



Signal

July 2013

Volume 43

Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club

Miniature Messages

Letter from the Editor

The last Signal was sent on 17 October 2010 and during what I am calling the “Signal Blackout”, you may have found yourself wondering about new issues of SOS or missing the interesting topical articles prepared by philatelically knowledgeable members of our group.

While information can be found on the www.stampsonstamps.org website, the publication of the Signal brings a group like ours together in a special way, much the way newspapers and the postal service continue to meet a certain demand in today’s societies. These institutions are changing fast and some say the days of receiving a newspaper at your door or letters in the post are waning. More likely they will adapt to the pressures of the zeitgeist.

You are receiving this copy of the Signal in printed form to remind you of the pleasures of finding a message in your mailbox, the pleasure of noting the address and stamp used to pay for the delivery service, the pleasure of opening the envelope and feeling the paper on which the message is printed. The Signal is the message, but it may not always come to you in printed form. It may come as an electronic file via the Internet to your email, but as the new editor of

this publication, I will advocate to send at least one Signal out a year by post which your membership is necessary to support.

You will also find with this issue a gift which we hope will be a new addition to your collection, a souvenir sheet—240 years of Postal Services in Mauritius 1772 -2012. After all, the reason we joined this group is to share our SOS collecting interests with one another.

In this 2013 summer addition of the Signal, you will find an interesting article by Lou Guadagno on the 1940 Stamp Centenary and another piece on his reflections on the history of the Signal. Lou has written for the Signal for many years, and I hope others of you will be inspired to write similarly fascinating articles to be shared with our members. I have also written an article on the one penny black swan Western Australia stamp and the very interesting stamps it spawned.

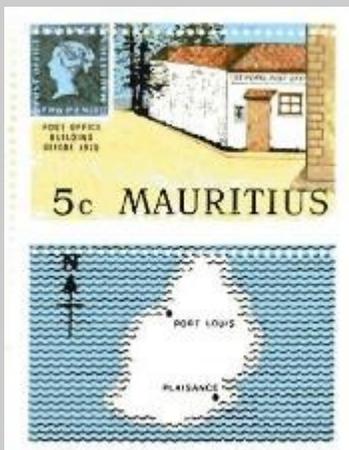
Stamps are miniature messages which convey information: commemorative, biographical, political, historical, geographical, process, and even playful. I know these interests are why many of you collect and I plan to use the Signal to further explore and illuminate how SOS, which encompasses all of these topics and more, communicate to us. I hope you enjoy this revived issue of the SOS Signal.

Sincerely, Rob Marohn

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**IN THE NEXT
ISSUE: A TRIP TO
MAURITIUS**



Revisiting the 1940 Stamp Centenary Stamp on Stamp Issues

By Lou Guadagno

The stamps on stamps issued in the year 1940 are rather lost to most collectors of the topic who keep their collections in alphabetical order, but they have a very important place in the history and development of the topic. Previously, the hand full of issues with stamps on stamps were all single issues by individual countries noting a philatelic anniversary or exhibition, but in 1940 many postal services issued stamps with the common theme of commemorating the centenary of the world's first stamp, and a good number used a stamp on stamp design.

As collectors started to notice these issues in the years that followed, two new collecting fields were slowly being developed—Stamp Centenaries and Stamps on Stamps. Throughout the '40s and '50s, individual collectors, with little or no contact with others with similar interests, were discovering the previous issues and adding the new as they appeared. Our own group only came into being in late 1959, as the ATA was educating and bringing together various topical collectors who would develop their common interest and knowledge into a working organization.



Fig. 1

As I have always kept my collection in chronological order, I find it very easy to see the development of stamps on stamps over the years, and the issues of 1940 were certainly one of the most important factors in that growth.

Most of you will be familiar with the issues, but with these articles I hope to refresh your memories,



Fig. 2

and possibly write about and show some things of which you may not have been aware.

GREAT BRITAIN, May 6, 1940

For many years prior to the onset of the war in 1939, stamp collectors in Great Britain and the world were looking forward to May 6, 1940 to celebrate the centenary of the Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp. An international stamp exhibition was planned to be held, and prominent stamp designers were invited to submit artwork for the stamps to commemorate the anniversary. Dozens of essays were submitted-- one was even a stamp on stamp design (Fig. # 1) which was not well received by the reviewing committee—and finally, three designs were selected for further work. Two of these were very similar in that they showed overlapping

busts of Queen Victoria and King George VI taken from the Penny black and the current definitives (Fig. # 2).

Before the end of 1939, it was apparent the exhibition could not be held, and even work on the

planned stamps was cancelled. However, in early 1940, there was another change in plans, and H. L. Palmer of the Harrison & Sons print firm was asked to revise his submission. After being approved by King George VI and his wife,

Queen Mary, his new design, which separated the overlapped busts, was put into production as a set of six values and colors for release on May 6 1940. To the disappointment of collectors around the world there was no black stamp. It would be another 50 years before the overlapped busts design in black was used for the 1990, 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black commemorative Issue, Sc # MH193 (Fig. # 3).



Fig. 3

The design incorporated the bust of Queen Victoria from the Penny Black of 1840 and the Edmund Dulac bust of King George VI from the 1937-38 definitive issue. The same six values and colors were used for the centenary set, and so it surprised me that most catalog listings, and even our SOSCC checklist, note the Penny Black representation, but not that of the KGVI. In my collection, on the page for Sc # 252-57, I have mounted Sc # 235-40 and a photo of the Penny Black as the reproduced stamps with the notation “design component—bust only”(Fig. # 4).



Fig. 4

A tribute to the high quality stan-



Fig. 5

of the set today. There were 82,896,960 ½p, 232,903,680 1p, 40,412,800 1½p, 121,065,120 2p, 312,957,440 2½p and 22,128,000 3p—yes, those are millions!

In place of the international exhibition, many local stamp shows were held throughout the country, including two larger ones in London and Bournemouth. Probably thousands of collectors sent themselves

their own privately produced first day covers as there is never a shortage of offers of these on line and at stamps shows. Special cacheted envelopes and cancelations were produced

for first day covers for the shows, and many are reasonably priced, but some can be quite expensive with prices close to £ 100. The other very collectible and sought after covers are those that were mailed overseas to all parts of the world and especially those that were subject to war-time censor inspection.

Some cachets were produced with prints of the Penny Black and other stamps (Fig. # 6, next page) which led to some scarce and interesting covers, as postal regulations in force at the time did not permit illustrations of actual stamps on the face of envelopes. Postal clerks



Cyl #: 1, 3, 6

1, 2, 4, 5

2, 3

1, 2, 3

2, 3, 4, 5, 7

Fig. # 5-Additional: There were 7 Cylinders used per the above, and some also exist without the period after the numeral (see 3d stamp for example).

dards of the Harrison and Sons printers, there are no varieties of the centenary issue, and the only other collectibles of interest are the cylinder plate markings in the margins of the sheets (Fig. # 5). What I found in my research that surprised me, was the incredibly high issued quantities which account for the reasonable cost

were instructed to obliterate these with heavy rubber stamps used to deface invalid postage stamps, but at Bournemouth and other cities the covers were allowed to go through as is. I have never seen an offer with examples of the defaced cachets, but have seen photos of the same cachet cover from the London Post Office



Fig. 6

with the obliteration and from Bournemouth without (Fig. # 7). I would love to have such covers in my collection.

Probably the most often seen of the Bournemouth exhibition covers are those with the beautifully hand-written address, produced by Robson Lowe, the famous philatelic author and dealer (Fig. # 8, next page). The most common of the London exhibition have the same cachet in various colors and the stamps are cancelled with a large red hand stamp which included the Red Cross emblem. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the covers went to the Red Cross and St. John Fund charities (Fig. # 9, next page).

Two very interesting covers were produced as mailed souvenirs for the British Pavilion at the World's Fair in NYC. Small pre-addressed envelopes franked with the 2½p centenary value were canceled in London and then forwarded to the Pavilion. Two different date stamps with either an A or B at the bottom were used and both can be found often on the internet for between \$ 5-6.00 (Fig. # 10, next page).

The centenary stamps were also issued on May 6 1940 for use in Morocco: Sc #s 252, 253, 254 and 256 were overprinted MOROCCO

AGENCIES and 5-10-15 and 25 CENTIMOS in Spanish currency as Morocco Agencies Sc # 89-92; Sc # 252-254 were overprinted TANGIER as Tangier International Zone Sc # 518-520. The mint stamps are relatively inexpensive, but first day covers are very scarce and costly when sold by knowledgeable dealers. The only varieties on the issues are found on Morocco Agencies Sc # 90; there are two distinct type-faces: the thin lettering found on

the stamps were mailed both before and during the occupations. On Guernsey, in December, 1940 and early 1941, a shortage of 1p stamps for local mail caused the authorities to permit unneeded 2p centenary stamps to be bisected diagonally and sold as 1p. Many philatelic and ordinary mail covers were produced; in fact, this almost created a shortage of 2p stamps. The first day covers, dated December 27, 1940 are now hard to find, and usu-

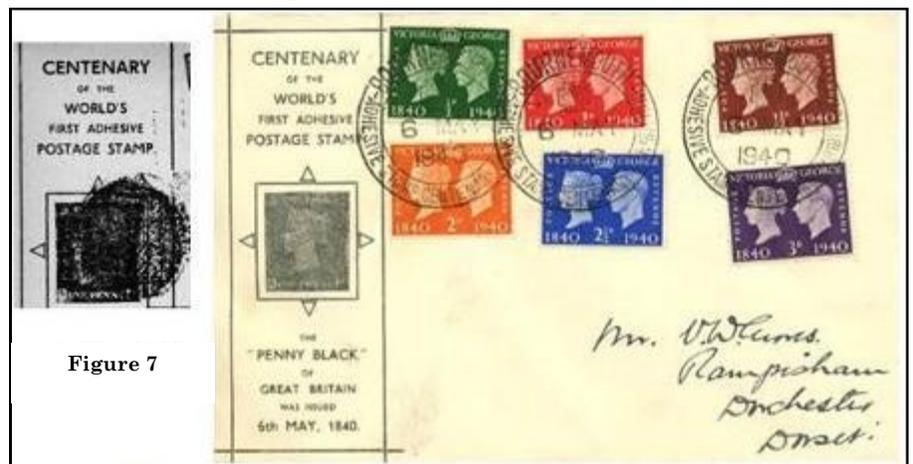


Figure 7

all the values and a thicker, darker looking lettering with a squarer serif at the top of the 1 of the numeral 10 (Fig. # 11, next page).

The centenary stamps were also distributed to the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. Slightly more than a month later, they were invaded and occupied by the Germans. Some now rare covers with

ally command a high price. Of course, to be complete, you would need four covers showing the two halves bisected to the left and right (Fig. # 12, next page). There are usually some covers in the market, but these are usually the philatelic variety with cancels in January and February, 1941. In 1990, as part of the Guernsey postal history theme



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. # 10: Note two types of M fonts for MAY in A date stamps, also different shades in envelopes.

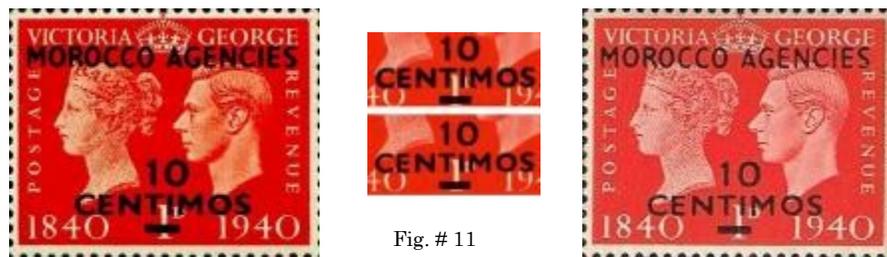


Fig. # 11



Fig. # 12

of the stamps issued for the Postage Stamp Anniversary 1840-1990, the 34p value of the set and s/s, Sc # 428, 440a, reproduce the bisected stamp with the first day cancel.

I have only touched on the scope of the material produced for the Centenary issue from Great Britain, and if you are interested in further study, you will be able to find many in-depth articles and photos on line.

Note: Figs. # 1 and 2 are from the Stamp World London 90 Souvenir Handbook, reproduced by kind permission of the National Postal Museum. Next: MEXICO

Australia's Black Swan

After recently taking a trip “down under,” I reviewed Australia SOS issues and became interested in the recurring image of the black swan which appeared on the first one penny black swan Western Australia stamp Sc # 1 issued in 1854 (Fig. 1) and commemoratives in the decades that followed.

The Black Swan has a strong place in Western Australia's philatelic heritage, is the symbol of the state of Western Australia, and appears on the state flag (Fig. 2).

In 2011, Australia released a stamp as part of a series titled Colonial Heritage, developed to commemorate Australia's philatelic history Sc #s 3560 & 3560b (Figs. 3 & 4 respectively next page). This stamp issue focuses on emerging colonial identity, representing the shift in colonial thinking, reflecting a greater sense of belonging in the “new” homeland and incorporates the black swan as a prominent image.

Breeding mainly in the southeast and southwest regions of Australia, the black swan is a large water bird popular in zoos and bird collections. On my trip, I had an opportunity to see these majestic creatures and the characteristic way they hold their necks arched and curved in an “S” shape, it is relatively one of the longest among the species as depicted on the 1991 water birds issue Sc # 1203 (Fig. 5). After being hunted to extinction in New Zealand, the bird was later reintroduced. Even before the scientific discovery and classification of *Cygnus atratus* by English naturalist John Latham in 1790, the Black Swan was appearing as a



Fig. # 1



Fig. # 2



Fig. # 5



Fig. # 6

By Rob Marohn

creature of fascination in literature and art throughout Europe.

While the British Empire's usual practice was to feature a representation of Queen Victoria on stamps, Western Australia took a different path and displayed an image associated with the colony name, Swan

River. The Postage Stamp Ordinance passed in 1854, pronounced that all stamps must “bear the figure of a swan, on a black or other ground, in addition to any other figure, mark or words (if any) thereon impressed”. In fact, no Western Australia stamp would bear any other image until 1902,

although the swan stamps continued in use until 1913, when Australian stamps superseded the colonial/state issues.

The 4 pence penny blue inverted swan issued in 1855 is the most famous in the series due to the transposed frame. The error was discovered in Ireland 9 years after the stamp's release. Of this philatelic rarity, only fifteen are known to have survived (Figure 6) Sc # 3a.

Although not SOS, in 1929 and in 1979 two stamps were prepared which hark back to the first black swan issue and are notable for their beautiful designs. The 1929 stamp was released to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Western Australia Sc # 103 (Fig. 7, next page) with a majestic engraved design incorporating the swan as the central figure, with Kangaroo Paws (W. A. State Flower) and Eucalyptus flowers and leaves. On the 1979 stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of Western Aus-

tralia the motif appears again, now modern, bringing to mind the original one penny SC # 711 (Fig. 8).

The black swan image has also been used on water marks and revenue stamps, the latter issued from 1881 to 1973 of different types for various taxes (Figs 9-12, next page).

In 1954 a 100 year commemorative of Western Australia Stamp Centenary honoring the first postage stamp was released Sc # 274 (Fig. 13). And later on 17 March 1969, the coat-of-arms for Western Australia was finally adopted via a Royal Warrant of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (Fig. 14, next page). As we've seen before, heraldry and stamp motif have association and the Black Swan's role in the coat-of-arms and culture are clearly linked to the founding of the colonies in the eight-

eenth century. The contrast to the white swan of the northern hemisphere has been drawn to accentuate an 'Australianness' identity, further reinforcing this association of the image with the land and people.

By the 1980s the first black swan stamp had become world famous and is referenced in souvenir sheets for the Australian International Philatelic Exhibition -

AUSIPEX 84, up until then, the largest philatelic exhibition staged in Australia and the country's first world stamp show. The AUSIPEX miniature sheet issued for the event had 7 SOS designs, one for each state, Victoria; New South Wales; Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania);

South Australia; Western Australia; Queensland & the one for the Commonwealth Sc # 926 e (Fig 15, this page & Fig 16, next page) used reproductions of stamps of the time situating the penny black swan in good company. Italy in 1986 Sc # 1652d (Fig. 17) and Uganda in 1990 Sc # 794 (Fig. 18) both issued souvenir sheets recognizing the stamp as well. Also in 1990, Western Australia # 3a error was reproduced on Australia # 1180f (Fig. 19, next page) and as one value on s/s # 1180h (Fig.



Fig. # 3



Fig. # 4



Fig. # 7



Fig. # 8



Fig. # 13



Fig. # 15



Fig. # 17

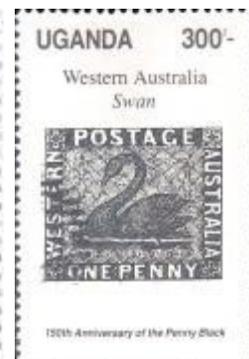


Fig. # 18

20, next page) for the 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black/Colonial Stamps of Australia.

Karl Popper, the famous logician, observed that the singular existential observation of a black swan serves to show that the universal statement 'all swans are white' is false. As I have shown, there is no denying all swans are not white as the black swan endures on the stamps of Australia.



Figure 9

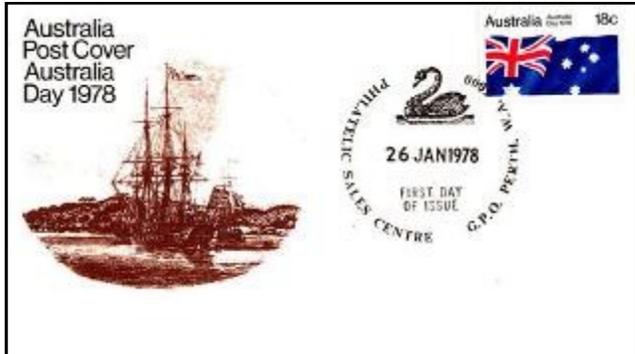


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 19



Figure 14



Figure 16



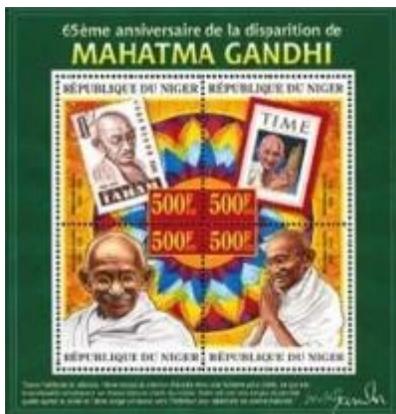
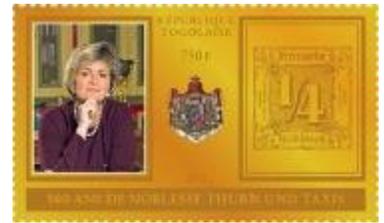
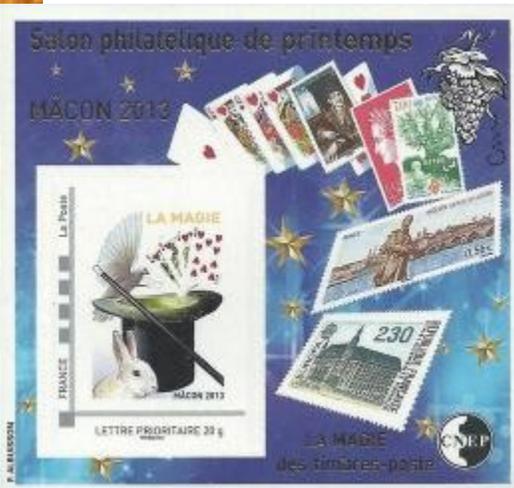
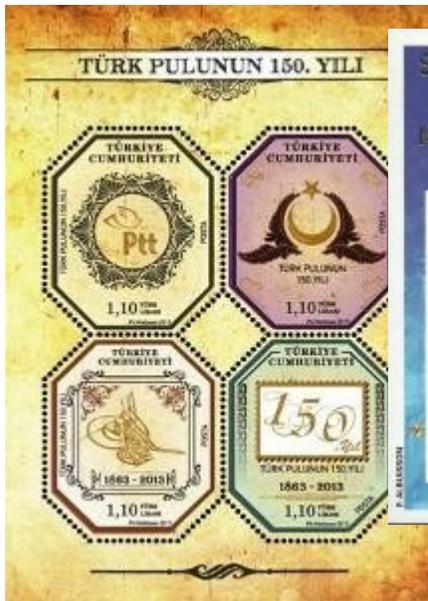
Figure 20

Signal Reflections By Lou Guadagno

On the last page of the Signal is a founding statement that has up until now stated, “the SOSCC was founded in 1954”. The group that formed the original Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club did not start corresponding with each other until late 1959. On October 12, 1959 a bulletin went out to a list of collectors presumably supplied by the ATA, announcing "TO ALL 'STAMP ON STAMP' COLLECTORS-- THERE IS NOW A 'STAMPS ON STAMP' UNIT -- with a total membership of two! A follow up bulletin on October 21 stated that "25 members have enrolled in the first week", and a FEBRUARY 1960 bulletin gave the membership as over 70. Accordingly, the founding statement has been changed to reflect the 1959 date.

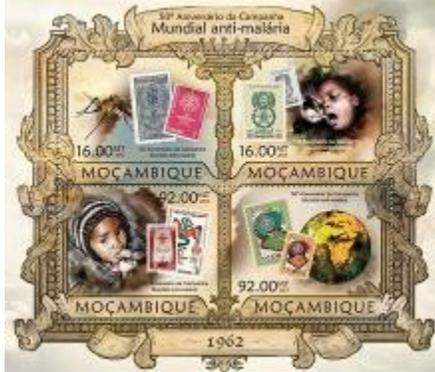
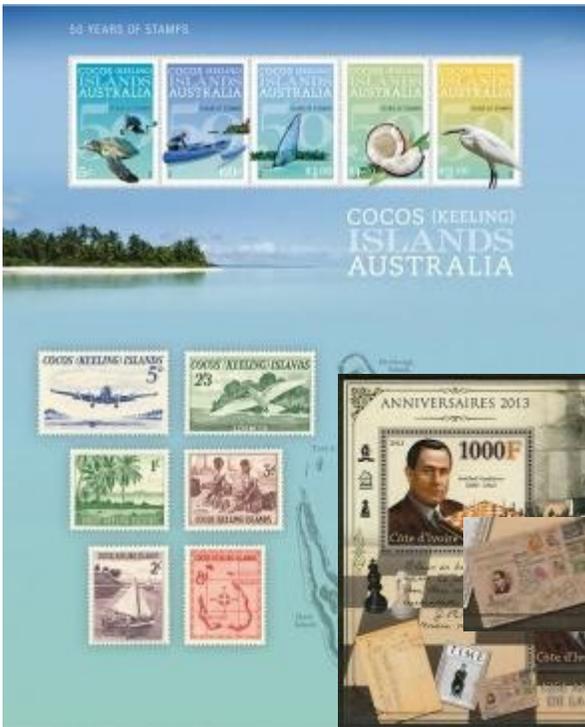
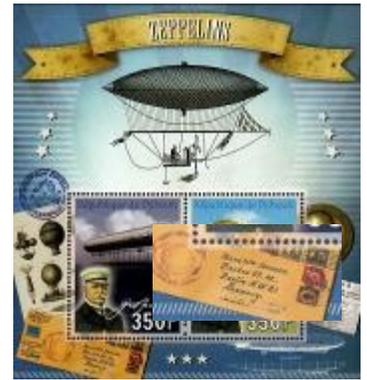
Back in 1959-1960 when the original Stamp on Stamp Centenary Unit was being formed, the original name picked for the unit bulletin was "The Post Horn". According to "The Post Horn" dated May 10, 1960 with the heading: FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STAMPS ON STAMPS UNIT, the Acting Organization Chairman, Lew Gordon noted that that name was already used (and is still used today) by the Scandinavian Collectors Club for their periodical. He noted that they would use up the stationery printed and the small initial membership was already sending in suggestions for a new name. I am missing the September, 1960, "THE UNCHRISTENED", the Nameless (for the present) entitled bulletin noted "before us are 21 suggestions for a name", and I am probably missing an issue, because the next I have, dated January 1961, has the SOS SIGNAL logo without any mention of its adoption! --To Be Continued.

More New Issues By Lou Guadagno



Even More New Issues by Lou Guadagno

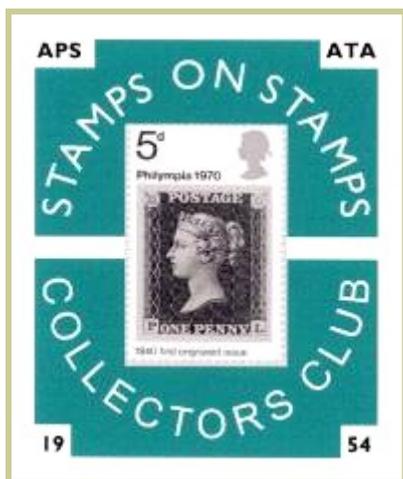
<u>Year</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Dy</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
2013	02	20	Mozambique	2 S/S- 4 v, 1 v	50th Ann'y, Anti-Malaria Campaign	10 Anti-Malaria stamps	TBD
2013	03	27	Djibouti	S/S- 4 v	Zeppelins	7 U.S. stamps — on cover, in margin	TBD
2013	03	29	St.Thomas & Prince	S/S- 4 v-1 sos	60th Ann'y, QE II Coronation	Australia # 259-260	TBD
2013	00	00	Guinea-Bissau	S/S-4 v-1 sos	70th Ann'y Battle of Stalingrad	Russia-USSR # 616, imprinted postal card	TBD
2013	00	00	Central African Rep.	2 S/S- 4 v, 1 v	WWF Stamps on Stamps	9 WWF stamps— on stamps and margins	TBD
2013	00	00	Ivory Coast	S/S- 4 v	125th Ann'y, Birth of Capablanca	Cuba # 463-5,C44-6,E14 — In margin	TBD
2013	00	00	Ivory Coast	S/S- 4 v	125th Ann'y, Birth of Richard Byrd	U.S. # C11— on cover in margin	TBD
2013	06	04	Cocos Islands	S/S- 5 v	50 Years of Stamps	Cocos Is # 1-6— in margin	TBD



Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club

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SOSCC was founded in 1959. It is a non-profit philatelic organization serving a worldwide membership and is open to persons interested in stamp on stamp designs, stamp anniversaries and related topics. Dues are \$15 per year for members residing in North America and \$18 elsewhere.

Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the Club. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please contact the Secretary Treasurer or use our website for more information and to become a member.

President	Gaston Barrette	403-2765 Chemin Sainte-Foy Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4S4 Canada
Vice President	Michael Merritt	73 Mountainside Road Mendham, NJ 07945
Secretary/ Treasurer	Alf Jordan	156 West Elm Street Yarmouth, ME 04096
European Representative	Martin Hirschi	Gerlisbrunnenstr. 31 CH-8121 Benglen Schweiz-Switzerland

Email addresses may be found on the SOSCC website:
www.stampsonstamps.org

SOSCC News

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Gaston Barrette has tendered his resignation and it is now time to call for nominations for ALL officer positions. Please email your nominations or self nominations to Michael Merritt at:

mischu@research.att.com

Voting and notice of winners will go out in an email notification.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Please send your 2014 dues, check made out to "SOSCC", in the amount of \$15.00 to Michael Merritt at the following address:

73 Mountainside Road
Mendham, NJ 07945

OR, you can pay \$16.50 via Paypal to stampsonstamps@yahoo.com. (2013 issues and costs are being covered from previous dues...contact Michael with any questions or concerns about your individual dues status.)

We have increased dues to cover color printing and mailing of at least one Signal a year to your address, additional Signals will be emailed. A preaddressed envelope

is provided for your convenience. Please email Michael Merritt any changes to your email address.

As a service to SOSCC members, in the next issue of the Signal a trial section will be included for "Stamp Wants". Provide the following information to me at stamps@robmarohn.com including: your first and last name, the country and Scott or Stanley Gibbons number of the stamp, other necessary identification details if necessary, and your email address where you can be contacted. Listings will be accepted first-come-first-serve with limited space for listings. So all listings may not be possible.

If you are interested in writing an article for the Signal, please email Rob Marohn and provide the topic. The deadline for next issue submissions will be the 1st of October.

SOSCC was featured in the June, 2013 issue of UK Stamp and Coin. Read more at: http://www.collectors-club-of-great-britain.co.uk/Features/Collecting-stamps-on-stamps/_ft1671

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