



Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

AUGUST 1996 - VOL. 14, NO. 4

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EDITORIAL

The popular image of philately and philatelists is one of sobriety and conservatism. Such qualities are not to be despised, indeed the opposites would not be welcome to the majority of members. However, one definition of 'conservatism' is opposition to innovation and that is not a quality that we would wish to foster. In an attempt to move with the times the editor has just enjoyed his first philatelic surf on the net.

For those who are completely opaque to such contemporary use of the language, this means linking into a worldwide network of information. To open this Pandora's box it is necessary to have access to a reasonably computer with the necessary links to the web, a reasonably acceptable term for an electronic network. It is neither my aim nor am I competent to describe the technical aspects of this most enjoyable first trip along the super-highway. I am happy however, on the basis of an hour or so of experience to comment on its potential for our hobby. To gain access to the philatelic content of the net it is necessary to tap into one of the systems that hold the information. The system that I used is known as Netscape and the sorting package (search engines) was Altavista.

My tutor was a non-philatelic colleague with three children below the age of eleven. They are keen junior collectors and took on the challenge of trying to obtain a stamp from every contemporary stamp issuing nation. The majority of their collection has been obtained by using their father's computer, they have corresponded electronically (conveniently Netscape allows easier access to e-mail) with collectors throughout the world and exchanged easily obtained Australian material for stamps from far away countries - their first venture was with Iceland. They have received some delightful and encouraging letters from collectors who could not resist the message on the net that starts '...I am a collector aged ten'. I would hesitate to extrapolate from this example to say that this is the way to recruit members to our own junior clubs but it is necessary for us to keep abreast of the technology and the interests of the young.

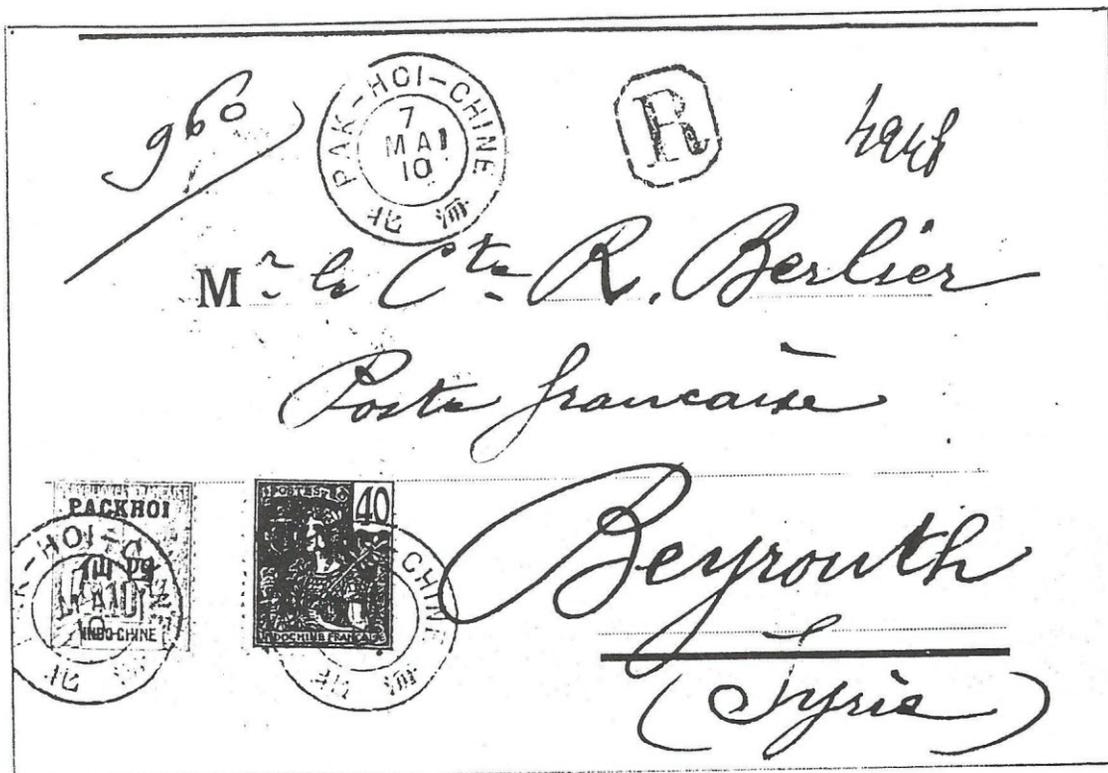
Incidentally, the remaining gaps in the collection of our young cyberspace collectors is for examples of the stamps from the former USSR republics in central Asia. Presumably the availability of personal

FROM PAK-HOI TO BEIRUT IN 1910

Robert A. M. Gregson

The French colonisation of what is today Vietnam was a slow and erratic process, with only partial cultural assimilation and continued sporadic warfare. When the French moved into Tonkin, the region around Hanoi, there was resentment from the Chinese Empire, whose political and commercial interests were being displaced. By the 1880s, when a skeletal network of administration and communications had been set up, initially by the military and by shipping companies such as the *Compagnie des Messageries maritimes*, open warfare broke out between China and France. Not surprisingly, the military hardware and organisation of the French were eventually victorious, and in a treaty of 9 June 1885 signed in the Chinese capital, China recognised French *de jure* sovereignty in Tonkin, and agreed to the establishment of French consulates in a number of towns in Yunnan, the southernmost province of China bordering Vietnam. Yunnan had been brutally ruled by the Chinese, the natives being ethnically and often in religion different from their northern neighbours, a situation which appeared to have helped to give the French a foothold.

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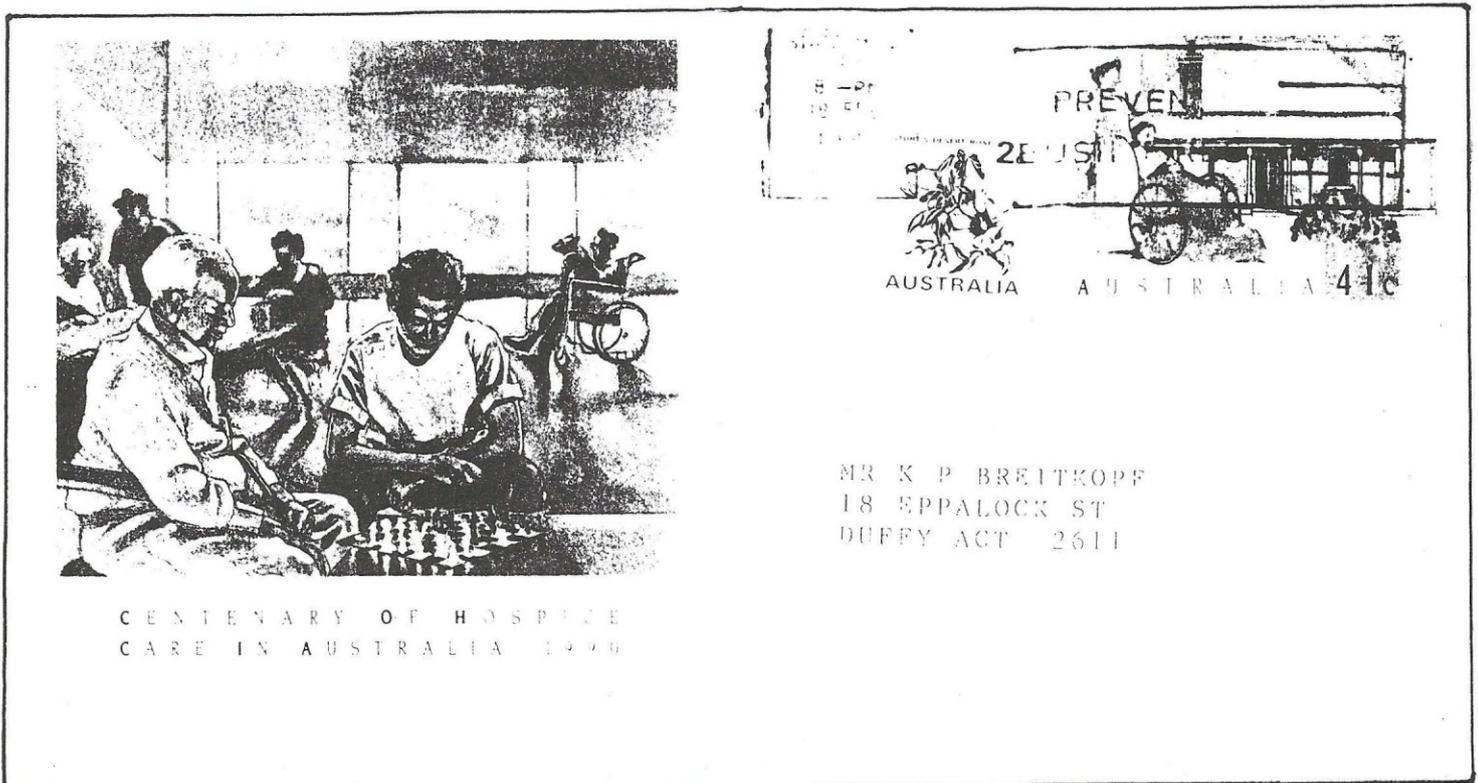
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The first attempt was a letter to Australia Post. Their response indicated that:

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**ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON
CANADIAN PAQUEBOT CANCELS AND 1926 POSTAGE PAID FRANKS**

Ian McMahon

Many will be aware of the two collecting 'challenges' currently taking place in Australian philatelic circles: the Great Australian Postal Stationery Challenge and the French Colonial Challenge. My task in the latter challenge is to attempt to assemble a collection of St Pierre and Miquelon, France's last remaining territory in North America.

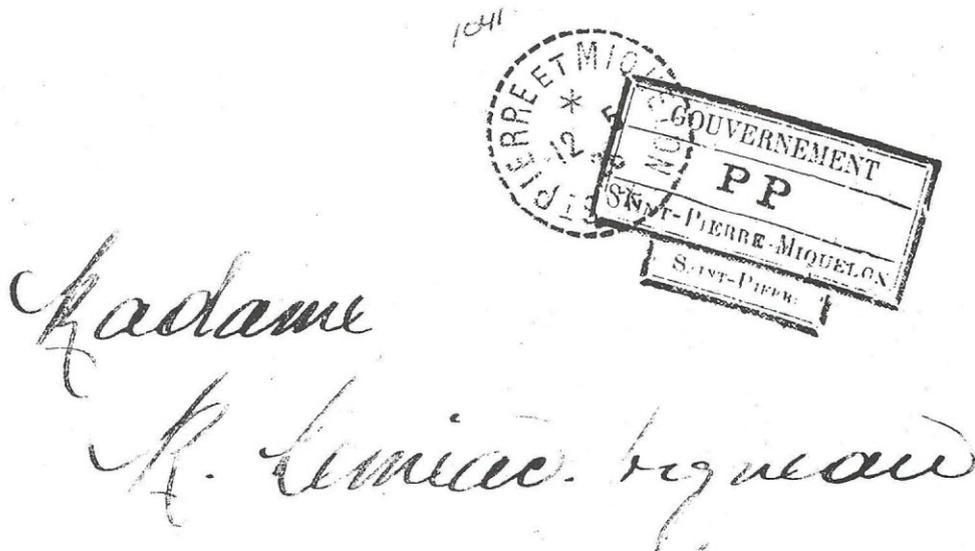
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PART 1: HONG KONG THE HIGH DENOMINATION STAMPS OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA PERIOD AND FISCAL STAMPS USED FOR POSTAGE.

Richard Gurevitch

INTRODUCTION.

During the Queen Victoria period of stamp issues of Hong Kong, some high denomination adhesives originally designated for fiscal use were authorised for postal use and incorporated into the range of postal stamps sold by the Post Office. Later, stamps of the same design, albeit that they were annotated 'Stamp Duty', were specifically issued as postage stamps. Other fiscal adhesives were used in an unauthorised manner for postal purposes. All these issues are treated in a category separate to postage stamp issues in some stamp catalogues (eg Stanley Gibbons, and Yang), although others (eg Scott) incorporate them into the total range of postage stamp issues. There also appears to be some confusion in stamp catalogues as to which of the adhesives were authorised for use as postage stamps and their date of issue. There are few writings on these stamps. The most authoritative are by Bishop and Sayers in 1933¹, and Munk in 1935². However, both continue to place the adhesives authorised for postal use in a separate category.

I have long advocated that the values authorised postal use or specifically issued as postage stamps for be treated in the same manner as other postage stamps of the period³. Indeed, I consider that a 'traditional' collector of Hong Kong stamps should include them if his collection purports to show all issued stamps.

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1874 'High Denomination' Issue.



Two Dollars Green



Three Dollars Mauve



Ten Dollars Carmine

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² Munk, Dr H., Kohl-Briefmarken Handbuch, Lieferung 35, 1934.

³ Gurevitch, Air Cdre R.N., Hong Kong Stamps of the Queen Victoria Period 'A Collector's Notebook', 1993.

MEMBER PROFILE - RICHARD GUREVITCH

Dingle Smith

Richard first joined the Society in 1965 when meetings were held in the bank building in Hobart Place and the library was housed in a locked cupboard. Like so many members he first collected, the world and everything, as a twelve-year old in Hong Kong. However, the schoolboy hobby lapsed and that first world album is long since lost. Stamp collecting was in abeyance until 1964 when Richard was stationed in Canberra. Richard ascribes his motivation to collect and to join the Philatelic Society of Canberra as the need for an interest to counter the long cold winter Canberra nights resident in the single officers' quarters at Fairbairn.

His first serious philatelic venture was to purchase, for thirty pounds, a collection of Australian Commonwealth material from the long established, but now unfortunately defunct, Downey Auctions in Melbourne. This lot would now seem to have been an excellent investment as it contained sundry high value 'roos and a 5/- Harbour Bridge. Long lonely nights were now enlivened by the study K.George varieties. At that time the focus of the Society, led by such stalwarts as Ron Hyronimus and Alan Salisbury, was firmly on Australian Commonwealth stamps, the much broader collecting base of present members reflects that of Australia as a whole. In the later 1960s he obtained a small collection of Hong Kong with the intention of breaking it up for sale on the circuit sheets but decided to retain the material and built up a country collection, albeit at that time a minor interest.

In the 1970s Richard decided to broaden his horizons with the purchase of a collection of Czechoslovakia. He has constantly added covers and stamps to this initial purchase to the extent that the material is now housed in a trunk! The decision to collect Czechoslovakia led to the accumulation of other 'C' countries. It would be interesting to know if this alphabetical bias, due to auction houses describing lots by the first letter of the countries concerned, is common with other collectors. I have always avoided countries in the lower half of the alphabet to shorten the time spent sitting in auctions waiting for lots to be knocked down. Thus Cuba and Costa Rica were added to Richard's collecting interests and this led to neighbouring countries in Central America and the Caribbean, for instance Haiti and Guatemala. It is unclear how Richard also came to collect Montenegro.

Richard Society' membership lapsed for a period the 1971-77 when he continued his work on the design and construction of airfields with the Commonwealth Department of Works. On his return to the RAAF he was again based in Canberra, by this time his Australian collection had been sold and Richard's real interest in Hong Kong was about to begin. It will be a surprise to many to learn that this interest only seriously commenced in the early 1980s. By this stage Richard was an avid devotee to research and he quickly built up a reference library for Hong Kong, that spurred Richard to further research the early material of Hong Kong and to the publication, in 1993, of *Hong Kong postage stamps of the Queen Victoria period: a collector's notebook*, for details see *Capital Philately*, v.12, n.2. The book has received laudatory reviews, a literature award at an international exhibition and the Webb Cup from the Hong Kong Study Circle based in the UK. Richard is now engaged on a longer and more detailed account of early Hong Kong. There is relatively little archival material and his search to establish dates of issue and usage has resulted in the recording of some 2,700 covers with much of the information obtained from auction catalogues. An unusual problem is that postmark dates (except for those in the Treaty Ports) are not given until the early 1890s. Richard has

1890 Emergency Issue.



2 Cents Lilac

Towards the end of 1890 a shortage of 2 cents stamps developed, supposedly because of a delay in the delivery of stamp supplies from London. The small format 2 cent 'Stamp Duty' label was authorised for postal use. The Hong Kong General Post Office pamphlet of 1 March, 1892 states "The stamp was temporarily utilised, during the last week in December only in place of the 2 cents postal stamp which was exhausted".

The stamp is found postally used at other times but such use was not officially authorised.

The 'Unified Series' Issue.

From March 1887 considerable correspondence ensued between the Hong Kong Post Master General, the Crown Agents and De La Rue on the production of a unified issue of stamps⁶. De La Rue wanted to produce a complete new issue of stamps, but the PMG, ever conscious of the cost involved with such an endeavour, devised a solution whereby most current stamps, albeit printed in new double fugitive ink colours for security reasons, could form the new stamp issue. Only two double fugitive ink colours were available, namely, purple and green, and to increase the range of colours to make up the new stamps for the issue, red tinted paper was incorporated for some values. The series consisted of ten values, namely, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, & 50 Cents, and 1, 2, 3, & 5 Dollars, the 2 and 5 Cents values coming from the earlier 1882 issue.

The new Two and Three Dollar stamps were printed from existing plates and basically of the old colours for those values and on Crown over C.C. watermark paper, but they were perforated 'Gauge 14'.

⁶ Easton, Mr. J., De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, 1855 - 1901, Faber & Faber, 1959.



Three Dollars mauve perforated 'Gauge 14' and 5 Dollars on Ten Dollars purple on red paper, together with other lesser denomination stamps used on registered (and probably insured) cover postmarked 6 January, 1903 from Shanghai to Duvos Platz, Switzerland. The cover probably has affixed all the denominations of Hong Kong stamps available at the British Post Office in Shanghai at that time. Although it appears to be philatelic in nature, it has the seal of, and was sent from, the Russian-Chinese Bank in Shanghai which could mean that it was used in a genuine manner as well. (This is one of two recorded covers, both philatelic, with the perforation 14 Three Dollars mauve stamp).

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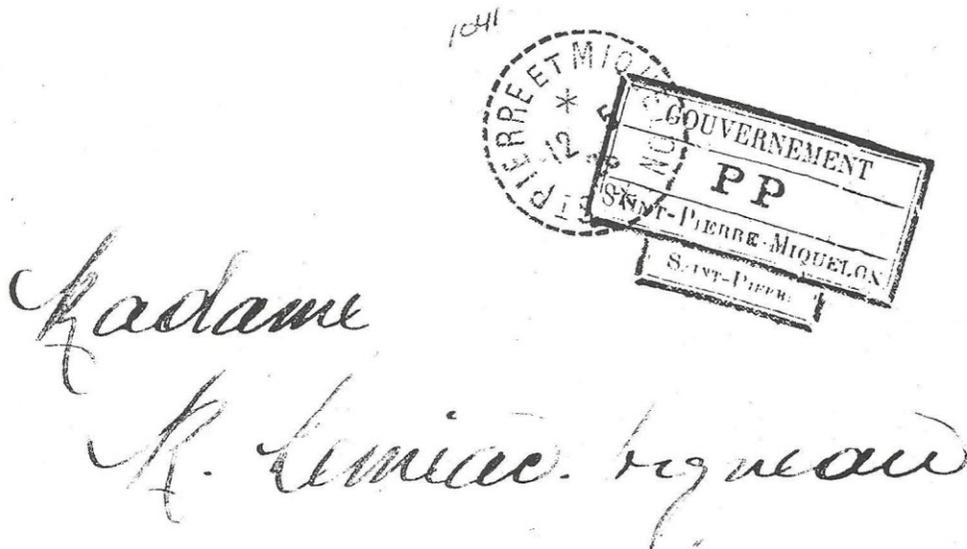
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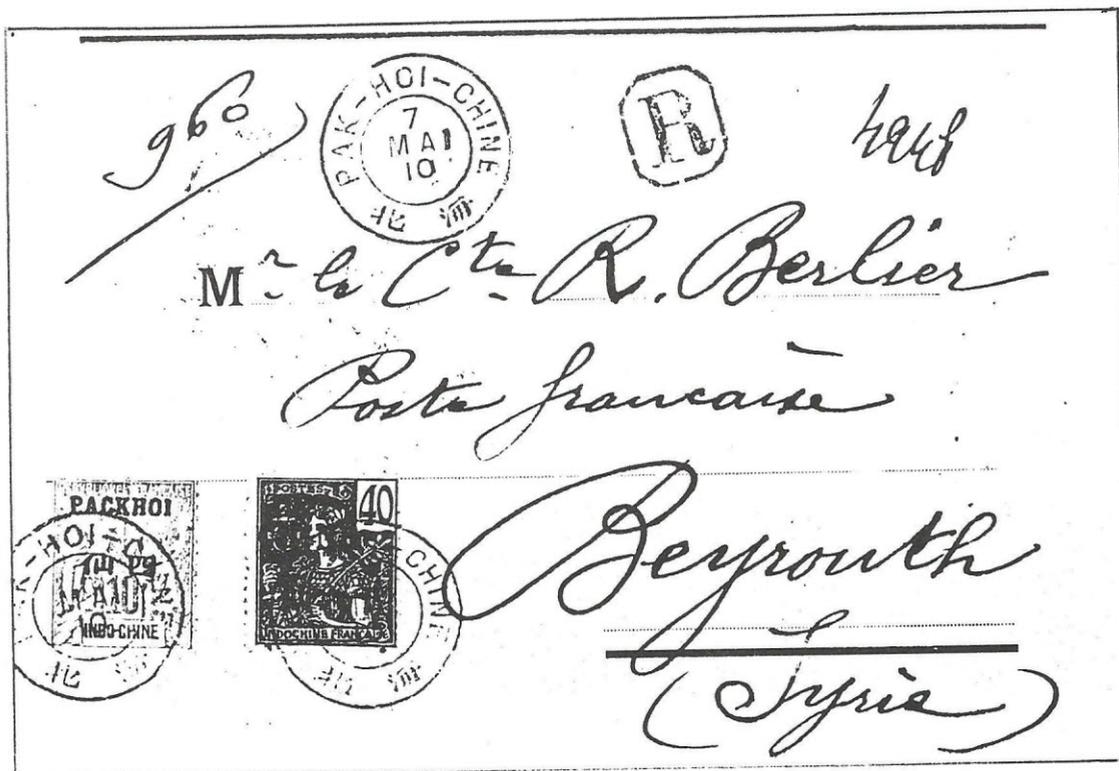
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The popular image of philately and philatelists is one of sobriety and conservatism. Such qualities are not to be despised, indeed the opposites would not be welcome to the majority of members. However, one definition of 'conservatism' is opposition to innovation and that is not a quality that we would wish to foster. In an attempt to move with the times the editor has just enjoyed his first philatelic surf on the net.

For those who are completely opaque to such contemporary use of the language, this means linking into a worldwide network of information. To open this Pandora's box it is necessary to have access to a reasonably computer with the necessary links to the web, a reasonably acceptable term for an electronic network. It is neither my aim nor am I competent to describe the technical aspects of this most enjoyable first trip along the super-highway. I am happy however, on the basis of an hour or so of experience to comment on its potential for our hobby. To gain access to the philatelic content of the net it is necessary to tap into one of the systems that hold the information. The system that I used is known as Netscape and the sorting package (search engines) was Altavista.

My tutor was a non-philatelic colleague with three children below the age of eleven. They are keen junior collectors and took on the challenge of trying to obtain a stamp from every contemporary stamp issuing nation. The majority of their collection has been obtained by using their father's computer, they have corresponded electronically (conveniently Netscape allows easier access to e-mail) with collectors throughout the world and exchanged easily obtained Australian material for stamps from far away countries - their first venture was with Iceland. They have received some delightful and encouraging letters from collectors who could not resist the message on the net that starts '...I am a collector aged ten'. I would hesitate to extrapolate from this example to say that this is the way to recruit members to our own junior clubs but it is necessary for us to keep abreast of the technology and the interests of the young.

Incidentally, the remaining gaps in the collection of our young cyberspace collectors is for examples of the stamps from the former USSR republics in central Asia. Presumably the availability of personal

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