

SOS Signal

BULLETIN OF THE

STAMPS ON STAMPS - CENTENARY UNIT

OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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OBITUARY

I have just learned of the death, in January, of member, Robert O'Connell. Having to report this, my first obituary as editor, is doubly disturbing as I knew him personally and, in fact, had recruited him for the unit. Mr. O'Connell was a retired postal worker and collected a wide variety of countries and topics in addition to SOS. Our belated condolences to his family.

1980 SOS SUPPLEMENT

Enclosed with the Signal you will find Ed Leland's eagerly-awaited 1980 checklist. This is the seventeenth supplement to the SOS Handbook, which he has compiled. By fast count, over 270 type A stamps on 70 different issues have been identified. In addition, there is a listing of type B and unidentifiable types.

Mr. Leland, with assistance on input and proof-reading from Albert Carter and myself, has again done a tremendous job. He has earned the thanks of the unit. (He also typed up the list for the printers which earned him the thanks of our typist -- my wife, Pat!)

CORRECTIONS:

I misquoted Tomio Uyeda in the April/June INCOMING SIGNAL column (China (P.R.)-Portopia) when I identified the "cock" stamp as the Chinese New Year issue of 1981. Mr. Uyeda wrote that the correct identification is Scott #400 -- "paper rooster" issued 1 January 1959. My apologies to Mr. Uyeda. Incidentally, all the reproduced "stamps" on this issue turned out to be modified designs as all inscriptions and values were deleted just leaving the central motifs inside the perforated borders.

I also identified the wrong pussy cats, in my SEARCH AND ENJOY article on the Philippines stamp day issue. Stamp #15 should be Scott #1426 -- ordinary tabby cats, not the exotic chinchilla cats I listed. My thanks to Ed Leland for pointing out my error. (I have an on-going problem in selectively reading Scott catalog footnotes -- I "see" one reference and not the other.)

SECRETARY SPEAKS
ELOISE KANE

Now that all members of SOSCU have sent in their dues for 1981, I still have a few "thank yous" to make: to J. Levin and Mr. Rosamond, for donations toward our printing and postage expenses. We appreciate your generosity. Then, to T. Uyeda, H. Richardson, and Miss Riddell, thank you for unused postage. We can always use it.

Personally, I would like to thank J. Kohlstrung for Centenary card, E. Fink for SOS cover, B. Pinhas for WIPA cover, B. Politziner for IOM and WIPA cards, T. Uyeda for FDCs. I appreciate them all.

Decided on June 30th we had heard from all members, so closed the 1981 roster. I typed and proofed and re-typed and re-proofed endlessly. I think I counted right. We have 54 overseas members and 94 U.S., Canada and Mexico. I wish to thank Mr. SOSCU (Harold Arnold) for his assistance in proof-reading. So - o, if anyone has ANY correction or change, please send me a card or note and I'll make the change; if not, that's it for this year!!!!

Two members, Messrs. Uyeda and Rau have compiled checklists of U.S. "Running Mr. Zip with letter" on selvage, and are interested in filling their lists. Might drop one or both a line, if you collect these and have extras or need something special.

Due to the lengthy Canadian postal strike, we were unable to communicate with Unit President Lester Small, regarding our finances and the membership dues increase which must come for 1982.

Printing costs have increased for each of the three Signals published so far this year. Postal rates should not even have to be discussed. The new rate changes forced us to send domestic mail by First Class; complaints about extremely late and lost overseas mail prompted us to send all Signals by the more expensive Printed Matter-Air Rate. Many overseas members sent additional monies for airmail postage while others did not. The difference came from the contributions to our deficit fund, which is not its purpose. The dues should cover the normal costs of operation; the deficit fund should cover unforeseen increases in expenses.

With another rate increase only a matter of time, and inflation, sadly, here to stay, the only solution is to have an all around dues increase based on one rate for domestic and another for overseas members.

In actuality, this will represent a more equitable distribution of costs, and for most members who gave donations in addition to their dues, a little, if any, increase.

We will have final decisions described in the Oct./Dec. Signal.

NEW ISSUES
ED LELAND

AUSTRIA, 6 April 1981, Wilhelm Dachauer, type A -- See page 6 (April-June 1981 Signal).

GAMBIA, 17 May 1981, World Tele-communications Day - type A -- See page 6 (April-June 1981 Signal). (See photo A.)

LIBYA has recently issued two type A identifiable SOS stamps. The stamps note "People's Authority Declaration--1981" and the reproduced stamp is one value of a triptych issued in Dec. 1977 (Minkus 654). (See photo B.)

MONGOLIA on 28 April issued a miniature sheet of four stamps with tabs marking four different stamp exhibitions -- NAPOSTA, WIPA, etc. Each stamp is type A SOS as they show appropriate stamps of the applicable nations. (See photo C.)

CUBA, on 22 May, issued a s/s marking WIPA '81. It shows the 3.50s Red Deer value (Austria Scott 643) of 20 May 1959 for the International Hunting Council. (See photo D.)

NORTH KOREA, on 22 May, issued two stamps and a s/s for WIPA '81. The two stamps are type A SOS items as they show Austrian stamps. The s/s is not SOS.

SURINAM on 22 May issued a s/s for WIPA '81, of three stamps reproducing Surinam # 424 (1975), Great Britain #1 (1840) and Austria #5 (1850). (See photo E.)

PARAGUAY on 22 May, for WIPA '81 overprinted several values of the 1980 ballet painting series. The overprint incorporated the WIPA emblem, Augustia type A10, thus a type A SOS.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, about May, issued a s/s for WIPA '81. Included in the sheet are tabs showing the WIPA emblem, thus a type A SOS.

POLAND, 11 May, issued a single 10.50zł stamp for WIPA '81. It also shows the WIPA emblem described on the above Czech issue.

RUSSIA, about May, issued a single 15k stamp for WIPA '81. Again the WIPA emblem is incorporated in the design like the Czech and Polish issues above.

TURKEY on 19 May, issued six stamps and a s/s to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Ataturk, reproducing various Turkish stamps showing Ataturk, thus all are type A.

MALI, on 15 June, overprinted the 480 f value of the 1980 train issue to note the new world speed record (for a train), thus a type A with overprint. (See photo F.)

MALI, on 22 June, issued four stamps to mark the 475th death anniversary of Christopher Columbus. All are type A as they reproduce two values of the U.S. World Columbian Exposition series of 1893 and two values of the 1930 Spain Columbus issue. (See photo G.)

MALDIVES, on 9 Sept., will issue three stamps of the 75th anniversary of the Postal Service. The set is type A SOS.

SAMOA, in April, issued a six value set for the Year of the Disabled. One value shows F.D. Roosevelt working with a stamp album and thus is an unidentifiable SOS item.

NORTH KOREA, on 19 March issued a stamp and two s/s originally scheduled for Dec. 1980 to note the birth centenary of composer, Robert Stolz. The two sheets have a stamp depicting Stolz studying his stamp album with the score of his "Philatelic Waltz" behind him, thus they are unidentifiable SOS type-stamp collecting.

HUNGARY, on 16 March, issued a seven value airmail set marking LURABA '81 in Lucerne, Switzerland. The high value, 7fo - Scott C434, has an attached tab containing a perforated label type "pseudo" stamp which shows the Space Shuttle. The issue is an unidentifiable type SOS item with note "PSonT."

BRAZIL, on 11 March, issued a souvenir sheet for the 50th anniversary of the Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs. One stamp on the sheets shows a postman carrying an envelope with a stamp blob in the corner -- thus an unidentifiable SOS item.

BELGIUM, on 18 May, issued a single stamp for Stamp Day. It shows a pseudo stamp with an effigy of M.A. Cocke, the founder of the Postal Museum.

UNITED STATES has issued the 18¢ Flowers (Four designs -- April 23), 18¢ Red Cross (May 1), the 18¢ Savings & Loan (May 8), 18¢ Space Achievements (Four designs -- May 21), and 18¢ Wildlife Habitats (Four designs -- June 26), each of which have the "Mr. Zip" stamp blob on envelope and thus is an unidentifiable type SOS item.

JACKSON'S JOTTINGS
DAVE JACKSON

The "Stamps to Look For" column in May Stamp Magazine wonders if the Western Samoa stamp exhibition miniature sheets are really necessary, but the fact remains that the Zeapex sheet is in short supply and recommends buying these sooner rather than later.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 30 April, reckons the Canada 1978 Capex m/s is a bit of a dead duck at the moment and mint copies can be found at around a £1 against the SG figure of £3.25, but as Canada doesn't exactly issue m/s every day in due course this, one day, may do reasonably well. In any case, at present prices, a few put aside and a FDC will not make vast inroads on capital.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting 23 April likes the Austrian stamp issued to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Wilhelm Dachauer which is based on a design which was rejected for the 1926 Child Welfare set. He quotes the stamp as "worth buying" even if the numbers issued are rather high (3,200,000).

"Philatelia" in April Philatelic Magazine thinks that the Belgium 1970 Belgica 72 stamp exhibition m/s is worth buying now particularly as the market price is now very close to the catalog value in the rather outdated Gibbons B nelux catalog, which seemed too high when it appeared.

"Philatelia" in May Philatelic Magazine thinks the Luxembourg m/s in 1977 for the 125th anniversary of its stamps is a most attractive item worth taking a chance on and is still quite cheap and can often be found for a bit less than Gibbons price of £3 mint or used. As far as he can trace, the quantity issued of this item has never been announced.

A report in Stamp Collecting says that it seems that many of the North Korea thematic issues (and its specifically mentions Rowland Hill among other issues), which are accompanied by imperforate sets and sheets are locally printed and distributed but not locally used or even locally inspired.

Still on the subject of North Korea, an article in Gibbons Stamp Monthly by the catalog editor James Negus mentions that not a single imperf has been seen by Gibbons to do postal duty and is their reason, in addition to being issued in limited quantities, for not giving them catalog status. One of their correspondents attempting to have covers bearing imperfs posted to himself was told by a post office clerk in Pyongyang that they "were not for postal purposes" and that additional perforated stamps had to be affixed. When the covers arrived only the normal stamps had been postmarked, the imperfs being ignored.

I have seen the Kimbati Rowland Hill set overprinted "SPECIMEN" recently advertised at the following prices, £10 and £20.

In a recent auction in Britain, the Spain 1950 Stamp Centenary set mint realised £330.

SOME COMMENTS FROM
THE SOSCU AUCTION
MANAGER
BORIS POLITZINER

With plenty of advice and help from Harold Arnold, your new unit Auction Manager has his "first" under his belt. Our next auction is planned for mid-September -- the material is coming in, and if I can get away from summer chores, I shall get on it.

The March, 1981 auction had total sales of \$1,213.99, plus donation item sales of \$36.00, with 10% of sales going to unit for expenses. This amount is the seller's cost -- and we were very close to breaking even, thanks to the generous donations by some members -- notably Niel Heckt and Eloise B. Kane.

Roughly 90% of the lots sold, which is a good average, and indicates that the material was priced right and was of the type that members wanted.

We had some bids in odd amounts, such as \$1.33. I guess some people are figuring a percentage of catalog value, but this type of bid adds to the work of the Auction Manager. Next time, the bids will be rounded off to an even amount.

There were about 10% tie bids which surprised me -- I did not think there would be that many ties. Lot #250 Upper Volta mint set and sheet -- cat. \$10.00 -- had two bids of \$9.00 and both bidders live within 100 miles of Grand Island, so they received their lists at about the same time. However, this puts the overseas bidder at a disadvantage, and in the future the ties will be broken by a coin toss.

If you send material in for future sales, please list and price it realistically and be open about condition. I worked hours on some material that came in a large jumble-mixture. Two lots of New Zealand (lots 78 and 80) were withdrawn as my valuations were too low. But why didn't the seller give me a clue as to his reserve? There is much to this field that I don't know, so try to make it easier for me.

Some people have informed me that Scott numbers mean nothing to them. So, I shall try to help in some way by listing all the 1940 Penny Black items as a group, and perhaps other large subjects as a group.

To all bidders -- thank you for your quick payments and coverage of postal costs. Any comments (pro or con) are welcomed.

INCOMING SIGNALS
LOU GUADAGNO

Tomio Uyeda wrote that his 48-page exhibit of "kitte no kitte" (stamps on stamps) at the 31st All Japan Philatelic Exhibition, Postal Museum, Tokyo, was awarded a silver-bronze medal and a certificate of merit.

He described the exhibit of 406 SOS as follows: title, index; definition of SOS; classification of types A - B - C; table of types A - B - C issued annually up to 1979 (total 3,215); pioneers of types A - B - C; typical SOS in 1940-50-60-70; French community allied landing V sign and Peru C140 reconstruction with actual stamps; 1979 Rowland Hill issues; Japanese stamps reproduced on foreign stamps; rarest stamps reproduced; SOSOS; recent 1980 SOS issues and conclusion. All stamps were identified with Scott catalog numbers.

He ends his note: "I would like to challenge Philatoky International (Exhibition) this October."

Mr. Uyeda is a dedicated advocate and pioneer collector of SOS in Japan and on behalf of the unit I offer our congratulations on his awards and our best wishes for his future exhibit.

Rene Verheyen, our Belgian correspondent, sent a report on WIPA '81 which was the occasion for the annual meeting of ISCA (The International Stamp Centenary Association). We have many members and interests in common and some of those who attended were B. Politziner, B. Fleischmann, B. Pinhas, H. Gold, A. Gerth, H. Hermann, F. Panofsky and R. Verheyen.

Among the 640 (!) exhibits were 85 thematics which included 10 centenary, U.P.U., stamp jubilee and SOS exhibits, of which the following received awards:

H. Gold: "German se-tenant 1910-1933" -- silver
A. Gerth: "Centenary of the Penny Black 1840-1940" -- vermeil
M. Kohn-Meyer: "Penny Black Centenary and Jubilees" -- silver-bronze
Again, on behalf of the unit, I offer our congratulations.
Dave Jackson sent the following info regarding the Lesotho

gold foil SOS noted in the April/June Signal:

On Jan. 20th Lesotho issued six stamps (value: 10 maloti) designed and engraved by the Minneapolis Engraving Co. and produced on a surface of 23 carat gold from hand engraved steel dies. The bas relief engraving of the rare stamps, in reduced size, appear on 20 carat white gold and the remainder of the stamp design in 23 carat bright yellow gold.

The press release from the public relations firm of Caption of Philadelphia states that the issue was available at Lesotho post offices or by mail from the Masero Philatelic Bureau but a report in May Stamps Magazine says that this has not been confirmed by visitors who have returned from Lesotho in early March.

William Rau supplied the following information in a detailed letter:

"I have subscribed to this Royal Gold Stamp Collection program through Calhoun's Collector's Society, which claims to be the official distributor for the issue in the United States. I have on file their various promotional materials regarding this issue, as well as the first two stamps issued.

Total mintage: 35,000 sets (of which 20,000 sets have been allocated to North America).

Size of each stamp: 42mm x 50mm.

Total stamps in series: 40. All will be SOS.

First stamps to be issued by a nation in two kinds of gold.

Other rare stamps to be depicted are: Argentina 15c tete-beche pair; Bavaria 1849 1 Kr black tete-beche pair; Canada 1851 12p Queen Victoria; Hawaii 1851 2c Blue missionary; Finland 1856 5-Kopeck tete-beche pair; French 1849 1f vermilion tete-beche pair; Honduras 1925 25c on 10c Airmail Ovpt.; India 1854 4-anna Victoria Invert; Japan 1871 500-mon "Dragon" invert center; Mauritius 1847 1p orange post office; Natal 1902-3 20-pound green/carmine; U.S. 1847 5-cent Ben Franklin; Romania 1858 27-parales Moldavian bull; Sweden 1855 3-shilling orange color-error.

Above listed are only half the items Lesotho intends to issue. This information comes from Calhoun's Collector's Society promotional materials and the album provided by them to house the collection. They are the only source in the U.S. of this issue that I know of and the subscriptions to the program may have ended by now (unless, of course, they did not get enough takers).

Since this issue is pertinent to several topics and may be very difficult to obtain later (cost now is \$25. per stamp), I think it's important to help fill in as many details as we can to allow potential collectors of this issue to know what they're in for ahead of time."

(Since receiving Mr. Rau's letter, I noted a new issue dealer's ad in Linn's offering the first six stamps for under \$100.00.)

Mr. Rau has been busy writing lately. The following letter and reply appeared in Linn's, June 25, 1981 and I'm sure will be of interest to those of you who collect Mr. Zips.

"Your otherwise thorough coverage before each new issue omits one very important detail relative to the markings on the selvage. ZIP blocks have taken on several different forms over the years, and at least three versions are being employed currently. Some of us need to know which one is on a particular issue in order to know whether or not we must collect a ZIP block for that issue.

"The three forms of ZIP references currently being used are: inscription only ("Use Correct ZIP Code"), the picture of a standing Mr. ZIP and the picture of a running Mr. ZIP.

"The only way I have to know which ZIP is on a particular issue is to wait until it arrives at my local post office (50 miles away) and then examine a pane. My local post office gets a new issue anywhere from one to six weeks after it comes out, and often not at all!

"I thought I'd make this suggestion since there are many of us who would like to know more detail in advance about the markings on the selvage surrounding an issue. Can you help us? -- William F. Rau, Dunlap, Calif."

"(Editor's note: The suggestion is valid, if somewhat specialized. The fact is that the USPS does not specify which Mr. ZIP is included in the selvage, and often the specific one used is determined by other factors.

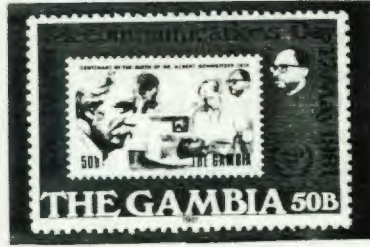
"(Vertically oriented commemoratives usually have the running Mr. ZIP holding a letter; horizontal stamps usually have the standing Mr. ZIP; while definitives do not have Mr. ZIP at all, stating only 'Use Correct ZIP Code.'"

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This much delayed edition of the Signal is not the one I originally planned, and, in fact, is almost a complete revision. However, this has given me a good head start on the October-December issue.

There are two articles and another SOS quiz prepared. We will also go back to the usual multiple photo pages, and in response to a number of requests from new members, there will be a listing of member-dealers who can supply SOS and Centenary material.

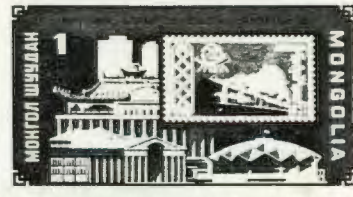
Finally, the state of the Unit's finances does not allow us to duplicate and send copies of the membership lists and the last auction results to all members, but if any member interested in receiving either or both will please write me by October 10, I will include photocopies with the next Signal.



A
B
C



ДЛОН УЛСЫН ШУУДАНГИЙН МАРКИЙН ҮЗЭСГЭЛЭН



BRIEFMARKENAUSSTELLUNGEN

STAMP EXHIBITIONS 1981

國際切手展 · 全國切手展記念

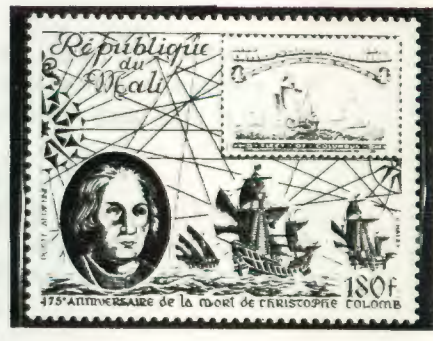


WIEN INTERNATIONALE POSTWERTZEICHEN-AUSSTELLUNG

19 81
22.mci-WIPA 1981-31.mci



D



E



26 février 1981
Record du monde de

F



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