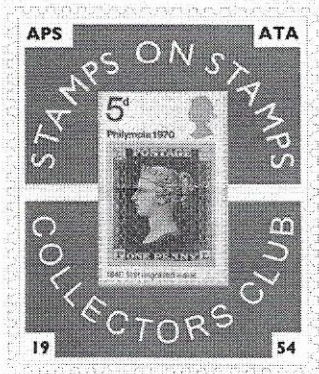
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STAMPS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS CLUB

William E. Critzer
 Secretary-Treasurer and Editor
 1360 Trinity Drive
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

Phone/Fax: 650-234-1136
 Email: wcritzer@avenidas.org



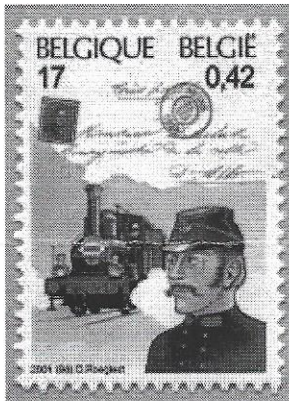
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www.stampsonstamps.org

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
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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



From top left clockwise:
 Bolivia, Belgium, Montserrat,
 Falkland Islands, St. Helena, Ascension (Victoria issues)
 Bermuda #811, Mauritania

