

# SOS Signal

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



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## NEW MEMBER

Alvan W. Hickerson, Jr., 158 Thierman Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40207.

## OBITUARY

"Return to Sender--Addressee Deceased" marked on the envelope sent back by the Post Office advised us of the death of Joseph N. Fina of Irvington, N.J. Mr. Fina was one of the Unit's original members, and a loyal and generous supporter for over twenty years.

## AN INVITATION

I have been invited by the N.Y. chapter of the ATA to give another talk on stamps on stamps. It is scheduled for 8 P.M., January 21, 1983 at The Collector's Club, 22 West 35 Street, N.Y.C. They have asked me to invite our membership and I hope that many of you in the metropolitan area can attend.

The talk will cover our topic and its various areas of collecting. There will be a 35mm slide presentation as well as a display of mounted material.

The Collector's Club is located in mid-town N.Y., within walking distance of Penn Station, Grand Central Station, the IND, BMT and IRT-Lexington Ave. subways, as well as several city bus routes. It will open at 7:30 P.M. Any members interested in attending can contact me for specific travel directions.

I would like the opportunity of meeting some of our members as well as having an audience with more than passing interest in SOS.

## YEAR END REFLECTIONS

(Secretary Eloise Kane and myself wrote separate and similar comments on the same subjects, so I have combined both for the sake of brevity.)

That time has come again. Enclosed with this issue of the Signal are membership renewal forms for 1983. Dues remain the same as this year.

The postal rates, expected to rise, have remained constant, but the same cannot be said for the printing costs. There has been a 60% increase in costs since January 1981 and that could have been even higher if not for shopping around and changing printers four times.

1982 brought the greatest drop in our membership. Part of the reason could be found in the deaths we have frequently and sadly noted, and also in the world-wide economic conditions, which force a re-evaluation of financial priorities and affect leisure-activity expenditures.

And there are other reasons. Recently, in Linn's, a special edition feature on the ATA listed the twenty most popular topicals and noted SOS as nineteenth on the list, a large drop from previous standings. Another survey in England, by Gibbons, placed SOS out of the top eleven.



Our topic can never hope to attain the tremendous following of those leading the lists but should have held its own or even shown some growth.

Looking back, we may have been hurt by the glut of Rowland Hill and London '80 issues which shocked many of the long-time SOS collectors and scared off some of the fledglings, but on the whole, SOS has remained a reasonably collectable topic. There are no overwhelming numbers of stamps to acquire. We have not been overly abused by the agency-exploiters (whose issues can be ignored anyway) and there are only a small number of really expensive issues (which can be collected around) to contend with.

The stamps we collect--for the most part--have had genuine reason for issue, are interesting and colorful and offer wider opportunities in the areas of identification and postal history research.

In checking the ATA's membership who list SOS as their collection topic, only 1/3 belong to SOSCU; cross-checking the APS topical collector's lists, only about 20% also belong to SOSCU.

Do we offer so little, or are we an unnecessary luxury to all those others? Or don't they know we exist? We have had little or no exposure in Topical Times in recent years--and no publicity in the major stamp magazines and newspapers.

Looking objectively, we seem to be doing the right things--a quarterly bulletin with new issue information, articles, backgrounds and photo studies--auctions which offer a much needed source for reasonably priced material for all phases of the topic and a yearly checklist far more complete than other units supply their members.

But, as written in these pages so many times, we are working in a vacuum. What comments we've received have come from the same few members. What about the rest of you? What are we doing wrong? (Or right? We like praise, too.) Please let us hear from you with comments--pro or con, suggestions and articles.

Hopefully, we have bottomed out and 1983 will be a year of renewed growth for SOSCU. We have been in contact with the editors of Topical Times regarding future inclusion of SOS material, several publications have expressed interest in articles on SOS--if supplied and acceptable, and we are exploring ways to expand our membership including possible affiliation for the American Philatelic Society. (For this reason, we are requesting that those of you who belong to APS, please put your APS membership number on your renewal slip when you send in your dues.)

We would appreciate your sending in your renewal as soon as possible (with comments) We hope to have you all back with us but if you have decided not to continue, would you please let us know and tell us why? Prompt renewal or such notice will save us the costs of follow-up reminder letters.

Also, at the end of the year, we would like to again thank all of you who sent donations of funds, mint stamps and auction material to the Unit. It is greatly appreciated.

AUCTION  
REPORT  
BORIS  
POLITZINER

The auction of September 1982 is just about complete at this time; just a few more payments to come in and a few payments to go out. Generally buyers were more prompt in paying than in the past. We had fewer bidders and that may be due to the economy here. The auction is not run for profit but the last one will return a small surplus to the Unit.

In making payment for purchased material please make your checks payable to the auction manager, Boris Politziner, as the checks go into a personal account. Some checks have been received made out to SOSCU and these had to be returned. Another problem that I just encountered has been the lack of bank encoding numbers on money orders drawn on overseas banks. These are the computer style figures that are printed on checks and money orders. The money orders came recently, drawn on Chase Manhattan. I took them to a local Chase bank, and got the routing numbers, but I could not deposit them in my bank without putting them out for collection. This means that there is a fee charged by my bank and a fee from Chase, and that it will take about a month to collect.

I have a Canadian account so Canadian buyers can pay in their own currency. So far all have allowed for the exchange difference.

There is enough material on hand for the next auction so if anyone sends in material figure that it will be listed in the Spring of 1983. Two auction rules of a unit of the Germany Philatelic Society to which I belong are of interest, namely that each seller



describe and value his lot and that each lot have a value of \$5.00. I think we should try to have a selling value of at least \$1.00 or so on each lot unless it refers to labels or donations. I have tried to check the sellers' material but I missed some defects or points of condition. Remember, any item may be returned within a reasonable time if it is not as described.

Anything that you, the sellers and bidders, can do to make it easier for me is appreciated. Recent donors of material and cash have been Mrs. Kaplan, Mrs. Sagar, Messrs. Gold, Gerth, Velte, Arnold, Rosamond, Harris, and probably some others that I omitted. We all thank you sincerely.

#### NEW ISSUES

The following are Type A SOS:

TOGO on 19 May 1982 issued a 105F airmail stamp to honor the Romolyphil '82 Exhibition, reproducing olympic topical stamps from Italy (35 l. Myron's discobolus--Sc #803--June 25, 1960) and Togo (lF. soccer player--Sc #491--October 1964). (See Photo A)

MALI on 1 June 1962 issued two airmail stamps to honor Philexfrance '82; printed with an inscribed gutter between, the 180F reproduces stamps with the coat of arms of the cities of Bamoko (Mali--1000F official--September 1, 1981) and Paris (France--30c. Sc #1095--January 15, 1965), while the 200F reproduces the 200F Philexafrique II stamp on stamp (Sc #C356--January 29, 1979). (See Photo B)

CUBA on 10 June 1982 issued a 20c. value to commemorate Deporfilex '82; reproduced is the 2c. value--hurdler--of the set issued March 15, 1930 to note the 2nd Central American Athletic Games (Sc #300). (See Photo C)

TOGO on 11 June 1982 issued a 90F airmail to note Philexfrance '82; reproduced are the France lFr ceres of 1849 (Sc #8) and the Togo (Germany colony) 5m Yacht of 1900 (Sc #19). (See Photo D)

SPAIN on 16 July 1982 issued a 14 pta value for Stamp Day and to promote the use of the postal codes. In addition to a map of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, is an addressed letter, stamped with what appears to be the 4 pta value of the King Juan Carlos II definitive series of 1976-81 (Sc #1977). (See Photo E)

KIRIBATI on 12 August 1982 issued four stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scout organization, the 50¢ value of which reproduces the Gilbert Islands 8¢ 50th anniversary of Gilbert scouting commemorative issued December 5, 1977 (Sc #304). (See Photo F)

ANDORRA (French administration) on 23 August 1982 to publicize the first official stamp exhibition in the co-principality, issued a souvenir sheet with a 5F stamp reproducing the 1.25F. value (in changed color) of its first definitive issue of 1932-43 showing the chapel of Meritxell (Sc #52). Only the inscription in the sheet margin makes reference to the exhibition. (See Photo G)

BOLIVIA on 31 August 1982 released a 19Bs stamp to honor the 10th anniversary of the Bolivian Philatelic Federation; reproduced are various Bolivian stamps. (See photo H)

ANDORRA (Spanish administration) on 7 September 1982 issued a 14 pta value to note the above-mentioned exhibition, reproducing the 1 pta value of its first definitive series of 1929-36, showing the governing body, the General Council (Sc #22). (See photo I)

AUSTRALIA on 27 September 1982 issued a 27¢ stamp to publicize National Stamp Week 1982; it reproduces, in changed color, the 5/- value of the Sydney Bridge opening commemoratives issued March 14, 1932 (Sc #132). (See Photo J)

GERMANY on 14 October 1982 issued a 80pf stamp to note Stamp Day 1982; in the design are a group of envelopes with various German stamps of the last 20 years. (See Photo K)

HUNGARY on 17 September 1982 issued a souvenir sheet with a non-SOS 20+10ft semi-postal stamp commemorating the 55th Stamp Day. In the margin is a notation of the 10th anniversary of the European Security and Cooperation Conferences and reproductions of 6 stamps issued to publicize them--USSR 1972 and Hungary 1973-74-75-77-80. As usual, the issue was released perf (285,300) and imperf (19,800). (See Photo L)

The following are Type A SOS postal stationery:

AUSTRALIA on 6 October 1982 issued an imprinted envelope to commemorate ANPEX '82 being held in Brisbane, Queensland, October 11-17. The 27¢ stamp reproduces the Bl Queensland Chalon head of 1883 (Sc #78). (See Photo M)



NORFOLK ISLAND on 12 October 1982 issued an imprinted envelope for ANPEX '82 and to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the island's postal administration. The 27¢ stamp reproduces the 1d island view of the first definitive series issued June 10, 1947 (Sc #2). (See Photo N)

The following are unidentifiable types:

PARAGUAY on 19 October 1981 (6 stamps) and BELIZE on 14 November 1981 (2 s/s) commemorated Philatelia '81 by overprinting previous issues with the exhibition emblem, a stylized "P" enclosed in a perfed outline. (These issues should be added to the 1981 checklist supplement--see checklist update for pertinent data.)

TURKS AND CAICOS on 3 May 1982, in addition to the SOS s/s listed in the last Signal, issued 4 stamps for the Washington-F.D.R. birth anniversaries, the 80¢ value of which shows F.D.R. at work on his stamp album.

ETHIOPIA on 12 July 1982 issued 5 stamps to commemorate the centenary of Koch's discovery of the tuberculosis bacillus; various subjects of the theme are shown in perforated rectangles, resembling anti-TB charity seals.

SAN MARINO on 1 September 1982 issued a 300 1 stamp to publicize the inaugural meeting of the International Association of the Editors of Philatelic Catalogs (ASCAT). In the design, the flags of the various nationalities represented are reproduced as perforated labels grouped around a globe.

HUNGARY on 24 September 1982 issued a 5ft stamp to publicize Agrofila '82, an exhibition of agricultural topics; inside an outline map of Hungary is a simulated perf sheet of tiny pseudo stamps with agricultural subjects. The issue was printed in sheetlets of 3 stamps, perf and imperf. A souvenir sheet without postal validity, showing various Hungarian harvesters stamps was also produced in conjunction with the exhibition.

ISRAEL on 5 October 1982 issued a s/s for the Beer Sheva '82 Exhibition; in the body of the imperf sheet is the exhibition logo which is enclosed in a perfed outline.

SAN MARINO  
POSTAL CARD  
CENTENARY

SAN MARINO on 1 September 1982 issued two postal cards and an aérogramme to commemorate the centenary of the San Marinense postal card.

The original cards were unusual in not having an imprinted stamp; instead, the postal value was spelled out at the top center of the card. At the left was a stamp-like design (without country name or value tablet) of an ornate frame enclosing the "Liberta Turrita"--a head of a woman wearing a crown of three towers, symbolic of San Marino, from the statue by Galletti in the Piazza Della Liberta. (Fig. 1)

The vignette of the imprinted stamps on the commemorative postal stationery is taken from this design. The cachet on all is the San Marino '82 exhibition logo and the inscription, "CENTENARIO INTERI POSTALI;" the postal cards also have a reproduction of an 1882 postmark. (Fig. 2)

On 19 February 1982 a 200 lire stamp was also issued for the centenary, with the same logo and postmark in its design. (Fig. 3)

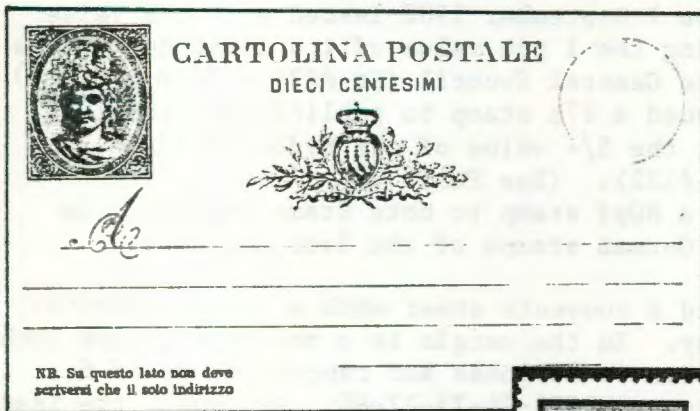


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



CHECKLIST UPDATE

Incredible as it seems, at this late date, I am unable to add any of the missing data to the 1981 checklist! Scott has finally released the new monthly magazine which promised to update their "1983" catalogs but it only contained 1982 issues, so the 1981 unlisted issues remain in an unnumbered limbo. Unless the next few magazines revert to the old Scott's system, I'm afraid we'll have to wait until the "1984" catalogs (if then) for numbers.

Even though noted in Gibbons as a 1981 issue, the COLOMBIA s/s for the centenary of UPU membership may have been released in early 1982, according to a note in Stamps (U.S.) and the Minkus Journal.

There also seems to be some variance in the actual first days of the MALAGASY issues for the UPU membership anniversary and Stamp Day. The UPU issue was noted in different sources as Nov. 19 or Dec. 17 and the Stamp Day issue as Dec. 17 or 27.

If any member has FDCs of these items I would appreciate their advising the cancellation dates.

According to a report in Stamps (U.S.) the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC Rowland Hill souvenir sheets not listed in the checklist may have to be added to the unidentifiable types as they were described as having included in the design, pseudo stamps of views of Sanaa. Again, if any member has acquired this set, I would appreciate receiving photocopies or descriptions so their listing can be completed.

Tomio Uyeda has advised me of several errors and typos in the checklist. Please make the following corrections:

UNIDENTIFIABLE TYPES--HUNGARY--Change Scott #C343 to read C434.

TYPE "A"--BOTSWANA--Change purpose of issue to read 150 birth anniversary of H. von Stephan.

In both listings: Change PDR (No.) KOREA TO DPR (No.) KOREA.

Add to checklist:

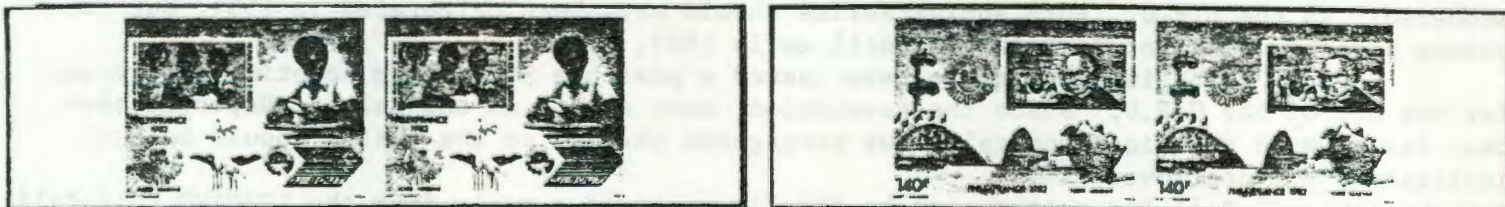
UNIDENTIFIABLE TYPES			
<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>1981 Catalog Numbers</u>	<u>Clarifying Notes</u>
Nov. 14, 1981	BELIZE	s/s Minkus 572-73	overprinted perfed outline
Oct. 19, 1981	PARAGUAY	(Michel) 3443-48	overprinted perfed outline

IDENTIFIABLE TYPES

INDONESIA s/s 1123 Add: Note: Two types--with and without inscription "Indonesian Grusut WIPA"

SIGNAL LIGHTS

The DJIBOUTI and MALI commemoratives for Philexfrance '82 were issued in the familiar pattern of the two different designs which alternate sides in the sheet of 10, separated by an inscribed gutter. Normally, the proofs of such issues are produced in the same format, but imperforate, and the Mali proofs are exactly so. However, the Djibouti proofs were supplied in imperf pairs of each value which means they were produced from special plates and printings. Both issues were printed by Edila so why the Djibouti is different is an intriguing question.





The stamp on stamp design of the KIRIBATI scouting anniversary commemoratives has an interesting background. John Cooter, a well known stamp designer (with several SOS issues to his credit) was commissioned to design the 75th anniversary of scouting issues for both Kiribati and Tuvalu (formerly the Gilbert and Ellice Islands). He prepared a series of designs showing scouting badges and scouting activities in both island groups.

One of the original pencil sketches made for the Tuvalu series was a proposed 50¢ value of a large figure "75" with the scout emblem enclosed in the "5."

The Kiribati Philatelic Bureau had forwarded a suggestion that one of their designs should be a stamp on stamp, reproducing a value of the 1977 commemoratives issued for the golden jubilee of scouting in the Gilbert Islands. Mr. Cooter took the unadopted Tuvalu design, changed the country name, moved the "75" from the right to the left and added the 8¢ scouting stamp.

The original stamp had gold colored frame and lettering which was included in Mr. Cooter's final artwork, but this was changed to white for production purposes when the stamp on stamp was printed by Format International Security Printers. The differences are quite noticeable when the two stamps are mounted together. (See Photo

The TONGA stamps for the tin-can mail anniversary regrettably do not contain any SOS. The background of one s/s is made up of a reproduction of a tin-can mail cover replete with various markings but the self-adhesive stamps are inset over where the postage would appear, so we don't even get a "marginal" issue. It is a very unimaginative and disappointing set of designs.

According to the Michel "Europa West" catalog, there are some very interesting varieties of the AZORES and MADEIRA SOS souvenir sheets issued for their postal anniversaries in 1980.

On the Azores s/s the value of the 19.50E. stamp and the margin inscription, "Acores 1868-1980" can be found in various shades of from light to dark blue, with the lighter shade most common (I checked over the mint sheets I was holding and found three distinct shades).

The Madeira s/s was found to exist with the grey inscriptions and C.T.T. de Portugal emblem both inverted or missing entirely (I didn't find any of these)!

The last Signal had a photo page reprinted with gracious permission from Minkus Publications. For those of you not familiar with the Minkus Stamp & Coin Journal, it is a quarterly publication with many strongly topical articles, an extensive world-wide new issue listing with topical checklists, as well as U.S., U.N. and Canada stamp program lists. I have used and enjoyed this magazine since 1966 and recommend it highly. You can write Minkus Stamp & Coin Journal, 41-45 West 25 Street, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10019 for subscription information.

#### INCOMING SIGNALS

SRI LANKA has scheduled a set of 2 stamps and s/s for 1 December 1982 to commemorate the National Stamp Exhibition; the stamp reproductions trace its postal history with examples from colonial and dominion Ceylon as well as from modern Sri Lanka.

Harold Arnold's correspondent in HAITI still promises the stamp centenary commemoratives are forthcoming--and another issue which will note the centenary of Haiti's membership in the U.P.U. Both anniversaries should have been celebrated in 1981, but the stamps probably will not be released until early 1983.

IRAN is reported to have issued a possible SOS design sometime in October for the Day of the U.P.U. Since the revolution, most stamps of the Islamic Republic have been issued with political and religious propaganda themes, so the design should be both interesting and controversial.

Bill Rau writes that he finally received a reply from the LESOTHO Philatelic Bureau on the reported cancellation of the balance of the gold foil SOS after stamp #18. Calhoun's brochure promoting the 40 stamp series promised delivery of one a month and the 18th stamp would have covered them through September, so a new group would have had to be produced to keep it going. According to the reply, 6 new designs were released on 17 September 1982 and a further 5 designs on 29 September 1982, leaving just another 11 to complete the set. The cost per stamp still remains at R10--approximately \$10. U.S. Bill has also come up with a new title for this Lesotho collection--"Fool's Gold"!

(The 11 stamps will be identified in the NEW ISSUE report in the next Signal.)



BADEN-POWELL  
AND THE MAFEKING  
SIEGE STAMPS



1982 marks the dual anniversaries of the birth of a man and an idea. Lord Baden-Powell was born 125 years ago and the scouting organization he conceived of was founded 75 years ago.

Baden-Powell is also known to stamp collectors because of his relationship with an unusual group of stamps, and both the stamps and boy scouting were by-products of his involvement in a war in South Africa at the turn of the century.

When the Boer War started in October, 1899, Baden-Powell was a colonel in charge of the British army in Bechuanaland. Initially outnumbered, all British forces in South Africa were ordered to contain the Boers at the frontiers by any means, so Baden-Powell, with an army of approximately 1,000 soldiers, constabulary and civilian volunteers had set up his headquarters in Mafeking near the border of the Transvaal Boer Republic. The Boers could not move south without removing the threat of a counter-invasion from Mafeking so within days of the outbreak of the war, the town was besieged.

For 217 days, while the outside world wondered and marvelled, the defenders held off a force that at times numbered up to 8,000 men!

In the area held--about 5 miles around the town--were some 1,000 civilians, mostly women and children and about 7,000 local natives. Repeated attacks were beaten back and both the military and civilians were subjected to prolonged bombardment by the heavy artillery brought in by the Boers, forcing them to live in underground dugouts. As his force was diminished due to death and wounds, Baden-Powell "conscripted" the older civilians as well as boys from the town. He formed a cadet corp of boys from age 9 and up, who were given uniforms and rank, but no arms, to act as look-outs, sentries and messengers, freeing able-bodied soldiers from these duties. The cadets, often under fire, went about their tasks on foot or mounted on donkies. Later bicycles were employed as the donkies were killed or had to be eaten to supplement the dwindling food stores.

As the siege wore on, the continual bombardments, food shortages and almost total disruption of social activities created a morale problem among the civilians and Baden-Powell instituted a local mail service so that the people could at least stay in touch with one another.

It was also decided to allow civilian mail to be carried out through the lines by native runners, who, almost from the start of the siege, had been organized to sneak out at night with dispatches and to return with orders or needed supplies. This was a hazardous job as the runners who were caught were shot or severely beaten, so they were well paid for their work. Part of this expense was raised by the rates charged for outgoing civilian mail--letters to England cost eighter 6d or 1/- per ½ oz. depending on the route taken by the runner.

The military government purchased the stocks of stamps at the Mafeking Post Office, had them surcharged with new values to meet these rates and also overprinted them "Mafeking Besieged" to show the changes were authorized under martial law.

In order to conserve the limited supplies of stamps it was decided to produce new stamps which would be used for the local mail. It is these stamps which are so closely related to Baden-Powell and scouting.

Due to the heavy demands of his command, Baden-Powell, after giving his approval to their issuance and rates (1d for letters delivered in town and 3d for letters delivered to the outskirts and front lines) turned over responsibility for their production to several of his subordinates, chief staff officer, Edward Cecil, and Capt. Herbert Greener.

Although there was a newspaper printing company in the town there was no way of producing stamps from the conventional means of engraved or lithographic plates. They decided to make use of a photographic process that had been used previously and successfully in Mafeking to create 1l "siege notes" to alleviate a paper money shortage.

The process used, although not unique, is certainly one of the most unusual and rare methods ever developed (no pun intended) to produce postage stamps.

This classic method of photographic reproduction, before the development of the familiar film roll, made use of a glass plate to create a negative and chemically sensitized paper for the prints. They enlisted the help of the town photographer, a Mr. D. Taylor who had a supply of glass plates but little paper and no chemicals. From various



sources a variety of paper was collected. The chemical used to treat the paper--ferrocyanide of potassium--was "ordered" and after several mishaps, a quantity was finally smuggled into Mafeking.

The process could only produce "blueprints" so they realized both values would be the same color and so required different designs.

Originally they had planned to use a portrait of Queen Victoria for a design but a photographable picture of her could not be found. It was also argued that it might be demeaning to put her image on a primitive, local stamp. Capt. Greener decided on his own to use a recent photo of Col. Baden-Powell as the subject of the 3d stamp.

The oval photo was mounted on a paper and ribbons were drawn above and below it. The top ribbon was inscribed "MAFEKING-1900-SIEGE" and the bottom ribbon, "POSTAGE THREE PENGE."

For the 1d design it was decided to show one of the cadet bicycle messengers. A twelve-year old, Sergeant-Major Warner Goodyear was posed on a propped-up bicycle during a lull in a bombardment and photographed by Mr. Taylor. Dr. W.A. Hayes painted out the stone holding up the bike as well as the buildings in the background, and also drew an arched frame with a crown at the top and a banner wrapped about it inscribed "V.R.-SIEGE OF MAFEKING." Below the cadet is a rectangle inscribed "LOCAL POST" and below that is a larger rectangle inscribed "ONE PENNY."

Both art works were photographed by Mr. Taylor, printed calling card size and then twelve copies of each were pasted on a cardboard to represent a sheet of stamps. This sheet was photographed and the negative was reduced to make glass plates with postage stamp sized images.

The stamps were "printed" in a variety of shades of blue on blue due to inconsistent exposure time and uneven chemical treatment of the papers. The 3d was produced from plates of different sizes--18½ and 22mm--due to the negatives not being reduced identically. In all, only slightly more than 9,000 of each value were produced. They were gummed and perforated at the newspaper offices.

When Baden-Powell was shown the finished products, he was upset to see himself on the 3d, but allowed them to be released for sale on April 9, 1900. He accepted the explanations given for the Queen's picture not being used and also did not want to waste the time and supplies already spent since the stamps were "only a local matter" anyway.

However, that was not to be the case, as the stamps were added to, and accepted as, postage on mail sent out of Mafeking. The stamps created quite a stir in philatelic circles and Baden-Powell was unfairly likened to Postmaster Connell of New Brunswick who chose himself as a stamp subject in 1860. It was widely rumored that the Queen herself was "not amused" by being replaced on the stamps, but if that was so, she reacted in a strange way, by having Baden-Powell promoted to Major-General after the siege ended.

The Mafeking stamps were fated to have a limited life, as on May 17th, a little over a month after their issue, the siege was lifted and they were no longer needed. Most of the stamps sold did not end up on mail but were kept as souvenirs by both the troops and townspeople. As a matter of fact, the siege money and stamps were possibly profitable as according to the records, only 44 of the 680 £1 siege notes issued were ever redeemed.

The stamps were even popular with the Boers, as mail captured by them and returned after the war ended was found to have had the stamps removed!

Baden-Powell was to look back on the valuable service of the cadets during the siege as the basis of his idea for the boy scout movement which he founded seven years later in 1907.

With the growth in popularity of collecting scouting on stamps, the Mafeking stamps have been looked on as the fore-runners of the topic, with Baden-Powell and Sgt.-Major Goodyear as the "first" scoutmaster and boy scout on stamps. Today the stamps are both scarce and expensive.

Both of the Mafeking local were reproduced on the 15¢ value of the Boy Scouts 75th anniversary commemoratives issued by Bophuthatswana on January 29, 1982. The FDCs are actually postmarked from "Maifikeng." The 3d stamp is also reproduced on a T\$2.50 stamp issued by Tonga on February 22, 1982.



IDENTIFICATIONS

As promised in the last Signal, here are the identifications of the CHINA(TAIWAN) Philately commemoratives--44 stamps in all!

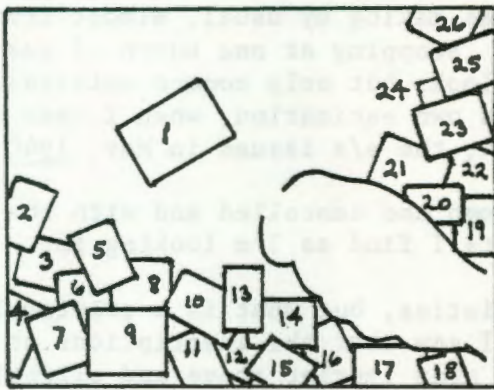


Fig. 1

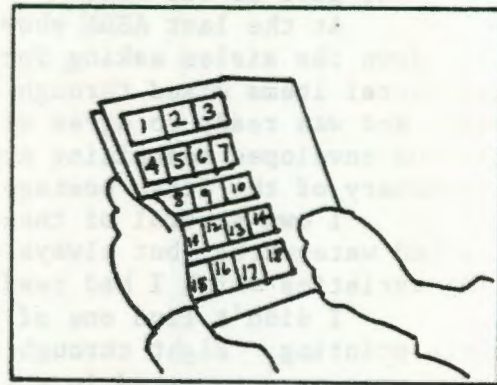


Fig. 2



Fig. 1

#	Scott #	Value	Design	Issued
1.	1927	\$ 2.50	Scroll painting, "New Year Festivals"	February 25, 1975
2.	2214	2.00	Coin bank	October 25, 1980
3.	1592	1.00	Jade belt buckle	January 15, 1969
4.	1917	2.50	Mushrooms	November 15, 1974
5.	1361	.80	Pole vaulting	October 25, 1962
6.	2077	2.00	Man and heart	November 12, 1977
7.	1954	2.00	Gen. Chang Tzu-Chung	September 3, 1975
8.	2044	2.00	Blood donating	May 5, 1977
9.	1859	1.00	Painting, black-tailed Pinto horse	December 21, 1973
10.	2204	2.00	Electric train	October 10, 1980
11.	2037	10.00	Industry, commerce census emblem	March 16, 1977
12.	2005	2.00	Bronze cauldron	August 25, 1976
13.	1420	.80	Flags and unisphere	September 10, 1964
14.	1984	2.00	Mail collecting	March 20, 1976
15.	1968	1.00	Dragon, New Year symbol	December 1, 1975
16.	2081	2.00	First page of Constitution	December 25, 1977
17.	2163	2.00	Pheasant	August 8, 1979
18.	2153	10.00	Plum blossoms	May 20, 1979
19.	2217	1.00	Cock, New Year symbol	December 1, 1980
20.	1977	8.00	Kong-ho harp	February 11, 1976
21.	1228	.40	I.L.O. emblem, Building	June 15, 1959
22.	2041	10.00	Landscape by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek	March 31, 1977
23.	2234	2.00	Child's painting, "Cable Cars"	April 4, 1981
24.	2062	2.00	Lions Int'l emblem	October 8, 1977
25.	2149	2.00	Jade brush holder	April 12, 1979
26.	2114	2.00	Butterfly, flowers	September 20, 1978



Fig. 2

#	Scott #	Value	Design	Issued
1.	1417	\$4.00	Watermelon	July 25, 1964
2.	1418	1.00	Oranges	
3.	1416	2.00	Pineapple	
4.	1474	6.00	Opera facial make-up--Buddha	February 15, 1966
5.	1471	1.00	Lian Po	
6.	1472	3.00	Kuan Yu	
7.	1473	4.00	Chang Fei	
8.	1701	8.00	Shell-Entemnotrochus Rumphii	February 25, 1971
9.	1699	2.50	Harpeola Kurodai	
10.	1698	1.00	Tibia Fusus	
11.	1765	.05	Quotation--Chiang Kai-Shek	October 24, 1972
12.	<del>1772</del>	3.80		May 20, 1973
13.	1769	1.00		May 20, 1972
14.	<del>1792</del>	2.50		October 24, 1972
15.	1871	1.00	Taroko Gorge, Hualien	March 22, 1974
16.	1872	2.50	Luce Chapel, Tunghai Univ.	
17.	1873	5.00	Tzu En Pagoda, Sun Moon Lake	
18.	1874	8.00	Goddess of Mercy statue, Keelung	



HAPPY HUNTING

Ever so often in the philatelic press you read an article on the discovery of a variety that has lain unseen for a long period of time. It always amazed me that no one had taken the closer look before, but recently, in one instance I was glad no one had.

At the last ASDA show in N.Y.C. I was making my usual, almost fruitless trek up and down the aisles asking for SOS material. Stopping at one booth, I was told there was several items mixed through if I cared to look, but only common material. I checked anyway, and was ready to agree with the dealer's own estimation, when I came up to several glassine envelopes containing Argentina Sc #474, the s/s issued in May, 1940 to honor the centenary of the first postage stamp.

I own several of these, mint, specimen and cancelled and with the normal and inverted watermarks, but always check any others I find as I'm looking for several printing varieties which I had read existed.

I didn't find one of the listed varieties, but what is a previously unreported double printing. Right through the glassine, I saw that the inscriptions at the top, center and bottom were repeated in a lighter, almost grey imprint above and slightly to the left of the normal black ones. Somehow, an almost dry black plate had come in contact with the pane of stamps after the paper had shifted slightly. The dealer, who was unaware of the variety, was very surprised that I would need such a common sheet, but was happy to accept my \$6.50 for it!

Anyway, it shows that it not only pays to look but to take the closer look. Happy hunting to you!



EDITOR'S APOLOGY

Due to health and business problems, this edition of the Signal was extensively but unavoidably delayed. The next Signal will be out in mid-February.





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D



B



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PRIMERA EXPOSICIÓN OFICIAL  
DE SEGELLS DEL PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA

IMPRIMERIE des TIMBRES-POSTE. FRANCE



H



I

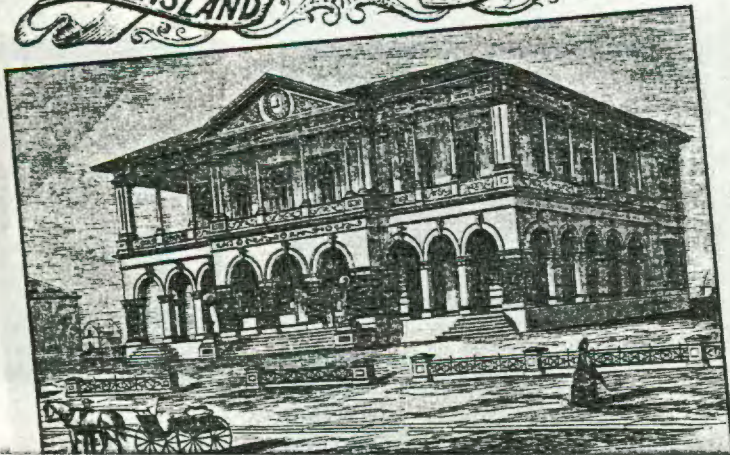
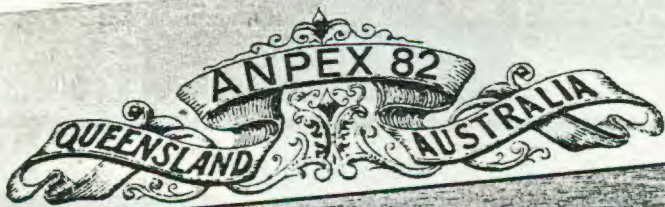




BIZTONSÁGI ÉS EGYÜTTMŰKÖDÉSI KONFERENCIA



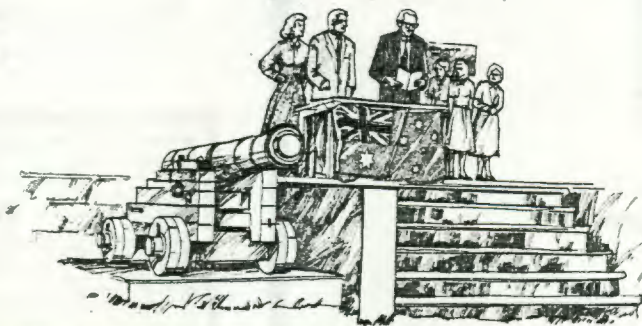
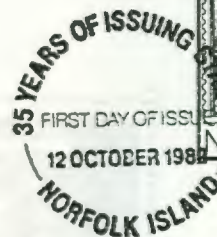
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Celebrating 35 years of postal administration  
by Norfolk Island... 1947 - 1982.

**ANPEX 82** BRISBANE  
11th - 17th October 1982

Brisbane



Alex Wilson, Administrator of Norfolk Island formally announcing the issue of the first Norfolk Island Postage Stamp on 10th June 1947.