

# THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

*The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge and enjoyment of stamp collecting.* APS Chapter 1584



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## Club News

Now in our ninth month, the Santa Rosa Stamp Club continues to grow. We have over thirty paid members and our programs continue to inform and entertain. Stamp collecting is a great hobby and our members have demonstrated the many fascinating ways we can pursue our interests. Craig Ellis has shown us how we can house our collections in classy binders and download custom-made album pages. Don Test and Paul Von Gottfried demonstrated some interesting ways to specialize by collecting perfins, precancels and socked-on-the-nose cancels. Our trading and exchange night revealed the wide range of collecting pursuits that exists among our members. Our pre-meeting schedule facilitates member trading on an on-going basis.

We are also pleased to announce that the Santa Rosa Central Library of the Sonoma County system has accepted our gift offer to provide a subscription to *The American Philatelist*. The journal will be available to readers in the periodicals section of the library starting in November.

## Program Schedule for Future Meetings

October 2 – Member “Show and Tell” Night  
November 13 – To be announced  
December 4 – Philatelic Quiz Night

## Resources for Worldwide Collectors

### Dennis Buss

In the last issue of our Club newsletter, George Land made an excellent case for collecting worldwide stamps from the so-called “classic era” of 1840 to 1940/1952. However, several of our club members enjoy collecting worldwide stamps without confining themselves to a particular time period. Regardless of approach, the worldwide collector needs to consider the question of how to go about building one’s collection. Fortunately, there are several resources available that can make the task more manageable and pleasurable. Three basic resources are worth considering: organizations; albums; and internet sites. From an organizational standpoint, all worldwide collectors should consider joining the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (ISWSC). In addition to publishing *The Circuit* newsletter, it also sponsors a sales circuit, conducts auctions, organizes a stamp exchange program based on equivalent catalog values, provides stamp identification and translation services, and facilitates contacts with other collectors throughout the world to establish trading partnerships. For information about membership go to their website at [www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org).

What stamp album should the worldwide collector use? One option is to not use one at all. Many collectors prefer to house their stamps in stock-books. Rather than buying an expensive multi-volume worldwide album, the stock-book approach enables the collector to arrange a collection in any manner he or she wishes.

However, to organize one’s collection, a set of worldwide catalogs from Scott, Michel or Stanley Gibbons would seem to be essential.

If one prefers to use a printed album, there are several options available: Scott International; Minkus Supreme Global; the Stanley Gibbons British Empire and the Ideal International sets; the “Big Brown International” from Subway Stamps; and William E. Steiner’s world wide album on a CD rom. Four of these albums are available in classic era versions: Scott International Volume 1 (1840-1940) at \$480.00 without binders; Subway Stamps’ much more

## SRSC Meetings

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Lodge at Paulin Creek, 2375 Range Avenue, Building D, Santa Rosa. For information about Club membership call: 707-545-0870 or send an email to: [srsc2012@yahoo.com](mailto:srsc2012@yahoo.com)

## WINEPEX 2012

COME TO THE NORTH BAY’S MAJOR ANNUAL STAMP SHOW OCTOBER 5 – 7, AT THE MARIN CIVIC CENTER, SAN RAFAEL FEATURING SINGLE FRAME EXHIBITS PLUS STAMP AND POSTAL HISTORY DEALERS.

comprehensive multivolume “Big Brown”(1840-1940) at \$1,200 with binders; the two volume Minkus Supreme Global album (1840-1952) at \$400.00 pages only; and the two Stanley Gibbons offerings (1840-1936) at \$958.00 available from Regency-Superior in St. Louis, Missouri. The complete Scott International set goes up to 2010 and costs \$6,400.00 without binders. The Minkus Global, however, is no longer available as a complete album from 1840 to the present. The Steiner CD album (<http://www.stampalbums.com/>) can be purchased for a mere \$30.00. It covers nearly every country up to the present. However, you must supply the paper to print out the album’s 71,000 pages!

A number of websites are particularly helpful to the worldwide collector. *Filling Spaces* (<http://globalstamps.blogspot.com/>) is devoted to the pleasures and frustrations in using the Scott International classic (1840-1940) album. Keijo Kortelainen’s *Stamp Collecting Blog* (<http://www.stampcollectingblog.com/>) makes a strong case for using stock-books for collecting worldwide stamps from all eras and has many useful tips and tools for the worldwide collector. *Big Blue 1840-1940* is a website (<http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.com/>) devoted to comparing the various editions of the Scott International albums. *The Stamp Community Family* sponsors a specific forum for worldwide classic stamp collectors ([http://www.stampcommunity.org/forum.asp?forum\\_id=16](http://www.stampcommunity.org/forum.asp?forum_id=16)) and provides useful information and discussions about stamps and albums for this collecting era. Although not as popular as in the past, the lure of worldwide collecting continues its appeal. It is reassuring to know that many others share the interest that got of us started in stamp collecting in the first place.

### Why Collect George VI Era Stamps?

Dennis Buss



A few of our members specialize in collecting stamps from the British Commonwealth but confine their interests to the era of George VI from 1937 to 1952. What makes George VI era stamps such a popular and attractive collecting interest? First, the stamps are visually appealing. Scenes from the far-flung British Empire are beautifully depicted in multicolored recess printed varieties. They also represent a time period before and after World War II that is historically significant. The breakup between the old British colonial empire and the formation of the

Commonwealth system is documented in these issues. In addition, you can make collecting these stamps as simple or as complex as you wish. Because of King George VI’s short reign, it is relatively easy to build a basic collection of the approximately 5,000 stamps that comprise the major issues. You can start with the so-called omnibus series: the 1937 coronation set; the stamps celebrating the end of the war; the Silver Wedding anniversary stamps; and the Universal Postal Union issues. If you want to specialize, there are numerous color, watermark, perforation and printing varieties along with the occasional errors to keep you quite busy. If you enjoy postal history, collecting covers from each stamp issuing entity that fulfill different postal functions would be another fascinating pursuit.

What do you need to get started? If you enjoy mounting stamps in printed albums, there are three currently available. Perhaps the most comprehensive is the Stanley Gibbons six volume George VI loose-leaf album available from Regency Superior in Saint Louis, Missouri. The second is a four-volume album published by Seahorse Philatelic Publishers in Jerusalem, Israel. This 360 page album excludes the Indian States, the Japanese Occupation issues, as well as dies, shades, errors and printing re-entries. The third option is published by Palo Albums of Park Ridge, Illinois. It comes in two versions: Simplified and Specialized. The latter includes perforation and shade varieties along with the Japanese occupations stamps plus several other types. Of course, there is the stock-book option that gives you maximum flexibility. Many collectors also enjoy designing their own pages. Regardless of the way you choose to mount your collection, an essential reference is the Stanley Gibbons *King George VI Stamp Catalogue*, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> edition. It is also available from Regency Superior. So, if you are attracted to collecting worldwide stamps but want a more manageable way to go about it, why not try King George VI era stamps?

#### SRSC Officers

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