

SOS Signal

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

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April-June 1981

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SOSCU 1980
FINANCIAL
STATEMENT

Harold Arnold, as Unit secretary for 1980, reported the following to the Internal Revenue Service:

<u>Total Income</u> (dues, donations, postage, bank interest):	\$1,198.91
<u>Total Expenses</u> (printing, supplies and postage):	<u>1,233.74</u>
<u>Deficit:</u>	\$ 34.83

UNIT
AUCTION
NEWS

Boris Politziner reported that the recent auction was very well received. Members with material for the next auction, which will probably be in September, are asked not to send the material to him before mid-June.

NEW ISSUES

EDWARD P. LELAND

LESOTHO, 1 Dec. '80, issued a set of three stamps for the 80th birthday of Queen Mother Elizabeth. The middle value is type A SOS as it shows Basutoland #36 of 17 Feb. '47. The stamps are arranged in a tryptich combining three tryptichs in a m/s. (see photo A)

ZAIRE, 6 Dec. '80, issued four se-tenant pairs (8 stamps) for the Belgo-Zaire Philatelic Exhibition. Each stamp shows a different earlier stamp (Belgium, Congo, Zaire) and thus all are type A SOS items. (see photo H)

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, 20 Nov. '80, reissued in booklet form the two type A SOS stamps issued last April marking the abdication of Queen Juliana in favor of Queen Beatrix. The two stamps are se-tenant in the booklet and, in addition, have the two vertical edges imperf -- thus a major variety. (see photo B)

HONDURAS, on 17 Dec. '80, issued a six value set and a s/s marking the Rowland Hill Centenary. Three stamps plus the s/s are type A SOS items. (see photo F)

BOTSWANA, on 7 Jan. '81, issued two stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of UPU founder, Heinrich von Stephan. Both are type A SOS as they reproduce UPU anniversary stamps from Bechuanaland Protectorate (1949) and Botswana (1974). (see photo C)

AUSTRALIA, on 25 March '81, issued two stamps marking the 50th anniversary of the first official Australia/U.K. airmail flight. Both are type A SOS as they show the Kingsford Smith stamp of 1931. (see photo D)

ST. LUCIA Lindbergh Flight -- See page 6 of Jan.-March 1981 Signal.

N. KOREA ESSEN '80 -- See page 6 of Jan.-March 1981 Signal.

PHILIPPINES -- stamp day set noted in Jan.-March '81 Signal was issued on 9 Oct. '80. (see photo E)

SAMOA, Sydplex s/s noted in Jan.-March '81 Signal correct first day was 23 Aug. '80.

SAN MARINO, about Dec., issued a 120 lire stamp marking the centenary of the birth of Robert Stolz, the composer. Music from the "Philatelic Waltz" is reproduced as a sheet of music enclosed within the borders of a "pseudo perf" stamp. It is thus an unidentifiable SOS item.

PAKISTAN, on 27 Dec. '80, issued a single stamp marking 100 years of postal card service. The stamp shows stamp blobs in the corners of several cards and thus is an unidentifiable type SOS item.

PAKISTAN, on 15 Feb. '81, issued a single stamp marking the 50th anniversary of airmail service. It shows a stamp blob on envelope and thus is an unidentifiable SOS item.

UNITED STATES has issued the 15¢ Everett Dirksen (Jan. 4) and 15¢ Whitney M. Young (Jan. 30), each of which have the "Mr. Zip" stamp blob on envelope and thus are unidentifiable SOS items.

The 1980 checklist will be sent with the July/Sept. Signal. Many of the later issues of last year are yet to be catalogued.

JACKSON'S JOTTINGS
DAVE JACKSON

It is now over ten years since the postal strike in Great Britain but only recently I saw an illustration in a stamp magazine of a postal strike label showing a "pseudo" stamp that I previously was unaware of.

The New Zealand 1980 strip of three with black omitted which was mentioned in the last Signal is now offered at £265. A similar strip realized \$550 (Australian -- approximately £255 at time of conversion), in a Stanley Gibbons auction in Australia.

The Nauru 1979 Rowland Hill 5¢ and 15¢ values offered in imperforate mint pairs of both values at £875.

In an S & R mail auction in New York, lot #150 was the Kiribati 1979 Rowland Hill 20¢ value "SPECIMEN" gutter pair with letter "P" omitted from the word SPECIMEN on the left hand stamp only. Only five are believed to exist. No estimate was given.

The 30 ch. value of the North Korea-London '80 set features, without his prior knowledge or consent, the name and address of Stamps columnist, Edgar Lewy. It appears on the reproduction of a 1977 FDC probably prepared to publicize a new issue release.

Watchman in Stamp Collecting, Dec. 4th, reiterates his earlier tip for the Azores and Madiera s/s each of which is cataloged at £3 mint or used but which can be picked up for less.

Watchman in Stamp Collecting, Jan. 15th, thinks the Rumania 1959 m/s for the 10th anniversary of the state philatelic services is worth buying particularly if it can be found at a hefty discount from the catalog price of £50 mint or used. It is quite scarce (20 issued) and its day will come.

Watchman in Stamp Collecting, Jan. 29, thinks the Solomon Islands will be one of the rising stars of 1981 and one insignificant little set for which he has a great liking is the 1979 Rowland Hill set and s/s cataloged at £1.47 mint, which you are urged not to ignore.

£1, £2 and £3 are the prices asked by three advertisers in the same magazine for the Australia 1976 National Stamp Week m/s.

A black print of the Nauru Rowland Hill s/s was prepared for presentation at the 1979 STAMPEX banquet. Only 500 were printed and recently they have been offered here at £2.50.

Djibouti 1978 and 1979 Philexafrique issues were withdrawn on December 31, 1980.

Australia's SYDPEX '80 pre-stamped envelope to be withdrawn April 30, 1981.

KEEP LOOKING
BY C.L. ECTOR

I hate to collect the large size FDCs, especially those that take a complete page in a three-ring cover album. In fact, when I take in any stamp show, I disregard the dealer's boxes that have been set aside with printed signs indicating these jumbo type envelopes.

Recently, I attended a local show and after an hour of fruitless searching, I discovered I had another half hour to kill. So, I began to make another tour of the bourse with the idea that perhaps I missed some dealer. No, I had not. As a last resort, and, anxious only to waste time before driving to my home, I decided to look at an oversized cover box. Hurriedly, I thumbed through these FDCs in alphabetical order, and I came to the last two covers in the box -- what a stroke of good fortune, and/or, dumb luck! Staring me in the face were the Rowland Hill centenary issues from Uruguay: the souvenir sheet and the single value in a miniature sheet of four. Both were on flown addressed, registered and backstamped FDCs. What certainly didn't "hurt" either was the pencil marked price for each: \$2.00.

There must be a moral to this tale. A collector at a show should not overlook any display of merchandise. Who knows what gem remains to be found in shoe boxes filled with covers -- "Seek and ye shall find."

CENTENARY OF THE PENNY BLACK
-- SOME HAND STRIKES
LESTER SMALL

In a collection of centenary items, there is a special category which is quite separate from the stamps themselves; that is the cancellations and strikes that can be found on material just previous to the issue of stamps, found on the material itself and the very special one-day strikes. These last are very elusive and very expensive if bought on today's market.

When the centenary came around, it was a tribute to the Penny Black that many countries marked. I have seen a detailed list of the countries involved and have tried to secure as many of the major issues in this area.

Some countries never issued such stamps. Most unusual was the United States. The only acknowledgment was the Pitney Bowes meter mailomat machine cancel, issued in Washington D.C., May 6, 1940.

Great Britain issued envelopes Jan. 10, 1940 for the centenary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage which preceded the adhesive stamp. A round red 10 Paid envelope was struck. I have a pair -- London and Carlisle.

The Royal Philatelic Societies Stamp Centenary Exhibition used a double ringed red cancel in London, May 6, 1940. Bournemouth had a black double-ringed strike May 6, 1940 with Bournemouth Adhesive Stamp Centenary Exhibition between the double rings. This is specific in as much that it definitely mentioned "adhesive stamp."

The Bahamas cancel is unique -- oval in black -- Sea Floor / May 6, 1940 / Bahamas / in three lines. The post office was in the Williamson Photosphere on the sea floor.

Czechoslovakia had a large red circular cancel. In the upper half: Prag 1 -- Praha 1 dated in the center 4 - XII - 19. In the lower half a boxed rectangle in black: Briefmarke / 1840-1940 / Postovni Znamka, in three lines. In a small oval in the bottom a post horn -- a stamp facsimile and 100.

Denmark had two very diverse items. The Nakskov seals -- four colors in strips of three, March 3, 1940. The other was a black two-ringed circle handstamp of Kobenhaven. In top of the ring is Kobenhaven in large letters. Filling the rest of the ring: Jubilaums, Frimarke, Udstilling. Across the center, 2-5-40, 14-16 in a box, above, within the circle, 1840, Berl Tidende; Under, K PH K -- 1940.

France had a special circle cancel issued at Nice in black: Centenaire du Timbre -- Nice. 1850 5-5-40 in center.

Hungary had a pseudo perforated stamp cancel -- upright box. In the center the regular Budapest cancel. Above: Szezeves A Belyeg. Below 1840 - 1940. This cancel came in three colors, blue, black and green. The last color is the rare one.

A very different item is the German strike, from Straubing. The town name in the black strike is at the top in heavy letters. All the other lettering is a classic type. Under the town name, Draft Durchfreide. In the center is a swastika; 9-6 to the left and 1940 to the right. Under the swastika: Werbefchau / Kreis Sammlergruppe in two lines. The post card has a pictorial cachet on the left with an old world map showing the location of Straubing.

The Netherlands had a black circular cancel. Around the outside in straight lettering: Rotterdam Sche Philatelistan vereeniging - Herdenking 6 Mei 1940. Upper half of the ring: De / Postegele / Ceeneereword / 1840 - 1940. In the lower half a floral design / Rotterdam.

Dutch Indies (Indonesia) has another special strike. A large black ring cancel. The broken top has a large 100 over a ribbon. In the ribbon: Eurofeist Postzegel. In the outer ring: Ned-Ind. Ver Postzegal Verzamezaris. In the center: Philatelistdat / 6 Mei 40 / Batavia Centrum.

Sweden had two special cancels. The first was from the Post Museum in Stockholm. It is a large circle in black -- Post Museum in the top; Stockholm in the bottom, the two separated by stars. In the center: Frimarkets /

6 Maj 1940 / 100 Arsdag. The second one was from the Swedish Philatelic Society Exhibition in Stockholm, Dec. 27, 1940. This cancel was a smaller red circle strike. In top half: Forningen / Frimarks Samlaren / Utställning.

The Switzerland cancel is autobus and carries two strikes. The one on the stamp is the regular black type of strike: Schhweig Autobus Post Bureau 5 - v - 40 - 10. The second strike has a horizontal red box type divided into three parts horizontally: Luzern / 100 Jahre Briefmarken / 6 v 1840 - 6 v 1940.

My last one I have only just received and it was the most expensive of all. It is the one day strike of British Guiana. In vermilion -- a two-ring circle, May 6, 1840-1940. Words in the double ring are: Centenary of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

Along with my other Penny Black Centenary covers, I made up a small exhibit and called it, "Celebrating the Centenary of the Penny Black 1840-1940 with Friends."

I know in our topic, there is no such thing as completeness. There are many other handstrikes for the Penny Black. If any of you readers have different items from the above, please let our editor know. This is the only way we may share our knowledge.

INCOMING

SIGNALS

LOU GUADAGNO

Ed Leland writes: "That is a good likeness of T.E. Lawrence on the ST. THOMAS & PRINCE stamp (Jan/Mar '81 Signal). There are a number of contemporary photographs, e.g. Lowell Thomas, of him in that particular headdress.

I have Nutting's biography which shows three of him in that style (one of which is white cloth and two are tan). However, he and O'Toole have a resemblance, and the designer could have taken the easy way out. Wonder what Saudi Arabia thinks of the selection? Lawrence was allied with the Hejaz (Sherif Hussein) family and not the Saud family which conquered the Hejaz and threw the Husseins out. When the WW I ended, three of Hussein's sons headed Iraq, Transjordan and Hejaz."

Our Japanese correspondent, Tomio Uyeda writes that the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA will commemorate its participation at the Portopia '81 Exhibition in Kobe, Japan, April 29-May 5, 1981 with its first stamp on stamp designs.

Two stamps will make up the set: the 8 fen is titled "friendly flower" as the background is the symbolic cherry blossom of Japan. In addition to several perfed pseudo stamps, the central design reproduces Sc #708 "giant panda eating apples" issued August 5, 1963. The 60 fen titled "narrow strip of water" reproduces two recent issues, Jian Zhen's boat design of April 13, 1980 and the Chinese New Year stamp (a drawing of the symbolic cock) issued January 5, 1981.

On April 29, the stamps will be on sale simultaneously in China and in Kobe. A special souvenir booklet will also be sold containing one of each value and a block of 8 of the 8 fen. The folder cover will be printed in Chinese, Japanese and English.

He writes further that Portopia is being held on Port Island, a city built on a man-made island in Kobe Harbor. In addition to being a showcase of Japanese culture, it is a permanent "city of the 21st century," with ultra modern housing development with electrical, heating, water and pollution control systems.

Harold Arnold advised that a correspondent from HAITI wrote that an issue is promised for the Haitian stamp centenary being celebrated this year. According to the Minkus catalog, July 1, 1981 would be the actual anniversary date.

According to a new issue report in the April, 1981 Le Monde Des Philatelistes, LESOTHO released a set of 6 gold foil SOS on January 20, 1981 to commemorate its fifteenth anniversary of independence. Reproduced are G.B. Penny Black, U.S. Inverted Jenny, Swiss Rayon I 5r., Canada Seaway Invert, Cape of Good Hope Woodblock, and British Guiana One Cent Magenta.

BRAZIL has announced an issue of 3 values for STAMP DAY, August 1, 1981 to commemorate the centenary of the "small heads," 3 values issued July 15, 1881 showing profiles of Emperor Dom Pedro II.

GAMBIA is to issue three stamps on May 17, 1981 to note the 13th anniversary of World Tele-Communications Day. The two 50 butut values are SOS, one reproduces a Dr. Schweitzer birth centenary stamp issued January 14, 1975 (Sc #313) and the other, the Abuko satellite earth station stamp issued Sept. 20, 1979 (Sc #399).

In addition to Haiti, NEPAL also celebrates its stamp centenary in 1981, and a commemorative issue is quite possible.

NORTH KOREA seems to have discovered stamps on stamps as a topical with a passion: Rowland Hill, London '80, Essen '80; and although design info was not given, the announced program of 1981 includes multiple stamp and s/s issues for the NAPOSTA '81, PHILATOKYO '81 and PHILEX '82 EXHIBITIONS. So don't rule out even more SOS.

SIGNAL LIGHTS
LOU GUADAGNO

AUSTRIA on April 6, 1981 issued a 3 schilling stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of artist, Wilhelm Dachauer. It reproduces one of his works, and although not noted in any way, it is an unaccepted essay for one of values of the stamps he designed for the 1926 semi-postals which illustrated various scenes from the Nibelungen legend. The ornate borders and the motif -- Dietrich slaying Hagen -- are those of the issue's highest value, Sc #B76 but without the inscriptions for "Osterreich" and the value "40 + Groshen + 10."

For some purists this may not be a SOS but many members will add it to their collections. (see photo G)

According to a note in Michel catalog, the BULGARIA Rowland Hill-London '80 commemorative was issued in two different sheet varieties. The only one I've seen in the U.S. has plain selvages but a quantity was also produced in a slightly smaller size, with cyrillic imprints and number added. According to Michel the stamp had an issue of 45,000, not counting the special sheets.

On closer examination, the ZAIRE PHIBELZA stamps noted in the new issues column as se-tenant pairs should be collected in at least blocks or strips of four in each value (16 stamps), as the stamps are designed as mirror images. In the full sheet, which has an imprinted decorative gold border, there are four blocks and a center strip of four. This makes an impressive (but expensive) display. (see photo H)

NICARAGUA continued to clean out its stocks of old stamps by "updating" them with various overprints relating to 1980. According to notices in various philatelic periodicals this process will continue until sometime in 1982, when Nicaragua will issue "new" new issues.

In the meantime, remnants of various souvenir sheets and previously unissued stamps ordered by the Somoza regime have been elaborately overprinted to blot out the older designs. Some have been reported to have had very limited printings -- as little as 2,000 -- and are speculative items as they are issued by a controlling agency.

Several are of interest to our topic, as the sheets or overprints contain SOS.

On 26 September 1980, the s/s of the rare and famous stamps issue of 1976 (reproducing the 1881 Greytown cover) was re-issued with overprints for Alphabetization Year, International Year of the Child, Sir Rowland Hill Centenary, Espamer '80 and Espana '82 publicity! (see photo I)

On 30 September, the 1962 stamp centenary s/s was reissued with two different sets of overprints on a silver obliteration which covered the old postmarks. On the reproduction of the 2 centavos 1862 stamp is the logo for WIPA '81 which reproduces Austria, Scott type A10. (see photo J)

On the same date, the 1958 Lion's International Convention s/s was re-issued with overprints noting various subjects; three stamps of which show the bust of Rowland Hill and the logos of various stamp exhibitions, including that of the previously noted WIPA '81. (see photo K)

Just recently, I acquired another overprinted set and s/s, but have no information regarding the date of issue, although all refer to various 1980 events.

The Rowland Hill commemoratives have new overprints from those issued in April 1980. The air mails, which are all SOS, are overprinted in silver, "1980 - ANO DE LA ALFABETIZACION." To add a little spice to the issue, the previously unreleased Rowland Hill s/s was revalued, overprinted and finally made available. It is practically a cartoon, as Hill is pictured with a "thought balloon" coming from his head, containing the Penny Black and Nicaragua #1! (see photo L)

As usual, there was not too much SOS material at the recent INTERPEX show in N.Y.C. Better items for sale included the 1950 Spain centenary set at \$1200.00 and blocks of 4 of the German Bavarian centenary at \$400.00. The Crown Agents had leftovers of many Rowland Hill issues for sale -- most noteworthy was the Falkland Island s/s for \$.75! An interesting item at the Portugal table were cards from the Azores and Madeira. The cards match the backgrounds of the souvenir sheets but with the actual SOS added with first day cancels. I believe these were only \$1.20 a set. (see photo M)

Maximum cards add interest to any album page or exhibit, and especially, I think in our topic. Enlargements of the stamps reproduced attract even non-collectors. A fine example is the maximum card produced by Liechtenstein for the 1980 Postal Museum 50th Anniversary. (see photo N)

Going through a large box of assorted covers (a la C.L. Ector) I came across a Gambia stamp centenary FDC. Although I already had this cover, I decided to buy it and offer it in our unit auction as the \$2.00 price was what I paid for my original FDCs in 1969. These small uncached, kraft brown envelopes imprinted "ON THE SERVICE OF THE GAMBIA GOVERNMENT" are not at all common, and even rarer, I think, are the plain buff envelopes without the imprint. Several dealers had told me these FDCs could be a modern rarity.

In any case, this particular cover will not be in a future auction. As I usually do when I get a duplicate cover for selling or trading, I compared both for best stamps, cancels, condition, etc. My first cover had only one cancel tying the three stamps while the newer had two; the placement of the stamps was different, the newer cover had the stamp in ascending value order which was nicer, but I was about to stay with my original FDC when I noted the type faces of the imprints were not the same. The newer cover had letters that were thicker and differently shaped with heavier serifs... And so with this "discovery" I had a reason to add another cover to my collection.

There is some doubt the St. Lucia Lindbergh flight issue was released on October 2, 1979, first day covers notwithstanding. Various stamp periodicals did not note the issue until well into 1980, and U.S. new issue dealers distributed it with St. Lucia's London '80 issue in May. In any case the major U.S. and European catalogs have considered it a 1979 issue.

The New Zealand missing color stamp of three mentioned in Jackson's Jottings was recently offered in Linn's by a U.S. dealer at a much cheaper price than those noted -- \$450.00. According to the ad only 90 strips exist plus 30 single stamps.

Another ad in Linn's recently offered the missing black variety on U.S. 1474 (stamp collecting) for \$95.00. This is well below the \$250 plus the stamps bought at auction in 1974. It turned out that the variety was more common than first thought. A U.S. collector I know has four sheets of 40 stamps each which he purchased at face in N.Y. post offices.

SEARCH AND ENJOY
LOU GUADAGNO

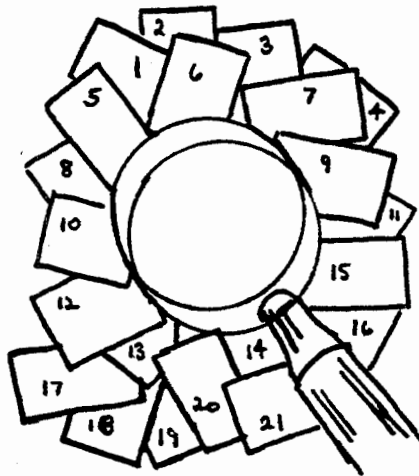
I know there are many of you who sit back and wait for the yearly checklists to find out what the reproduced stamps are. Personally I think you are missing out on a lot of the fun of our topic. Unlike other collectors, you don't need encyclopedias or

technical books to do your research -- just your stamp catalogs and some periodicals for updating. If you start small, with a basic stamp anniversary reproducing a stamp or two you can work yourself up to stamps with five or ten or twenty-one stamps like the 1980 Philippines stamp day design.

This type of design is my favorite SOS issue, as you can stretch an investment of a dollar or so into several hours of challenging fun.

Not so long ago, I was sitting in my living room with the Philippines set, my catalogs, Scott and Minkus journals and magnifying glass, working to complete the identification of the (admittedly) tiny reproductions. My eight-year-old (and youngest) daughter came in and asked what I was doing. My three children have seen me "play" with stamps all their lives but never showed much interest, so I explained with an example, matching a "stamp" under the glass with a reproduction in the catalog. For the first time she realized what a catalog was for and what stamps on stamps were. She asked if she could help, so I gave her another magnifying glass and one of the stamps. In about a half hour, never having done it before, she had "made" almost half the reproductions! (My wife came in, saw us at work, and exclaimed: "Oh no, not another stamp collector!")

If you're thinking now: "If a child can do it, so can I" -- good! Give the Philippines stamp a try and then check yourself against the sketch and listing below:



<u>Stamp #</u>	<u>Sc Catalog #</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Issued</u>
1	1057	U.P.U. Headquarters	5/20/70
2	1237 (on end)	World Population Year	8/15/74
3	1326	Credit Consciousness Year	5/14/77
4	1351 (top)	Bonifacio monument	7/10/78
5	1226	U.P.U. Maria Clara costume	1/15/74
6	1451	General MacArthur (hat, glasses, pipe)	1/26/80
7	1086	Tourism Publicity (village and woman)	2/15/71
8	1168	Artifacts (burial jar)	11/29/72
9	1080	Pope Paul Visit	11/27/70
10	1285 (on end)	50th Anniversary Symphony (hands)	1/27/76
11	1293	College Anniversary (emblems)	6/7/76
12	1214	Mrs. Marcos	10/31/73
13	1074	Tourism (cart)	11/12/70

<u>Stamp #</u>	<u>Sc Catalog #</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Issued</u>
14	1425	Afghan hound	8/6/79
15	14 25 ²⁶	cats	8/6/79
16	1154 (right corner)	Nurses Assoc. (emblem)	10/22/72
17	1411	Dona Evangalina Mussaenda (flowers)	6/11/79
18	1156	World Heart Month (heart and map)	10/24/72
19	1191 (upside down)	Third World Theater Festival (emblem)	5/13/73
20	C108a	U.S. Bi-centenary (overprint and surcharge on #934)	9/23/76
21	B48	Fruit (semi-postal revalue)	6/15/73

A FAVORITE
ALBUM PAGE
LOU GUADAGNO

In the last Signal I mentioned describing your favorite layout in your album. I have mounted and unmounted my SOS collection several times and experimented with various geometric patterns in order to vary the appearance of the pages. Multiple stamp issues pose another problem, especially if the designs are similar, as in the case of the Maldive Islands 55th stamp anniversary issue of 1961.

I used a basic pyramid layout with one small variation. The set of 10 stamps is made up of three different designs and colors: 4 blue - 3 claret - 3 green. Rather than laying them out in strict value order, I mounted them in color groups with the blue forming a diamond and the claret and green forming triangles which support the blue stamps: Top: 2L. blue -- second row: 3L.-5L. blue -- third row: 10L. claret-6L. blue-25L. green -- bottom: 15L.-20L. claret-50L.-1R. green.

You'll note the third row has one each of the three different stamps which breaks up the repetition. (see photo)

A simple writeup follows. (I mount my collection chronologically and since the souvenir sheet for this issue was delayed until September 25th, it is on a separate page. In my original mounting, however, which was set up alphabetically, the stamps were set closer together with the sheet directly below.)

I'm sure many of you approached this issue differently, but this is what makes our collections uniquely our own. Mrs. Kane wrote that several of our newer members asked for advise on mounting. If you have a layout you'd like to share, drop me a note with a photocopy or sketch, and I'll feature it in a future Signal.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to drop me a line re my efforts on the first Signal under my editorship. Please write with views -- pro or con -- and also give me some input in what you would like to see in future Signals -- background information, mounting tips, etc.. Of course, if you want to contribute new material yourself.....

MALDIVE ISLANDS



55th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS

FIRST DAY: 1961 - 9 September

DESIGNER: M. Shamir PRINTER: Harrison & Sons, Ltd. Photogravure

Reproduced are the 2¢ - 3¢ - 5¢ values of the six stamps issued 9 September 1906. The Islands were a dependency of Ceylon so MALDIVES was overprinted on then current Edward VII 2-3-4-5-15-25¢ stamps in very limited quantities to meet expected needs. However, philatelic demand for stamps of a "new" country exhausted supplies (approximately 1200 complete sets), the Ceylon authorities refused to print additional quantities and decreed that ordinary Ceylonese stamps would be used in the future. The Maldives would not have their own stamps again until 1909.

(See souvenir sheet issued 25 September.)

Sc #77-86/ Mk #77-86/ SG #78-87



B



D



E



F



G

