

SOS Signal

October 1999

Whole Number 9

New Issues:

- The 33¢ blue Lincoln envelope in which this issue was mailed is a Type B SOS issued on June 5, 1999. Celebrating the 190th birth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, the envelope looks embossed, but is offset printed.
- Check out the other new items listed on page 6.



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Ecuador – The Four Reales of 1866

By Robert A. D'Elia

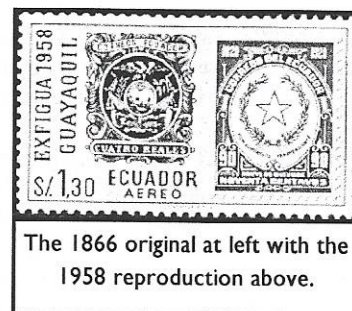
Although 134 years have passed since the appearance of the first postage stamps of Ecuador, considerable mystery still surrounds them. This is true of the ½ real and the 1 real values, but perhaps even more so in the case of the scarce four reales stamp. Previously published information on this issue is neither well known nor readily available to most collectors. Also, as is common in Ecuadorean philately, much of what has been published is inaccurate and often contradictory.



The original stamps were printed in Quito by the Fundicion de Tipos of Manuel Rivadeneira, employing a master die engraved by his daughter, Emilia Rivadeneira (later de Heguy). The date of issue is commonly given as July 1866. A cover from Guayaquil exists dated June 27, 1866 and a cancellation dated April 22, 1866 has now been validated. It is certain that the stamp came into use before July, 1866.

A research of the Government Archives by Jorge Ayora of Quito revealed a memo from the Secretary of the Treasury dated December 30, 1865 awarding the printing contract for 400,000 four reales stamps to Manuel Rivadeneira for the sum of 300 pesos. An initial payment of 50 pesos was made, but a further search of the records has failed to uncover any further payments. In view of the rarity of the stamp, it would appear

that only a fraction of the total quantity contracted for was printed and paid for. The stamps were intended for use to pay the double rate to other countries in the Americas. However, they are found used on internal mail and also bisected diagonally to pay the normal 2 reales overseas rate. The majority of genuine bisects originated in



The 1866 original at left with the 1958 reproduction above.

Guayaquil and are dated on the 4th, 5th or 26th of every month, probably corresponding to sched-

uled mail packet departures to Callao.

From the 1890's the philatelic press has reported "reprints" of the 4 reales stamp. For a stamp to be a "reprint" it must have been printed from the same plate as the original. If any reprints were made from the original plates, the copies should differ only in such details as printing clarity, paper characteristics and the color of the ink. While reprints *may* have been made, the author has been unable positively to identify any. It appears these "reprints" are actually forgeries.

Forgeries of the four reales stamp are plentiful and come in six basic varieties. For this article's purposes we will concern ourselves with the forgeries I have designated as Type 2. These Type

(Continued on page 3)

A Collector's Journey

By Michael Merritt

My stamp-on-stamp collection was inspired by the Great Britain set of 1970, one of which, Scott #642, is the centerpiece of the proposed new SOSCU logo. When I saw this set at a local dealer's shop in Atlanta, Ga., in the mid 70's, I loved the design and the very thought of a stamp that accurately and beautifully portrayed another stamp as part of its design. I was immediately inspired to start a Stamp-on-Stamp collection. (A typical teenager, I assumed I'd invented the idea!) I bought the set and later at home I poured through the old albums my uncle had given me, and the three albums I'd inherited from my grandfather. I found enough examples to fill a few pages in a stock book. Switzerland's set from 1900 (Sc #98-102) were the oldest examples, though the stamps portrayed were tiny rectangles. Other examples I found were Switzerland's 1971 issue (Sc #527, 530S/S) and the Liberian set of 1960 (Sc #393-4, C128). I later found the lovely Netherlands set of 1967 (Sc #448-50) at the same dealer.

Like many philatelists, college, establishing a career, and building a family meant the albums sat unopened for nigh on twenty years. But I kept my eyes open for SOS issues, occasionally finding examples during trips abroad. The Dutch FILACEPT issue of 1988 is one prized example.

About two years ago I started a long-delayed project: my grandfather had fallen hard for the US National Park issue of 1934, buying mint sheets and first day covers, which had come into my keeping. I carefully mounted and framed them and gave a mint sheet to each of my cousins: the first-born received the one cent, the second the two cent, on up through the ten cent. (The last two grandchildren received later commemorative sheets, and the great-grandchildren got souvenir sheets from the same period.) This labor of love reawakened the slumbering philatelist within, and I went on to organize and consolidate my collection. Once the many albums I had inherited were consolidated, it was clear to me that collecting the world was a bit ambitious. I turned back to my stock book and decided to get serious about my topical collection.

Getting hooked back in to the stamp-collecting world was surprisingly difficult. There are no dealers close to where I live, and visits to local book "superstores" were disappointing—no books, no magazines. Eventually, it was the World Wide Web that got me connected back with the hobby—I found the APS site and then Linn's. I discovered the ATA and then was thrilled to find SOSCU. I joined right away, purchased the wonderful Handbook 122, and was a bit stunned at just how many SOS issues there were to collect! My earlier collecting had ended just before the 1979 Sir Rowland Hill centen-

ary, with its attendant explosion in SOS issues.

I attended the Postage Stamp Mega Event in 1998 in New York City, and had a thrilling day, finding a large amount of SOS material, especially souvenir sheets. I realized then that there were too many issues to remember, and the expense was enough without buying the same item multiple times! I now keep track of my purchases with a spreadsheet program. This lets me print a "don't want" list, which is useful with some dealers, but a problem for those who need a true "want list"! I would love to find an online version of Handbook 122 (*editor's note: it is now available; please see page 7 for a description*).



Netherlands #448

Liberia #C128

Switzerland #527

Today my Stamps-on-Stamps collection includes thousands of items. I gladly collect mint, used and first-day covers, (type A, B and SY). I especially like those rare, non-philatelic covers. Stamps on stamps used as stamps—what could be better! I've generally avoided expensive items—I rarely purchase any single item for more than \$30. Why spend so much on one item when I still need so many items that are much less expensive? I purchase most of my material at local stamp shows from a few dealers who recognize me as a good customer and bring SOS material specifically for me. I also had one box of SOS approvals in an APS circuit: it filled a lot of holes, but was a lot of work in the short time the APS allows before sending the circuit on!

I haven't had great luck finding SOS material at online auctions (though I've bought a lot of material for my pre-1950 US collection that way). One exception is the US Tweety Bird issue. Philatelists seem to love to criticize the modern USPS stamp program, but not me! I find the Tweety Bird issue delightful, and with so many varieties to collect, what more could a SOS collector want? Why, Daffy Duck, of course! I had April 16 circled on the calendar and called good old Stamp Fulfillment on the stroke of midnight. (What SOS collector worth his or her salt can resist a Stamp-on-Stamp-on-Stamp issue!)

(Continued on page 10)

Ecuador – The Four Reales of 1866

By Robert A. D'Elia

(Continued from page 1)

2 forgeries were printed in sheetlets of two stamps arranged horizontally and this gives rise to the two types, Type 2A on the left and Type 2B on the right. These forgeries were probably made in the early 1890's by Emilia Rivadeneira de Heguy, the daughter of the printer of the original stamps and the engraver of the original dies. She did this initially in an attempt to regain the stamp printing contract for their local print shop and when that failed, to supply facsimile stamps to collectors.

The stamps are surrounded by a fine line frame with a dividing line between the two stamps. Although well executed and on paper similar to the originals, these forgeries are not too dangerous as there are several easily observed design differences between them and the originals.

In 1958 the facts were not widely known in Ecuador and elsewhere when the government had the French printer, Courvoisier S. A., print stamps for the stamp exhibition in Guayaquil, called EXFIGUA "Exposition Filatelica Guayaquil". Among these was the 1.30 Sucre airmail, picturing the famous "Cuarto Reales", often call the "Prince of Ecuadorean Classics", along with a 90c stamp marking the 100th anniversary of Guayaquil's independence from Spain. However, somehow Courvoisier got hold of forgery Type 2A and reproduced this on the stamp and no one approving the design knew any better!

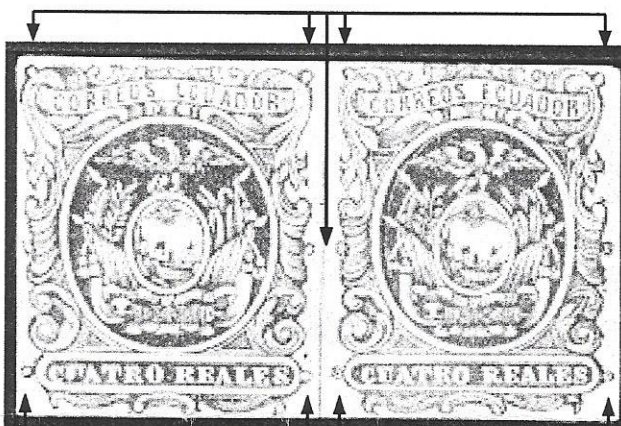
Robert A. D'Elia is the holder of international gold medals for his exhibits of Ecuadorean stamps and postal history. We are honored to have his work on these pages.



A genuine "Cuarto Reales" issued in 1866, Scott #6. The genuine stamp has no circles at the top corners, on the center side ornaments or the ends of the "Cuatro Reales" tablet. Instead they have 'crushed ornaments' varying from stamp to stamp.

Note the line between the forged stamps at right. On this pair the outer, similar frame lines have been cut off – to more easily fool collectors. The author has a pair of forgeries that have them complete however. The originals do not have these lines.

The pair of forgeries below have circles at the top corners and on the center side ornaments. Type 2A is on the left.. Type 2B has circles with a period in them.



The forgery has a circle on each end of the "Cuatro Reales"

Note: Stamps are shown at 2x normal size.

The forger's Type 2A clear circle is shown on the SOS at all positions on both sides.

Scott #C331, issued October 8, 1958 for the National Philatelic Exposition (EXFIGUA) in Guayaquil, October 4-14: the stamp on the right is Scott #241 issued in 1920.



Philatelic Echoes of Empire: The Scinde Dawk

By Richard B. Howard

Postal services throughout Asia were primitive and basic until in the mid 19th century the British Commissioner for the Scinde district, now incorporated into Pakistan, devised a local postal service for that part of Northwest India under its own administration.

He introduced a local 'dawk' or postal service for which pre-payment for a stamp would be made, supplies of which he ordered from England. It has never been discovered by whom the stamps were printed, which may explain their unconventional appearance. The design was very simple: a reproduction of the great seal of the East India Company in a heart-shaped device divided into three, each segment enclosing one initial of the letters 'E. I. C.' beneath a figure '4', with the value of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna below, the whole within a circular garter inscribed 'Scinde District Dawk' above an armorial buckle.

These were embossed on small red circular wafers and issued to the public on July 1, 1852 from an initial supply of 1,000, but such was the popularity of the stamps that the entire stock was exhausted within weeks.

It had been found that the wafers on which the stamps were embossed were very brittle and broke easily, and so the next supply was printed on white paper in a larger quantity, but these too were

rapidly exhausted. It had been found that the white stamps did not appear clearly when attached to letters, and so the next and as it transpired, final supply, was printed on blue paper.

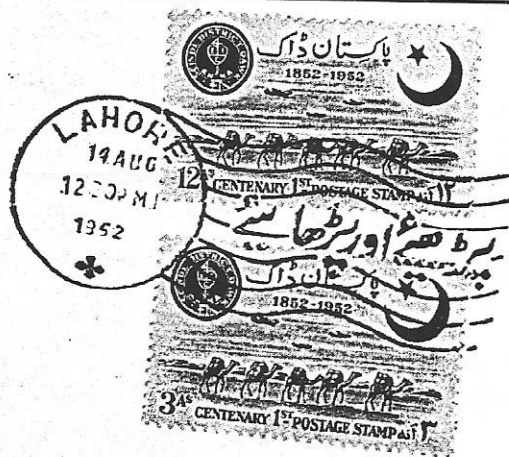
Then, after a life of little more than two years, a decree came from Delhi that the 'Scinde Dawk' should be withdrawn, but the proof of its brief success resulted in the issue two years after its first issue, for a definitive stamp issue for the entire Indian Empire in 1854.

In 1952, Pakistan issued a two value commemorative set for the Centenary of the Scinde Dawk in a design featuring a small reproduction of the stamp in an upper corner, though India, now separate, ignored the event.

Then, in 1977 for the ASIANA 77 national philatelic exhibition held in Bangalore, the Indian Post Office belatedly issued a commemorative set of two values, the cover of which reproduced a pair of the red Scinde Dawks for the 125th anniversary of the first postage stamp of the Indian Empire, which was also a first for the Continent of Asia.

Richard B. Howard is a founding member of the ISCAA and an avid collector of stamps on stamps on covers. This article is the second in a series entitled 'Philatelic Echoes of Empire.'

First Day of Issue

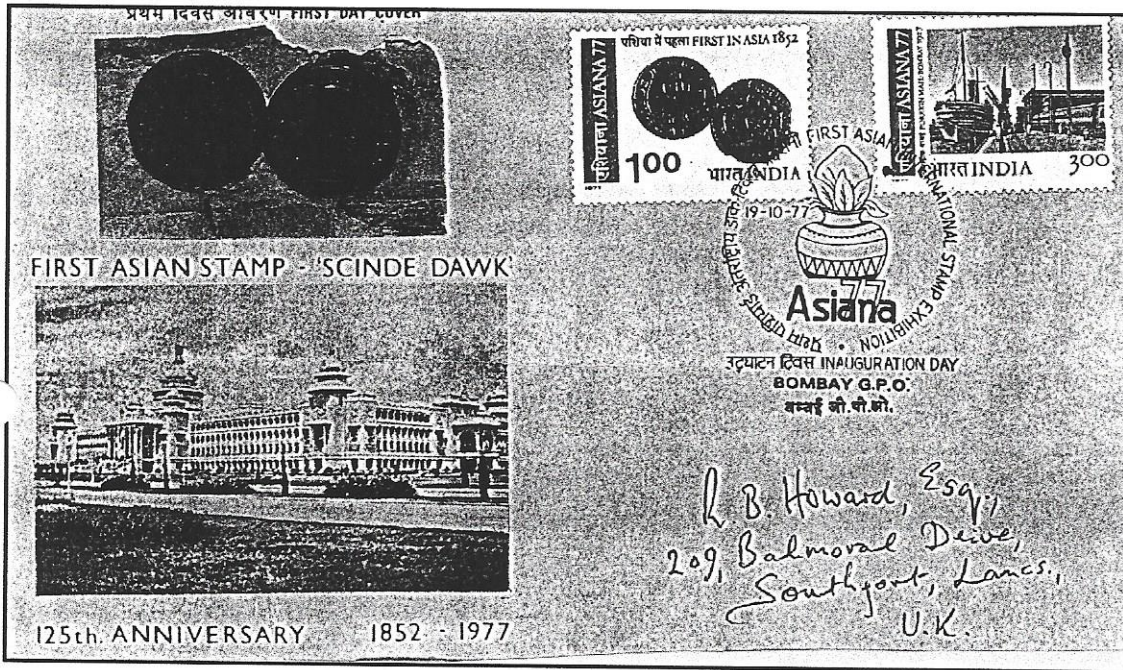


R. B. Howard,
209 Balmoral Drive,
Southport, U.K.

Pakistan issued a two value commemorative set for the Centenary of the Scinde Dawk on August 14, 1952. A small reproduction of the Scinde Dawk was added to the upper left corner of each stamp; Scott #64 on top, #63 below.

Philatelic Echoes of Empire: The Scinde Dawk

By Richard Howard



Issued October 19, 1977 to promote Asiana 77, the first Asian International Stamp Exhibition; Indian stamps shown are Scott #771 on left and #772.

Type B Discoveries from Belgium and Somalia

By Frank Puls

Belgium issued the stamp at right below on October 11, 1969 (SC #727) to provide publicity for the War Veterans' Organization (ONIG). It is a reworking of the semipostal "War Veterans Aid" stamp of July 5, 1923 at left below (Sc #B52).

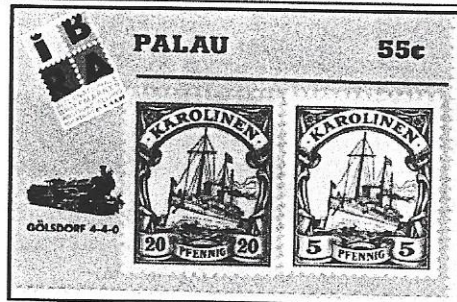


On August 1, 1983, Somalia issued two stamps commemorating the 2nd Anniversary of Somali Studies, Hamburg (SC #524-5). These stamps have views of Hamburg, Germany and show a representation of the handsome "Somali Woman" definitive, Type A127, of December 2, 1982. Note that the portrait is reversed on the 5.20sh value.

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>
	New on List =	*			
99 04 24	Belgium	* 2 x 17fr	Belgium #1, 2	150th Anniversary, Belgian Stamps	To come
99 03 04	Gibraltar	* 1p-3L	Type B-Queen from 1953 Issue	Definitive	779-93
99 01 18	Monaco	* 3 fr	Cover with France #11	Exhibit of Rare Philatelic Letters and Docmts	2111
99 03 19	Australia	* 6 x 45c	Type B-Australia #374-9(1963-4)	Australia '99	1727-8
99 02 11	Mauritius	* 7rs	Mauritius #115	300th Birth Anniv., Mahe De La Bourdonnais	877
98 00 00	Yugoslavia	6d	SY - Pseudo Stamp	50th Anniv., The Philatelic Assoc. of Serbia	To come
99 00 00	United States	* 33c	Envelope - U371,U393 -Type B	190th Birth Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln	To come
98 00 00	China (PR)	* 520 f	Aerogram - China #1	China 1999 World Philatelic Exhibition	To come
98 10 09	Chile	* 250p	SY - Stamp on Envelope	World Stamp Day	1259
99 02 01	Palau	* Sht 16 x 33c	US #RW1	Environmentalists	479b
99 03 04	Isle of Man	* 43,56p	Isle of Man #38, 464	75th Anniv., Royal Nat'l. Lifeboat Institution	820-821a
98 10 23	Italy	800 L	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Italia '98	2259
98 00 00	Kazakhstan	30 te	SY - Pseudo Stamp	World stamp Day	253
99 02 11	Mauritius	* 7 r	Mauritius #115	300th Birth Anniv., Mahé de la Bourdonnais	877
99 00 00	Peru	* 2.70 s	Peru #19	50th Anniv., Peruvian Philatelic Association	1204
99 01 20	Philippines	* 15 p	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Cent., Dept. of Transp. & Comm. S/S	2601
98 11 27	El Salvador	1 col	SY - Pseudo Stamp	World Stamp Day	1497
99 03 23	Slovenia	* 16 t	Yugoslavia #3L5, 305	50th Anniv., Slovenian Philatelic Association	346
98 09 19	Ukraine	10k	SY - Pseudo Stamp	World Post Day	319
99 04 16	United States	33c	US #3137a, 3204a	Definitive Self-adhesive Booklet Pane	3306
99 04 27	Germany	* 300 + 110pf	Bavaria #1, Saxony #1	IBRA '99	B849
99 04 27	Marshall Islands	* 4 x 60	Marshall Islands #22, 23, 24, 24	IBRA '99	705
99 00 00	Mexico	* 3p	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Launching of SATMEX 5	2117
99 04 27	Micronesia	* 2 x 55c, \$2	Caroline Islands #4, 6, 16	IBRA '99 (2 single stamps + S/S)	340-2
99 04 27	Palau	* 2 x 55c, \$2	Caroline Islands #8,10,1, TypeA4	IBRA '99 (2 single stamps + S/S)	498-500
96 05 25	Bosnia & Herze	* 200d	SY - Pseudo Stamp	Essen '96	247
96 07 10	Bosnia & Herze	* 120d	Bosnia #42	Centenary, Use of Mail Vans in Bosnia	251
98 05 22	Bosnia & Herze	* 50pf- 1.50m	SY - Pseudo Stamp	1998 World Cup Soccer Championships	305-7
97 10 17	Costa Rica	* 65c	PPC - Costa Rica Type AP47	National Theater Centenary	To Come



Palau #499



Peru #1204



Micronesia #340

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SOSCU News – All About SOS Master Checklist 2000

SOS Master Checklist 2000 is now available. Prepared and edited by Bill Critzer, it comes in two formats: *electronic* and *printed*. It contains listings of the over 6,700 SOS stamps brought to the editor's attention by July 30, 1999 and which are listed in major stamp catalogs. It also contains a list of over 500 postal stationery items with SOS types on the indicium or cachet.

SOS Master Checklist 2000 enumerates individual stamps and souvenir sheets of Types A, B and SY, and uses Scott catalog numbers. It contains the information you need to advance your SOS collection. ATA Handbook #122 is a wonderful publication, but it is now obsolete. The need to publish an up-to-date comprehensive checklist was compelling.

The *electronic* version has been prepared using Microsoft Works version 4.0 software. The decision to make this data available in electronic format was an easy one. This is the modern and flexible way to record and manipulate data: it may be corrected, expanded, or rearranged easily. Reports containing specific selected items can be quickly produced. It provides fields in

which the collector can enter personal data about his or her collection such as acquisition date, costs, condition, a "have" or "want" designation, notations about covers as well as general notes about a particular stamp issue. It contains nineteen data fields and two additional fields for uses of your choice. The *electronic* version is also available in ASCII format, as well as MS Works versions 3.0 or 2.0. Please specify the format when ordering: if in doubt, contact me first. It is available on two 3½" diskettes for **\$20 postpaid**.

The *printed* version is loose-leaf and has 137 pages of data on 8½x11 white paper printed on both sides. It contains the following critical information: date of issue, country, type (A, B, or SY), Scott catalog #, Scott # of stamp reproduced, reason for issue. Included is the postal stationery list. It is available for **\$25 postpaid**.

Or order both the *electronic* and *printed* versions for **\$30 postpaid** (a certified bargain). Proceeds go to SOSCU, so help yourself philatelically and your club financially. US currency and checks drawn on US banks payable to "SOSCU" are welcomed.

Cooperation Expands Postal Stationery List

By Gaston Barrette

I am glad to report that the last months have been very productive with respect to the additions to the stamp on stamp master postal stationery list. More than a hundred items have been added filling many gaps. Many sources have contributed to this success from members of SOSCU who have answered our invitation by reporting items in their collection to a catalogue issued by the International Stamp Centenary Association covering the period 1951-1979 and interesting new material from Classic Philatelics. Many thanks to all these contributors.

In this article, I would like to describe some of the most important and interesting items of this abundant harvest.

First of all, the series of postal cards issued over a long period of years by the Switzerland Postal Museum commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first stamps showing singles, blocks and covers on the cachet. The master list now has 14 of these cards. Figure 1 shows the first official postal stationery card as fore-runner for the Zurich stamp centenary 1843-1943; the cachet depicts a 4R of 1843 (Scott Zurich #1L1) on a letter piece with the text "Kantonal-Marke 'Zurich 4' - Timbre cantonal Zurich 4' - Francobollo cantonale 'Zurich'" (brown). Other cards show Geneva #2L1 (1941) on a part sheet of 30, Basel #3L1 (1942), the famous dove, etc.

on the reverse and full length of the card. The four other cards have reproductions of Canada Scott #3, 7, 8 and 13.

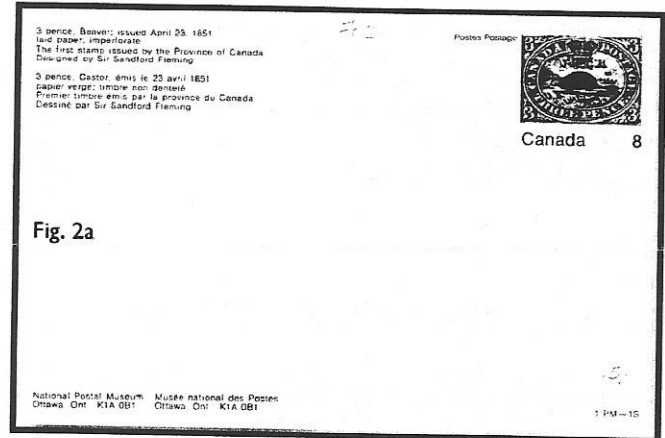


Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

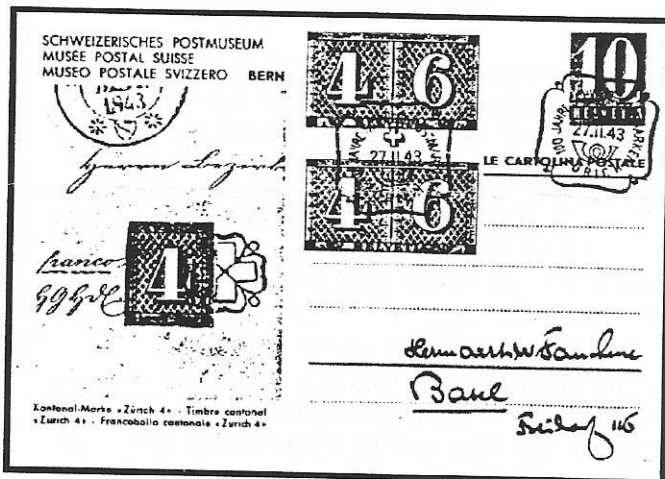


Figure 2 shows a picture postal card issued by another postal museum, that of Canada, who between 1969 and 1971 put on the market five cards with old stamps. The 8¢ card of the figure has as the imprinted stamp of Canada Scott #1. The peculiarity of these cards is that the imprinted stamp is reproduced

The next example (Figure 3) illustrates a rare case of an issued stamp on the imprinted stamp reproduced from a not issued stamp show on the cachet of a postal card. The item comes from a Norway card issued in September 1987m whose stamp design is Norway Scott #274 (1946), the background of which is the 1¢ not issued Canadian stamp from 1942. The 1946 stamp was issued in honor of Little Norway, a training center in Canada for Norwegian pilots during WW II. The card commemorates the 45th anniversary of this event. This card is also a good example of an imprinted stamp of Type B (design of an issued stamp) with changed value.

Among the new items with the type "symbolic stamp" (SY) as the imprinted stamp is an Australian envelope of 1988 commemorating the century of or-

(Continued on page 9)

Cooperation Expands Postal Stationery List

By Gaston Barrette

ganized philately in this country is well worth the illustration (Figure 4). The stamp shows an open album with stamps, a closed album, a postal card and an envelope. On the cachet one can see a photo of what is probably the fifteen members of the founding group. The material is so well distributed in the available space that one does not have the feeling that it is overcrowded.

A last important addition to the master list is stationery from Japan. Many postal cards were issued in 1971-72 for Philatokyo '71 and the centenary of the

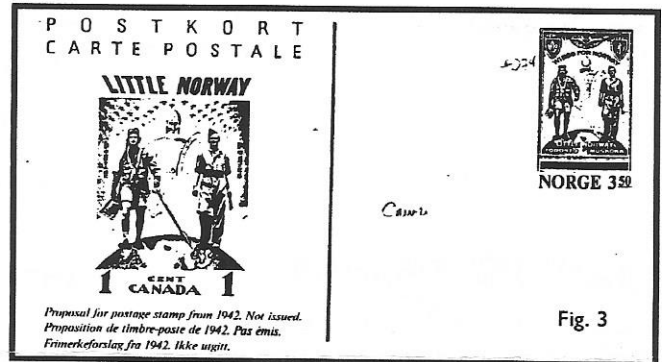


Fig. 3

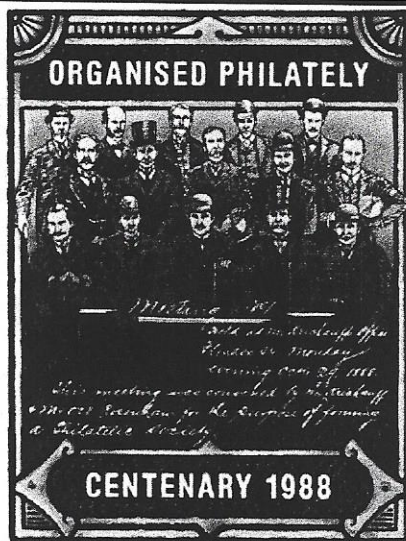


Fig. 4



opening of post offices. Figure 5 shows the card for the centenary exhibition of the opening of the Kanonji post office. On the cachet on each side of a mail box can be seen Japan Scott #1-4. It is to be noted that all the Japanese postal cards recorded so far in the list are printed on the vertical side, no doubt because of the peculiarity of the Japanese writing.

Although many other interesting items could be mentioned from the recent additions to the list, some will certainly be the subject of future articles.

Gaston Barrette has been the moving force in developing the inventory of SOS Postal Stationery. The list now contains 546 identified items, and more are being discovered monthly. Gaston may be reached at 403-2765 Chemin Sainte-Foy, Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4S4 Canada. The postal stationery list is available as part of the *SOS Master Checklist 2000* package announced on page 7 of this bulletin.

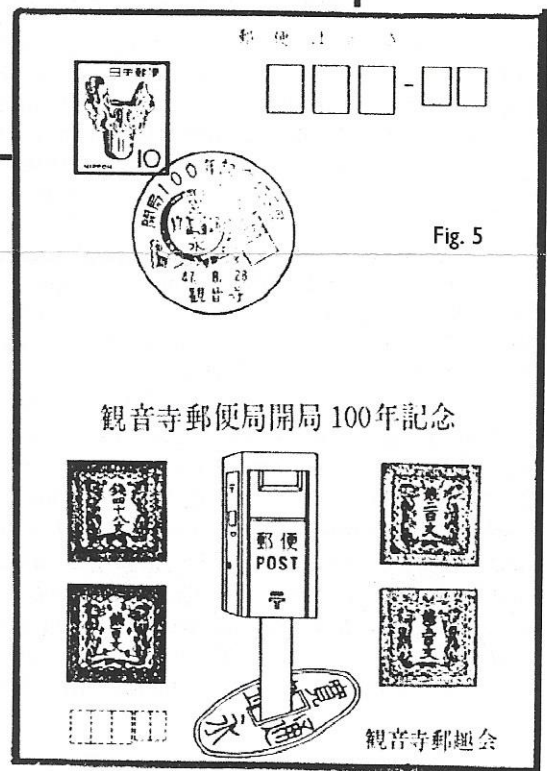


Fig. 5

STAMPS ON STAMPS - CENTENARY UNIT

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We're on the web

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

The SOSCU 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 \$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 with us.

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President	Wesley Shellen	Missoula, MT
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New Issues	Judy Hornaday	Mission Viejo, CA

A Collector's Journey

By Michael Merritt

(Continued from page 2)

Sorting through dealer catalogs, even topical specialists, also hasn't been an attraction to me. I find that seeing the material at shows every couple of months and buying a lot of items at once fills my hobby time in the weeks between with cataloging and mounting. The collection itself is in Vario stock sheets in six three-ring binders; the covers fill four, and the stamps fill two.

I'd be interested in advice from other SOS collectors on a number of points: the best places or ways to obtain good SOS material, suggestions on albums and mounting, and (especially) where to get reliable pricing information on SOS covers and first-day covers. And, I'd be interested to hear your Stamp-on-Stamp story!

The author is a computer science researcher, who has worked at AT&T Labs for the past 18 years. He has taught as adjunct faculty at MIT, Columbia, and Stevens Institute of Technology. He has over thirty five technical papers and four US patents to his credit, and co-authored a book, "Atomic Transactions." He lives with his wife, son, keeshhound and stamp-destroying cockatiel. This is his first foray into writing about his hobby. You may contact him at 73 Mountainside Rd. Mendham, NJ 07945.

More New Issues

(continued from page 6)



Slovenia #346, Monaco #2111

