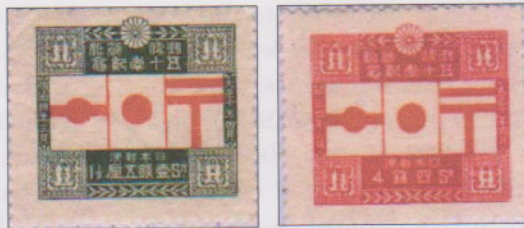


# SOS Signal

Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club

## The First Stamp On Stamp Issue By Lou Guadagno

*"The Japanese artist who designed the 1½ and 4 sen values has the gratitude of the collecting world.."*



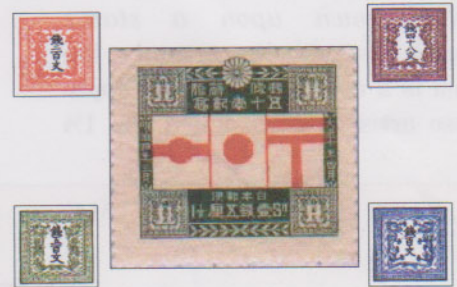
Japan Sc # 163, 165

The first stamp on stamp designs were issued by Japan on April 20, 1921, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the modern Japanese postal system.

A set of four stamps in two designs were produced; two engraved stamps with values of 3 and 10 sen showed the Ministry of Communications Building in Tokyo (which was destroyed in the disastrous earthquake of 1923), the other two with values of 1½ and 4 sen featured reproductions of the national flag centered between two postal service flags, the original of 1871 and the current flag of 1921.

Since the establishment of the postal service coincided with the issuance of Japan's first postage stamps, the designer, Yatuka Yoshida commemorated that anniversary by adding tiny reproductions of the four stamps of 1871 to the four corners of his design. Although they are somewhat simplified due to their small size, they can be

identified by the different values in Japanese characters found between the two dragons; clockwise, in order from the upper right are the 48, 100, 500 and 200 mon stamps, (Sc # 1(brn)-2(bl)-4(bl-grn)- 3(ver).



Most likely, since the inscriptions on the stamps are totally in Japanese and the reproduced stamps were not prominently featured, these stamps were not recognized by the pioneer compilers of stamp on stamp issues in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In researching various American and English philatelic magazines of those periods, I found several listings by fledgling collectors of the topic, and none included these Japanese stamps.

I then decided to see what could be found in the philatelic press in the period the stamps were issued. All the 1921 papers and magazines from the U.S. and Gt. Britain that I examined listed the stamps, and most gave only the flags for the design description.

I did get a pleasant surprise in the

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside This Issue

The First Stamp On Stamp Issue	1
Stamp On Stamp Collectors Meet	3
From My Collection	4
SOSCC News	5
New Issues	6-8
Classified	8

# The First Stamp On Stamp Issue

By Lou Guadagno

(Continued from page 1)

September 1921 *Scott's Monthly Journal* (Vol. 2, No. 7), when I read Associate Editor Ken Stiles' column, "Of Topical Interest" (pages 17-18). Writing about the issue, which he called "a 4 in 1 postage stamp", he notes that the series "reproduces Japan's first four postal adhesives...issued in 1871". His concluding paragraph states: "At any rate, probably this is the only time in philately's history that a *stamp has been shown upon a stamp* (emphasis added), certainly the idea is a novel one and the Japanese artist who designed the 1½

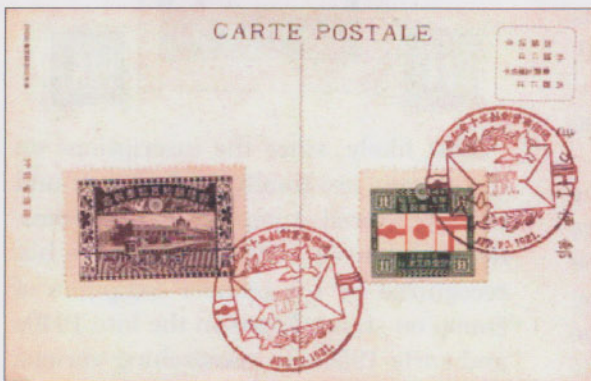
and 4 sen values has the gratitude of the collecting world..."

In the same issue, I found an ad offering the 4 stamps, "said to be rare", for \$2.00 a set!

The "rare" reference probably had to do with the wide differences in the totals issued in the four values. According to the Michel catalog, 5,450,000 each of the 1½(SOS) and 3 s values were issued, 240,000 of the 4s(SOS), and only 100,000 of the 10s; today, complete sets are not often offered in this country, as demand was and still is high for them in Japan. The 1½s is more readily found at stamps shows and in

dealer's ads; covers with the SOS values, especially on commercial mail are not often found, but official government produced color post cards with large commemorative cancels were sold in all the major Japanese cities, and even in the China treaty ports. Cards with just the 1½s stamps sell for \$10-15 depending on condition, and those with additional higher values sell for up into the hundreds of dollars.

Years ago, I found a postal card with Sc # 163 mailed to the U.S. with a written first day of issue, but a cancel of May 2—close, but no cigar!



Right: Official Anniversary postal card with Tokyo commemorative cancel.  
Below: Commercial postal card, written on issue day, but mailed 12 days later.



Sc # 163-66 on official postal cards with Soochow, China Int'l Japanese Post Office commemorative cancel. Very rare.



In a rare but enjoyable face to face meeting at the Yale Club in New York City, three-fourths of your SOSCC officers met for a late brunch this past October 16. Our Secretary-Treasurer Alf Jordan, in town for the Fall 2004 Mega Event at the Javits Center, was joined by *Signal* Editor, Lou Guadagno and myself, the Vice President and Webmaster. The meal began a little late, as the efficient Yale Club staff directed Lou and myself past Alf to wait in the restaurant, while Alf cooled his heels in the lobby!

Our conversations ranged widely, returning often to the history of SOS collecting and of the Club, from Lou especially, having been a member for almost thirty-five years and compiling an extensive collection of the *Signal* back to issue # 1! (Indeed, Alf and I both urged Lou to mine this material for future *Signals*. Lou spoke of the days when stamp centenaries were the heart of SOS collecting, before the numerous Rowland Hill issues of 1979-80 swelled the albums, strained the bank accounts and ultimately caused a reduction in membership that the club never recovered. Another discussion brought up the possibility of future articles on the mechanics of collecting and managing the diverse material in SOS that so delight us. I, for example store my material alphabetically by country, while Lou keeps his chronologically from 1921 onward.

The meal finished, we went onto a library room for a show and tell session. I brought and showed the original art work and specimen for a 1989 Tonga issue, but Lou had carted in material from his extensive collection that he has previously used to illustrate a talk, "Not Just Stamps — Expanding A Topical Collection". He showed a variety of multiples, se-tenants, tete-beche pairs, full sheets, gutter blocks, proofs, deluxe sheets, essays, specimens, special covers, maximum cards and more as a way of showing the wide range of collectable material available. The short hour until Alf had had to leave to catch his train was not nearly enough time to appreciate the wealth of material being shown. This glimpse of Lou's collection is a strong

## Stamp On Stamp Collectors Meet!

By Michael Merritt

assurance that there is plenty of breadth and scope for the serious topical collector of our specialty!

A detailed description of this display would turn the *Signal* from a newsletter into an encyclopedia, but I will mention two items that stand out in my memory: a beautiful Cuban gutter sheet and a Mexican ship cover that had Alf and I green with envy—and half conspiring to mug Lou on his way to Javits! (Please see the next page).

We went our separate ways, but not before promising that we'd meet again at the 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition in Washington, D.C. Indeed, we encourage all SOSCC members to plan early so that we could have three-quarters of the membership and not just of the officers, meet in 2006!



Original pre-production artwork including photo overlays and typeface layout., preliminary design sketch reduced to stamp size and printed stamp specimen. An outstanding display piece!

# From My Collection

By Lou Guadagno



Mexico: 1940 Penny Black Stamp Centenary; complete ten value set on philatelic cover with legitimate usage for Paquebot/Registered Mail. The prepared cover received "Mailed on the High Seas / S.S. Monterey" green oval ship cancels en route to Mexico. In Veracruz, additional postage and registered mail markings were added. Very rare usage.



Cuba: 1940 Penny Black Stamp Centenary — A block of 14 stamps with special commemorative center inscription panel. Less than 20,000 panels were available, but quantities were separated during normal post office distributions or ruined by perf separations. A small quantity were used to create FDCs. Both items are now scarce. (The three right hand stamps in the block are intact, the strip was too long for my scanner).

## SOSCC News

By Alf Jordan, Secretary-Treasurer

The votes are in and tabulated, and we are pleased to announce the re-election of the slate of officers submitted last fall: to wit, Gaston Barrette, President; Michael Merritt, Vice President; Alf Jordan, Secretary-treasurer; Lou Guadagno, Newsletter Editor; and Martin Hirschbühl, European Representative. Gaston was a little hesitant about serving another two year term, but agreed to do so, if it were the wish of the membership, and as it turned out, such was, indeed, the unanimous wish of the membership! Congratulations to all.

**DUES CHANGE:** Yearly membership dues are now due, and if they are due from you, a notice is attached to the front of this newsletter. Thank you to all of those who have already remitted without notification from this office.. Those members will receive a small bonus by their diligence, since they will be spared the long-overdue increase.

Effective with this issue, domestic dues have been raised to \$15 US, and overseas dues to \$18 US. As noted, this increase is about two years overdue and reflects the increased color printing costs and increased handling and mailing cost. Another raise in postal rates will go into effect soon.

Please note that foreign members can remit by Postal to my email address or to our newly-appointed European representative. See the Officers listing on Page 8 for both.

**DISTRIBUTION:** We are about to undertake an experiment in electronic distribution of the newsletter in PDF format. This has worked well with some other philatelic organizations with whom we deal, and should forestall the implementation of the dues increase to those members who choose to participate. Keep an eye out for an electronic *SIGNAL* headed your way in the near future.

Respectfully submitted from under three feet of snow.

Alf Jordan  
Secretary-Treasurer

Bill Critzer received the following letter for the membership:

"I am writing to let you know that my uncle, Richard Howard died on 31 August 2004, approaching his 85th birthday, after suffering a stroke a few months earlier. He was fiercely independent and did not enjoy his last few months of dependency, he never complained, but showed great stoicism.

I can see from some correspondence left in the house that he was rather cantankerous in his later years, but I hope his fellow philately enthusiasts will remember him fondly. I know that he submitted a number of articles for publication and that he was proud of his expertise. His collection gave him great pleasure and even though I didn't share his passion, I always enjoyed looking through his collection and admiring the attention to detail in the way it was displayed. He derived great enjoyment over 70 years of collecting, and it was a particular pleasure for him during his retirement.

Philately was only one aspect of his life, I can assure you that he was an entertaining character with a great store of wonderful stories, and a fount of wisdom on many subjects. His knowledge was positively encyclopedic on literature, cinema, history, royalty and life. He was a wonderful, if on occasion, an eccentric character. I and my family would be pleased if you could pass on the news of his death to all who had contact with him.

I thought it more appropriate that this should be in a letter rather than an e-mail, Uncle Dick had a close attachment for the old forms of communication".

Yours sincerely,

John Baldwin

30 Ansell Road.  
Ecclesall, Sheffield, England, S11 7PE

(We were unable to include Bill Critzer's reply, but he noted and praised Richard Howard's many contributions to the Club, and offered his condolences on behalf of the membership. Please see "A Letter From Richard Howard" in the January 2004 *Signal* for a wonderful autobiographical note. Several of his postal history articles are still to be published, the next will be in the April 2005 issue).

## New Issues By Lou Guadagno (new on list = \*)

Date	Country	Values	Stamp Reproduced	Reason for Issue	Scott #
04 09 07	Australia	A\$ 5.00	Australia # 129	Stamps from the Archives (1 v, gummed)	2284
04 09 07	Australia	A\$ 5.00	Australia # 129	Stamps from the Archives (1 v, self adhesive)	2285
04 07	Bulgaria	* 45 st	Bulgaria # 6, others in tab, margin	125th Ann'y Stamps of Bulgaria (s/s-1 v+ tab)	4313
03 07 01	Chile	2 x \$P 300	Chile # 1.2	150th Ann'y Stamps of Chile (2 v se tenant)	1422a-b
03 07 01	Chile	\$P 2000	Chile # 1, others in margins	150th Ann'y Stamps of Chile (s/s)	1423
04 10 18	Chile	* \$P 310	Chile # various issues 1999-2004	Tematica 2004 Nat'l Stamp Exhibition (1 v)	Pending
04 01 20	Czech Republic	6.50 k	Czechoslovakia # 1703	Traditions of Czech Stamp Production (1 v)	3228
04 01 20	Czech Republic	8 x 6.50 k	Czechoslovakia # 1703	As above: (bklt-8 v+4 tabs)	3228a
05 01 20	Czech Republic	* 6.50 k	Czechoslovakia # 975	Traditions of Czech Stamp Production (1 v)	Pending
05 01 20	Czech Republic	* 8 x 6.50 k	Czechoslovakia # 975	As above: (bklt-8 v+4 tabs)	Pending
04 08 31	Falkland Islands	24p - £1	Falkland Is # 20, 74, 94, 151a	125th Death Ann'y, Sir Rowland Hill (4 v)	862-5
04 10 04	India	* 4 x 5 r	India # 2, C1(partial frame), 201	150 Years of India Post (4 v-3 sos)	Pending
04 10 04	India	* 4 x 5 r	As above, others in margins	As above: (s/s -4 v-3 sos)	Pending
04 12 04	Mongolia	* 800 t	Mongolia # 1, others in margins	80th Ann'y Stamps of Mongolia (s/s)	Pending
04 11 01	Montenegro	* € 0,10	Montenegro # 7	Montenegrofila 04 Exhibition (1 v)	Pending
04 11 16	Paraguay	* 4000 g	Paraguay # 2	40th Ann'y Parlatino (1 v+ tab)	Pending
04 04 19	Philippines	* 22 \$P	Philippines # 1-2,4-5, + on tab	Postpex 2004 Exhibition (s/s—ovpt on # 2897)	Pending
03 12	Poland	1.20-2.60 zt	Sweden (2), France, Vatican City	Polonica Stamp Exhibition (4v)	3705-8
04 07 15	Romania	* 4 x 31,000 L	Romania-Moldavia # 1	Efiro 04/Stamp Day (Imperf s/s 4 v—red #s)	Pending
04 09 10	Romania	* 10-77,000 L	Previous UPU Congress issues	UPU Congresses In Philately (6 v)	Pending
04 09 06	Spain	€ 0,77	Philippines # 1	150th Ann'y, First Stamps of Philippines (1 v)	3315
04 12 18	Tunisia	* 250-600 m	Tunisia # 619, 518	Famous Tunisians/ H. El Mekki (5v, 1 sos)	Pending



# More New Issues By Lou Guadagno



**Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club**

Lou Guadagno, Editor  
 1772 East 51st Street  
 Brooklyn, New York 11234  
 USA

Email: [soserlou@optonline.net](mailto:soserlou@optonline.net)



**S**OSCC 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 \$15 per year for members residing in North America and \$18 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.

President	Gaston Barrette	403-2765 Chemin Sainte-Foy Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4S4 Canada
Vice President	Michael Merritt	73 Mountainside Road Mendham, NJ 07945
Secretary/ Treasurer	Alf Jordan	156 West Elm Street Yarmouth, ME 04096
European Representative	Martin Hirschbühl	Gerlisbrunnenstr. 31 CH-8121 Benglen Schweiz-Switzerland

Email addresses may be found on the SOSCC website:  
[www.stampsonstamps.org](http://www.stampsonstamps.org)

**More New Issues By Lou Guadagno**

**TIMBRES THEMES  
 (Topical Stamps)**

55 Greve Fatima CP 969, Trois-Pistoles, Québec Canada G0L 4K0,

**WANT LISTS,  
 TOPICAL APPROVALS  
 INTERNET STAMP SHOP**

A 10% discount will be given to  
 SOSCC members

MasterCard, Visa, Papal  
**Tel: 418-857-2268**

Email:  
[janiced@topicstamps.com](mailto:janiced@topicstamps.com)  
 Internet:  
<http://www.topicstamps.com>



The Philippines # 2891a-d strip was produced in a mini-sheetlet of 4, so far it is unlisted in Scott's, but it is very collectable, inexpensive and fits most album pages.