

## Exchanging covers!

The CCCC is the world's largest philatelic exchange organization with more than 2,000 active members in over 50 countries. Founded March 5, 1947, shortly after World War II, its purpose was to assist stamp and cover collectors find contacts and promote international friendships. These goals continue into today.

The organization had humble beginnings. Stamp collectors around the globe were looking to re-connect with one another after the ravages of World War II. King Beal of Waterloo, Iowa had the idea in 1947 of forming a worldwide organization that would help people do just that through the use of a circuit form. It would pass among several members and then return back to the person who originated it. Along the way everyone was encouraged to list their specialties and exchange offers.

The first "C" in the club's name stands for "Cover," and for good reason, as everyone was encouraged to make the envelope (known as a "cover" to collectors) in which they mailed the circuit to the next member special in some way. It could have been a first day cover, perhaps a special cancellation was obtained, maybe a printed cached envelope was used, or even a hand drawing applied to it.

It proved to be popular concept with collectors and the club grew to thousands in a matter of just a few years.

## How it works...

Contacts between members are made through use of an official circuit form. CCCC members from the USA are known in the club as OMs (Originating Members). Overseas members are CMs (Circuit Members). Canadians may sign up either as OMs or CMs. The OM's role is to create the path a circuit is to take, mailing a minimum of 10 circuits per month to CMs whose names and addresses appear in regularly updated membership lists. These are supplied each month from the Managing Director. The OM mails the form to the first CM's address on each circuit.

Each circuit passes from member to member. A CM's responsibility is to forward the circuit form to the next member's address, until it finally returns back to the OM. Everyone along the way should create an interesting cover (i.e. the envelope in which a circuit is mailed) by using colorful stamps, obtaining special postmarks, etc.

Members also take the opportunity to make exchange offers to one another, as most are anxious to exchange various philatelic items.

Updated newsletters with "CCCC adlets" are often attached to circuits as well, allowing members the opportunity to place their wants before the membership around the world.

## Joining Us...

### **OM Requirements**

For US or Canadian residents

OMs must be at least 21 years old and agree to originate at least 100 circuits per year using official circuit forms. Lifetime membership is US \$15.00, which includes a starter pack of blank circuits, the latest 2 membership lists, application blanks, change of address forms and full instructions. Additional circuit forms and supplies may be purchased as needed.

OMs are also requested to send self-addressed stamped envelopes to the Managing Director for use in mailing out new membership lists. Only US or Canadian residents may be OMs when they join the club.

### **CM Requirements** - for Overseas residents

CMs must be at least 18 years old and agree to re-mail all circuits they receive to the next member listed in a timely manner. Lifetime membership for a CM is US \$10.00. CMs may request to receive circuits from specific countries by filling out a "Form 10" supplied by OMs and the Managing Director.

After one year of membership, any CM may convert to OM status at the discretion of the Managing Director by paying the \$15 OM fee.

# CCCC Application Form

Fill out completely (please print) and mail with payment to:

Richard Speer, CCCC Membership Director

Box 266, Lake Clear, NY 12945 USA

Email: [adironack.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:adironack.stamps@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Age (minimum 18 for CMs, 21 OMs) \_\_\_\_\_

List your name, email address and interests on the CCCC web site?  Yes  No

Stamp Collecting Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Topical Interests \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for membership as a (choose one):

- \$15.00 - Originating Member** (US or Canadian members)  
OMs originate circuits, sending a minimum of 100 per year to remain in the "active" ranks.
- \$10.00 - Circuit Member** (Canadians or non-US members)  
CMs receive circuits and forward them on to other members as directed.
  - Dues may be paid by cash, check/money order in US dollars payable to "Richard Speer," PayPal to email: [adironack.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:adironack.stamps@gmail.com), or in different mint commemorative stamps in full sets with full gum equal to your payment.



[www.covercollectors.org](http://www.covercollectors.org)

*Since 1947...*



Tens of thousands of stamp collectors around the world looking to exchange stamps and make friends have been introduced to each other through this simple concept...