



SOS Signal

BULLETIN OF THE

STAMPS ON STAMPS - CENTENARY UNIT

OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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ALBERT S. CARTER

Soon after the last Signal went to printing, we received word of the death of Albert S. Carter on September 27, 1981. SOSCU has suffered a great loss with his passing. In addition to serving as president from 1965 to 1967, he worked almost from the inception of the unit with Ed Leland in the identification, compilation and double-checking of the handbook and the yearly checklists -- a job that could only be called "a labor of love." He also contributed articles to the Signal and was quick to answer questions in its pages, both from his knowledge and his collections.

A collector for over sixty-five years and a member of numerous philatelic societies, his interests ranged from British Colonies and country collections to a number of topicals. He was also an avid gardener and enjoyed growing orchids. Retired for many years, Mr. Carter had had an outstanding career as a research chemist and department director with the DuPont Corp. He was the recipient of several patents and awards for his work in acetylene and synthetic rubber chemistry.

We offer the very sincere sympathies of the unit to his wife and son.

ED LELAND

Another sign that SOSCU is going through a "changing of the guard" came with a letter from Ed Leland announcing his resignation as vice-president and retirement from membership in the unit effective December 31, 1981. Mr. Leland was one of the original developers of SOSCU, its first president, in 1960-61, its vice-president from 1962-81, editor of the Signal (in its early years before Harold Arnold) -- but first and foremost has been his tremendous effort in developing and producing the original checklist and its yearly supplements. In 1964 at the request of the ATA he undertook to edit the Stamps on Stamps Handbook, which was published in early 1965, bringing international recognition to the unit.

For twenty years Ed Leland produced a New Issue column for the Signal and then researched and identified the reproduced stamps for the yearly checklist. Anyone who has attempted this on his own must know the tremendous amount of work and time this entails. For the most part this effort has been taken for granted by the unit, for Signal after Signal after Signal and year after year the information was there.

However little it was expressed, the appreciation of the unit was there also, and I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" again on behalf of the membership.

To Ed Leland, our very sincere best wishes, good luck and good health.

EDITORIAL

In view of the retirement of Ed Leland and the death of Nick Carter, I would like to assure the membership that the New Issue column and checklist supplements will continue. I have made my own listings for many years in a slightly different format and have cross-checked the information with Ed Leland for the unit supplements.

However, in order to keep up to the standards set, I will require some help. Primarily I need someone to cross-check my listings for errors or omissions. Also, since I do not personally collect the unidentifiable "blob type" material I must rely on whatever I find in the philatelic press. I would like someone who collects this material to confirm or augment this information.

If you would like to volunteer your services, please drop me a line.

SECRETARY
SPEAKS
ELOISE KANE

Thank you one and all for your prompt renewals. When I returned from my "Summer vacation," I had twenty-one renewals in my mail, and I'm still digging out. Please be patient. You'll receive your membership cards as soon as I can manage.

I wish to thank the following members for the Kind Words, as well as your lovely Christmas wishes you sent along with your renewals, to Boris, Lou and myself: J. Hornaday, J. Katz, F. Sagar, H. Wright, J. Smith, B. Pinhas, J. Fina, H. Siever, H. Richardson, T. Uyeda, and W. Ferguson.

Also my thanks for interesting and unusual covers to: T. Uyeda, B. Kliks, J. Smith, J. Kohlstrung, J. Graham, J. Remakel, H. Herrmann, F. Panofsky, J. Katz and F. Balassa.

Please forgive if I have missed anyone. It was not intentional, I assure you.

I have had several requests for the 1981 Membership List. I will gladly send one to anyone expressing a desire for same, along with an Addenda to date.

Please, any of you who have "forgotten" to send in your 1982 dues, do so NOW! This is the last Signal you will receive if you do not renew.

Almost forgot: Thank you for mint postage: H. Richardson and John Graham.
New Members: Hilliard Hotteway, 134 Cromwell, San Antonio, Texas 78228
Ian Sutherland, 228 43rd Ave., St. Petersburg, Florida 33706
(reinstated)

UNIT AUCTION
NEWS

Auction Manager Boris Politziner advised the results of the last auction: "The auction realized just over \$2,000.00 (earning the unit 10%). Our costs were about \$230.00 all told (printing and postage), but donation sales and donations from three members brought us to the break-even point. This sale had forty-seven bidders."

Included with this Signal is our first auction for 1982. The closing date is extended to give our overseas members time to get in their bids.

As can be readily noted from the above, the unit auctions do not earn it any money but are run as a service to the members. Many fine items are offered for both novice and long-time SOS collectors. Please participate.

CORRECTIONS

A few "gremlins" got into the last Signal. Please note the following corrections:

INCOMING SIGNALS P. 3 -- should read: There are only 39,500 numbered sheets."

NEW ISSUE NOTEBOOK Japan, P. 7 -- First paragraph should read: "shojo chinsen kitte"; third paragraph should read: "who produced the new Meiji paper currency in 1869."

SIGNAL LIGHTS P. 10 -- should read: "for the U.S. 1972 Stamp Collecting issue (Sc #1474)."

JACKSON'S
JOTTINGS
DAVE JACKSON

The Nauru Rowland Hill s/s has been found completely imperf. Only twelve copies are believed to exist and the price at the moment is £550. Imperf pairs of the set now sell for around £1500.

In a Stanley Gibbons auction, the Belgium 1949 Stamp Centenary imperf overprinted SPECIMEN realized £44 and the New Caledonia 1960 Stamp Centenary in mint imperf marginals proofs made £15.

The Gibraltar Amphilex '77 12p value with upright watermark was offered recently at £10 unhinged mint and described as "scarce."

The "Stamps to Look For" column in the November Stamp Magazine says that the Nepal Stamp Centenary set and s/s are well worth buying.

"Marketman" in November Stamps says that the Pitcairn Island additional definitives (including "obsolete stamps being burned") cost is small but you would be surprised how over a number of years such late additions to a set tend to become scarce.

"Philatelia" in the December Philatelic Magazine gives his "Pick of the New Issues" as the Japan 1981 Philatokyo set and its non-postal souvenir sheet.

At the Balkanfila VIII exhibition held during August a special blue folder containing the Turkey Atatürk s/s and a large sheet containing four sets of the lower values plus FDC's of the set and s/s were on sale at 1850L. In view of this rather high price sales were rather slow and it has been suggested that these sheets might become rather scarce.

50,000 pairs of the Turkey maximum cards made from cut outs of the Balkanfila VIII m/s were released at the exhibition.

The Balkanfila VIII m/s is due for withdrawal February 7, 1982 unless exhausted earlier.

According to "Watchman" in Stamp Collecting the Spain 1950 Stamp Centenary set, because of the present recession can now be found at prices that would have seemed impossibly low only a year or two ago and urges readers to take advantage of the situation now.

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 19 November, says that with so much emphasis being laid on the investment potential of unhinged mint pre-1956 West German issues, English collectors tend to forget the high prices asked and paid for these stamps on ordinary commercial envelopes. Quite often the Michel catalog prices such items higher than unhinged mint examples; the 1951 National Philatelic Exhibition set is priced at DM 320 mint but at DM 400 on commercial cover.

NEW ISSUES
ED LELAND
LOU GUADAGNO

GUYANA on 22 July 1981 issued a provisional stamp by overprinting OPS on the 1979 Rowland Hill 50¢ value (Sc #300). (See Photo A.)

MONGOLIA on 5 October 1981 issued seven stamps and a s/s marking the 50th anniversary of the Graf Zeppelin Polar Flight. The stamps are Type A SOS as they reproduce German and Russian airmails issued in 1931 in connection with the flight. The s/s is not SOS. (See Photo B.)

NORTH KOREA on 9 October 1981 issued two sets to note Philatokyo '81. The first set had three Type A SOS, a non-SOS s/s of one value and another s/s which reproduce all four values. The 10ch value reproduces the #1 of Great Britain, Japan and North Korea, the 20ch value several recent North Korean stamps and the 30ch three recent Japanese commemoratives. The second set of two 10ch values reproduces North Korean stamps. Both groups (including s/s) had issues of 16,000 perf and 4,000 imperf sets.

CUBA on 25 October 1981 issued a Type A SOS to note the birth centenary of Pablo Picasso. It reproduces a 1967 Cuban art stamp with his painting "Man With A Pipe" (Michel #1329 - Gibbons #1515). (See Photo C.)

HUNGARY on 25 November 1981 released the Danube Commission Anniversary set mentioned in Incoming Signals, Oct.-Dec. 1981. (See Photo D.)

GRENADA on 10 December 1981 issued a set of four stamps and a s/s to commemorate its 100th anniversary of membership in the U.P.U. Three values and the s/s are Type A SOS as they reproduce Grenadan stamps of 1861, 1961, 1970 and 1974. (See Photo E.)

BRAZIL on 18 December 1981 issued a s/s to note the 50th anniversary of the Brazilian Philatelic Club. It is a Type A SOS as it reproduces Brazil Empire 1-3 on the stamp and sheet margins. (See Photo F.)

ST. LUCIA in late 1981 noted its first anniversary of U.P.U. membership with four stamps as a non-SOS s/s. Three values are Type A SOS as they reproduce St. Lucian stamps of 1860, 1969 and 1979. (See Photo G.)

MONGOLIA in late 1981 issued a miniature sheet of eight values as a continuation of its commemoration of Intercosmos flights. Four stamps picture cosmonauts and four are Type A SOS reproducing 1980-81 Intercosmos stamps from Vietnam, Cuba, Mongolia and Romania. (See Photo H.)

CUBA on 9 October 1981 issued a s/s to honor Philatokyo '81. The stamp is non-SOS -- a reproduction of a Japanese screen print -- however, on the sheet is the exhibition emblem and miniatures of Japan #1-4. (See Photo I.)

The following are unidentifiable Type SOS:

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC on 31 July 1981 issued a 7¢ stamp marking Expuridom '81. It includes a simulated stamp (perforated edge).

MALI on 9 October 1981 issued a 400F stamp for U.P.U. Day. It shows a stamp blob on an envelope.

BELGIUM on 26 October 1981 issued a 6F stamp for Youth Philately. It shows stamp collecting.

UNITED STATES on 5 November 1981 issued the 20¢ John Hanson stamp which has the Mr. Zip stamp blob on envelope tab.

FRANCE on 7 November 1981 issued a stamp for the International Year of the Disabled. It shows a pseudo stamp (cut out).

MARGINALLY SOS? As editor, I felt my article in the Oct.-Dec. Signal would bring wide member input and comment as it was of primary concern since it pertained to whether particular issues should be considered SOS or not. However, to date I have only received a handful of letters with opinion fairly evenly divided.

Those who collect such material feel that the sheet has to be considered as a whole -- you can't buy the margins without the stamp and vice-versa -- and so they are SOS in the way of stamp reproductions on a tab. Those who feel the opposite consider "the stamp the thing" -- if the reproduction is not in the stamp it is not SOS.

Until I get a more definite response, I will follow Dave Jackson's suggestion and describe such items in New Issues, but continue to omit them from the yearly supplement.

INCOMING
SIGNALS

Although an official 1982 stamp program has not been announced by CANADA, informed sources have spread the rumor that there will be an SOS issue to commemorate the CANADA 1982 exhibition to be held in May. The Postmaster General has already advised off-the-record that a s/s was planned for the show.

Member-dealer, Bert Flieschmann advised that the MEXICO 125th anniversary of the first Mexican stamp noted in the last Signal was issued on both watermarked and unwatermarked paper.

According to figures released by their philatelic agency, the HUNGARY 50th anniversary of the Danube Commission had an issue of 341,300 perf and 19,900 imperf stamps and 289,300 perf and 23,900 imperf numbered s/s.

The CUBA 1982 stamp program lists commemoratives for Stamp Day (April 24 - two stamps) and Philex-France '82 (June 7 - one s/s). No subject is listed for the Stamp Day issue but most in the past have had at least one SOS; the exhibition issue is listed as a painting, but will probably have stamp reproductions in the margin as previous such commemoratives.

Recently I made a bet with myself that some country would commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scouts/125th anniversary of Sir Baden-Powell's birth by reproducing the Boer War Mafeking siege stamp of 1900, the first stamp to picture Sir Baden-Powell -- I got my wish answered but from a slightly tainted source. According to a publicity notice in a current German magazine, the South African tribal state of BOPHUTHATSWANA will issue a set of four stamps for the anniversaries on January 29, 1982, the 15¢ value of which will not only reproduce the Baden-Powell stamp but its companion issue picturing Sgt.-Major Goodyear of the Cyclist Cadet Corp. (See Cape of Good Hope Sc #178-9.)

According to a note from member Bill Rau, the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC "belated" Rowland Hill issue is available from its agent in a "package deal" only -- seven values and two s/s perf and imperforate plus a "deluxe imperforate" s/s -- for approximately \$80-85! This is certainly a rude shock and a throwback to the issues of the "BLACK DOT" days, as YEMEN has been philatelically quiet the last few years. Bill advises, and I agree, to let this issue "sit" on the agent's shelf.

NEW ISSUE
NOTEBOOK III

Issue: Jordan: Jordan Postal Museum

First Day: July 1, 1981

Values: Reproduced: Sc #

25 fils--Transjordan (mandate)	174	4	mils Amir Abdullah	March 6, 1934
Jordan (kingdom)	832	10	fils King Hussein	April 8, 1975
40 fils--Transjordan (mandate)	189	5	mils Temple of Artemis	February 1, 1933
Jordan (kingdom)	313	20	fils Dome of the Rock	April 26, 1954
60 fils--Transjordan (kingdom)	222	2	mils Symbols, map	May 25, 1946
Jordan (kingdom)	272	3	fils "Unity" map	April 1, 1952

Designer: Ministry of Communications, Amman

Printer: Harrisons Ltd., England

Method: Lithography

Quantities: 200,000 each value

FDC: Official government issue

The stamps reproduced are representative of those on exhibit in the new postal museum in Amman.

The postal history of Jordan, per se, begins at a relatively recent date, however it is varied and interesting. The country first known as Transjordan and then Jordan, was originally a part of the Ottoman Empire and so Turkish stamps were used. During the first world war, the Arabs, promised autonomy by the Allies, rose up against the Turks. In late 1918, the Amir Faisal proclaimed the Arab Kingdom of Syria which included what is now Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Until the middle of 1920, when the French, enforcing their League of Nations mandate over the area, drove Faisal from the throne, stamps of the Syrian-Arabian Government (like that shown on the Syria Post Day SOS of 1976) were used.

The British, who had been mandated the area south and east of Syria, were more willing to work with their former allies. Faisal was set up as the ruler of Iraq and his brother Abdullah became Amir of the Palestine area east of the Jordan River, although both were considered outsiders by the local Arabs.

Stamps of Palestine, Hejaz and Saudi Arabia overprinted "East of Jordan" or "Arabian Government of the East" were used until 1927 when the first definitive stamps inscribed "Transjordan" were produced.

The 25f stamp reproduces definitive issues depicting the rulers of the country from 1921 to the present.

The design of the first definitive series of 1927-29 was created by Yacoub Sukkar, headmaster of the Arts and Crafts School in Amman. His drawing of the frame and a photo of Amir Abdullah were sent to Perkins, Bacon & Co., Ltd., England, who produced the line engraved stamps.

Egyptian currency was legal tender in Transjordan until April 1, 1928 when Palestine currency was adopted, so the values were expressed only in numerals to allow the transition to take place without requiring



re-printing or over-printing. However, this did not comply with U.P.U. regulations which require the currency on stamps to be defined, so a new series was produced in 1930, with the values expressed in mils and Palestine pounds. The reproduced 4 mils stamp is one value of the second definitives which was released in 1934 when it was decided to reverse the colors of the 3m and 4m as previously issued. With slight changes this design was used until 1948.

The 10 fils Jordan stamp of 1975 is one value of a regular postage and airmail definitive series with a vignette taken from a photo of King Hussein in the uniform of the Arab Legion. They were produced in photogravure by Rosenbaum Brothers, Vienna, Austria. Hussein is the grandson of Abdullah and he became king of Jordan in 1953, succeeding his father, Talal, who had abdicated in 1952.



The 40f value reproduces pictorial definitives depicting historical or religious sites in Jordan.

The 5 mils Transjordan stamp of 1933 is one of a series of pictorials issued to publicize the historical and scenic attractions in the country in order to create tourist interest. The fourteen stamps had vignettes adapted from photographs and frames designed by the previously mentioned Yacoub Sukkar and were engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., London. This particular stamp depicts the remains of the temple of Artemis at Jarash, built in 150 A.D. by the Romans.

The 20 fils Jordan stamp of 1954-60 is one of a series of pictorials showing scenes in the unified country on both sides of the Jordan. Depicted is the Dome of the Rock or the Mosque of Omar in Old Jerusalem -- the holy shrine of the Moslems. The vignette was adapted from a photograph and engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., London.



The 50 fils value reproduces stamps which illustrate attempts at propaganda through the use of maps and symbols.

The 2 mils Transjordan stamp of 1946 was one of a series issued to commemorate the independence of the nation and the establishment of the kingdom with Abdullah ascending to the throne. It took twenty-three years and a second World War for the British to finally end the mandate. Yacoub Sukkar, who was now Postmaster-General, created the design against a background of a map of the mandate area. A dove of peace appears from

the northwest and a torch from the southeast. The torch is a symbol of Arab liberty coming from Hejaz where the Arab independence movement was started by Abdullah's father in 1916; the dove represents the peaceful acceptance of the Arab aims by the British. The Arabic inscription in the center is "1946 May 25 New Constitution." Although the stamp at the bottom reads Transjordan in English, the Arabic inscription at the top reads "Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan." The country's name was not officially changed until 1949. The stamps were lithographed by the Catholic Printing Press in Beirut, Lebanon.

The 3 fils Jordan stamp of 1952 was issued as a belated commemoration of the annexation of the territory on the west bank of the Jordan River on April 24, 1950. This area known as Arab Palestine had been occupied by Jordan during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, and Abdullah considered it a part of his nation as he had never accepted the British plan for the partitioning of Palestine. The Arab world did not approve of the annexation and his negotiations with Israel and he was assassinated by a Palestinian nationalist in July, 1951. However, the annexation was a "fait accompli" supported by Jordan's Arab Legions and the west bank remained Jordanian until the Six Day War of 1967 when it was captured by Israel.

This design was also by Yacoub Sukkar and engraved and printed by De La Rue Ltd., England. In English and Arabic it is inscribed "Commemorating the Unity of Jordan 1st April 1950." The background is a map of the Jordan River area without any exact borders defined. On the western side is a representation of the Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem and on the eastern side a representation of the Khazneh ruins at Petra, Jordan.

All in all, this issue is an excellent first effort at SOS for Jordan.

NEW ISSUE
NOTEBOOK IV

Issue: Thailand: Thaipex '81

First Day: August 4, 1981

Values: Reproduced:

75s--Thailand (Siam) Sc #83 8a King Chulalongkorn September, 1899

75s--Thailand (Siam) Sc #144 28s King Chulalongkorn May 10, 1910

2.75b--Thailand (Siam) Sc.#198 50s King Vajiravudh August 6, 1921

2.75b--Thailand (Siam) Sc #226 3s King Prajadhipok-Chao Phya Chakri
April 1, 1932

Designer: C. Boonyasakdi

Printer: John Waddington, Kirkstall, England

Method: Lithography

Quantities: 75s: 3,000,000 -- 2.75b: 1,000,000

FDC: Official government issue

Thailand has held a national philatelic exhibition every two years since 1971 and has issued stamps to commemorate each show. This set continues the stamp on stamp theme of the issues of 1973 and 1977, which reproduced stamps showing the various kings of the Chakri dynasty.



The 8 atts stamp of 1899 pictures King Chulalongkorn who took the title Rama V. This series of definitives were the first Siamese stamps not produced by the English firms of Waterlow or De La Rue. They were typographed by Giesecke and Devrient in Leipzig, Germany.



The 28 satangs stamp of 1910 is one value of the last series with the portrait of King Chulalongkorn who died on October 23 of that same year. The stamps were engraved and also produced by Giesecke and Devrient. The design was a break from previous stamps as the king's portrait was not predominant. A small portrait of an older Rama V is supported by the winged arms of the half man-half bird Hindu diety, Garuda, whose taloned feet each clutch a stylized serpent.



The 50 satangs stamp of 1921 is one value of the second of only two regular issues showing King Vajiravudh who succeeded his father in 1910, taking the title Rama VI. The king's portrait, in profile, appears in an almost heart-shaped frame which is grasped by an ornate representation of Garuda; its beaked head is above the king's while its wings are spread over and around his portrait. These engraved stamps were produced in England by Waterlow and Sons. King Vajiravudh died suddenly on November 26, 1925 after a reign of fifteen years and was succeeded by his brother Prajadhipok.



The 3 satangs stamp of 1932 is a departure from the other stamps reproduced in this and the previous issues as it is a commemorative rather than a definitive. It is one of several designs and values issued to note three occasions -- the 150th anniversary of the Chakri dynasty, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the capital city of Bangkok and the opening of a new bridge. This design shows the profiles of King Prajadhipok, Rama VII and Chao Phya Chakri, Rama I, however that of Chao Phya is an example of artistic license

as no actual portraits of him exist. He was a general in the war which drove out Burmese invaders in 1769 and later replaced an insane king, establishing the hereditary monarchy which continues today.

If Thailand continued with its formula, we would have had to wait until the 1985 exhibition for another SOS issue -- but there is a stamp centenary coming up in 1983!

SIGNAL LIGHTS

A recently acquired FDC from SURINAME is interesting -- it has "cut outs" of the three SOS of the s/s issued for WIPA '81. The cacheted official cover is large enough to have held the sheet but obviously was intended for only the "cut outs" as blue angles were printed on it as guides for placing the stamps. Does anyone have the full sheet on a FDC? (Photo J)

Another set of covers from ZAIRE for its 20th anniversary of independence are dated December 13, 1980. The overprinted stamps include one value of the Rowland Hill SOS issue. In the last Signal a question was raised that these stamps were not distributed until February, 1981. On the basis of the date used by the catalogs that have listed the issue and the "FDC," this item should be added to the 1980 checklist. (Photo K)

Official FDCs from Kathmandu of the NEPAL stamp centenary issue show the Nepalese to be very frugal people. Only one cacheted cover was used for both the set of three stamps and the s/s. The stamps had to be laid on end to fit. Another unofficial FDC I saw had the s/s laid on end and the stamps upright. The covers are "just right" for mounting everything on an 8½ x 11" page, but I would have preferred two separate FDCs. (Photo L)

The stamp day issue from the GERMAN DEM. REP. mentioned in the last Signal (New Issues) reproduce actual mail written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. The 10 + 5pf semipostal shows a pre-stamp letter postmarked "Bremen 18 - 6" written by Engels in 1840. The 20pf regular postage reproduces a ½ penny imprinted postcard written by Marx while living in London in 1878. (Photo M) It had been previously advised that both stamps were semipostals.

**AN EPIC SOS
TOMIO UYEDA**

INTRODUCTION: In commemoration of the Tokyo International Stamp Exhibition -- Philatokyo '81 -- four 60 Yen stamps were issued on October 9, 1981, printed setenant in a sheet of 20 (5x4) in eight colors (4-color photogravure and 4-color intaglio) by the Japanese Print Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.

This set depicts the first Japanese postage stamps called the Dragon Mon-Unit Stamps -- Scott No. 1-4 Type A1 issued on April 20, 1871 (March 1 by Lunar Calendar), with face-values of 48, 100, 200 and 500 Mon respectively, imperf, unwater-marked, printed from hand-engraved plates of 40 (8x5) on native laid and wove paper without gum, with denomination in black.

DISTINCTIONS OF PLATE I AND II: Please look at the new commemorative stamps using the magnifying glass and Thirkell Position Finder. You will find out that by the following distinctions all the stamps reproduced are from Plate I:

48 Mon

PLATE I



Solid dots in inner border

NOT as

PLATE II



Tiny circles replace dots

100 Mon



Lowest dragon claw at upper right and at lower left point upward

NOT as



Same two claws point downward

200 Mon



Dot in upper left corner

NOT as



No dot

500 Mon



Lower right corner of Greek-type border incomplete

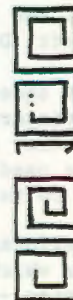
NOT as



Short horizontal line completes corner border pattern

SECRET MARKS COMMON TO BOTH PLATES: You can also find the following secret marks of the engraver common to Plate I and II:

- 48 Mon -- (F1) Last winding stroke in border of left side one square up from the bottom, ends in two dots in each stamp except #3 and #18.
- 100 Mon -- Upper half of center border of left side has two dots, same trick as 48 Mon.
- 200 Mon -- None of special intended secret mark, other than dot in upper left corner.
- 500 Mon -- (CD7) Winding of upper half in rightside corner border has one more wind than ordinary one, forming 5 vertical lines. This is a very clever secret mark.



ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Along with the above secret marks, a more intense inspection will enable you to find out the following characteristic features:

- 48 Mon -- (E5) To the left of belly of dragon at right, a knife slip slant line extends upward with a tiny dot nearby.
 (D3) One large dot can be seen in front of left leg of dragon at left -- just to left side of the first stroke of black character.
 (G7) Outside frame line of lower right corner is extended.
- 100 Mon -- (C3) Diagonal dash starting from the southwest point of character downward to the second leg of left dragon.
 (G2) Diagonal slip of engraving knife joins the square liner in lower border.
- 200 Mon -- (EF1) Dashes which should be inside of chain on left side (No. 2 & 3 from bottom) are missing.
 (G5) Dot outside of frame.
 (G1) Outside frame line of lower left corner is extended.
- 500 Mon -- (G3) The bottom frame line and the line of the Greek-type border decoration (second from left) are both cut.
 (E4) One dot below the tail of the character, which belongs to the black plate. This dot is printed in green on the reproduced stamp, but it should be printed in black.



CONCLUSION: So precisely and faithfully reproduced are the characteristic features of the specific stamps as well as the exact size and colors, that it can be stated that they are the No. 1 stamp of Plate I in the original sheets of 40. These are certainly the finest class A SOS reproductions in SOS history. The many reproductions of the Penny Black cannot equal that of the Japanese Dragon Mon-Unit stamps.

BRAVO! Japanese Print Bureau of the Ministry of Finance!

RHODESIA:
RHOPEX S/S

Member Charles Horne wrote recently with some questions re the 1966 Rhodesian s/s (Sc #240a), asking that they be answered in a future Signal. Since this issue is one of my personal favorites, I'm very happy to comply.

The sheet was issued to note the 28th Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa which met May 2-7, 1966 in Bulawayo, Rhodesia. Initially, they were sold only at the Exhibition Hall Post Office to those who had paid an entry fee to the exhibit. Demand was great as this was the first Rhodesian s/s, and the printing of 25,000 was exhausted by the second day. It is quite likely that the sell-out was caused by the collector's desire to acquire examples of all the perforation varieties that were produced.

The sheets were printed in a pane of 12 -- 4 rows of 3 blocks separated by gutters equal in size to the actual stamps. The pane was then perforated much like a normal sheet of stamps would be, so that the perforations do not continue into the top and left margins. It was then cut apart by guillotining through the centers of the gutters forming the individual s/s of a block with four imprinted margins. This method of production created four distinct perforation varieties -- A: one sheet has an imperf margin at the top and left; B: two sheets are imperf at the top; C: three are imperf at the left; D: six are perf through all 4 margins.

The Exhibition Committee petitioned the Postmaster-General for an additional supply of sheets and he ordered a second printing of 25,000 from the original supplier, Mardon Printers, Ltd. of Salisbury, Rhodesia. These were delivered that same week, however, they could not supply the identical paper to the first printing, so a whiter paper was used. The colors and perforations were the same so the paper color is the only way to tell the two printings apart.

While the information regarding the two types of paper was known, that of the perforations was not widely publicized. New Issue dealers received a "block" of sheets which were usually of one variety only -- most often the more numerous 4 perf margins -- so comparisons were not readily available.

Another factor affecting knowledge of the sheets was the political situation in Rhodesia itself. In November, 1965, it had announced a Unilateral Declaration of Independence, a move not recognized by Great Britain. This led to economic sanctions and an embargo of stamp importations to England and the U.S.

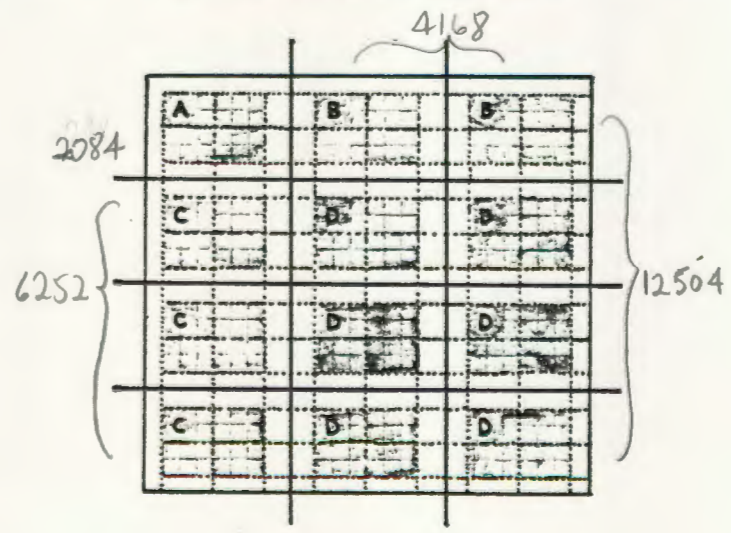
For many years the s/s was available in the U.S. for \$2-3, but gradually increased as dealer stocks dwindled. Then two years ago, the political impasse was eased and the embargo lifted, creating renewed interest and demand in Rhodesian stamps. Prices for the sheet rocketed up to \$80 and then fell back. Recently the sheet was offered in ads in the wide range of from \$20 to \$45. Rarely does an ad mention the perforation variety being supplied.

I became aware of the varieties about ten years ago and haunted shops and shows asking to see their Rhopex s/s. I was able to find all 4 varieties in the white paper but only the most common one in the cream paper. Conversely, I have the rarest and commonmost varieties in cream paper on FDCs.

It stands to reason that the less common varieties should command a premium -- less than 2100 copies were produced of the A type in each paper! So far, this hasn't been the case, so keep your eyes opened -- you know something the seller may not -- and may get a very good item at a bargain price.



THE FOUR PERFORATION VARIETIES



COMPOSITION OF UNCUT PANE OF 12
Heavy Line Denotes Guillotine Separations

STAMP ON STAMP
QUIZ # 13

This quiz was crowded out of the two previous issues of the Signal and almost didn't make this one--as it is, there is no room for the answers so they will appear in the next issue. This will give you the opportunity to try the quiz without giving in to the temptation of looking at the answers. To make it more interesting, I will award a SOS prize to the first member who sends in the correct answers.

1. What SOS was the first to picture a cat--and a "lucky" black cat at that?
2. What SOS reproduces the smallest stamp ever printed?
3. In addition to the recent Mongolia and North Korea issues, what SOS has as its design a polar bear looking at an aircraft?
4. What SOS picture a king, who as a child, figured as a character in a musical and movie based on a biographical book?
5. How close do you look at your collection? Which SOS reproduce a stamp which depicts:
 - a.) Backgrounds of hand-made lace patterns.
 - b.) An elephant hunt by spear throwing natives.
 - c.) A flightless bird.(As a little help here, these three categories all have multiple answers and all pertain to Sir Rowland Hill death centenary issues.)

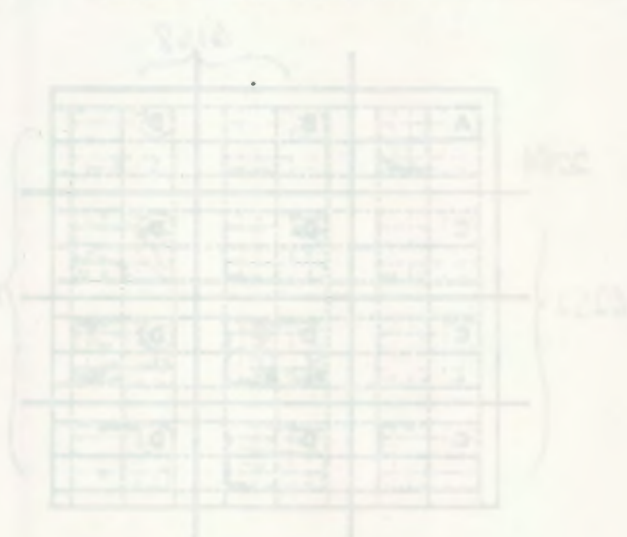
INCOMING
SIGNAL
BULLETIN

That was a very good rumor from CANADA. According to a press release just received, there will be five SOS issued for CANADA 1982. Reproduced will be the 3p Beaver of 1851, the 10¢ "Mountie" of 1935, the 15¢ Champlain's Departure of 1908, the 10¢ Mt. Hurd of 1928 and the 50¢ "Bluenose" of 1929.

The 3p Beaver SOS is slated for March release as a publicity issue; the others will probably be issued at the exhibition (and also on a s/s, ala CAPEX?).

AUCTION
NOTE

The auction list mentioned on page 2 was delayed, and could not be enclosed. It will be sent soon under separate cover.





C



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F

GRENADA

100th
ANNIVERSARY
IN U.P.U.
MEMBERSHIP

U.P.U. HEADQUARTERS BERNE

G



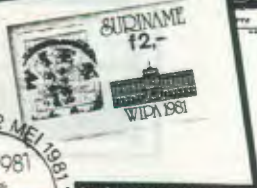
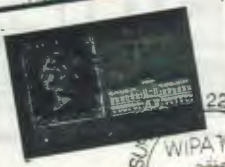
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प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण

शतवार्षिकी
हुलाक टिकट
1981-2000



POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY
1881-1981



L