

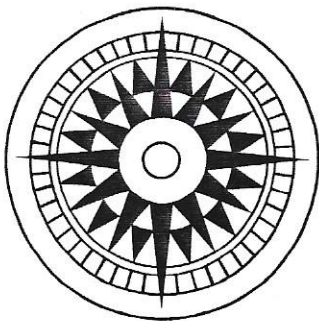
SOS SIGNAL

April 2002

Whole Number 19

Important News

- ◆ Thanks to each of you for renewing your dues. We had a fantastic renewal response and the club has grown.
- ◆ Lou Guadagno is doing his usual terrific job on new issues. Take a look at the items on pages 6 and 8.
- ◆ Coming next issue is an outstanding display of Otto Zieher postcards. Boris Politziner will tell us what he knows about them!



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Double Take

By Harry Skallerup

In August 1998 I happened to see a familiar looking stamp in a collage of new issues illustrated in a stamp dealer's listing dated June 1997. It looked just like the John F. Kennedy Memorial stamp (US #1246) issued in 1964 following his assassination. After doing a double take, I saw that the stamp was from Guyana. So, thinking that it might qualify as a SOS, I included it in my next order to the dealer, only to be told that it was no longer in stock. It had been cataloged by Scott as Guyana #3141, and by this time, much to my dismay, it apparently had become elusive.

I'll spare the long "cut to the chase" dialog of this story, but suffice it to say that perhaps I was looking in the wrong places and that my off-again, on-again timing in the quest wasn't the best approach. However, after going up many blind alleys and coming back empty handed, I finally did acquire the stamp. In the meantime, it hadn't been reported to the Club; but recently our intrepid Editor corroborated this "sleeper," as he called it, to be a bona fide Type B and has added it to the Master Checklist.

Now it seems that finding information about the stamp is just as difficult as finding it in the flesh. Again, I'll omit the weary "where did I look" details and just say that all the resources available to me on-line and elsewhere, and my queries made to others, haven't revealed much. What I know for certain is that the stamp was issued on March 14, 1997, ostensibly to

recognize the 80th anniversary of the birth of JFK, although he was born on May 29, 1917, which only adds up to 79 years, 9 months, and 6 days. Customarily such stamps are released on the day of the birth of the honoree, a nicety usually observed by issuing bodies, including the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation, the responsible agency in this case.



Of course there is information readily available about the original US stamp. Much of it is contained in an announcement that was posted on bulletin boards of post offices throughout the nation advertising it and giving instructions on how to obtain first-day cancellations of the stamp to be dated May 29, 1964 (JFK's 47th birthday) in Boston. In brief summary, the bulletin states that the stamp was designed by a New York firm based on a sketch by a Bureau of Engraving and Printing artist. Jacqueline Kennedy made the final selection from many submitted designs. The quotation on the stamp was taken from JFK's inaugural speech; and the artist was inspired to depict his remembrance of the eternal flame at Arlington National Cemetery. The portrait is based on a photograph that

(Continued on page 2)

Double Take

By Harry Skallerup

was selected by the designers from hundreds that were examined. The initial printing was to be 250 million stamps, "twice the usual quantity" for a US commemorative then.¹ However, the final total recorded today is a tremendous 511,750,000 stamps and 2,003,096 first-day covers.²

The Guyana look-alike differs from the US design by being slightly larger in size. It also is a more vivid shade of blue, and of course the country and denomination have been changed. It was one of a near-record of 304 stamps issued by Guyana in 1997.³ But the stamp was issued as a single, which makes it kind of an anomaly for Guyana/IGPC in view of their recent output of multiple sets or combinations such as souvenir sheets, "sheetlets," etc. Underscoring this policy of excess is the fact that in 2001 Guyana/IGPC released yet another JFK design as an eight-stamp photomosaic (Guyana #3648). It joins the ranks of others in this format intended to "honor" certain celebrities and events, and, no doubt, generate more sales in the cult-of-personality collectibles game.

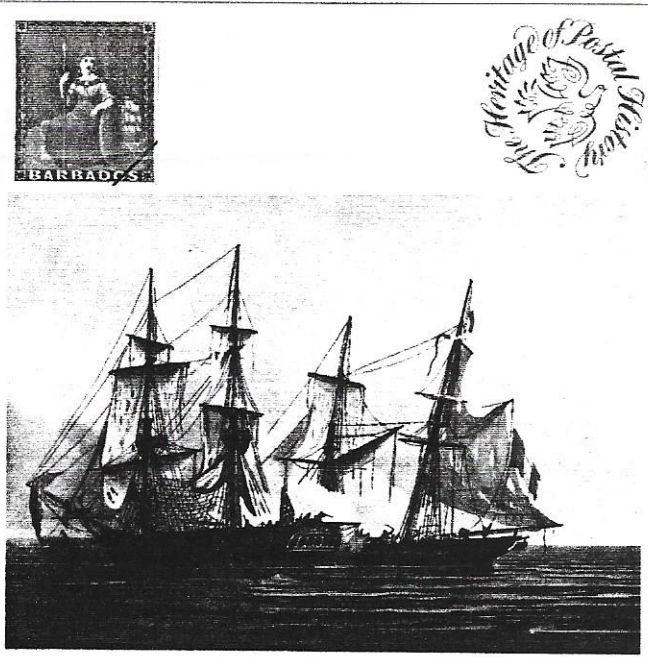
The issue quantity of the 1997 Guyana JFK stamp, as far as I know, is open to guessing. But perhaps information released in 1999 for another IGPC client nation, Antigua and Barbuda, regarding a "sheet" of

eight stamps might be comparable? In this instance 50,000 "sheets" were printed featuring "supermodel" Elle Macpherson (ever hear of her?). About half the number were actually to be obtainable in Antigua; 10,000 for sale at an international stamp show in Melbourne; and the remainder made available to vendors worldwide.⁴

But I give up guessing about the stamp and being put off by obvious sources of help. Where are the details and the story behind this SOS to be found? Can someone in SOSCC provide a happy ending to this story? A reward is posted.

Bibliography

1. U.S. Souvenir Page. "5-cent John F. Kennedy Memorial stamp." *SP111*.
2. *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*. 6th ed. Sidney, Ohio, 2000. p. 241.
3. News (Jan. 4, 1999): "A record 13,437 stamps issued in 1997." www.Linn's.com
4. News (Apr. 5, 1999): "Supermodel Macpherson unveils own stamps." www.Linn's.com



"Windsor Castle" in action against French privateer 1807.



A Handsome Cover by Bill Critzer

Penny Black Centenary: the Bahamas 1940

By Richard B. Howard

The strangest location to commemorate the Centenary in 1940 must have been at the under-sea post office of the Williamson Photosphere in the Bahamas, inaugurated by explorer and underwater photography pioneer J. E. Williamson in 1939 as a tourist attraction for visitors to view the prolific undersea wild life of the islands.

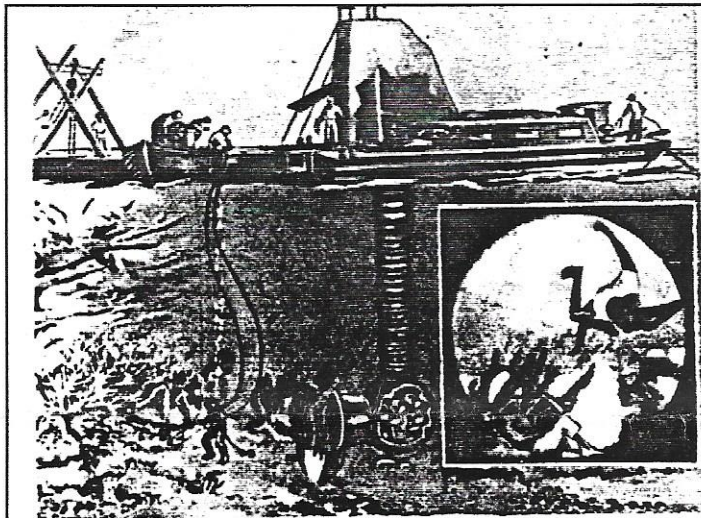
The post office operated in the submerged viewing facility, where special covers prepared by the Williamson organization were available for use with supplies of the then current George VI four penny stamp in the design of a photograph taken in the photosphere of the sea bed showing tropical fish amidst coral.

The special cover features a design showing the Photosphere surrounded by sea life and with a diver as seen from the viewing chamber together with an inscription in five lines reading: "From the

Sea Floor, Nassau, Bahamas. Only undersea Post Office in the world, May 6 1940. 100th Anniversary of the Penny Black, World's First Postage Stamp". And below in larger type: 'Posted in Williamson Photosphere'.

Each cover was franked with the fourpenny under sea stamp and cancelled by hand with a large oval postmark inscribed 'Sea Floor' above, 'Bahamas' below, with the date 'May 6 1940' center, and some are autographed by J. E. Williamson himself.

The Nassau Daily Tribune publicized the event at the time, with the 'The sea Floor Post Office is to open specially on May 6, 1940 to commemorate an important date in postal history, when it is hoped that the many worldwide enquiries can be satisfactorily accommodated'.



FROM THE SEA FLOOR, NASSAU, BAHAMAS
 ONLY UNDERSEA POST OFFICE IN THE WORLD
 MAY 6TH 1940
 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNY BLACK,
 WORLD'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP

J. E. Williamson
 POSTED IN WILLIAMSON PHOTOSPHERE



R6799

Miss Mary Pardee Allison
 32 Bedford Terrace
 Northampton, Mass.
 U. S. A.

Note the autograph of J. E. Williamson in the lower left corner.

Penny Black Centenary: the Netherlands 1940

By Richard B. Howard

In 1940 the stamp collectors of Rotterdam, in the neutral Netherlands, planned to commemorate through their societies the Centenary of the Penny Black, with the holding of a special four day philatelic exhibition to open on the actual centenary day of May 6, 1940.

Four days later on May 10 the Netherlands were at war, their country overrun without warning, together with neighboring Belgium and Luxembourg, by the armies of Nazi Germany, with the City of Rotterdam, a chief target, repeatedly attacked by the Luftwaffe until it lay in ruins.

During the previous days the exhibition had been a success, where at the special post office all mail

posted there was cancelled with a commemorative hand stamp in purple ink, 35mm across, inscribed in Dutch for the centenary above, with 'Rotterdam' separated by a floral spray below, with a surround acknowledging the promoting by the Philatelic Societies, together with the date '6 Mei 1940'.

Because of the circumstances one might speculate upon how many of the Rotterdam Centenary cards survived the blitz, the writer having found only three examples in a lifetime of collecting. It remains elusive, but if one can be found for \$25 or less today it should be snapped up, though the true value remains speculative.

 <p>DE POSTZEGEL EEN EEUW OUD !</p> <p>6 Mei 1840</p>  <p>6 Mei 1940</p> <p>HERDENKINGS-UITGAVE VAN DE ROTTERDAMSCHЕ PHILATELISTEN - VEREENIGING</p>	 <p>Mr. Dr. Franz Ekstein.</p> <p>186 Haverstock Hill 186.</p> <p><u>London N.W.3.</u></p> <p><u>England.</u></p>
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Note the British wartime censor strike! The reverse of card is a greeting from the committee with six signatures. Dr. Ekstein, an obvious philatelic colleague, must have been an earlier fortunate refugee from Holland to the UK. Shown at 125% of actual.

Bulls of Moldavia

By Richard B. Howard

Probably the most primitive stamps ever produced must be from the Principality of Moldavia, now partly a province of Romania and partly the Republic of Moldova, in the year 1858. They were produced by the use of a hand block struck singly in sixteen values at a time in two rows of eight on sheets of variously colored paper, a different color for each value. There were four values in all: 27, 54, 81 and 108 parales, in various quantities, a total of 10,000 of the 54p., but only 2,000 of the 81p.

They had a short life, issued on July 15, 1858 and withdrawn on November 1 of the same year. They became known as 'Bulls' because of the principal design of a bull's head with a posthorn hanging from its mouth. Their existence was unknown in philatelic circles until an initial reference in a catalogue in 1862, by which time there were few remaining specimens, all the unsold mint specimens having been officially destroyed.

Romania first commemorated the 75th anniversary of the issue in 1932/3 with a set of seven values in much the same format and appearance of the originals. Then with the stamp centenary in 1958 Moldavian bulls abounded, reproduced on stamps and on postal stationery and stickers, and in postmarks. The commemorative stamp issue of eight values repro-

duces one each of the first issue individually on four values, while on another a specimen of the first 'Bull' stamp is shown being cut from a strip with scissors, apparently without human aid, as no hand is visible. Also issued were two souvenir sheets, one of which commands a high price today.

Exhibitions were held at towns and cities throughout Romania, each having its own individual postmark in use, most of which feature the 'Bull' within its design.

At this time a series of attractive commemorative labels emanated from Spain where a dissident anti-communist group produced the, and while having no franking value they do add a political touch to a collection.

Then in 1962 commemorative issued appeared from both sources for the centenary of the joint early issues from the union of the Principality of Moldavia with that of Wallachia in 1862.

The 'Bulls' have subsequently been featured on various Romania issues, particularly those for the annual Stamp Day from 1963 onwards. The 27p. Was also reproduced on the miniature sheets for its 125th anniversary in 1983 and is featured jointly with the Penny Black for its 150th anniversary in 1990.

A rare 1932 cover from Romania for the 75th Anniversary of the Moldavian 'Bulls'.

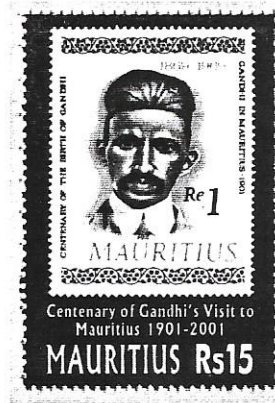
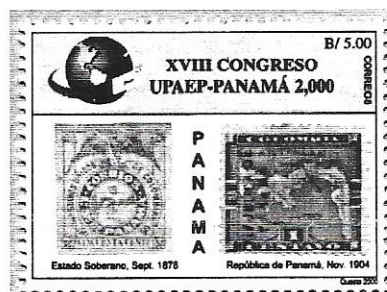


New Issues

edited by Lou Guadagno

(new on list = *)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
✓ 01 06 16	Argentina	25,75c	Argentina #35	BELGICA 2001 (S/S stamp in margin)	2153
✓ 01 10 27	Argentina	25,75c	Denmark #2, Argen-Cordoba #1	HAFNIA 2001 (S/S stamp in margin)	2166
✓ 02 01 20	Czech Republic	* 5.40 kc	Czechoslovakia #253	Traditions of Czech stamp Production	To come
✓ 01 10 16	Denmark	4 - 7 kr	Denmark #757, 1000, six others	HAFNIA 2001 (4v, + S/S)	1210-13
✓ 01 09 04	Estonia	4.40m	Estonia #200	10th Anniv. Stamp Restoration	To come
✓ 01 10 16	Greenland	5.75-21k	Essays from 1932	The stamps that were never issued	387-89a
✓ 01 10 16	G.B.-Isle of Man	29-50p	GB #MH1, 300, Isle of Man #3, 8	HAFNIA 2001 (Overprint on 900)	To come
✓ 01 08 25	Hong Kong PRC	1.80-3.10\$	HK #66, China #tbi, 893	160th Anniv., Hong Kong Post (Bklt pane 4v)	To come
✓ 01 00 00	Hungary	* 150ft	Hungary #1	150th Anniversary State Printers	To come
✓ 01 08 01	Japan	5x50, 5x80	Japan #1	Philanippon 01, (10v-1s0s) self adhesive	2789a-j
✓ 01 10 02	Mauritius	15R	Mauritius #361	Centenary, Visit of M. Gandhi	To come
✓ 01 10 31	Moldova	* 30b	1885 Russian Local	130th Anniv., Zemstvo Post of Orhei-Postcard	To come
✓ 01 05 14	Monaco	2.70fr	Monaco #1952	50th Anniv., Prince Rainier III	To come
✓ 01 10 12	Netherlands	2x39c	Netherlands #1 in margin	Publicity, AMPHILEX 2002	To come
✓ 01 00 00	Panama	* 5b	Panama #4 (or 7)	18th UPAEP Congress	To come
✓ 01 10 19	Surinam	* 3750-5250sf	Surinam #648, Curacao #29	Stamp Day (S/S-2v)	To come
✓ 02 01 01	Tristan da Cunha	* 15-60p	Tristan da Cunha #1 -12	50th Stamp Anniversary (4v + S/S)	To come
✓ 01 10 01	United States	10x34, 21c	US #3392b	Looney Tunes, Porky Pig + imprinted postcard	To come
✓ 01 10 24	Yugoslavia	* 15d	Yugosl. #2494 partial, others tbi	75th Anniv., Int'l Federation of Philately (FIP)	To come



Clockwise from upper left :
Yugoslavia; Panama;
Czech Republic; Hungary;
Surinam;
Mauritius; Moldova

May 6, 1940

By Boris Politziner

ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH COMMEMORATING THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT BRITAIN'S FAMOUS "PENNY BLACK"

Very few collectors have the world-famous "Penny Black." This photo, dated on back, makes an inexpensive space filler and commemorates this important philatelic event. Mail one to a stamp-collector friend on May 6th, 1940—just 100 years after the first one was mailed! 1940—“The Penny Black Year.”

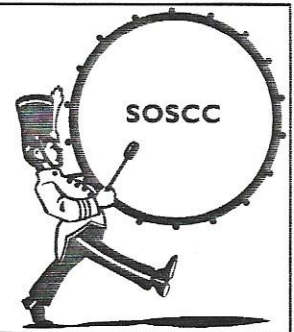


This commemorative item was conceived and distributed by stamp dealer Walter Bayley. It was made in Canada and “reproduced in the colour of issue.” According to Bayley “the real stamp sells for several dollars” — price 10 cents each. The inscriptions above the picture are from the sales card on which he attached 50 of the items each in a glassine envelope. The ‘stamp’ is a cut out photograph which is hinged to the card. It can be removed and put in one’s album as a space filler; printed on the back are the particulars. Walter Bayley deserves an award for honest merchandising!

SOSCC is presenting an even better deal to you. Boris Politziner has generously made these available to the club for distribution to members. The editor and Boris are pleased to enclose one for your enjoyment. If another is desired, please send an SASE and \$1 to the editor.

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SOSCC News

Welcome to new member Tony Munslow, Sunbury, Victoria, Australia. Long time member Thomas Adler has decided to join the cadre of life members.

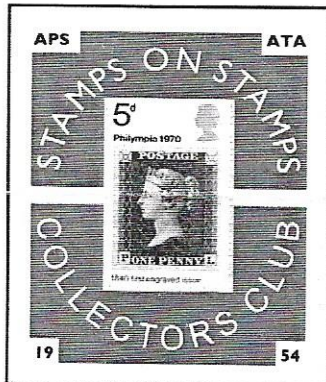
Donations to the club have been gratefully received and are acknowledged from these members: Carmen Lecumberry-Velez, Martin Hirschbühl, Faith Sagar, William R. Hartnett, D. Jackson, Joyce Storms, Franz Panofsky, Gert Aue, James D.F. Harris and Boris Politziner. My thanks to each of you!

SOSCC Master Checklist. This unique SOSCC publication is available to members only for \$30 post-paid (\$35 if sent overseas). The format is loose leaf, printed on 8.5 x 11 acid free paper, and contains more than 150 pages listing over 7000 individual stamps and 800 postal stationery items. It includes an electronic version of the data that you can expand to use as an inventory and want list in building your collection. It is as up to date as we can make it at the time of each personal printing. All proceeds go to SOSCC.

STAMPS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS CLUB

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Visit us on the web:
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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.

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More New Issues

By Lou Guadagno



Above: Tristan da Cunha 50th Stamp Anniversary

Below: Greenland Essays from 1932

