



Journal of the American Revenue Association

Vol. 26, No. 6, Whole Number 246

June 1972

SCOTT TO LIST NARCOTIC STAMPS IN 1973 SPECIALIZED-MORE ATTENTION TO BE GIVEN TO REVENUES VIA THE A. R. A.

For the first time since 1928, when they were dropped due to government pressure, the 1973 edition of Scott's U. S. Specialized Catalogue will carry a listing of U. S. Narcotic Tax stamps. The list furnished the publisher upon the request of a recently appointed editorial consultant is as comprehensive and up-to-date as present scholarship will permit. Included are several items never before reported in the philatelic press, and the \$4 green strip stamp which was reported exclusively in the Revenuer a few months ago. According to the consultant, Scott's is embarking upon a five-year plan to upgrade the quality of its fiscal listings, and the listing of Narcotic Tax stamps is to be the first step in this direction.

Although the publisher has been furnished with pricing information, it is anticipated that the 1973 catalog will carry the listings unpriced so that market trends may be observed. This, however, is subject to last-minute mind changing on the part of Scott's editorial staff.

Lou Alfano has been asked to head up a committee of revenue enthusiasts to act in advisory capacity to the publisher regarding the revisions of the revenue section of the Specialized. All A.R.A. members are requested to furnish their thoughts on catalog revision to Lou for forwarding to Scott Publications. Questions which must be answered regarding the revenue listings are:

1) Should the primary thrust be in the area of correction of errors, or should additional listings have priority?

2) Should there be some reductions in pricing of the high value dated Documentaries and Stock Transfers in cut and perfin condition since there seems to be a very limited market for these stamps at "normal" reductions from catalog prices?

3) If additions are to be made, which items should be added first— Beers, Tobaccos, Alcohols, Oleos, Special Tax, or what-have-you?

4) What about U. S. Possessions?

Many A.R.A.'ers have griped about the catalog in the past, now is your hance to be heard, so speak up with positive suggestions.

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ARA CHAPTERS ALIVE AND WELL ON BOTH COASTS

By Lou Alfano

My recent ranting about "ghost" chapters brought some positive results from our west coasters, and I am happy to report the following details.

Chapter #1 (Los Angeles)—Chapter President Ogden Scoville informs us that Chapter #1 meets on the third Sunday of each month at the Philatelic Club, 417 South Alvarado Street, Los Angeles, at about 8 p.m. Meetings are generally informal, with business being kept to a minimum. Among the notables generally present are Bruce Miller, Abe Hochman, and Sherwood Springer. Guests are always welcome.

Chapter #2 (New York)—My guys meet on the first Thursday of each month except July and August at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York City, at 8 p.m. Our meetings are also informal with a minimal amount of business. You're likely to meet Matty Koref, Tony Giacomelli, Brian Bleckwenn, and Domenico Facci if you visit us. Our summer meetings are held at members' homes.

Chapter #3 (Seattle)—Ed Tupper informs us that the Seattle Chapter is alive and well. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Collectors Club of Seattle, Greenlake Blvd. and Maple Leaf Place, Seattle, at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Dave Strock conducts informal meetings, sometimes featuring kilos of revenues. Visitors are welcome.

One question: How come no chapters in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Boston? We seem to have enough members in those general areas, provided they're on speaking terms.

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CIRCUIT NOTES

First, to bring you up to date on the circuit statistics:

As of 1 May:
Salesbooks sold 497
Entered in circuits 275
Never received 222
Books returned to owners 179*
Remaining in circuits 96*
Circuits initiated 185
Circuits completed 145
Still out 40
Sales volume, books retired \$8620.09
* The gap widens.

From the volume of sales shown above, it is predicted that we will achieve the goal of \$10,000 in circuit sales by the end of the year. If the 222 unentered books were to arrive during the summer, we might even achieve over \$15,000. What say, gang?

At this writing, Auction 5 has not appeared, and therefore no report can be offered. The results will therefore appear in the September Revenuer.

During the Revenuer recess of July and August, business will continue as usual in this Department. Circuits and auction activities will remain in operation. It is requested, however, that any of the circuit members planning to be away from home for any prolonged period please advise Sales, so that you may be bypassed on the circuits.

We have received several offers of bulk revenue collections of foreign material (so many stamps by country), and interested members are invited to inquire.

Currently running serially in the Scandinavian Scribe is a listing of the revenues of Iceland. The series is authored by member John B. Norton. Interested members who might wish to subscribe are invited to write:

R. Norby

Box 175, Ben Franklin Station Washington, D. C. 20044

Three installments have appeared thus far, with more planned. Mr. Norby can supply back issues.

Best wishes for a nice summer and we will be back in the fall with further ado. If any of you plan to enter material for another auction, let's tentatively shoot for October, and let's try to get the material in by Labor Day.

In the interim, we will respond to any correspondence in our usual goodnatured, witty and provocative manner.

G. M. Abrams, Sales Mgr.

REVENUERS PILE UP AWARDS!

Manpex is the annual philatelic exhibition of the Manchester (Conn.) Philatelic Society. At the recent Manpex '72 held on April 23rd, there were four revenue exhibits (all on the First Issue) representing 15% of the 101 sixteen-page frames. Believe it or not-every one of the revenue exhibits took an award! A first place award went to an anonymous collector for his exhibit of "U. S. Railroad Revenue Cancellations." A second place award went to Bill Vincent (ARA 1145) for "Civil War Revenues." Third place awards went to Dick Steele (ARA 1179) for "U. S. First Issue Revenues" and to Ed Bushnell (ARA 1398) for "First Issue U. S. Revenue Stamps on Documents." To sum up the exhibition, Manpex was a field day for revenues. Everywhere you looked, there were exhibits of revenues with awards hung on them!

U. S. REVENUE WANT LISTS FILLED

Sideline Material,

Tax Paids and Foreign Revenues

250

JOHN S. BOBO 1668 Sycamore St. Des Plaines, Ill. 60018

WANTED

U. S. Revenue Collections valued at \$500.00 or more. Submit inventory and asking price or ship collection for my firm offer. Will hold intact pending acceptance.

240tf

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ARA	APS	ASDA

California Outdoor Advertising Permits

Bruce Miller, ARA #732

Recent years have seen a growth of interest in the so-called "cinderella" field, including revenues and fiscals of every description, as well as an endless variety of other off-beat material of both official and private origin. Such items as ration stamps, trading stamps, express labels, private die facsimiles, hunting permits and lock seals have been studied, classified and listed. The present article deals with a hitherto unexplored cinderella specialty that of outdoor advertising permits.

In California, outdoor advertising has been controlled at the state level since 1933 under the Outdoor Advertising Act, comprising sections of the state Business and Professions Code. In accordance with the law, a state permit is required for the placement and maintenance of any off-premise outdoor advertising sign within view of a public highway in the unincorporated areas of the state. Effective November 8, 1967, a permit has also been required for any display placed within 660 feet of the right of way of a federallyaided interstate or primary highway within the limits of an incorporated city. Enforcement of the Act is delegated to the Outdoor Advertising Section of the state Division of Highways, under the Department of Public Works, and is wholly financed by fees collected.

As adopted in 1933, the Outdoor Advertising Act provided that: "Permit number plates shall be furnished by the Director (of Public Works). They shall be of metal construction, at least three inches in length and two inches in width and shall bear the permit number of the advertising structure or sign to which they are assigned and the year for which the permit is issued. The color of permit number plates shall be changed from year to year."

Although permits are renewable annually, through 1968 no attempt was made to assign the same permit number to the same sign in successive years. Plates were simply distributed in numerical order as fees were received, much in the manner of auto licenses. In 1969, however, a new system was adopted, with the assignment of a permanent identification number to each display, and plates issued in and from that year are still current. Present plans do not call for their replacement prior to 1974.

The number plates must be plainly affixed to the structure for which it is issued, and its presence evidences both the payment of the yearly fee and the conformity of the sign with all applicable regulations. Failure to display the current permit plate is a violation of the law, and may subject the display owner to citation.

From the philatelic viewpoint, outdoor advertising permit plates are analogous to federal boating and hunting permit stamps, brewer's permits, and state hunting and fishing license stamps, since they signify the payment of εn annual permit fee, rather than a tax. In the physical sense, of course, they are not "stamps" at all, being of metal, but more nearly akin to vehicle license plates. However, their purpose and manner of use would seem to place them clearly in the category of fiscals.

The following list of structure permit plates issued by the state of California is regrettably incomplete. Although plates were issued for the years 1933 through 1940 and 1942 through 1946, the writer has so far been unable to locate any identifiable specimens, and no records appear to remain of their style or colors. Plates of any year are scarce in mint condition. The majority of those issued were affixed to the sign structures as required by law, and such "used" plates almost invariably show the ravages of exposure to sun and weather. Many, if not most, become virtually illegible with the passage of time, and the steel plates used prior to 1948 were additionally subject to rust. Although obsolete plates may be removed from the sign structure

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without penalty, this cannot be done without trespass, since the law does not permit advertising displays on public property. Mint plates may be obtainable from sign companies to which they have been issued, and who for one reason or another have neglected to attach them to the signs.

List of California Outdoor Advertising Structure Permits

Issued under authority of the Outdoor Advertising Act, effective 1933 and as subsequently amended. Practically speaking, "structure" permits are required for all off-premise advertising displays other than advertising busstop benches, small signs painted on or affixed to fences, buildings or natural objects, and temporary political campaign signs. The annual permit fees are as follows:

> **1933-1959_____\$1 1966-1969_____\$**5

1960-1965_____\$2 1970-1972_____\$7

Rectangular plate inscribed: "OUTDOOR ADVERTISING STRUCTURE PERMIT (permit number) CALIFORNIA—(year)"

3/16'' hole punched at each end for attachment to sign. (The color of the lettering is given first, followed by the background color)



Type A—Size 2x3½ inches. Permit number unframed. Steel plate

- 1933-1940 no information available
- A 1941 (\$1) white and blue
- ? 1942-1946 no information available

I may not have the LARGEST STATE REVENUE STAMP COLLECTION For Sale

But I would like to share it with you.

Ask for a price quote on your state.

All states available at time of this ad.

Write:

P. O. Box 4026

Copley, Ohio 44321

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?



Type B-Size 2x3¹/₂ inches. Permit number on white field.

B 1947 (\$1) white and green, black permit number



Type C—Size $2x3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Permit number framed. Aluminum plate

С	1948	(\$1)	black and pale yellow
В	1949	(\$1)	white and scarlet, black permit number
В	1950	(\$1)	black and brown, black permit number
A	1951	(\$1)	black and white
В	1952	(\$1)	white and dark blue, dark blue permit number
В	1953	(\$1)	white and dark brown, black permit number
В	1954	(\$1)	white and navy blue, black permit number
Α	1955	(\$1)	black and white
Α	1956	(\$1)	black and red
В	1957	(\$1)	white and dark blue, dark blue permit number
Α	1958	(\$1)	black and lemon yellow
Α	1959	(\$1)	black and green
В	1960	(\$2)	white and black, black permit number
Α	1961	(\$2)	black and bright yellow
Α	1962	(\$2)	black and light blue
Α	1963	(\$2)	black and white
Α	1964	(\$2)	black and orange
			-

A 1965 (\$2) black and lilac
A 1966 (\$5) black and olive yellow
A 1966a (\$5) black and gray (exposed plates are invariably gray)
A 1967 (\$5) white and red brown



Type D—Size $2x3\frac{3}{2}$ inches. Negative impression without border. Permit number on plain field.

D 1968 (\$5) aluminum and dark violet brown, black permit number
D 1968TCP-1 aluminum and orange brown (no number)
D 1968TCP-2 aluminum and dark green (no number)



Type E-Size 2x3¹/₂ inches. Large permit number

E 1969 (\$5 or \$7) black on aluminum (current—all dated 1969 irrespective of year of issue)

(The state of California also issues "sign" permits, at a fee of 50c. The great majority of these are for bus-stop benches and political campaign signs. Present information does not allow a listing of them. Outdoor advertising permits in the form of metal plates or self-adhesive stickers are or have been issued by other states than California, as well as by counties and cities—e.g., the state of Oregon, Washoe and Clark counties, Nevada, Ventura county, California, the cities of Glendora and San Bernardino, Calif., and doubtless many others.)

June 1972

U. S. Special Tax Stamps: Additional Notes By Ernest C. Wilkens

The publication in the January, 1972 issue of the American Revenuer of the lengthy article on U. S. Special Tax Stamps, prompts the thought that a few additional notes might be of interest to collectors of this field of revenue material.



Illus. 1

Design and Production

Special Tax Stamps share with Customs stamps the distinction of having been printed solely by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing throughout their long history of use. The engraved dies for the vignettes, borders, and corner ornaments used to make up the printing plates of Special Tax Stamps all had seen more or less extensive use on earlier paper money, tax-paid revenue stamps, or other documents printed by the Bureau. To take as an example the design of the stamp for the liquor group (illus.1) we find that the central vignette of Mercury with distilling equipment first appeared on the Wholesale Liquor Dealers (barrel) Stamp of 1868. The vertical borders of the Rectifier and Wholesale Liquor Dealer special tax stamps were used, in a more compact format, on the ten to sixty pound Manufactured Tobacco stamps of 1869, and in a wider spacing on the 100 Cigar stamp of 1866. The lathe-work ornament with numeral "200" on the Rectifier is shown as a whole on the 40 pounds Tobacco stamp of 1871, and, more clearly, on the 40 pounds Tobacco of the 1872 Series. It appears in yet another form on the 25 Cigar stamp, Series of 1872. The bottom border of the Retail Liquor Dealer and Manufacturer of Stills stamps was used on the 25 Imported Cigar stamp of 1873. The lathework counter "50" on the Mfr. of Stills appeared as early as 1865 on the 50cent Fractional Currency Note, Third Issue.

This short listing of previous uses of parts of the designs of the Special Tax Stamps may certainly be extended with many other examples. Yet, it

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gives us a clear picture of the method of operation of the design department of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing during the first decades of its existence. This method of operation may be described as a continued reliance on the anti-counterfeiting-protection of the engraving process (and of the varied special papers) coupled with a desire to keep costs as low as possible through the use of dies already in stock.



Illus. 2

Two exceptions of design in this group only serve to prove the rule. Part of the central vignette used on the special tax stamps in the tobacco group (illus. 2) was created especially for these stamps. In its original form, the vignette, which bore the title "America", has the woman resting her left hand on the fasces, symbolic of authority of government. This vignette was used on the 2 pounds Snuff stamp, Series of 1872, and on passport documents. To adapt it for use on Special Tax Stamps, the entire right side of the vignette was erased and replaced with a variety of tobacco products, equipment, and a small plant. The adaptation is quite pleasing, even if the woman's left hand is awkardly poised over what must be a jar of snuff, and even if the tobacco plant is of unusual shape. The "football" with the "Scotch" label, spotted by Mr. Scoville in his article, is a sheep or pig bladder filled with





Illus. 4

snuff. (Scotch snuff is a heavily "sauced" kind of snuff). Animal bladders, because of their waterproof qualities, had been, and may even be currently, used as containers for snuff and tobacco. The first tobacco packaging laws (Act of Congress, 20 June 1868) permitted snuff to be packaged in bladders not to exceed ten pounds net weight. Thus, if Mr. Scoville had used the slang word for a football, he would have come quite close to the truth. The second exception to the general design formula of the Special Tax Stamps (that is, the stamps are made from recess engraved plates using dies already in stock) is the fact that the stamps for Retail Dealer in Leaf Tobacco, and for a Still, and a Worm were printed by typography. All three share a common border design (illus 3) for the first ten years (1873-83) of their use. We can only speculate that economy of time and of cost were the reasons for the use of this printing process. These three categories were issued in the least quantities of all the Special Tax Stamps.

There is no reason to speculate on the size of printing plate for the mostused Special Tax Stamps-Retail Liquor Dealer and Dealer in Manufactured Tobacco. Not only do we have the evidence of the plate number with two position letters, but a few of the full sheets survive in philatelic hands (illus. 4), and equally important, the Annual Reports of the Bureau give the number of stamps printed on a sheet as two for both these categories. However, what is not clear is whether they were issued to Internal Revenue Collectors in that form. Also unclear is whether the other kinds of engraved or typegraphed special tax stamps were printed in plates of one each or with two different kinds on one plate. The Bureau Annual Reports list one stamp per sheet. Until contradictory evidence comes to light, it would be most logical to use the figure of one stamp on a plate for all but RLD and DMT. While on the subject of plates, it may be said that the initials which appear on some stamps in the upper left margin are those of the plate-makers (see "Information for Collectors" in Scott's Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps).

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Issues of Special Tax Stamps

There was an emphasis in Mr. Scoville's article on the year 1885. The only significance that year has is that it is the last year of which remainders of unused Special Tax Stamps were sold to those enterprising dealer-collectors, Deats and Sterling, in 1\$90, and thus made available to us today (illus. 5). While it is true that without these remainders we would not have examples of the scarcer kinds of Special Tax Stamps in our collections; still, there is an additional pleasure to be gotten from the collecting of used Special Tax Stamps. And these remainders are only avalablie for thirteen of the ninety-nine years during which special tax stamps have been issued-one hundred twenty-three if we include the forerunners, called licenses, issued from 1794 to 1802, from 1814 to 1817, and from 1862 to 1872. Thus, while it is pleasant and useful to have these very abundant supplies of remaindered Special Tax Stamps of the 1873 to 1885 period available for study or collection, it is felt that the present day collector with a liking for this material might find even more interest in a representative assemblage of licenses and Special Tax Stamps from all their periods of use. A brief summary of the issues of special tax stamps is as follows:



1873-1882

The first type of stamp taxed seventeen occupations in the tobacco and liquor group for twelve month periods each beginning May 1st. Two key pieces of distillery equipment were also taxed. In 1879 and in 1880 stamps for a subdivision of an existing occupation were created. (It should be noted that the 1880 stamp for "Dealer in Leaf Tobacco, Less Than 25,000 Pounds," made by overprinting regular "Dealer in Leaf Tobacco" stamps, missed being the first U. S. stamp to be surcharged to change its rate or title by about eighty years. The footnote to Scott Catalogue number RM400 mentions two early changes.)

1883

The Act of Congress of 3 March 1883 cut the excise tax on tobacco products in half. Rates of special tax on occupations in the tobacco group were similarly reduced, usually to an amount divisible by twelve months. The new rates were indicated by handstamping the previously prepared stamps for that year.

1884-1890

Designs of the first type were slightly changed. The Internal Revenue Office considered this type to be a continuation of the 1873-83 stamps and their series-letter designation proceded: K-1882, L-1883, M-1884, and so on. In 1886 three occupations for oleomargarine were added. (See the articles on this group by C. Litchfield in the American Revenuer, Jan. 1967, Dec. 1967, and Oct. 1968).

1891

The last stamps to be issued for a period beginning May 1st bore the series letter "W." The Act of Congress of 1 October 1890 changed the start of the Special-Tax-Year from May 1st to July 1st to coincide with the Government's fiscal year. The Series W stamps were issued to those businesses that began operations in May and June, 1891, and the stamps had only two coupons. "Certificates of Extention" were issued to the then current special tax payers, covering the two months.

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1891-1897

The Act of 1 October 1890 repealed the special taxes on occupations in the tobacco group effective May 1, 1891. However, all manufacturers and peddlers were required to register with their Collector of Internal Revenue where "Certificates of Registry' were issued to them. These documents were printed by the Government Printing Office. Dealers in Manufactured Tobacco were exempted from this annual registration. Special Tax Stamps continued to be required from the nine occupations in the liquor group, plus "Still" and "Worm," and from three in the oleomargarine group. A new series-letter designation was begun: A—1891, B—1892, ..., I—1899. With the Special Tax year begining July 1, 1900, the stamps no longer bore these code letters. In 1897 three occupations for Filled Cheese were added to the list of Special Tax payers.

(to be continued)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bruce Miller, Secretary-Treasurer 1010 S. Fifth Ave., Arcadia, Cal. 9106

- NEW MEMBERS
- 1414 KRAMER, George J., 199 Charles St., Clifton, N. J. 07013, by Deborah Friedman (ASDA).
 M&M, R, RF, RV, telegraphs.
- 1415 MINTEL, William A., P. O. Box 127, Metuchen, N. J. 08840, by Secretary. Dealer, H. R. Reason Co.; studies, sells, collects private die props; studies and sells other US revs.
- 1416 STEEN, Piet, Box 520, Hinton, Alberta, Canada TOE-IBO, by Ronald Wood. All Mexico.

ADDRESS CHANGES

- James C. Andrews PO Box 246, Troy, N. Y. 12181
- Roger Paterson, Box 51, East St., Rt. 4, Bemidji, Minn. 56601
- Lowell Ragatz, 223 Grandview Ave., Delaware, Ohio 43015

Previous membership total __ 510 New members _____ 3 Current membership total __ 513

IMPORTANT! PLEASE VOTE.

Don't overlook the election ballot enclosed with this issue. For the first time in several years, a wide choice of candidates is being offered, of whom the majority represent nominations by members-at-large, rather than by the Board of Directors. Incumbents are so designated, and if you want to "off the Establishment," here's your chance! Vote as you please, but PLEASE VOTE!

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RN—REVISED and REVISITED Samuel S. Smith (ARA 1081)

The 1972 Edition of Scott's Specialized Catalogue, contains the first major revision of Revenue Stamped Paper listings in many years. With the cooperation of Editor James B. Hatcher, I was able to suggest the inclusion of 11 new varieties, and 2 price changes in this year's edition.

The first major change covers the yellow colors of dies A, B, C, D, F and G, which have been designated as A4, B7, C6, D2, F2 and G2. Although the yellow stamps have always been easily distinguishable from their orange cousins, we had been forced to include them under "orange (shades)". Now for the first time since E. R. Vanderhoof's catalogue in 1936, the yellow RN items have been restored to their own designations.

Scott's also saw fit to include separate listings for two of the buff stamps, C3 and D4. As with their yellow counterparts, these had been previously covered under "brown (shades)". Although many shades of brown exist in RN stamps, the buff is readily identifiable when compared with the dark brown.

In addition to the provision for the color varieties mentioned above, four listings of major importance have been added to the section. The first is the G die with "stamp redeemed" overprinted on the stamp, now listed as RNG1b. Next is the M die, inverted and printed on the reverse of the sheet. This item, first announced in the American Revenuer, has been designated as RNM2a. Lastly, the green imprints of the P and T dies, found on the bonds of the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad Company, have been numbered P1 and T2, respectively. These were also brought to the attention of ARA members, through previous articles.

Now that revisions have begun in the area of Revenue Stamped Paper, I feel that it is important to complete the job, both as to varieties and catalogue values. This can only be accomplished with the assistance of RN collectors throughout the country. I have prepared a checklist and question-

naire which I will send to anyone willing to help in this project. Just your card or letter, (if you see fit, a stamp or self-addressed #10 envelope) indicating your interest will suffice. No matter how large or small your collection of RN items, you may have information or material unavailable from any other source. My hope is to acquire sufficient information to complete the revision of Scott's section or possibly even publish a checklist or catalogue for the first time in 35 years. Please let me hear from vou. Samuel S. Smith, 407 Lincoln Rd., Suite 9A, Miami Beach, Fla. 33139.

ISLE OF MAN

ENGLAND QE Documentary (obsolete) 6d thru 5£. 9 values complete.

Blox pro rata.

246

JOHN S. BOBO 1668 Sycamore St. Des Plaines, IL 60018

FIRST ISSUE

PAIRS - STRIPS - BLOCKS

Imperforate — Perforated Part Perforated

SHOW PIECES

246

H. B. Beaumont

506 Stevenson Lane Baltimore, Md. 21204

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WE GET LETTERS . . .

Exhibition Advice

Note an interesting letter from Richard L. Salzer in the curent issue of the ARA Journal—May, 1972 asking for help in setting up his collection for exhibition.

As an accredited APS Judge I may be able to give him a few pointers, bearing in mind that no two judges see exactly alike even when looking at the same frame of stamps in an exhibition.

For detailed information in print on how to exhibit I would refer him to Mr. C. E. Foster, Editor of the excellent New Mexico Philatelist, who has written an expert monograph on this subject. His address is 317-D 15th St., N. W., Albuquerque, N. M. 87104.

In the meantime to take his questions in order:

1. No. With the possible exception of some of the classics where material is a) expensive or 2) very difficult to come by. To me rarity does not necessarily mean money, but the difficulty in replacing it if it should be lost or destroyed.

2. Hinges are usually preferable from a judge's standpoint. Mint or used has no bearing on the method of mounting.

3. Some shows allow oversize pages provided arrangements are made ahead of time and, if you mount your exhibit yourself. This is often a problem in the display of revenues. SES-CAL allowed our member, Sherwood Springer to do this for the first time in 1971.

4. Photos of the reverse side are OK if they do not overwhelm the cover itself. Many use xerox copies for the illustration of backstamps, neatly cut square with a suitable explanation.

5. Printing, hand-written or typing is acceptable provided it is done in good taste and neatly. Use the method you are most adept at. If done by hand keep it small and neat.

Mistakes that first-time exhibitors generally make are a tendency to try to crowd too much on a page, lack of neatness, dirty pages with fingerprints, lack of a suitable title page with an apt description of what they

are trying to show; too much write-up on single pages. Judges in large shows just don't have the time to read lengthy explanations. A good rule of thumb to folow is to do your writeup, then cut it in half, THEN cut it in half again. It is far better to have 2 or 3 lines on each page than a full page or half page of description anywhere in an exhibit.

Some judges object to collateral material. Some feel that used with discretion it enhances an exhibit. I prefer some collateral material if it is used in good taste, PROVIDED it does not become dominant to the stamps or covers on the page.

Avoid frills and art work. You are showing in a STAMP exhibition. If you want to show your artistic prowess, enter an art show. Nothing detracts so much from a good display of philatelic material as gaudy colors and extraneous art work.

Avoid colored pages, particularly black. These tend to point out the bad points in material, particularly perfs when material is not perfect. We do not advise damaged material for exhibition but some items, particularly shown for cancellations are permissable when properly annotated, or when the material is extremely scarce. This also applies to the use of black mounts. If mounts are used in preference to hinges be very careful that they are uniformly cut and that your stamps are perfectly centered. Off center in a mount tends to make your stamp appear poorly centered. Stamps do tend to fall out of mounts in exhibition frames spoiling the general appearance of an otherwise fine exhibit. It is difficult in most shows to open frames to correct this type of deficiency.

This should help Mr. Salzer get started on the right track. Of course, if he is able to attend a few stamp shows and observe the mounting, write up and presentation of the winning exhibits he will be well on his way.

> Sincerely, Gordon B. Garrett, ARA 1250 Editor: Egyptian Topics Journal of the Philatelic Society of Los Angeles



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