

SOS Signal

Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club

Soviet and Russian Postal Stationery

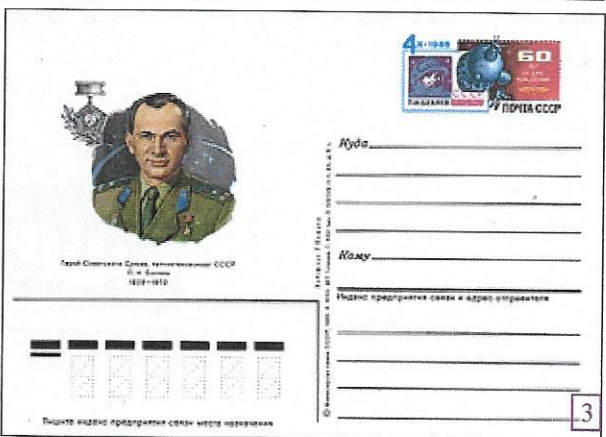
By Gaston Barrette

An Important Reminder

Annual dues are once again payable and the Secretary/Treasurer has enclosed a list of those members whose time has come to render unto SOSCC in order to receive the next issue of the Signal.

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It is estimated that the Soviet Union and the Federation of Russia issued more than 17,000 items of postal stationery covering over the years every topic one can imagine. The following illustrations of some of the most colorful of these SOS envelopes and postal cards are but a very small sample of the SOS items.

1. Issued October 28, 1977 for the 50th anniversary of Soviet postal stationery, this 4k envelope is the first stamp on stamp of Russian postal stationery and shows in the printed indicium behind the 4k definitive stamp Russia #283 without value and a stamp frame. The cachet is made up of the first postal stationery envelope (1927) and before it a more recent air letter. A brownish frame with a big red "50" completes the cachet. A beautiful SOS specimen.

2. Issued March 11, 1981, this 4k postal card for the 15th anniversary of the All-Union Philatelic Society has the stamp design made of a row of stamp frames of various colors with a blue inscription meaning "15th Year VOF", the last word being the Society's acronym. The cachet shows five Russian stamps before an open stamp album with the Society logo at the bottom center. Philately has always been a popular hobby in Russia and the majority of postal stationery items with stamps or pseudo stamps have been issued for stamp exhibitions.

3. The first postal card with a reproduced stamp in the design was issued June 25, 1985. It was in honor of Cd. Pavel I. Belayev, cosmonaut, for his

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Soviet and Russian Postal Stationery

By Gaston Barrette

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60th birthday. The reproduced stamp is Russia #3043 and the cosmonaut portrait is shown on the cachet.

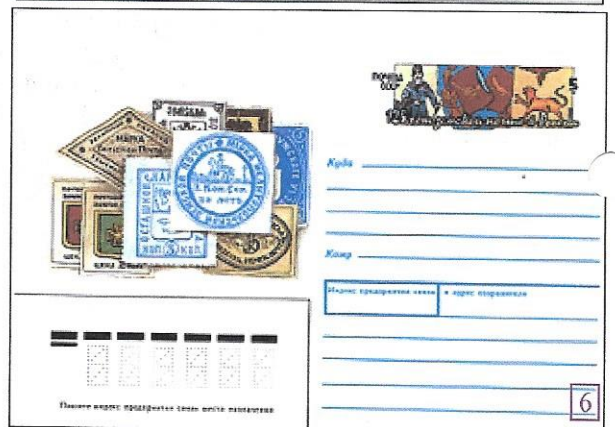
4. This 5k envelope illustrates one of the numerous stamp exhibitions held each year in Russia. It was issued June 20, 1988 for an exhibition held in Kiev under the theme "Nature and Us." The cachet shows in a triangular stamp a forest landscape with birds and a deer.

5. As with many other countries, Russia issued in addition to a set of adhesive stamps (Russia #5874-79) for the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black, a postal card for the Stamp World Exhibition held in London in 1990. This 4k card dated March 3, 1990 shows in the indicium the Penny Black flanked by two stylized heraldic lions. The exhibition logo appears on the cachet with the British Parliament in the background and the London Arms on the foreground.

6. The 5k envelope issued March 20, 1990 is interesting in that it commemorates the 125th anniversary of the stemvo (local) stamps showing specimens of different Russian localities. One has to consult specialized catalogues in Russian language for locality identification, but I think these old stamps are worth showing.

7. The last item is an example of the kind of issues with stamps produced by the new Russia since 1994. The imprinted indicium shows a capital "A" in a square frame indicating the rate to pay and the stamps on the cachet are reproductions of current stamps. This envelope issued December 4, 2001 shows Russia #6695-99, one of a series of issues on the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg in 2003.

"One has to consult specialized catalogues in Russian language for locality identification, but I think these old stamps are worth showing."



FROM MY COLLECTION: A Mauritius Postcard Stamp on Stamp

By Lou Guadagno

"I had resigned myself to showing only a mint # 94 on my album page for this issue, until a few years ago when I got a call from my friend, George Guzzio, a topical/thematic exhibition pioneer and winner of many international medals and awards."

In 1978, Mauritius issued a long definitive set of 20 (Sc #444-63) which illustrated the history of the island from 1700 thru the 1960s; there were two designs with a stamp on stamp theme. One (Sc #456), reproduced a rare 1847 first use cover of Mauritius # 1 and the other (Sc #460), a postcard created to commemorate the royal visit of 1901. Reprinted in 1985 and 1989 with added dated inscriptions, the 5 rupees design reproduces almost the complete souvenir pictorial postal card and the stamp attached. This stamp is the subject of my article.

Early in 1901, George, the son and heir of the recently crowned King Edward VIII, was sent on an around the world tour of the British Empire, specifically to represent his father at the opening of the first parliament of the new Commonwealth of Australia. His titles at the time of the trip were Duke of Cornwall and York; on his return ten months later, he would be conferred the title of Prince of Wales, and barely ten years later, he would be King George V. He was accompanied by his wife, the Duchess Mary, and en route to Australia they stopped in Malta, Aden, Ceylon and Singapore. They made several

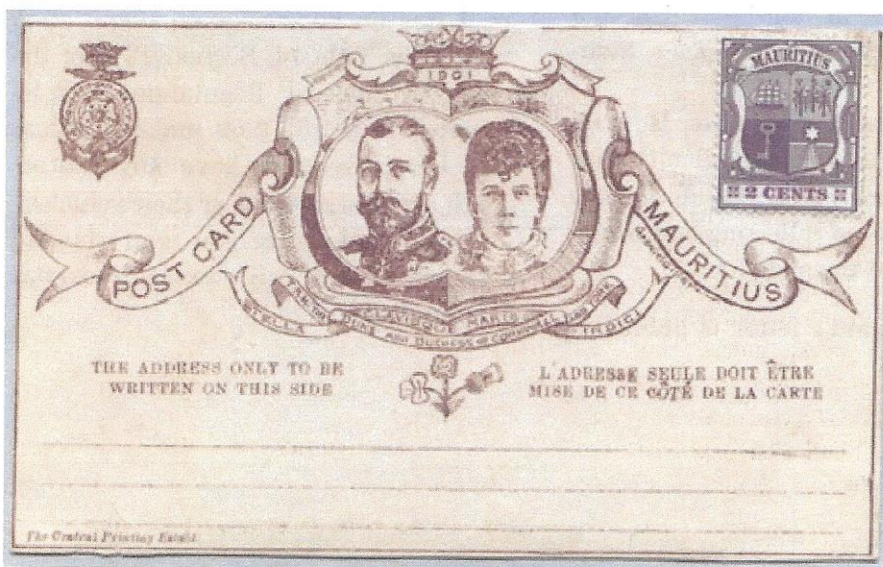


stops in major cities in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand before they started across the Indian Ocean, continuing the tour which would take them to South Africa, Ascension, Canada and back home to England. On August 4 they arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius for a four day rest stop.

This royal visit was a major event for such a small, outlying colony, and as part of the commemoration, the issuance of the souvenir postcard was authorized. For sale at post offices around the island, the card sold for three cents – one cent for the card and two cents for the stamp added to pay the local postage rate. The stamp in the upper right corner of the card was the dull lilac/violet 2 CENTS Coat of Arms definitive issued in 1900 (Sc #94).

The card is smaller than normal, approximately 72 x 117 mm on a cream stock, and was lithographed locally by the Central Printing Establishment which put its imprint in the lower left corner of the front of the card. There were three lines for the address, but most of the face of the card is taken up by a very ornate medallion and several ribbons, all printed in a reddish brown ink. Above the medallion is a crown and the inscription, 1901; in the medallion are joined ovals with drawn portraits of the Duke and Duchess. In the larger ribbon to its left and right are the words POSTCARD and MAURITIUS, and below the right ribbon is the imprint of the designer, Gabriel Gillet.

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FROM MY COLLECTION: A Mauritius Postcard Stamp on Stamp

By Lou Guadagno

(Continued from page 3)

"He said he could have put it up for auction, but preferred to know that the card was going to some one who would really enjoy owning it, not for the dollar value, but for its history and place in a collection".

There are two smaller intertwined ribbons below the medallion; one reads T.R.H THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CORNWALL AND YORK and the other contains the colony's motto STELLA CLAVISQUE MARIS INDICI. Centered directly below are the shamrock, rose and thistle emblems of the United Kingdom. On either side of this are instructions in English and French that only the address is to be written on the face of the card. Finally, in the upper left is the Order of the Garter on a crowned anchor, which I believe to be the personal crest of the Duke.

The mint cards are not readily found in the philatelic market and cards cancelled at the time of the visit are rarer still. Although I was an early convert to acquiring the reproduced stamps as part of my collection, it took me a while

to realize I could also add actual covers and stationery too, and this card went on my wish list. I had resigned myself to showing only a mint # 94 on my album page for this issue, until a few years ago when I got a call from my friend, George Guzzio, a topical/thematic exhibition pioneer and winner of many international medals and awards. He told me he had just acquired a used Visit card, felt he had no need to show both a mint and used card in his exhibit, and immediately thought of me. He said he could have put it up for auction, but preferred to know that the card was going to some one who would really enjoy owning it, not for the dollar value, but for its history and place in a collection. I was thrilled to acquire the card then, it still has an honored home in my album, and I thought you would also enjoy seeing it.

Member Notes

By Bill Critzer

I recently received letters from Richard Howard of Southport UK and Franz Panofsky of Saint-Legier, Switzerland.

Franz is a long time member. He is 86 years old and because of difficulty with his eyesight has regretfully decided to discontinue stamp collecting and resign from SOSCC at the end of 2003.

Richard Howard's letter is published on page 5.

A Word of Advice

By Bill Critzer

If the United States government has no knowledge of aliens, then why does Title 14, Section 1211 of the code of Federal Regulations, implemented July 16, 1969 make it illegal for US citizens to have any contact with extraterrestrials or their vehicles?

Please make sure you aren't buying stamps from any extraterrestrial stamp dealers.

A Letter from Richard Howard

By Bill Critzer

Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter and other items, but I have to finally advise you that I have come to the end of the line and have ended my collecting career, beginning as a ten year old some three quarters of a century ago, (I still possess my first stamp given to me by a schoolmate!), then on to stamp centenaries from the British Penny Black centenary, which really was almost cancelled at the time with the Nazis' besieging us, Dunkirk only a week or two away, and the Battle of Britain just around the corner, but a compromise was reached to benefit the Red Cross, and it all proceeded splendidly in both London and Bournemouth. I still have my own cover, posted locally when passing through and spending a couple of days here at Southport between postings from 254 Squadron, my most northerly posting in the Shetland Isles, on the same latitude as Cape Farewell in Greenland, down to where all the action was about to commence in the home counties. Those were the days!

Subsequently, I spend much of WWII abroad, doing stints on liaison with the USAAF from 79th Pursuit Group in Libya to 12th Medium Bomber in Tunisia to even joining them on their own landing craft between Tunis and Licata in Sicily! And all the time I kept abreast of stamps, purchasing local issues from Capetown to Cairo and Beirut to Baghdad! And in regard to SOS material, it was practically non-existent until the very recent past. Then you had to reach for them. Now we have a plethora of totally unnecessary issues where collectors worldwide are exploited to the hilt, and I've had enough! So I've called it a day while I spend my time going through the huge quantities of stuff garnered over the years to satisfy the reps of the London auction rooms, who sold for me a load of stuff recently and are eager for more, though I am keeping my collection itself intact for the time being.

I'm sorry, I doubt if I can be of much assistance with your new eye-catching format as really all the early classic covers were basically black and white and in my view totally unsuitable in trying to compete with the peacock productions of today.

I am in the process of completing my personal memoirs, just for the benefit of the family, which keeps me constantly active and the old grey matter ticking over! Then I have a go at another suitcase of stamps and covers, never knowing what is going to see the light again for the first time in decades.

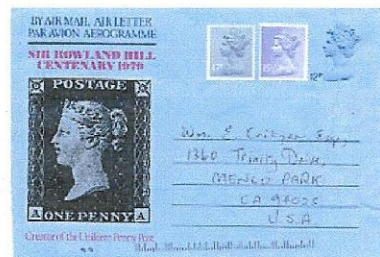
Philately has been a wonderful hobby, as well as giving me an education second to none with all the paths it has led me along through the years. Most of my own generation benefited from a very basic education, but even today in my advanced years I can hold my own in practically every subject under the sun, thanks to the knowledge gleaned from the simple postage stamp.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer nearly ten years ago, but I'm still around, with a good quality of life, but in danger of becoming a little complacent. Up until then I'd been extremely fit all of my life and took it hard not to be leading the normal active life I'd always been used to. It means I can't get around much any more, but have become reconciled to the fact that most guys of my age are probably not as good as myself, so I just take it a day at a time.

I trust you will continue to maintain the wonderful standards of SOSCC of happy memory, and with best wishes.

Rich Howard

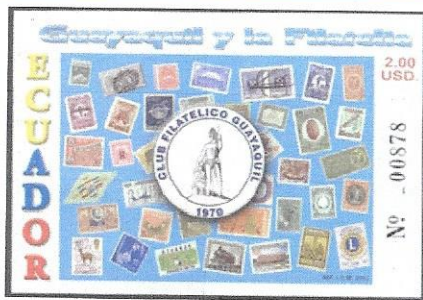
"Philately has been a wonderful hobby, as well as giving me an education second to none with all the paths it has led me along through the years".



New Issues by Lou Guadagno

(new on list = *)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
✓ 03 00 00	Albania	* 50, 1000L	Albania Mi #1, others tbi	90th Anniv., Stamps of Albania	To come
✓ 03 08 01	Brazil	* 2 c 1.30 R	Portugal #1, Brazil #2, others	How to Collect Stamps (S/S 2v)	To come
✓ 01 10 09	Chile	* 160, 230p	Chile #1093, 1057 both partial	America—World Heritage Sites:Churches	1375-6
✓ 02 07 27	Chile	* 230, 290p	Chile #1036, 1056 both partial	World Heritage Sites:Churches	1399-00
✓ 03 09 09	Croatia	* 2.30k	Croatia # tbi	Stamp Day; 50th Anniv. Postal Museum	To come
✓ 03 09 09	Croatia	* 2.30k	Croatia # tbi	As above; imprinted PC	To come
✓ 03 02 06	Cuba	15—75c	#3771 4209 2492 3172 1535 2755	Cuban Cigar Industry	4294-8
✓ 03 02 06	Cuba	P 1.00	Cuba #2774; in margin #390	500th Anniv., Founding of Havana (S/S—1v)	429
✓ 03 01 20	Czech Rep.	6.40k	Czechoslovakia #231	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production (Bklt 8v)	3192-a
✓ 03 07 22	Ecuador	* 4x40c	Ecuador #C1,C4,C5,273,others	Guayaquil and Philately (5v-3 SOS)	To come
✓ 03 07 22	Ecuador	* \$2.00	GB #60, Ecuador 37 different	Guayaquil and Philately (S/S)	To come
✓ 03 00 00	North Korea	* 60ch	DPR Korea Mi #2,4, tbi	?? Exhibition (1v perf and imperf)	To come
✓ 03 08 00	New Caledonia	* 2x10x70fr	New Caledonia #77	Le Cagou Prestige Bklt (20v-10SOS as #913)	To come
✓ 03 09 09	Portugal	* € 3.00	Portugal #2	150th Anniv., First Stamps of Portugal (S/S)	To come
✓ 03 09 23	Portugal	* € 2.50	Portugal #2	F de Borgia Freire, designer, engraver (S/S)	To come
✓ 03 09 25	Portugal	* € 0.30 x 4	Portugal #1,	Lubrapex 2003 (S/S—4v)	To come
✓ 03 03 18	San Marino	* € 0.77	Spain #649, Sweden 175, others	Veronafil Exh 2003 SOS on tabs, left or right	To come
✓ 03 10 20	Saudi Arabia	* 1 sr	Saudi Arabia #129	75th Anniv. First Commemorative (in 2005)	To come
✓ 03 09 01	Serbia-Mont.	* 1d	Tbi various WWF/Flora issues	Definitive	To come
✓ 03 10 24	Serbia-Mont.	* 16d/0.25€	Serb #190, Turkey #2847	Stamp Day	To come
✓ 03 00 00	Ukraine	* 45k	Odessa Zemstvo Local post -2v	125th Anniv., Zemstvo Stamps-imprinted env.	To come



Clockwise from left:
 Ecuador 03 07 22
 Ecuador 03 07 22
 Ecuador 03 07 22
 North Korea 03 00 00
 Serbia-Mont. 03 10 24
 Brazil 03 08 01
 Albania 03 00 00



Club Notes & Miscellany

By Bill Critzer

TIMBRES THEMES (Topical Stamps)

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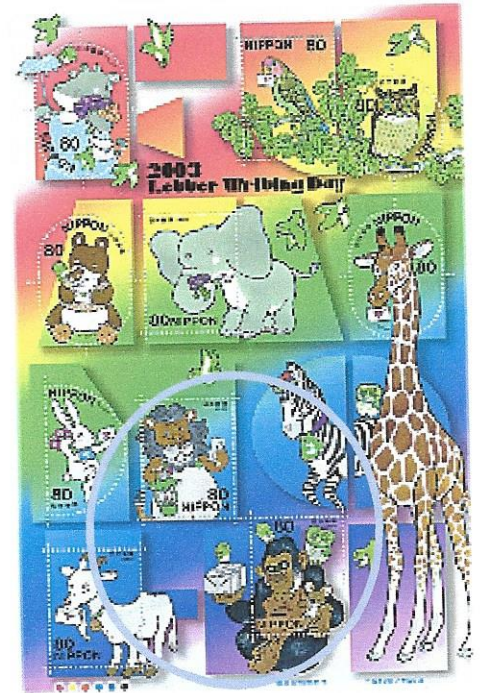
Internet:

<http://www.topicstamps.com>

Greg Mullinax, residing in Tokyo, Japan, sent this sheet of new Japanese stamps.

They are for "Fumi no hi" or Letter Writing Day which is the 23rd of each month. In July, once a year, a special sheet, booklet pane, S/S and one or two individual stamps in sheets are issued. These were issued on July 23, 2003. The only information available now (July 30) is in Japanese.

This year the design changed to one with an SOS in a couple of places. There is a Lion, 80 yen holding a letter with a stamp and the Gorilla 80 yen holds a parcel that is stamped in the margin. The Lion is also present in the pane booklet. The S/S and the sheet do not include a SOS example.



Before Uniform Penny Postage

By Bill Critzer

Before Britain's adoption of Rowland Hill's revolutionary scheme of Uniform Penny Postage, payable in advance by means of an adhesive stamp, it was customary for the recipient to pay the postage on a letter. Prepayment was considered insulting to the addressee since it implied that he could not afford the cost.

Before the early 18th century, letters were carried only between post towns. Great cities like London and Paris had postal links of some kind with most of the known world, but it was not possible to post a letter to a recipient within a city. A first attempt to start a pre-paid local service was made in Paris in 1653 by Monsieur de Velay, who, with royal consent, installed a number of roadside mailboxes. Velay's *Petite Poste* offered three daily collections and deliveries, and the low fee was paid in advance by using special stamped wrappers bearing the words *Port-*

payé. Unfortunately it was short lived. Londoner's local postal needs were met for the first time when William Dockwra set up a Penny Post in 1680. Dockwra operated hundreds of receiving houses and it was possible to send a letter and receive an answer the same day. The first "handstruck postage stamps" were those employed by Dockwra. Letters were stamped with a triangular mark PENNY POST PAID with the initial of the sorting office in the center. In 1682 it was suppressed and reopened as a government service. Eventually every post town had its own network of Penny Posts. A second attempt made in Paris in 1758 was successful. By the end of the 18th century local posts had spread to other European towns and free delivery of letters from outside the town also became the general rule in Europe and was introduced in the United States in 1863.



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 \$11 per year for members residing in North America and \$14 elsewhere.

Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the club. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please contact the Secretary Treasurer or use our website for more information and to become a member.

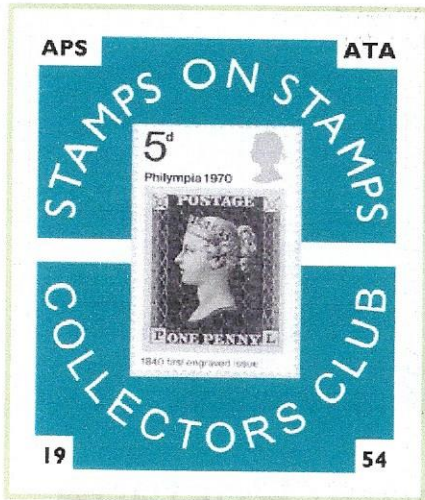
Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club

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Email addresses may be found on the SOSCC website.



More New Issues by Lou Guadagno



Clockwise from left: Chile 1375-6; Chile 1399-00; Cuba 4296-8; Portugal 03 09 09; 03 09 23; 03 09 25; Serbia-Mont 03 09 01; Ukraine 03 00 00; Saudi Arabia 03 10 20.

