

SOS Signal

April 1999

Whole Number 7

New Issues:

- Linn's reports that 13,437 stamps were issued in 1997. About 1% were SOS, so our topic remains financially manageable, but keeps your new issue editors busy.
- Check out the new SOSCU logo on page 8 and give me your opinion.



Inside this issue:

Thailand Revealed Part II	2
Collecting SOS Covers	3
Bermuda's SOS Part II	4
More of Bermuda's SOS	5
New Issues	6
SOSCU News/Classifieds	7
More News/New Issues	8
New Logo Design	8

Collecting Covers from the Source

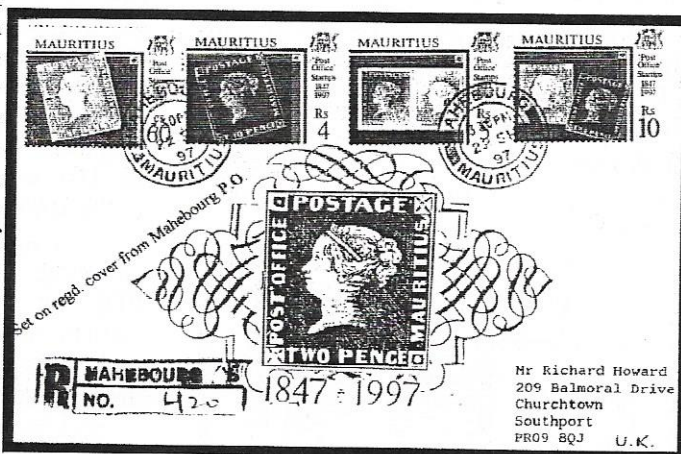
By Richard B. Howard

I have been collecting SOS issues for much of my life and still have in my collection my own Great Britain 1940 cover serviced at my own local post office when I just happened to be on RAF leave at the time, but apart from that occasion I do not recall any other issues, other than a couple of Free Polish and Czech issues sponsored by the relevant governments in exile in Britain, much of the later issues appearing in the late forties. But even at that time and up to the sixties there were rarely more than a half dozen SOS issues worldwide annually unlike today when they seem to appear every week or so!

My own practice was to simply keep abreast of impending stamp centenaries and other anniversaries by referring to the catalogue and then writing to the relevant administrations for the brochure which usually preceded the issue, from which I would make out my order and enclosing with it my own design of cover and cards together with my instructions for servicing. Many head offices were prepared to pass some of these on to sub offices for servicing there, though frequently the canceling left something to be desired – as it still

does. But at least all were genuine postal items, some registered, unlike the purely cosmetic "FDC's" sent under separate cover by the modern phenomenon "The Philatelic Office", whom I attempt to by pass at all times!

In the time of the British Empire the domestic postal order was freely interchangeable across its length and breadth, providing a cheap and easy means of payment, as it still is in the many of the territories of the modern Commonwealth of



Mauritius #846-9, issued September 22, 1997

Nations, though the facility is gradually being withdrawn leaving the only alternative of expensive banking services.

Foreign orders could be funded by the International Reply facility as a cheap means of remittance, though this method has been largely lost because of the expense of them today. Alternatively, I would purchase foreign mint sets from British dealers and use them to frank my own covers and cards to be dispatched and hopefully be returned to me. Though this method was generally a gamble, it frequently paid off in unusual additions returned to me from time to

(Continued on page 3)

Thailand Revealed – Part II

By Dana Middleton

(Continued from January, 1999) The second set of Thai SOS stamps appeared in 1975 (Sc 741-4) in conjunction with the Third THAIPEX. This set is symbolic in style and one of the stamps features collecting.

A single SOS (Sc 826) was issued for THAIPEX '77. The 75 Satang value paid the first class rate, and at this time translated into four US cents. It reproduces Scott 609 depicting the current king, Rama IX, and also contains a blue monochrome collage of 33 Thai stamps. Rama IX became king in 1946 after the mysterious death of Rama VIII. It is unclear whether Rama VIII accidentally shot himself while cleaning a gun, committed suicide or was assassinated. This stamp, issued on 8/4/77, has always had personal significance as I lived in Thailand at the time and attended the Exhibition. At the time I was a "lapsed" collector. However, I bought a few Thai new issues because they were so attractive and became an active collector again.

In 1979 four symbolic style stamps (Sc 886-9) were issued for THAIPEX '79. Pseudostamps on all four values provided a faux se-tenant effect with the themes being letter writing and stamp collecting.

THAIPEX '81 saw the release of a set of four stamps (Sc 966-9) similar in concept to the 1971 set reproducing various early definitive stamps.



Sc 967, 966 above



Sc 969, 968 above

Stamps reproduced from top: Scott 83 (Sep 1899), 144 (05/10/10), 198 (08/06/21), 226 (04/01/32)

The first anniversary of postal codes resulted in the release on 2/25/83 of a 1.25 Baht first class rate stamp which was the first time Thailand produced a stamp reproducing itself in the design. This interesting item is Scott 1024.

The run-up to the second international exhibition, BANGKOK '93, began in 1991. Seven stamps and two souvenir sheets were issued (Sc 1410-16a) The stamps reproduced are Thailand's Coronation Commemorative of 11/11/08 which celebrated the forty first year of the reign of King Chulalongkorn (Sc 118-24).

The souvenir sheet (Sc 1416a) was issued in perforate and imperforate versions. For a reason I can not understand, Scott refuses to assign catalog numbers to Thai imperforate souvenir sheets despite the fact that they are deliberately generated by the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT), are valid for postage and CAT even includes them in their new issue standing order program. The 8 Baht sheets sold for 15b, with the difference going to the BANGKOK '93 organizers.



A second SOS set was issued on 1/7/92 as a prelude to BANGKOK '93 (Sc 1473-77a). This set returns to a favorite theme and reproduces stamps depicting Rama V through IX. Four of the five stamps reproduce the high values of various definitive series.

The Thai authorities faced a dilemma when deciding which stamp would be reproduced to honor Rama VIII, because the only definitive series issued during his short reign did not show the king on the high value. Instead a very boyish looking king appeared on the low values in the set. There may have been concern that selecting one of these stamps would be disrespectful because it was not the high value, as were the others to be used. Finally selected was the single stamp issue of 5/1/43 showing a formal portrait of King Ananda Mahidol which was reproduced on the 7 Baht value. A souvenir sheet containing all five stamps was also issued in perforated and imperforate versions.

The last Thai stamp using a SOS theme appeared on 2/25/97 as part of a se-tenant pair (Sc 1710-11) which marked the introduction of computerized mail sorting at the Laksi Mail Center in Bangkok. The right hand stamp includes a stamped envelope with the design of the 1998-95 definitive series. Based on its color, the re-

(Continued on page 3)

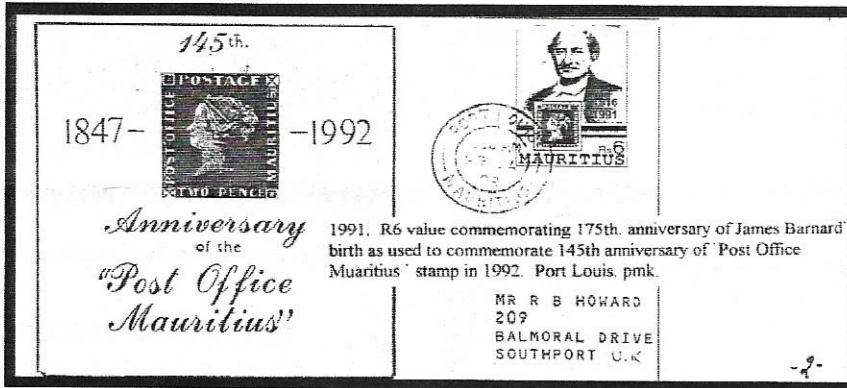
Collecting Covers from the Source

By Richard B. Howard

(Continued from page 1)

time, e.g., a couple of covers from the Caroline Island fairly recently where an apparent shortage of an 'O' plug resulted in a beautifully clear cancel of the 'Caroline Islands' when a 'D' plug was substituted!

Other sources have been by searching through dealers stock at stamp fairs or through overseas contacts, though one can be time consuming and the other frequently ephemeral. Auctions rarely specialize in our material and even the stamp club auctions show little variety. Perhaps the oldest method of swapping might be ideal, although here again I doubt if anyone today has the hoard of duplicate material I personally have assembled over the years, so as to establish a realistic means of exchange.



My great interest in political geography, especially in relation to the remote islands of the great oceans, has been a great spur. I never tire of perusing my collections from Pitcairn and Tristan da Cunha and the covers from Gough Island, Christmas Island in mid Pacific,

along with Fanning and Ocean Islands. These are inhabited isolated spots on the globe from whom it can take upwards of a year for letters to be returned. But what prizes they become for so little cost and effort, but much patience!

Richard B. Howard is a founding member of the International Stamp Centenaries and Anniversaries Association and the photographs used in this article appeared in the April 1998 issue of the ISCAA Bulletin.

Thailand Revealed – Part II

By Dana Middleton

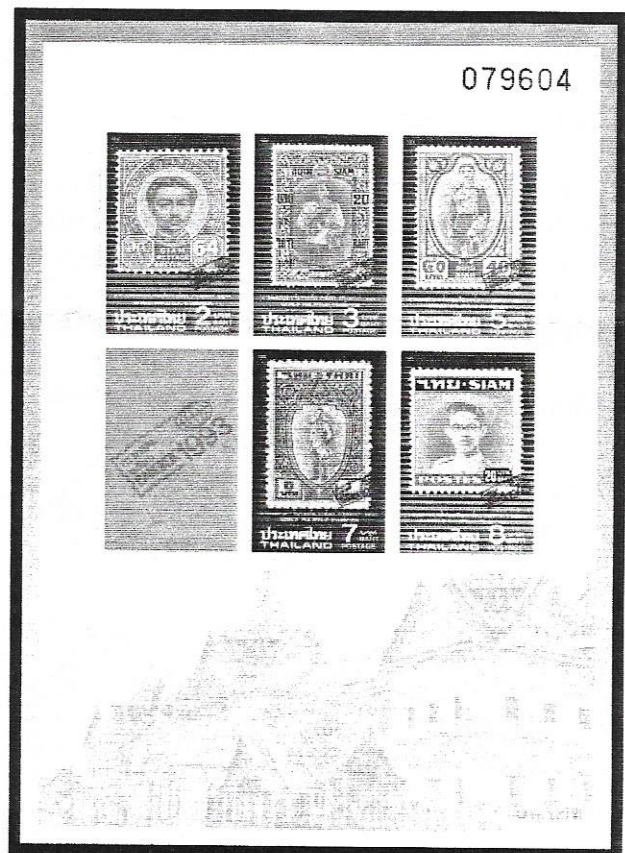
(Continued from page 2)

produced stamp is Scott 1233 issued on 7/2/88.

Thailand, unlike many Asian countries, has issued numerous postal items with a stamps on stamps theme. By my count there are 31 individual stamps and 5 souvenir sheets. These emissions have honored Thai history and helped the Thai people develop their national pride. I hope we will be seeing more SOS stamps from Thailand in the coming years.

Dana Middleton retired in 1990 from the Department of Defense. His collecting interests include Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Republic of China, Indo-China, French Offices in China, U.S. and Great Britain.

The souvenir sheet issued on 1/7/92 reproduces the following stamps (clockwise from the top left): Thailand Scott #18, 156, 222, 273, 255



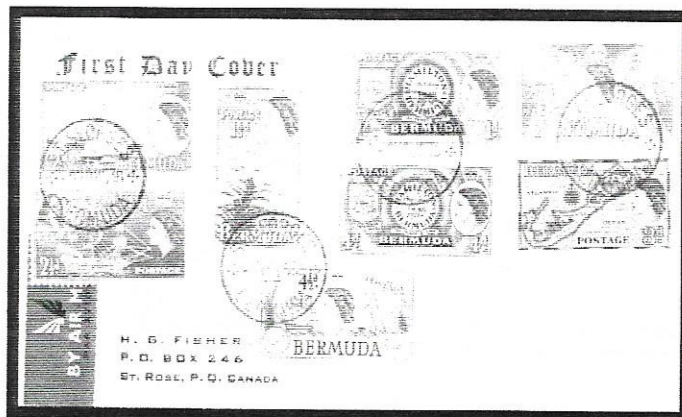
Bermuda's Stamps on Stamps – Part II

By Dr. Russell V. Skavaril

(Continued from January, 1999)

NEW DEFINITIVES FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Upon the succession of Queen Elizabeth II, Bermuda needed a new definitive series featuring the new Queen and a new set of 16 values were introduced on November 9, 1953. Two of the three values featuring the Perot Postmaster stamp are shown at right on a registered first day cover.



EXTENDING THE 1953 DEFINITIVES

Bermuda issued on January 6, 1958 a 9d. value of the 1953 definitive series in the same design as the 4½d. Although issued in 1958 this stamp, shown on the cover at left, has come to be regarded as a member of the 1953 series.

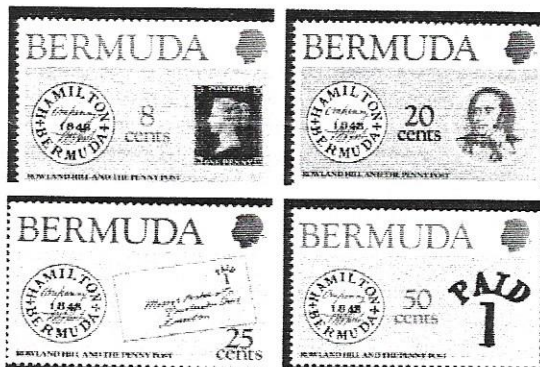


SIR ROWLAND HILL

The death centenary of Sir Rowland was honored on February 25, 1980 with four stamps having an SOS motif. This beautiful set aptly commemorates the genius responsible for one of history's most practical innovations, the penny postage inaugurated in 1840.

CENTENARY OF UPU MEMBERSHIP

It took until June 20, 1977 for the stamp on stamp motif to be used again. Bermuda celebrated a centenary of UPU membership with an issue of five stamps. A block of four of the sole SOS from that series, the 15¢ value (Scott 351) reproduces Bermuda Scott XI.



rated in 1840. Each stamp in the series features the Perot Postmaster stamp, and the Penny Black of Great Britain is featured on the 8¢ value. A portrait of Sir Rowland Hill, a cover with a red strike of Bermuda's "Paid 1", and a large representation of the Bermuda "Paid 1" mark in black are shown on the 20¢, 25¢, and 50¢ values respectively. (Scott 389-92).



Bermuda's Stamps on Stamps – Part II

By Dr. Russell V. Skavaril

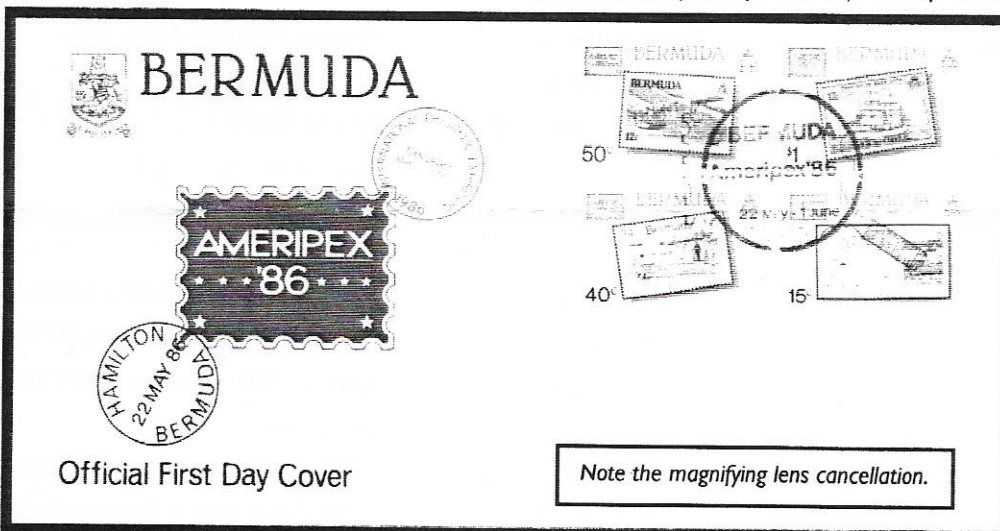
AMERIPEX '86

Four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on 5/22/86 to commemorate the international philatelic exhibition, AMERIPEX '86.

The souvenir sheet did not feature a stamp on stamp design, but the four values of the set featured previous issued Bermuda stamps which were selected for their association with the United States.

The 5¢ value features the souvenir sheet from the 1984 issue com-

memorating the 375th anniversary of Bermuda. The stamps on stamps of the souvenir sheet on the 5¢ value depict the \$1 stamp showing the fleet at Plymouth and the 30¢ value showing



the settlement in Jamestown Virginia, while the souvenir sheet shows the intended route and the wreck of Sea Venture.

The 40¢ value portrays the 24¢ stamp from Bermuda's 1973 centenary of tennis issue and shows Staten Island Court, America's first lawn tennis club.

The 50¢ value features the 12¢ stamp from Bermuda's 1983 centenary of manned flight

issue featuring the "accidental" first flight over Bermuda by the Curtis Jenny in 1919. The \$1 value features the 17¢ stamp showing Eagle USA from the 1976 "Tall Ships Race" issue.

COMMONWEALTH POSTAL CONFERENCE

A set of four stamps issued on November 3, 1989 for the Conference reproduced designs from Bermuda's issue of 1865. This issue was overprinted in 1990 for Stamp World London '90.



Scott 580-1 reproducing Bermuda #1 and 2 above; Bermuda Type A4 and 6 are reproduced on Scott 582-3

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DECIMILIZATION

The final stamp on stamp issue of Bermuda, at least through mid-1997, was the four value issue of February 6, 1995 (Scott 693-6). Each stamp featured a Bermuda coin and two copies of a Bermuda stamp from the "Bermuda Flowers" decimal issue of 1970. The Bermuda stamps reproduced were Scott 255, 259, 262 and 324 (flower type of 1970 issued in 1975).

References:

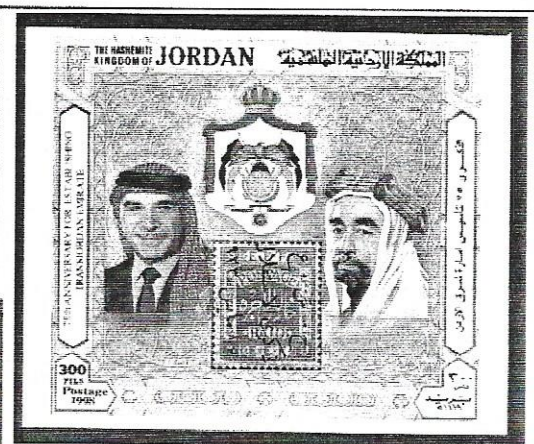
- Critzer, William E. and Philipp Ferri (eds.), Revision 1. 1998 Master Checklist Update, Stamps on Stamps.
- Forand Michel. 1990. "The Bermuda Postmaster Stamps." In The Congress Book 1990, Fifty Sixth American Philatelic Congress., 9-31
- Kaplan, Bunny (ed.) 1992. Stamps on Stamps. Compiled by the Stamps-on Stamps-Centenary Unit of ATA, Handbook #122.
- Ludington, M.H. 1978. The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda. Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass.

Dr. Russell V. Skavaril is Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics at Ohio State University. He has been active in worldwide philatelic events for many years as a judge and exhibitor.

New Issues

edited by Bill Critzer and Judy Hornaday

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
98 00 00	Uruguay	\$3.50-4	Uruguay #1, Switzerland #5	Int'l. Thematic Philatelic Exposition S/S	To come
98 00 00	Tokelau	3 x \$1	Tokelau #1, 2, 3	50th Anniversary of Tokelau Stamps	254
98 00 00	Jordan	* 2 x 300fr	Jordan #81	75th Anniversary, Trans-Jordan Emirate S/S	1596-7
98 08 28	San Marino	* 800-1500l	SY - Pseudo Stamps	Riccione 1998, Int'l. Stamp Fair	1427-8
98 09 08	Aruba	* 225c	SY - Pseudo Stamp	World Stamp 1998	166
98 00 00	Solomon Islands	* \$2	SY - Pseudo Stamp in Margin	Singpex '98 S/S	865a
98 10 23	New Zealand	* 2 x 80c	New Zealand #73, 74	Tarapex '98 - S/S Type B	1517a
98 09 30	St. P / Miquelon	* 3fr	SY - Pseudo Stamp	French in North America	670
98 11 06	Austria	* 32+13s	Austria #339	WIPA 2000	B369
98 00 00	Iceland	* 35k	Reminiscent of 1873 Type	125th Anniversary Icelandic Stamps	To come
98 10 29	Marshall Islands	* \$3	United States #1193	John Glenn's Return to Space S/S, Booklet	677, 677a
98 08 28	Italy	* 800 l	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Riccione 1998, 50th Anniversary Int'l. Exhibit	2553
98 00 00	Peru	* 6.80s	Peru #3	Stamp Day	1198
98 00 00	Romania	* 700, 1050 l	Romania #1, 4	140th Anniversary of Romanian Stamps	To come
98 00 00	Romania	* 4150 + 850 l	Romania #2, 3	140th Anniversary of Romanian Stamps S/S	To come
98 07 22	Moldova	* .10 - 2.40 l	Romania #1, 2, 3, 4, Others	140th Anniversary of Romanian Stamps S/S	283-6
98 10 22	Estonia	* 3.60e	Estonia #63	80th Anniversary Estonian Stamps	351
98 10 08	Neth. Antilles	* 225, 500c	Neth. Antilles #213, 218	Hague Philatelic Exhibition	284-5
98 10 08	Neth. Antilles	* 5fl	Neth. Antilles #61	Hague Philatelic Exhibition S/S	To come
98 10 08	Suriname	* 400, 800fl	Suriname #245, 175	Hague Philatelic Exhibition	To come
98 10 09	Russia	* 1r	SY - Pseudo Stamp	World Stamp Day	To come
98 00 00	Yugoslavia	* 6d	SY - Pseudo Stamp	50th Anniv., The Philatelic Assoc. of Serbia	To come
98 11 19	Andorra (Sp)	* 70p	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Inauguration of the Postal Museum	252
98 10 23	Vatican City	* 800l	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Italia '98	1085
	New on List =	*			



Classifieds featuring dealer-members

TOPICAL FIRST DAY COVERS

Dozens of topics available, including Stamps on Stamps

Send a SASE for photocopies of items in stock for your consideration

Les Rosen, 7724 Matchwood Lane
Liverpool, NY 13090

Email: FDCsRFUN@aol.com

LONGWOOD TOPICAL STAMPS

Our free, customized price lists are prepared upon receipt of your request, which means all items are in stock at the time of mailing. We stock over 100 topics and are totally committed to fair prices and 24 hours turn around on orders.

PO Box 915467, Longwood FL 32791
Phone 407-788-0605 Fax 407-788-3534

Email: billtopics@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.topicalstamps.com>

TIMBRES THEMES

1221 Fleury E CP 35046

Montreal QC, Canada H2C 3K4

If you are serious about building your stamp on stamp collection, contact us today.

Our worldwide stock includes specialized items

NEW ISSUE SERVICE
TOPICAL APPROVALS
WANT LISTS SERVICE
VIRTUAL "ON LINE" APPROVALS

Free price list available on request. SOSCU members will be given a privilege 10% discount on all purchases. MasterCard and Visa accepted.

Our personalized service will bring your guaranteed satisfaction. Write, call or email us today.

Tel/Fax 514-388-0157 Email: janiced@topicstamps.com

Web site: <http://www.cam.org/~janiced/index.html>

Members: CSDA, ASDA, APS, ATA and others

SOSCU News

Welcome to new members: **Rammy Molcho**, 12 Bareket St., Raut 71908, Israel is an economist: **Juan Escalante**, 2500 Wisconsin Ave. N.W. Apt #401, Washington D.C. 20007 is a diplomat from Ecuador: **Mark Lewis**, 14 Munro Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria, 3032, Australia is a Human Resources executive. **Martin Hirschbühl**, Gerlisbrunnenstrasse 31, CH - 8121 Benglen, Switzerland is a salesman. All have joined us via the SOSCU web site.

All your votes were cast in favor of electing Wesley Shellen as President and re-electing Joyce Storms as Vice President and Bill Critzer as Secretary-Treasurer. Our thanks to each of you for showing your interest in SOSCU by voting and renewing your memberships.

Joyce Storms, Vice President and auctioneer, reports the auction which closed November 16, 1998, sold

99 lots for a total of \$331.55. Proceeds from the donated lots were \$64.55. The 10% SOSCU commission on the other sold lots and handling charges were \$27.96, so SOSCU grossed \$92.51.

The next auction will be mailed with the July, 1999 *SOS Signal*. If you have material you wish to place in the auction, please send it before April 1st to Joyce Storms at 25 Prospect St., Branchville, NJ 07826. Please note that the auction will be limited to the number of lots whose descriptions will fit on both sides of one sheet of paper. Early receipt of material is of great help to the auctioneer. If you are sending covers you **must indicate either a minimum bid or the estimated value** as Joyce does not have access to cover value information.

The net auction proceeds are the only additional

STAMPS ON STAMPS - CENTENARY UNIT

William E. Critzer
Secretary-Treasurer and Editor
10999 Northshore Square
Cupertino, CA 95014-0535

Phone/Fax: 408-777-0359

Email: willcrit@aol.com

We're on the web

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/soscu>

The SOSCU was founded in 1956. 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 \$8 per year for members residing in North America and \$11 elsewhere. Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the unit. You are cordially invited to join us.

Officers

President	Wesley Shellen	Missoula, MT
Vice President	Joyce Storms	Branchville, NJ
Secretary-Treasurer	Bill Critzer	Cupertino, CA
Webmaster	Russell Skavaril	Columbus, OH
Of Counsel	Judy Hornaday	Mission Viejo, CA

SOSCU News

(Continued from page 7)

source of income for SOSCU other than the dues and donations of the membership. Please submit or donate saleable material and participate in the bidding.

Donations are gratefully acknowledged from:

- Gaston Barrette, St. Foy, Quebec
- Terry Canning, Marion, IA
- William Hartnett, Ballston Lake, NY
- Martin Hirschbuhl, Benglen, Switzerland
- Carmen Lecumberry-Velez, Mayaquez, PR
- Boris Politziner, Grand Island, NY
- Faith Sagar, Vancouver, BC



San Marino 1427-8

A New SOSCU Logo

By Bill Critzer

John Cali suggested in September, 1998 that the unit needed a new logo. I encouraged him to proceed and several weeks later John submitted a design for consideration. This design was sent to SOSCU president Wesley Shellen who reviewed it and suggested a few modifications. The new logo is published below for approval of the membership. It is proposed that the stamp shown, Great Britain #642, be the anchor stamp on the logo, but that other SOS stamps might be substituted for special events or promotions as circumstances warrant. Please send your comments about the proposed logo to the editor by May 15, 1999.

