



# SOS Signal

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

Volume 24, Issue 2

April-June 1983

## OFFICERS

President: Lester Small, 1584 Elm St., Victoria, B. C., Canada V8P 2G4  
Secretary-Treasurer: Eloise B. Kane, P. O. Box 56, Palm Springs, Ca 92263  
Editor: Lou Guadagno, 1772 East 51 St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234  
Auction Mgr: Boris Politziner, P. O. Box 25, Grand Island, N. Y. 14072  
Foreign Correspondents: D. Jackson - T. Uyeda - H. Siever

## OBITUARY

We offer the deepest sympathies of the Unit to Faith Sagar on the loss of her husband.

We have been advised that C. Philip Carlson, a long-time member, passed away on April 14, 1983.

## BULLETIN

On behalf of the Unit's officers we are very pleased to announce that we have been officially notified by the American Philatelic Society that, as of May 21, 1983, we have been accepted as APS Affiliate # 127. We expect that this will be an important step toward a resurgence in membership and a wider awareness of Stamps on Stamps-Centenary as viable topics. We will have more information in the next Signal.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Once again I have to apologize to the membership for the lateness of the Signal this year. The best of intentions have been victim to reality.

Work pressures and a series of minor but nagging illnesses since the beginning of the year have limited the effective time I could give to the Signal. However, there has been improvement in both areas and things are returning to normal. Portions of the next issue are already completed or in work, and several contributions from the membership are promised. Work is also progressing on the 1982 Checklist, and it should go out with the next Signal.

As I've mentioned many times before, articles, news items, "discoveries", etc., would be gratefully appreciated and make my job as editor a lot easier. Also, if there is a particular issue or area of the topic you are interested in reading about, drop me a line. As a for instance, three queries in recent months about SOS booklets will be answered in a checklist and article in the next Signal, since this indicated that many more members would also be interested in this subject.

I also want to apologize to those members who have written to me and not received a reply. I am very far behind in my personal correspondence too. I enjoy getting mail from you and I promise to answer soon.

I was quite disappointed that no member attended my talk on stamps on stamps for the N. Y. ATA back in January, but I chalked it up to short notice and winter weather rather than indifference. My presentation was well received, but it would have been nice to have someone in the audience with some interest in the topic. My talk revolved around one hundred close-up slides of various types of SOS and a twenty page display of a wide variety of material available to the collector of our topic. Eloise suggested that I write up the presentation into an article, which I am willing to do if the membership would be interested. Please let me know.

Mel Garabrant, of the N. Y. ATA, a multi-award winning topical exhibitor and judge, has asked me to extend an invitation to have members of our Unit participate in the Stamp Festival '83 Exhibition, September 23-25, 1983, at Madison Square Garden. This will be an all topical/thematic competition, with knowledgeable topical judges.

There are three classes of competition: Novice (including exhibits which have never won an award), Open and Championship. A minimum of two frames per exhibitor is required and the fee is a modest \$5.50 per frame. Each frame measures 3 x 4' (divided into two units of 3 x 2') and will hold 16 8½ x 11" pages. Exhibitors are expected to mount their own exhibits, however, special arrangements can be made if you cannot bring or pick up your collection. The exhibitor will receive a complimentary show pass.

Entries close on August 15, 1983, but the exhibit is expected to be a sell out, so it is suggested you submit your entry as soon as possible. For entry form and additional information, please contact: Mel Garabrant, 63 Park Avenue, Verona, N. J., 07044.

If my memory serves me, there has not been a SOS/Centenary exhibitor at a New York shown since the early 1960s, so this would be an excellent opportunity to expose the general collecting public to our topics. I sincerely hope some of you will respond to this call.

#### NEW ISSUES

The following are Type A--Identifiable SOS:

PHILIPPINES on 21 January 1983 belatedly issued two values that were originally scheduled for 28 November 1982, to publicize Philatelic Week '82. Inside a perforated label reading "Presidential Proclamation No. 822--Oct. 15, 1969", is a simplified representation of the U. S. 50¢ orange Thomas Jefferson definitive of 1894-5, overprinted PHILIPPINES for the first stamp of the American administration of the islands, issued on 20 August, 1899 (Sc 212). [See photo A.]

GUYANA on 1 February 1983 once again went to its seemingly unending supply of the 1979 Rowland Hill remainders and issued another provisional, overprinting the 50¢ value, reproducing the Br. Guiana 1¢ Mt. Roraima of 1898 (Sc 152), with the year date, "1983". [See photo B.]

MAURITIUS on 1 February 1983 re-issued two values of the 1978 definitive series; the 1.25r reproduces an envelope containing an invitation to Lady Gomm's ball which is franked with the one penny "Post Office" Mauritius of 1847 (Sc 1). The date imprint, "1983" is at the bottom of the stamp. [See photo C.]

TANZANIA on 3 February 1983 issued four stamps and a s/s to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Posts and Telecommunications Bureau; the 50¢ value of the series and the sheet show a letter stamped with the 1/- Dairy Farming design of the World Food Day issue of 16 October 1982. [See photo D.]

THAILAND on 25 February 1983 issued two stamps to publicize the anniversary of the first year of the use of postal codes; one 1.25b value shows a postal card with a cancelled stamp of the same design. The stamps were also issued in special booklets of four stamps of each design. [See photo E.]

MEXICO on 13 March 1983 issued a single value to publicize Herfilex '83, the first exhibition of postal material of the Mexican revolution of 1913-17, and also to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of the Independent State of Sonora; reproduced is the 5c. Sonora provisional issue of May 1913 (Sc 321). [See photo F.]

GREECE on 14 March 1983 issued two stamps to publicize the use of postal codes; the 15d value, in addition to a map of Greece showing the postal zones, reproduces a properly coded letter stamped with the 9d value of the Greek Resistance: 1941-1944 series (Sc 1439). [See photo G.]

FALKLAND ISLANDS on 14 March 1983 issued four values to commemorate Commonwealth Day; reproduced are three values of the Centenary of the Colony issue of 1933 (Sc 65, 69, 75) and the £2 value of the 150th Anniversary of British Rule issue of 1983 (Sc 370). [See photo H.]

DENMARK on 24 March 1983 issued a 2.50dkr value to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first steel engraved stamps issue; partially reproduced (in reverse to represent the engraving plate) is the 1 ø value of the definitive series of 1933 (Sc 220). [See photo I.]

ST. LUCIA on 1 April 1983 issued four stamps to commemorate the dual 150th anniversaries of the Crown Agents and the island's association with that agency; the \$2.00 value reproduces the undenominated 4p blue of 1860 (Sc 2). [See photo J.]

JERSEY on 19 April 1983 issued four se-tenant stamps for its yearly Europa commemoration; the theme of "Government and Law" was illustrated on two values with reproductions of definitives issued in 1969-70--the 11p reproduces the 5/- Legislative Chamber (Sc 19) and the 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, the 10/- Royal Courtroom color error (Sc 20a). [See photo K.]

SWEDEN on 25 May 1983 issued a miniature sheet of four stamps in a booklet pane to publicize Stockholmia 86, the next international exhibition to be held in that country; reproduced are two essays of 1884 and issues of 1885 (Sc 39) and 1891 (Sc 56). [See New Issue Notebook and photo L.]

DPR(NO.)KOREA on 27 December 1982 issued four stamps and a s/s to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the First Manned Balloon Flight; the sheet is a marginal SOS as its background is a "balon monte" cover with a 20c. blue Emperor Napoleon III stamp of France (Sc 33) mailed from besieged Paris during the Franco-Prussian War.

PARAGUAY on 21 January 1983 issued a s/s to honor both zepellins and the Soccer World Cup Games held in Spain last year. It is a marginal SOS as the background is a zepellin flight postcard with two Spanish issues--a 2pta zepellin obligatory tax stamp of 1938 and the 33pta value of the Espana 82 commemoratives issued on 23 June 1982.

The following are Unidentifiable Types:

EGYPT on 2 January 1983 issued a 3p value to publicize the introduction of postal codes; the design shows stamp blobs on envelopes.

MEXICO in January 1983 issued a 16p value to note World Communications Year; among the symbols of communication is an envelope with a stamp blob.

INDIA on 30 January 1983 issued a single value to commemorate the birth centenary of F. D. Roosevelt; he is shown working on his famous stamp collection.

PITCAIRN ISLAND on 7 February 1983 issued four stamps in commemoration of Commonwealth Day; one value shows covers with stamp blobs being cancelled by an island postal worker.

FINLAND on 9 April 1983 issued two values to note World Communications Year; the 1.70mk design shows a postman with stylized letters with stamp blobs.

AUSTRALIA on 18 May 1983 issued a 27c value to commemorate World Communications Year; part of the design shows a letter with a stamp blob.

LIECHTENSTEIN on June 6 1983 issued four stamps to publicize various events; the design for World Communications Year is of an airletter with a perfed blob enclosing the 50rp value.

CORRECTION: The HONDURAS stamp and s/s listed in the last Unidentifiable Types listing was actually issued on 14 January 1983 and not in October 1982 as stated.

(By the way, can some reader suggest a better term than "blob" to describe these items in the unidentifiable lists?)

#### INCOMING SIGNALS

According to a press release printed only recently, CUBA issued a stamp in January 1983 to commemorate the 130th birth anniversary of the patriot, Jose Marti which was reported to be a SOS altho no identification or photo was supplied. Another stamp in January which may have a SOS theme is the issue for World Communications Year. I hope to have more information in the next Signal.

According to another report, the CUBA commemorative for Brasiliana 83 will be a SOS s/s, reproducing one of the Brazil bull's eye stamps of 1843.

The FRENCH POLYNESIA program for the year includes a stamp and s/s to be issued for both Brasiliana 83 and Bangkok 83; one or both issues could be SOS.

Two possible SOS from SPAIN could be the Stamp Day and Espamer 83 issues, both due in October 1983.

#### JACKSON'S JOTTINGS

Is the FALKLAND ISLANDS Commonwealth Day 50p value issued on 14 March the fastest ever transformation of a stamp to a SOS design? It reproduces the £2 value from the 150th Anniversary of British Rule set issued on 3 January 1983. (See Signal Lights for answer.)

A columnist in Stamp News says that enough Penny Blacks have appeared on stamps for it to be a topic on its own and suggests that plating the reproductions might be a new approach.



A dealer who six months ago was asking £225 for the 1971 GUERNSEY De la Rue 2 1/2p value with a full offset on the reverse, is now asking only £195.

The WEST GERMANY 1982 Stamp Day issue had a printing of 31,750,000.

The MEXICO Herfilex SOS was designed by a philatelist, Carlos Lucero.

The TONGA 1982 Scouting/Lord Baden-Powell Anniversaries issue was reproduced in a black print on a special card which sold in England for £1.50; the illustration is reduced, the black prints were full size.

The original set, not issued but distributed to the press, of the SENEGAL 1982 Philexfrance issue released 30 December had the printer's imprint (Harrisons) in the lower margin.

The New South Wales stamp promotion council has produced a maximum card for the AUSTRALIA World Communications Year issue, priced at \$A 1.80.

The LIECHTENSTEIN anniversaries and events set which includes a WCY stamp will have a maximum card produced for each stamp.

**75th Anniversary of Scouting**  
and  
**125th Anniversary of Birth of Founder. Lord Baden-Powell**

22 FEBRUARY 1982

DESIGNED & PRINTED  
for  
THE KINGDOM OF TONGA  
by  
Waball Security Printers Ltd.,  
Waball, England.

Both the ANDORRA 1982 Stamp Exhibition issues are quoted as "worth buying" in the February Stamp Magazine.

"Marketman" in the February Stamps magazine suggests that readers should pick up the CANADA 1982 Stamp Exhibition stamps and m/s while they are still cheap.

In the March issue, he says that the LESOTHO gold foil SOS have been nothing but a laughing stock til now, but they suddenly acquire interest because on September 20th the Lesotho Post Office suddenly placed on sale the unsold remainders of this speculative issue. He advises you get them postally used--if you can. He says these stamps will really be sought after in years to come, irrespective of whether the major catalogues list them or not, purely for their curiosity value.

"Marketman" in the March Foreign Stamps suggests the SAN MARINO 1982 ASCAT stamp is worth picking up and that collectors of postal stationery should certainly make sure they have the items issued for the 1982 Postal Card Centenary. (See the Oct.-Dec. 1982 Signal.)

"Watchman" in Stamp Collecting, 19 May, says that although Stanley Gibbons slashed many of the LUXEMBOURG prices in the new Benelux catalogue, there are quite a few increases, and among the improving items in his budget buys at under £5; is the 1977 125th Anniversary of stamps m/s catalogued at £3.25--mint or used.

The "Stamps to Look For" column in the June Stamp Magazine says the FAROE ISLANDS 1979 Europa issue is getting hard to find, especially in full sheets, due to demand based on the slightly different appearance of each design within the sheet.

WITHDRAWALS The ANDORRA (French Administration) 1982 Philatelic Exhibition m/s was withdrawn on 15 April 1983.

The NEW CALEDONIA 1981 Stamp Day issue was withdrawn on 30 April 1983.

The AUSTRALIA 1982 National Stamp Week issue and the Anpex pre-stamped envelope (SOS) was withdrawn from sale at the philatelic counters on 30 April 1983.

The BRAZIL 1982 Brasiliana 83 Publicity m/s is scheduled to be withdrawn on 31 December 1983.

Issue: FALKLAND ISLANDS: Commonwealth Day

First Day: March 14, 1983

Value: Reproduced:

5p	Falkland Islands	69	--	3d	Map of Islands	Jan. 2, 1933
17p	"	65	--	½d	Romney Marsh Ram	"
34p	"	75	--	10/-	Colonial Arms	"
50p	"	370	--	£2	Queen Elizabeth II	Jan. 3, 1983

Designer, Printer: House of Questa

Method: Lithography

Sheet : 50: 25 x 2 with gutter

FDC : Official--Cacheted

The first two Falkland Islands issues of 1983 are examples of stamps being used for propaganda purposes in a philatelic "war" that has lasted fifty years. Sadly, the diplomatic impasse behind it, that had existed for over 150 years, turned into a shooting war early in 1982.

For understanding of this long dispute, some historical background is necessary. These islands in the south Atlantic, about 250 miles from the South American coast, and their dependency islands which stretch almost to the Antarctic continent, have been claimed by both Great Britain and Argentina.

The British claim goes back to the discovery of the Falklands in 1592 by an English explorer, John Davis, and the first landing on the islands by another Englishman, Capt. John Savage, who in 1690 named the islands after Lord Falkland of the Royal Navy. The French made the first settlement, called Port Louis, on East Falkland in 1764 and the British made another on West Falkland in 1766. The next year the French sold their settlement to Spain who changed the French name for the islands from Isles Malouines to Islas Malvinas. Spain disputed the British claim and finally forced their settlers out. The first war for these islands was narrowly averted when Spain recognized British sovereignty in a treaty in 1771. Both the British, in 1776 and the Spanish, in 1812, abandoned their settlements, although the British left a permanent marker proclaiming the islands as still their territory.

The mainland colonists in Buenos Aires, after rebelling against Spain and setting up a republic in 1816, claimed the islands as theirs, as the successors to Spain, based on the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas by which Pope Alexander VI divided the "New World"--explored or unknown--between Spain and Portugal. They backed up their claim by settling the islands in 1826 and later in 1829, by establishing a military force under Luis Vernet. The British made a formal protest of the colony but did nothing about it, until Vernet, exercising his authority, siezed several American seal fishing vessels for non-payment of "taxes." A U.S. warship sent to recover the property, bombarded and captured Port Louis, expelling Vernet. The British finally returned in force and for good, on New Year's Day, 1833 and Buenos Aires evacuated their colonists. However, their claim was never renounced and in turn, was inherited by Argentina which grew out of the confederation of the little republics of the La Plata.

The islands were an expensive outpost to maintain by the British, but later proved valuable as a coaling station and naval base during World War I.

In 1932, it was decided to issue the first pictorial commemoratives for the Falklands on the occasion of the centenary of the establishment of the colony. Twelve values of subjects and scenes connected with the islands and dependencies were produced in recess-printing and bi-colors by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd. All but one design was the work of George Roberts of Port Stanley. The stamps were issued on January 2, 1933 and withdrawn on December 31.

Three of these commemoratives, which are considered by many collectors to be one of the most beautiful series of stamps ever issued, are reproduced in the Commonwealth Day set.

The ½d shows a Romney Marsh ram, characteristic of the sheep imported to establish the wool industry, the prime source of income of the islands. Hardy breeds which could survive the Antarctic winds of the winters were developed after many failures, but produce a superior wool.

The 3d reproduced an excellent map of the main islands which collectors could have used in 1982 to follow the action of the Argentine invasion and the British counter-attack.

The 10/- displayed the Arms of the Colony as granted by King George V in 1925. In the right diagonal of the shield is an artist's conception of John Davis' ship, the "Desire"; in the left diagonal is a sea lion, representing the first industries of the islands, sealing and whaling. In a ribbon around the shield is the colonial motto: "Desire the Right." The design was disliked in the colony and a request for new arms was finally made in 1947 and granted in 1948. The new arms appeared on a stamp for the first time in 1952.

The issue of the centenary stamps created a furor in Argentina and touched off the philatelic "war" mentioned above. By an official ordinance it was decreed that these stamps would not be recognized, U.P.U. regulations notwithstanding, and letters with them delivered in Argentina would be considered unstamped and charged double postage due. The Argentine press even demanded that such stamps on mail passing through the country be overprinted "Islas Malvinas, Republica Argentina."

Though the British fired the first "shot," Argentina was to return the "fire" with over a dozen issues during the next fifty years. First in 1936, were two versions of a 1 peso South America Map stamp which showed only Argentina and the islands colored in. The same theme of maps incorporating the islands as Argentine territory was used in the San Juan Earthquake Relief Fund semi-postals of 1944, the Antarctic Mail Anniversary series of 1947-49, the 70¢ 4th Pan-American Cartographers Reunion commemorative of 1948, the 1p Antarctic Claims, regular and official issues of 1951, the 2p Inter-American Economic Conference airmail commemorative of 1957 and the 5p National Census issue of 1960.

The disputed areas were expanded philatelically to include the Falkland dependencies with an issue of 1964 which commemorated the 60th Anniversary of Argentina's Claim to Antarctic Territories. The three values show the Falklands, South Georgia, South Orkney and South Sandwich Islands, replete with Argentine flags and Spanish names. Two values of the Antarctic Research Publicity stamps of 1968 show the Falklands colored in as Argentine territory and a 6p ship and map design of 1976 commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Malvinas Settlement.

The last salvo by Argentina prior to the real thing were two issues of late 1979; the commemoratives for Frontier Resettlement and the Military Geographic Institute Centenary both show the islands included as Argentine territory.

Great Britain had made periodic complaints about various issues while working into to improve social and economic ties between the islands and the mainland. Several times it appeared it was willing to work out an Argentine take-over, but for the stand of the islanders to remain British subjects. The concessions of the British were taken as signs that they wouldn't fight a forcible possession and an invasion was decided on by the Argentine military government.

The initial success of the landings in April, 1982 prompted several more issues--a 1700p definitive, overprinted "Las Islas Malvinas Son Argentinas" was released April 22n and ironically, on June 12, just two days before the British victory, Argentina released two 5000p stamps to again commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Malvinas command by Vernet in 1829; in addition to a stamp depicting Vernet is a large stamp with a map of the South Atlantic showing all the islands as Argentinian.

And now it was Britain's turn again. Well before the hostilities, it had been decided to philatelically commemorate the 150th anniversary of British administration of the Falklands, although it would again be considered a politically provocative issue. The designs were carefully chosen to establish sovereignty without offense. The idea of a definitive series was rejected, instead a long term commemorative issue, to be sold in place of the current definitives, would be on sale for one year or until sold out.

Local island artists again created an anniversary series; Ian Stark designed the frames and Duffy Sheridan the vignettes. The portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the £2, highest value of the issue, was taken from a photo study by Peter Grugeon and is in turn reproduced on the high value of the Commonwealth Day commemoratives.

So, surely by design, the two anniversary issues are tied together in the Commonwealth Day set, bringing the philatelic "war" to full circle, connecting the beginning and end.

As a footnote, the Argentine government has formally protested the issuance of the anniversary commemoratives.....to be continued?

NEW ISSUE  
NOTEBOOK

Issue: SWEDEN: Stockholmia 86--Publicity--I

First Day: May 25, 1983

Value: Reproduced:

1 kr	Sweden Essay--10 ø	King Oscar II	1884
2 kr	" 39 --10 ø	"	Jan. 1, 1885
3 kr	" Essay--10 ø	"	1884
4 kr	" 56 -- 5 ø	"	Mar. 25, 1891

Designer: Originals--Max Mirowsky/ Lettering--Sven Hoglind

Engraver: Arne Wallhorn

Printer: PFA, Stamps and Philatelic Service, Kista

Method: Recess Steel Engraving

Sheet: 4: 1-1-1-1 Se-tenent in Booklet Pane

FDC: Official--No cachet

The Stockholmia 86 International Exhibition, to be held 28 August-7 September 1986 will honor the dual anniversaries of the Swedish Post Office (350 years) and the Philatelic Society of Sweden (100 years). The Swedish Post Office has announced there will be a publicity issue each year until 1986; the first being this miniature sheet booklet.

According to the PFA Bulletin 1983:3, this is "the first Swedish stamp-on-a-stamp" depiction; the designs reproduce two imperforate essays printed in 1884 and two stamps as issued in 1885 and 1891.

From Sweden's first issue in 1855 through the end of 1884, all her stamp designs were either of arms and/or numerals. It was decided in 1884 that, with the new lower postal rate (from 12 to 10 ore for internal mail) to go into effect on January 1 of the next year, a change to a design showing King Oscar II would also be made.

The Post Office contacted its primary private stamp printer, the Jacob Bagge Banknote Print Works, which had produced stamps for Sweden since 1872, for design suggestions. One of their engravers, Max Mirowsky, working from a photograph approved by the king, produced a number of designs for the portrait stamp, including all four of the reproduced SOS and also made recommendations regarding the printing method to be used. In all, thirteen essays--seven drawings and six engravings were submitted. The accepted design, the 10 ø rose, issued January 1, 1885 is reproduced on the 2 kr.

The 10 ø stamp was printed, as previous issues by the Bagge works, in letterpress (typography), however, as pointed out by Mirowsky, this method was not conducive to the fine detail needed for portraiture. He had submitted both letterpress and copperplate (recess engraved) essays for comparison; two rejected essays, one of each method, both printed in blue and imperforate are reproduced on the 1 and 3 kr values.

Copperplate printing was a new process in Sweden at that time and although superior in quality it was not adopted until the issue of 1891. The Bagge firm had, in fact, made plates from Mirowsky's engraving and even printed quantities of stamps but these were refused and destroyed by the Post Office because the king objected to his likeness on them.

Early in 1890, another series of thirteen designs were submitted by the Bagge firm, and one of several engraved by Mirowsky was approved by the king. The design was used for the 5 and 20 ø stamps issued on March 25, 1891; the 5 ø green is reproduced on the 4 kr value.

The booklet cover also includes in its design a rejected essay of a 1 krone stamp engraved by Mirowsky in 1891. The double sized stamp resembling a miniature bank note was rejected in favor of a normal size bi-color stamp.

The SOS designs were given to Arne Wallhorn for engraving. Working from the original Mirowsky essays, he very painstakingly created the "new" stamps. Wallhorn was interviewed in the PFA Bulletin about this effort and it is quoted verbatim below:

"Arne, have you ever before been given the task of engraving already issued stamps over again?

--No, never. But it has been fun and stimulating work, even though a lot of it has been copying the work of another engraver.

Have you tried to reproduce the original engraving with your own engraving method, or with the technique Mirowsky used?

--I have adjusted myself a great deal to Mirowsky's technique. It was more or less necessary in this case. Max Mirowsky's ideas on how to put down the lines also correspond well with my own."

To actually see what varieties of technique Wallhorn had to re-create, just compare the heads and backgrounds on the 1 and 4 kr reproductions-- in the "letterpress" stamp they are produced with a relatively small number of heavy lines and virtually no detail work, the flow of the beard and hair is very unnatural in appearance; in the "copperplate" stamp, they are made up of hundreds of depth-creating fine lines and cross hatchings, so the beard and hair have a natural, soft look. Then, compare the frames on the 2 and 4 kr reproductions--these are very similar in design, with posthorns in angles at the top corners and the numeral and ribbons at the base. But again, in "letterpress" there is an overall heavy flatness, while in "copperplate", the very fine line work produces a layered appearance, the horns and numeral stand out in relief and the ribbons seem to curl back upon themselves.

Certainly, no other method of stamp production other than engraving--especially not the offset and photogravure so much used today--could duplicate this detail with such faithfulness to the original.

This sheet is much more than "just another stamp on stamp", and we can only hope that the future Stockholmia 86 issues will also be SOS and as beautifully done.

#### SIGNAL LIGHTS

The two values of the PHILIPPINES Philatelic Week 82 issues were not released until 21 January 1983, according to several sources, however, the "fdc" I received has the originally scheduled 28 November 1982 cancel!

Altho the color is changed, the ornate frame quite simplified (50 can be made out in the lower corners) and the overprint smaller and not at the correct angle, the stamps is surely meant to be the 50¢ value of the first issue of the American administration of the Philippines. (See photo A.)

The reprinting of the MAURITIUS 1.25r definitive reminded me that I never reported a designer error which I discovered on the original 1978 printing. The cover included in the design is a reproduction of one in the Royal Collection in the British Museum. It is a first day of use of the one penny "Post Office" Mauritius stamp; it is addressed to "Ed. Duvivier, Esq.", and contained an invitation to a masquerade ball given by Lady Gomm, the governor's wife. The stamp is lightly cancelled MAURITIUS POST OFFICE SE 21 1847, however, the numeral 2 in the date stamp was made in reverse by mistake, and all the covers cancelled on that date read "21". When Harrisons chose the ball, with its philatelic significance as one of the important events in Mauritius history (which was the theme of the 1978 definitives), they turned the numeral around-- "correcting" the error in error! (See photo C.)



If you take a look at the 3¢ value of the 1976 NICARAGUA Rare and Famous Stamps set (Sc 1040), you will find the reproduced "Post Office" Mauritius stamp was "soaked off" another British Museum cover--and a closer look will reveal the reversed numeral in the partial cancel.

In addition to the stamps and booklets, a postal card was also released by THAILAND to publicize the use of the postal codes. I have not seen it and its design was not described, but it might possibly be the card reproduced on the stamp.

The MEXICO Herfilex 83 SOS will probably be one of, if not the, most unusual ever picked for reproduction. After the turn of the century, Mexico had entered into a long period of political instability. A revolution had ousted the dictator, Diaz in 1911, but others brought down the government of the elected president, Francisco Madero, who was murdered in 1913 by Gen. Huerta. He siezed control of the government, but whole sections of the country, especially the northern states, resisted.

In the state of Sonora, the Constitutionlists under the leadership of Carranza, Maytorena, Obregon and Villa, set up their own revolutionary government in March, 1913. Huerta was deposed in 1914, but another series of power struggles and counter-revolutions put the former allies at odds with one another. By 1917 Carranza was able to substantially stabilize the country, and altho banditry and resistance to the central government continued, the revolutionary period is considered ended by that year. Ultimately, in 1920, Carranza was also deposed and killed.



During the 1913-1917 period, the various revolutionary leaders and governments issued their own currency and postage stamps. Most of these were simple provisionals, printed from newspaper type or overprinted on captured government revenue or postage stamps. Stamps of this period offer a tremendous challenge to the specialist collector as many issues had limited printings and usages, and many more exist in as yet uncataloged varieties.

It is these stamps that are the focus of Herfilex 83, which is the first exhibition of revolutionary Mexican stamps.

The commemorative stamp illustrates the 5 centavo value of the state of Sonora issue of May 1913--the first revolutionary stamps to be printed. These stamps were type-set, the borders made up from printer's rule and the lettering and numerals from various and unmatched type face. All values were the same colors--"CORREOS", the value inscription and numeral were in red, the balance in black. They were printed in sheets of ten with two rows of five stamps tete-beche(base to base). The sheets had either a black or colorless roulette for separating. Almost all these issues were given a control mark--either an embossed imprint or an overprinted seal.

The original publicity release for this issue listed an 80c. value, but due to the recent inflationary problems in Mexico, it was changed to 6 pesos.

In answer to Dave Jackson's query as to whether the FALKLAND ISLANDS reproduction of the B2 stamp issued in January 1983 was "the fastest ever transformation of a stamp to a SOS", a quick check thru my chronological lists show it doesn't even come close!

Even if you omit the numerous issues which reproduce themselves, plus Argentina Sc B12(which reproduces CB5--both issued 26 August 1950), Czechoslovakia Sc 988 (which reproduces 989--both issued 11 July 1960) and the French Community 10th Anniversary of the Liberation of France issues of 8 June 1954(which reproduce a modified France Sc 718, issued just three days before), as having been designed to be SOS, there are several issues which include stamps in their design which were released prior to 70 days.

Sharjah on 10 July 1970 honored Philympia in the International Events-1970 series, with two values(Mink 566,570); one of the multiple reproductions is of the 35dh Sheikh Khalid Qasimi airmail(Mink 578) issue of 26 June--just 14 days before.

Western Samoa on 29 December 1980 commemorated Sydpex 80 with a s/s(Sc 538) which reproduces the 24s value(Sc 536) of the Afiamulu satellite-Earth station issue of 1 September--28 days prior.

Uruguay on 4 April 1975 issued a s/s(ScC403) for Espana 75, one value of which(C403a), reproduces the previous Espana75 issue(C402) of 4 March--31 days before.

USSR on 25 May 1967 publicized the All-Union Philatelic Exhibition with a stamp(Sc 3331) which reproduced a modified Lenin birth anniversary stamp(3321) issued 22 April--33 days before.

Togo on 27 April 1970 issued its 10th Anniversary of Independence commemorative set, the 20fr value(Sc 726) reproduces the 90fr airmail value of the Hairstyles issue(C127) released on 21 February--65 days prior.



A little "spice" was added to the JERSEY Europa 1983 SOS with the decision to reproduce the color error of the 10/- definitive. In 1970, Gt. Britain changed over to a decimal currency with 100p instead of 120d or 20/- to the pound (£). The 10/- stamp of 1969 had a grey margin and a multi-color illustration of the Royal Courtroom. During the phase-out period of the shilling, it was necessary to reprint that value, however, due to a slip-up at the printers, who were running the new decimal stamps at that time, it was printed with the green margin of the 50p which was ultimately to replace the 10/-. Only one sheet of 25 stamps was officially acknowledged as having been printed and it was found in a purchase by a London stamp dealer. The 1983 Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue gives the variety a value of £2500. The sheet was broken up and the stamps sold individually, except for one block which was sold intact.

It is interesting to note the SWEDEN Stockholmia 86 booklet is officially labelled the first Swedish SOS issue. Our Unit checklists give that honor to the previous Stockholmia 74 booklet and miniature sheets (Sc 1044a, 1045-48), but I had been reluctant to include them in my own collection, as they never quite fit into the neat definitions I had set up.

For that matter, they are neither fish (Type A) nor fowl (Type B) as far as the Handbook explanations go. Most Type A SOS have a stamp inside a design and a value in addition to that on the reproduced stamp (my own prime prerequisites); Type B (which I don't collect) are designs based on an earlier issued stamp or inter-woven into a new stamp. The 1974 stamps have their value only in the earlier issue, but these are also not re-worked into any really new design. What they are, are the old stamps, not in the original colors, with a marginal inscription which updates them to 1974.

Actually, the "stamps" are not Sc 200-203 in changed colors, but essays of an unaccepted version of the Stockholm UPU design. If you will compare them with your catalog illustration or the stamps themselves, you will note that the numerals are much larger and thicker than those of the issued design.



As I have a special "thing" for essay stamps on stamps, I have since added these to my collection (with a mental asterisk) until I can make up a definition which will satisfy my misgivings. Anyway, I am glad to find out that the Swedish Post Office also agreed with me.

Several other issues which don't quite fit the usual definitions are the Sudan Stamp Jubilee of 1948 (Sc 95), the Greece Return of the Dodecanese of 1947-50 (Sc 511, 513, 531), the Jamaica World Food Day of 1980 (Sc 508-11) and the Austria Dachauer Centenary of 1980 (Sc 1173). Perhaps we can get a little dialogue going--what are your opinions of these stamps?





Photo Card of Original Artwork Signed by Artist, Chamnane Prisayane

