

SOS Signal

BULLETIN OF THE
STAMPS ON STAMPS
- CENTENARY UNIT
OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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THANK YOU

First off to Harold Arnold for his kind words in the Oct.-Dec. SIGNAL.
I hope I can live up to his promise and his example...and to TOMIO UYEDA,
LESTER SMALL, JOHN GRAHAM and HEINRICH SIEVER for their cards and warm messages.

SECRETARY- TREASURER'S MESSAGE

ELOISE B. KANE

The members who have renewed their 1981 memberships have been very generous with their donations. I'm sure you all realize our annual deficit in 1979 was unusually high, and 1980 will be no exception. 1981 promises further postal increases, and this will only drain our treasury faster.

Many members have not renewed. I trust this is a pure oversight. I urge you to renew NOW. To those who fail to do so, this issue of the SIGNAL will be your last. I just hate to remove your names from our membership list, so PLEASE, we need everyone's help!

I appreciate all the notes and letters of encouragement I've received. They mean a lot to me, as I'm really "green" at this job. Believe me, it is not a "position." However, I am enjoying meeting so many of you by the mails. Thank you all.

DONORS

Mint postage has been donated by:

Carter - Kliks - Arnold - Small - J. Harris - Siever - Rydahl - Heckt - Wright.

Contributions to the Deficit Fund have been made by:

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NEW MEMBERS

D.E. Norman, Vito A. Campino, Paul Rosenberg, David A. Libby, Dr. Winston Ferguson, and William F. Rau.

EDITORIAL

The thank you above to Harold Arnold was a personal one and in a sense this is too, but editorially I speak also for the entire membership in thanking Harold for his really tremendous efforts over the years as Secretary-Treasurer, SIGNAL Editor and Auction Manager for our unit. Any one of these positions would be enough for one person in a unit with our complexity and far-flung membership, but he filled them all with a stubborn determination that that membership would not have to settle for less than his best.

His contributions of time and energy are immeasurable. By rough count he was the editor of approximately one hundred issues of the SIGNAL, and manager of almost half as many auctions.

Take a good look at a SIGNAL. Believe it -- it is not put together overnight by little elves in return for cookies. It requires hours for the acquisition and compilation of information even before the "editing" begins, for trips to the typist and printer, and for folding, addressing and mailing.

Take a look at an auction listing. How many of us who sold or acquired material thought of the work entailed in keeping the submissions separate, of examining and describing the lots, of checking catalog numbers, F.D.s and current market prices, of reviewing the final copy for typos, of keeping bid records, collecting money, sending out lots and payments?

As our Secretary-Treasurer he kept the records for the unit, annually issuing membership cards and submitting a financial report to the IRS.

How many of you -- as myself -- joined the unit after receiving a personal note from Harold telling of SOSCU?

So far, we've only partially replaced him with three people and it may take even more.

In a recent letter, a member described Harold as "MR. SOSCU," a title I had heard given to him before, and one he richly deserves.

Many thanks, Harold, and warm wishes for good health and enjoyment in your "second" retirement.

THE "ILE DE FRANCE"
CATAPULT FLIGHTS -
A CORRECTION

In the July-Sept. SIGNAL I noted an apparent error on the Paraguay Roland Hill s.s. noting the "Ile de France" catapult flight. The "error" is mine and an example of leaping before looking. The inscription below the illustration in the sheet states the first catapult flight from the ship took place on August 13, 1928 which is correct. The stamps reproduced are France C3-4 which were first used on a flight August 23, 1928. These surcharged stamps on and off covers are rare and eagerly sought by both air mail and postal history collectors.

By the late 1920s the Atlantic had been crossed by only a few daring aviators, some of whom had carried small "souvenir" air mail packets, and mail to and from Europe traveled by steamship, taking a week or better port to port.

It was proposed that, since an aircraft with a payload of mail did not have the range to fly across, a liner would carry it to within several hundred miles of the shore, launch the plane by catapult and allow the mails to be delivered to their destinations even before the vessel had docked. Several experimental flights had proved unsuccessful although the idea was feasible and only required the development of planes and engines equal to the task.

The "Ile de France" left LeHavre, France on August 8, 1928 carrying a single engined seaplane which was to make the first successful bulk air mail delivery from a ship at sea.

On August 13 when the ship was approximately 450 miles from New York City, four bags of mail made up of over 9,000 pieces were loaded into the seaplane. Most of the mail received a special hand-stamped cachet noting the first catapult flight. There was a special charge for this delivery of 10 francs and ordinary French stamps from the post office on the "Ile de France" were used on the letters.

The plane, piloted by a Lt. Demougeot, was catapulted from the deck of the liner and reached N.Y. several hours later; some of the mail carried was actually delivered before the ship landed the next day.

The second part of the experimental flights called for a delivery from the ship on its return voyage to France.

There was a great demand for "souvenir" mail and the postal agent on the ship did not have enough 10 franc stamps and could not replace them in the U.S. The French Consul-General in N.Y. was contacted and he authorized an emergency surcharge on unneeded 90 centimes and 1F50c. on hand. The old value was blocked out with two bars and the "10 Fr." added in bold type -- only 2655 90c. (red) and 900 1F50c. (blue) stamps were surcharged in N.Y. before the ship sailed on August 17.

Mails with these surcharged stamps were launched from the "Ile de France" on August 23 when the liner was a day away from France. They were delivered to LeBourget Airport outside Paris the same day.

The "Ile de France" was to make other catapult deliveries as was the German ship "Bremen;" however the fees were excessive and after the "novelty" wore off, the services were used mainly by the governments involved and various big businesses and financial concerns. Reasonable transatlantic air mail rates were still many years in the future.

NEW ISSUES
EDWARD P. LELAND

The INDONESIA item issued 17 Aug. for Stamp Day mentioned in the last SIGNAL actually was a set of three, not a single stamp. All three show early Indonesian stamps that are cataloged only in Gibbons & Minkus, not Scott nor Michel. (see photo)

FR. POLYNESIA, on 29 Sept. issued a single stamp for SYDPEX '80 that shows Scott no. 180 issued 26 Sept. 1955 and thus it is a type A SOS item. (photo)

MALI, on 17 Nov. issued four stamps. Each reproduces an earlier Mali train stamp and thus all four are type A SOS. (photo)

PHILIPPINES, in Nov. issued three stamps for Stamp Day. The common design shows a number of identifiable Philippine stamps as a montage background -- thus type A SOS.

ANGOLA, about Sept., overprinted two values of its 1970 Stamp Centenary set with the "Popular Republic of Angola." The new stamps are type A SOS with note "O."

MONGOLIA, on 10 Oct., issued a ten value set to mark InterCosmos. Five of the stamps show the Cosmonauts of five other nations who have flown with the Russian cosmonauts. The other five stamps show stamp issues of the respective countries marking the event; these are thus type A SOS items.

ST. THOMAS & PRINCE, on 12 July issued a sheet of twelve stamps for the fifth anniversary of independence. There are eleven type A SOS and one pseudo stamp depicting various revolutionary leaders.

SAMOA, on 22 Aug. issued a s/s to mark the Zeapex '80 Show, which reproduces Scott No. 239 issues 1 Sept. 1964 and on 29 Sept. issued a s/s to mark the Sydplex '80 Show, which reproduces the 24 sene value of the recent Satellite Earth Station issue, so both are type A SOS. (photo)

ST. VINCENT, on 28 Feb., issued a s/s to mark the centenary of its Coat of Arms stamps. The sheet shows Scott nos. 197-97 of 16 Sept. 1955, which in turn are based on Scott type A3 of 1880. The s/s is a type B SOS item, with note "R."

ROMANIA, on 18 Sept., issued a single stamp to mark the Romania-China Stamp Exhibition. The design shows stamp collecting, an exhibit in frames. The issue is unidentifiable type SOS.

INDONESIA, on 10 Sept., issued a single stamp to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Asian-Oceania Postal Union. The design includes a stamp blob on envelope.

ARGENTINA, in Sept., issued a single stamp for the Census. Included in the design is a perforated label type pseudo stamp and thus it is an unidentifiable SOS.

COSTA RICA, in Sept., issued two stamps for the 8th National Philatelic Exhibition. A perforated label type pseudo stamp-like strip is in the design and thus they are unidentifiable SOS items.

POLAND, on 9 Oct., issued four stamps and a s/s to mark Stamp Day. One of the stamps and its like stamp on the s/s show a stamp blob on envelope and thus both are type unidentifiable SOS material.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, on 31 Oct., issued 33¢, 45¢, and 50¢ stamps and a \$1.10 s/s to mark the centenary of its membership in the UPU. The 33¢ and 45¢ show stamp blobs on envelopes and the 50¢ shows a perforated label type pseudo stamp. The three stamps are unidentifiable SOS. The s/s is not SOS.

UNITED STATES has issued the 15¢ Edith Wharton (Sept. 5), 15¢ American Education (Sept. 12), Northwest Indian Masks (Four designs - Sept 25), 40¢ Philip Mazzei (Oct. 13), and Christmas-Religious 15¢ (Oct. 31). All eight have the "Mr. Zip" stamp blob on envelope and thus are unidentifiable SOS items.

LONDON '80
STAMP ON STAMP
PROMOTIONALS
DAVE JACKSON

The stamp on stamp collector in Great Britain seems to have been well looked after with free gifts this year and as I had not mentioned them in the SIGNAL, I have decided to do so all in one article.

In April, readers of Stamp Magazine were presented by the St. Vincent Philatelic Services with a plate print of the Arms Stamp Centenary souvenir sheet on the occasion of their participation at the London

'80 Stamp Exhibition. The plate print was a new printing based on the artwork for the issued souvenir sheet, but with the stamps printed in the colors of the original 1880 issue, thus rendering the item invalid for postage.

The May edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly contained an envelope containing the three low values of the Tuvalu London '80 set overprinted SPECIMEN, the top value being obtainable direct from Tuvalu by means of a coupon in the June magazine. (see photo)

Stamp Magazine for May contained with the compliments of the Tuvalu Post Office a progressive plate print of the 10c value from the London '80 set which shows the build-up of the stamp with the various colors.

The Specimen overprints are being offered by one dealer at £6 for each stamp although I have seen the complete Tuvalu London '80 set offered at £7.50. The Tuvalu progressive plate print is being offered at £3 by one dealer and £6 by another, but whatever the price being asked now for these items, they have all been offered free and are valuable and I feel worthwhile additions to a SOS collection.

Callers at stand MH at the London '80 Exhibition could, by addressing an envelope, receive within a few weeks a credit card holder containing one Specimen overprint from each of the London '80 sets from Seychelles, Montserrat, Kiribati, St. Vincent, and its Grenadines and Tuvalu.

Only 500 were to be available for each day of the exhibition but the July Stamp Magazine had available to its readers 1,000 of those wallets on a first come-first served basis.

By permission of the State of Guernsey Post Office the subject of the British Philatelic Exhibition 1980 Miniature Sheet was the Thomas De La Rue 2p value issued in 1971. It was printed using the original die; the stamp features the Hong Kong Queen Victoria Key Plate two cent brown of 1862. A limited edition of a thousand special covers bearing the m/s tied by a special cachet was produced for sale at the exhibition.

QUANTITY ISSUED
CONTROVERSY
DAVE JACKSON

In my column in the July-Sept. SIGNAL a paragraph appeared on the Australia 1976 National Stamp Week m/s quoting an advertiser stating that there were only 375,175 of these sheets and that this fact was confirmed by Australia Post.

Due to this information in the ad, the sheet became one of Australia's scarcest, quantities were bought and sold and the 1981 catalog showed a substantial increase in price.

There the matter would have ended till in the Nov.-Dec. Australian Stamp Bulletin I came across the following: "Recently there have been some conflicting reports in the philatelic press regarding the quantity that was issued of the 1976 N.S.W m/s. The correct figure for the number of m/s issued is 1,500,700."

Puzzled by this I wrote to the advertiser asking for an explanation; a prompt reply was forthcoming.

Apparently in August, 1979, the Australia Post in correspondence with the stamp company advised them that the lower figure was correct. A photocopy of this letter was supplied to me. Another letter dated July, 1980 from Australia Post stated they had seen the ad quoting the lower figure and that the original information was incorrect, the correct quantity was 1,500,700.

"The error arose when an Australia Post employee confused the number of m/s with the total number of stamps in them."

Unfortunately, the person who answered the original letter was not sufficiently conversant with the matter to appreciate the distinction.

The stamp company's forthcoming press release apologised to collectors who purchased the sheet in good faith from them and is presently seeking restitution for the error which would then be passed on to its customers. The Australia Post appear reluctant to make good while openly admitting the error. The company is taking legal advice and hopes the matter will be closed to the satisfaction of all without a legal battle ensuing.

JACKSON'S
JOTTINGS

A letter in the August Philatelic Magazine from the Portuguese Philatelic Agency in Great Britain suggest the Madeira Post Office gesture in providing additional glue on post office counters reflects their wish to be helpful and thinks the local staff have been deceived by the new matt gum used for the first time on the two Inaugural stamps. At first glance they appear to be almost without gum when compared to what the islanders had become used to in the past--a very obvious shiny gum. The new gum was introduced because of the curling associated with the old shiny gum. Reports from Azores and Madeira indicate the new gum to be efficient and an improvement on the old.

The New Zealand Stamp Centenary Strip of three with black omitted is to be listed in Stanley Gibbons Part One catalog. Offered here at £175.

The 50 tl. stamp of the Turkish Cyprus 1980 Anniversaries set show one value of a set released in 1970 as charity labels for the Social Aid Fund of the Turkish community in Cyprus. These labels later served as the first official stamps of Turkish Cyprus on international mails.

"Marketman" in July Stamps Magazine thinks that SOS is a very worthwhile topic as there are very few SOS issues that do not move up quite speedily.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 10th July, reviewing the new Stanley Gibbons South America sectional catalog advises you to buy the Argentine 1940 Stamp Cent. m/s now catalogued at £6 mint--also that investors might like to think about the Brazil 1943 Stamp Cent. set and s/s catalogued at £23.40 mint.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 21 Aug., reviewing the new Stanley Gibbons Part One Catalog suggests it would be a good idea to get the Nauru 1976 Stamp Anniv. issue and the 1979 Rowland Hill issue before the next catalog is published.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 11 Sept., suggests that the Italy, 1952, Modena Stamp Centenary set in unhinged condition should be kept prominently on your buying list.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 18 Sept., suggests that the East German 1950 Debria sheet is worth buying at anywhere near the Gibbons catalog figure of £35 mint or used.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 6 Nov., thinks the Monserrat 1976 set and sheet for its stamp centenary is worth buying for its lasting thematic popularity where other Monserrat issues can safely be passed over. For the same reason he would also get the 1979 Rowland Hill set and sheet.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 16 Oct., thinks that as there were only 258,609 complete sets of the Greece 1961 Stamp Centenary issue that the Gibbons catalog price of £7.50 mint, £4.75 used seems most reasonable.

"Philatelia" in August Philatelic Magazine quotes the St. Vincent Arms Stamp Centenary m/s as "worth buying."

Two cheap modern sets of Nauru which "Philatelia," in Nov. Philatelic Magazine, likes are the 1976 60th Anniversary of Nauruan Stamps set and the 1979 Rowland Hill set and sheet.

The "Stamps to Look For" column in the Nov. Stamp Magazine reviewing Swedish stamps suggests that the 1974 Stockholmia set of four sheets are well worth looking for.

SIGNAL LIGHTS
LOU GUADAGNO

So far, the souvenir sheet issued by Bulgaria on Nov. 28, 1979 to publicize the world football (soccer) championship games to be held in Spain in 1982 has only been cataloged by Michel as #2839 block 97. It had a "controlled" issue of 25,000 numbered sheets. (photo)

According to several reports in various philatelic papers both the Equatorial Guinea Rowland Hill sets are not recognized by its present government and are productions of stamp agencies which had had agreements with the overthrown Macias regime.

The Rowland Hill commemoratives authorized by the government of Nicaragua but postponed by the Sandinistan revolutionaries was finally issued on April 7, 1980 but with overprints in both silver and magenta noting Nicaraguan participation in the Olympics and 1979 as the year of liberation. Only the airmails are of interest; the 1.80 cor has Hill examining sheets of penny blacks (the artist here was a little lazy, the sheets have only 40 stamps instead of 240). The 2.20 cor reproduces an upper margin block of 6 penny blacks and the 5 cor (revalued) shows a portion of a 1930 Zeppelin flight cover with U.S. and Nicaraguan stamps. (This looked familiar--the cover actually exists and the design was "lifted" from a 1978 Koerber auction catalog photo.) (see photo)

The s.s. described in the 1979 publicity release reproducing the #1s of G.B. and Nicaragua and Hill "inventing" the postage stamp was not issued.

A new s.s. for Rowland Hill was released on May 3. It is imperf, a 20 cor airmail with an inset of Hill and reproduction of Nicaragua #1. In the margin below are Nicaragua C254-6 issued in 1941. (see photo)

The original stamps were produced by Format Security Printers and the overprinting and the new s.s. were by Litho. National, Portugal.

An s.o.s. issue from 1979 which escaped notice and is omitted in the checklist is the \$2.00 value of the St. Lucia issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of Lindbergh's inaugural airmail flight stop-over in Castries (Scott #472) issued on October 2, 1979. Reproduced are two first flight covers, one an inaugural from San Juan P.R. to Castries and the other from the return flight Castries to Chicago; both with tiny but identifiable stamps. The U.S. stamps are Scott #C11 (5¢ Beacon) and type A165 (10¢ Monroe) probably #642. The St. Lucia stamps are King George V definitives, Scott #81-86-~~8679~~. (see photo)

North Korea has entered the s.o.s. topical field with three separate releases in 1980; in March for Rowland Hill: two stamps and s.s. reproducing 14 classic and airmail worldwide issues, in May for London '80: 5 stamps and s.s. reproducing various North Korean stamps, souvenir sheets or covers, G.B. 1 and Br. Guiana 13, and in Sept. for Essen '80, 3 stamps and 2 s.s. reproducing German and Russian Graf Zeppelin polar flight stamps of 1931 and a 1980 North Korean stamp for Year of the Child. All were issued both perf and imperf in very small printings. (see photo)

The St. Thomas and Prince 5th Anniversary of Independence sheetlet is an unusual group of s.o.s. in an unorthodox format. The sheet is made up of 12 stamps and 13 tabs. Each of the 5 dobra stamps reproduces a revolutionary leader of a different country, 11 are actual stamps on stamps, one is a pseudo stamp. An

unvalued tab with each stamp shows the respective flag of that leader's nation. The stamp and tab actually make up a total design as parts of the inscription and flags are separated by the perforations. The 2 central stamps have the flag tabs below them while all the others have them to the left.

Mostly represented are recent (and deceased) African figures: Nkrumah (Ghana), Lumumba (U.S.S.R. stamp), Cabral (Cape Verde), Mondlane (Mozambique), Neto (Angola), but Boumedienne (Algeria), Ghandi (India), and "Che" Guevara (Cuba), as well as Lenin (U.S.S.R.), Washington (U.S.A.) and Bolivar (Venezuela), are also included. The pseudo stamp shows T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) who does not appear on any real stamp. It would seem a photo of him was not available to the designer-- the representation looks remarkably like Peter O'Toole! The issue was designed by Dino Kunosic and printed by Gehringer, Kaiserslautern, Germany in a quantity of 24,000 sheets. It was reported that the sheet was issued by an agency on July 12 but not available locally until July 31.

For those of you who collect s.o.s. locals, the government of Guam issued a 10¢ stamp in 1980 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Guam Guard Mail Service. It reproduces the first local stamp of April 8, 1930, made by overprinting "GUAM GUARD MAIL" on Philippine Islands (U.S. admin.) 2 centavos Jose Rizal stamps.

... And for those who collect postal stationery with imprinted s.o.s, Australia issued a pre-stamped envelope on September 29 to note Sydplex '80. The 22¢ imprinted "stamp" incorporates reproductions of the first 3 stamps of New South Wales in its design; the so-called "Sydney Views," issued on Jan. 1, 1850, were the first adhesive stamps of Australia.

The Montserrat Philatelic Bureau advised that a missing color variety has been discovered on London '80 sheetlets of the \$1.20 value reproducing Montserrat Scott #21. It is not in the stamps but in the center gutter, the map of Montserrat should have both red and yellow outlines but the reds are omitted. The bureau offered this item at face value, EC \$4.80 or approximately \$1.80 U.S.

They also advised that the sheetlets were produced by cutting down large panes (much like the 1966 Rhopex sheets) so that they exist with different perforation varieties in the selvages. I went through a quantity at a friendly dealer looking for the variety (which I had all the time) and found sheetlets perforated through on all four sides, imperf top and left, top and right, imperf bottom and left, bottom and right, imperf top or bottom, imperf left or right, for a total of 9. Naturally if you have these you should have all of one type.

The Tuvalu items discussed by Dave Jackson could be acquired in this country also as most English stamp publications are sold by foreign magazine dealers. I bought the Gibbons and Stamp magazines for \$2.25 each, a premium over the cover price but it got me the stamps cheaper than they were offered by an enterprising dealer who bought a quantity of the magazines and so could offer U.S. collectors the specimens and "plateprint" for the "bargain" price of \$27.50!

FACTS AND FIGURES

Seychelles sales --Rowland Hill
40c - 57,428 -- FDC 3 vals - 3,650
R 225 - 55,735 -- FDC s/s - 1,199
R3 - 36,998
R5 s/s - 22,392

Quantities distributed of Australian souvenir stamp packs

1974 UPU - 129,704
1976 National Stamp Week - 138,400
1978 50th Anniv. National Stamp Exhibition - 205,200

Withdrawals

Fr. Polynesia - Rowland Hill - August 1, 1980
St. Vincent - Arms Centenary S.S. - August 28, 1980
St. Vincent London '80 - October 24, 1980
St. Vincent Grenadines London '80 - October 24, 1980
Upper Volta - World Cup Overprints (1979) - October 31, 1980
Upper Volta - Stamp Day 1980 - October 31, 1980

SOS QUIZ # 12
LOU GUADAGNO

1. What S.O.S. issue reproduces a losing design in the first stamp design competition?
2. What S.O.S. picture a man who was a fugitive with a price of \$500,000 on his head?
3. What was the first S.O.S. to reproduce an error stamp?
4. What two S.O.S. issues show the correct and wrong form for ski jumping?

Answers on page 9

ANOTHER APPEAL: The unit's membership has always responded generously to appeals for contributions to the deficit and postage funds, but not so eagerly to requests for material for the Signal.

More and more content is coming from a very small portion of the membership, but I am sure many of you have valuable contributions you could make.

Long-time members can offer experiences, observations and advice and brand-new members can express the enthusiasm that a just-started topic generates.

If you feel you cannot research or compose an article, just sit down, make believe you're writing a letter and describe your favorite S.O.S. or the best page in your album, that great buy you just made, or the how and why you came to collect S.O.S. On the negative side, knock an ugly design or an unnecessary issue.

With the unit's far-flung membership, the only place we can regularly meet is in this bulletin, so why not take a few minutes to get acquainted.

AN EXAMPLE:
"HOW I ETC."

I have been a stamp collector off and on since I was eight or so.

I was first a general collector and then a specialized collector of various countries and colonies. Many years after discovering stamps, I discovered girls and my albums naturally suffered. School, the service, working and marriage, took me away for long periods of time but I always came back.

When lack of funds prevented the growth of my collection I turned to catalog reading and listings of items I wanted to acquire. Flipping the pages, I noted that countries other than what I collected had produced similar designs and so discovered topical collecting.

My wife was working then for a large publishing house and brought home envelopes of whatever foreign stamps came in. These I sorted through, keeping those that appealed for whatever reason and passing the rest on. One night, going through such a batch, I came across several from San Marino and Italy which had tiny little stamps reproduced on them! I showed this "discovery" to my wife and promptly took out my six year old Scott's to see if any other such stamps existed. I soon compiled a large list of world-wide issues of what I decided to call "stamps on stamps." I even found I had some of these stamps in my general and country collections from when I filled album spaces without really looking at the stamp designs.

At that time I had almost weaned myself away from active collecting and made no effort to do more than "research" the topic. But my interest communicated itself to my wife and on my next birthday, I received a box of stamps on stamps. She had brought my lists to Gimbel's stamp department in N.Y.C. and requested as many different S.O.S. issues as could be had for under a dollar each!

As soon as I spread out my present, I knew I was hooked again. Soon I was skipping lunches and hoarding change for more S.O.S., I was risking scorn asking "strange" dealers for S.O.S. I discovered that S.O.S. was a well-established topical and that a checklist had actually been published! I sent away for a copy and found out what to do with my "collection"--the "little stamps" could be identified and had interesting histories to learn about... I expanded the collection to include covers, varieties and proofs... I answered a note from Harold Arnold and joined S.O.S.C.U... I responded to an appeal for material and wrote my first article for the Signal...

See how easy it is!

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. St. Lucia in 1979 noted the death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill with a set of three S.O.S., the 50¢ value of which (Sc 475) reproduced an 1839 postage stamp essay by William Wyon.

In September, 1839 the British Board of Treasury announced a competition, offering prizes of £200 and £100 for the best proposal or design which would facilitate the collection of postage fees under the pending Penny Postage bill. There were 2600 entrants but only approximately 10% offered designs for stamps. William Wyon, an established artist submitted a pen and ink design of a simple rectangular frame enclosing a profile of the young Queen Victoria and a circular inscription, "POST OFFICE ONE PENNY HALF OUNCE."

No proposal or design could be judged best and the prize money was distributed among several entrants. Wyon's design which came closest as to what was to be the world's first stamp was passed over due to the security conscious Treasury's fears that it could be easily counterfeited.

However, it was his engraving of a profile of Victoria on an 1837 medal which was adapted as the design of the 1 and 2p stamps and later he himself produced the dies for the embossed stationery of 1841 and the embossed stamps of 1847-54.

2. In 1948 China noted stamp exhibitions held in Nanking and Shanghai with two stamps (Sc 784-5). One stamp reproduced in the design is that of a 1912 issue commemorating the 1911 revolution (Sc 183). It pictures Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the revolutionary leader and "Father of the Republic."

In 1895, he fled China after participating in an unsuccessful revolt against the Manchus and the Empress offered a reward for his capture of a half million dollars. Once in England he was actually kidnapped by agents of the empire but was freed before he could be taken from the country. From exile he organized the republican factions and raised funds to support the movement which rose in 1911. He returned to China after the revolt to serve as provisional president of the republic for several months.

3. The first error stamp reproduction was issued by Germany in 1959 on the "Interposta" commemorative for the Lubeck stamp centenary (Sc B367, B367a). The stamp pictured is Lubeck Sc 3a as the numeral in the corners is "2" but the value written out in the ribbon at left is "ZWEI EIN HALB" -- 2½.

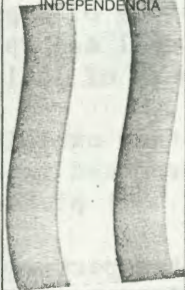
The lithographer who made up the original stone for the 2 sch. sheet accidentally inserted two transfers of the 2½ sch. into the bottom row. Instead of replacing the whole stamps he only partly corrected the mistake, leaving the inscription unaltered but erasing the wrong figures and inserting the right ones. He probably figured that postal workers and patrons would only note the more prominent numerals. The error can be found on covers but more exist mint as a French stamp dealer found a large number of them among the remainders he bought in 1869 soon after Lubeck's absorption into the North German Confederation.

4. One of the four stamps reproduced on the 1978 Olympic Games s/s from Paraguay (Minkus 2712) is U.S. Sc 716, issued in 1932 to note the third Olympic Winter Games being held at Lake Placid. According to many skiers who panned the design, the pictured "ski jumper" is heading for a spill -- knees bent, body back, arms at odd angles and skis scissored apart -- hardly olympic form.

On the Hungary Norwex '80 commemorative is a reproduction of a Norwegian semi-postal (Sc. B51) issued in 1951 to publicize the 1952 Oslo Winter Games. The ski jumper pictured is soaring -- knees straight, body forward, arm outstretched and skis together.

Lastly, I would like to apologize for the lateness of the SIGNAL, but for various reasons the first issue under my editorship suffered a long labor and a difficult birth. The April/June issue will be mailed on schedule.

REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE



50 ANIVERSÁRIO DA INDEPENDÊNCIA

Nr. 5420

PREÇO Dp 60

Gehring

NICARAGUA

1979 AÑO DE LA LIBERACIÓN

1879-1979

Dec.304/80

0240



SIR ROWLAND HILL-REFORMADOR DEL SISTEMA POSTAL



PARTICIPACIÓN NICARAGUA OLIMPIADAS 1980



TUVALU London 1980

The enclosed 3 Tuvalu Specimens commemorate the first attendance of Tuvalu at an International Stamp Exhibition (Stand M4)

Be sure you obtain the June edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, as included is a reply-paid coupon which will enable you to obtain the 3 £ denomination which completes the set.

This will be supplied direct from the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau which you will see depicted on the enclosed 10-cent stamp.



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1980 AÑO DE LA ALFABETIZACION



1881 NICARAGUA SOBRE BRITANICO "GREY-TOWN"
NICARAGUA \$4 6105

INP

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HOMENAJE A LA



1980 AÑO DE LA ALFABETIZACION



01018

REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA

CONGRESO FILETICO MUNDIAL FP 1980

1980 AÑO DE LA ALFABETIZACION



\$7.00

INP 0488

1980 AÑO DE LA ALFABETIZACION



\$7.00

INP 0521



220



180



10

1980 AÑO DE LA ALFABETIZACION



10

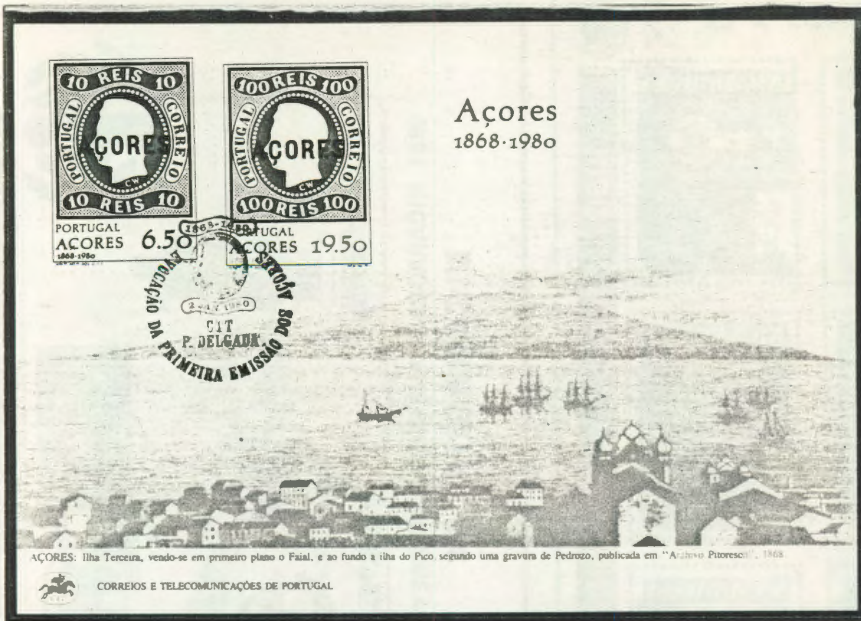


18945

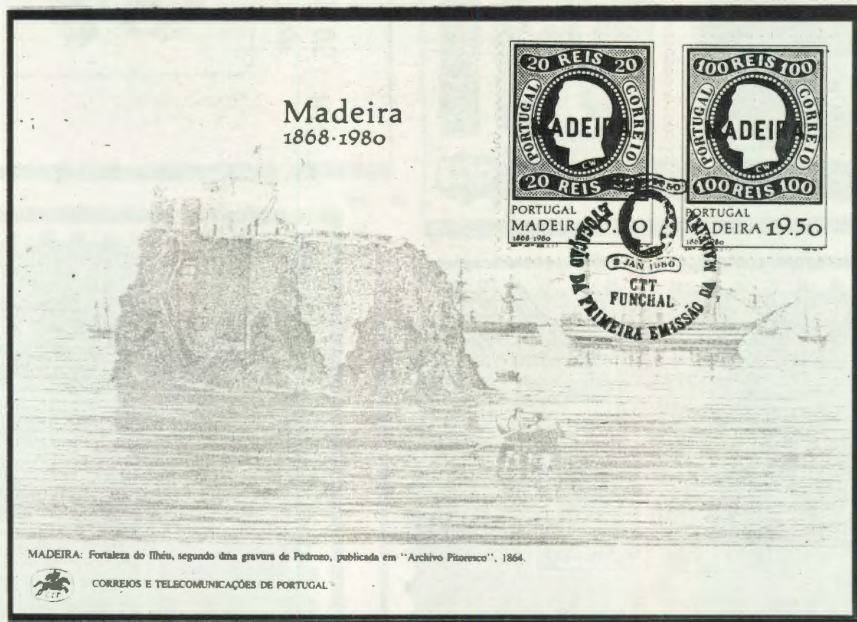
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