

# **A Guide To Stamp Collecting**

***Scouts on Stamps Society  
International***

**Edited by**

## Where Do I Get Stamps?

*By Bill Cowen*

The initial question facing the novice stamp collector is how to obtain stamps. There are a variety of ways.

In the beginning, the new collector must learn the terms using in stamp collecting. The new collector must also remember that prices in catalogs vary from publisher to publisher and country to country.

As some of the terms are explained, catalog values will be used as the base reference.

**Catalog Value** - The price given in as specific catalog.

**Retail Value** - The price a collector will usually pay for a stamp from a dealer which usually ranges from 75 to 100 percent of the catalog value.

**Wholesale Value** - The price a dealer is usually willing to pay for a stamp. Wholesale generally runs from 10 to 50 percent of catalog value.

**Face Value** - The price of the stamp as initially issued and sold by the Postal Administration.

The above definitions apply generally to the common grade of stamps. Rare or high value stamps must be considered on their own merit and may not reflect the catalog value.

**Stamps from the Mail** - Stamps arriving at your home in the mail is a source and they have the advantage of being free. The disadvantages are that you have no selection, the stamps must be removed from the paper and most of the stamps will be from your own country.

**Bulk Packages or Grab Bags** - These are available in many hobby shops and department stores. You purchase several hundred stamps in a bag. The advantage is that you purchase a large number of stamps, usually mostly foreign, at a very low price. Among the disadvantages are you can't see what you are buying, there will be many duplicates and you must soak most of them off the paper.

**Packets** - Packets containing used stamps are also found in many stores. You normally can see the stamps through a plastic window and there will not be duplicates. The primary disadvantage is the stamps in the packet are usually low value common stamps. The price per packet is relatively low but the per stamp price approaches catalog value.

**Post Office** - All currently available stamps may be purchased in mint condition at face value. You may ask for or select the particular stamp you want. The drawback is that you may only purchase stamps of your country at the post office.

**Dealers** - The stamp dealer offers a wide range of services, stamps and accessories. It is important to understand that the number of services offered by any given dealer will vary and the services may be provided in the dealer's shop and/or by mail. Among the types of services offered by a dealer to a collector are:

**Over the Counter** - You purchase your stamp at the dealer's shop from the stock he has.

**Approvals** -- This service is most generally provided as a mail service. You receive a shipment of stamps from which you select the stamps you wish to keep. You then send the unwanted stamps along with payment for the stamps you keep. This service is advertised in many magazines. You can usually specify to the dealer the type of stamps you want to inspect.

**New Issue** - The dealer provides new stamps as they are issued at a percentage markup over the face value. With this service you acquire stamps at a



very reasonable cost and you are up to date with the latest stamps issued. One disadvantage is that when you subscribe to this service you are obligated to purchase all stamps provided.

**Want List** - Most dealers will service want lists. You give the dealer a list of stamps that you want. The dealer will then provide the stamps and will often try to get any stamps that he does not stock from another dealer.

**Wholesale** - Quantities of stamps are offered and purchased. The types of stamps, the number of duplicates and the country of issue are usually described before the sale. Normally you will put out a sizeable chunk of money to purchase a lot.

The dealer is making a living buying and selling stamps. Therefore the dealer is often a person who can advise and help you purchase or sell your stamps. As you purchase more stamps you will learn more about the pricing and how and where to look for bargains.

Once you've started collecting the day may come when you will start looking for the harder to get items. Then you will need:

**Auctions** - There are actually two basic type of auctions. The first is the auction run by a stamp club or group. In these auctions, the material sold will vary from very inexpensive to moderately expensive items. The second type of auction is run by dealers and established auction houses. In this type of auction material will vary from moderately priced items all the way to the great rarities with very high prices. Many auctions will allow bids to be submitted by mail. No matter what type of auction you participate in, you should know what you want to purchase and how much you are willing to pay.

## Creating a Thematic Stamp Collection

A theme, a central idea or a motif illustrated with stamps and other philatelic documents is a Thematic Stamp Collection. In a thematic collection, the central idea is important because it gives the collection cohesion, provides a structure and allows the use of short concise texts.

The following guidelines apply not only to thematic collections but also to classical international collections. Following the guidelines is recommended for entering a collection in competition

### ILLUSTRATION OF A SAMPLE PAGE WITH EXPLANATION

#### Selection of the Theme

When using Scouting as a theme, one discovers there already exists over 2,000 stamps and sheets, postmarks, meter slogans and the like which makes it difficult to achieve a complete collection. Fortunately, a thematic collection does not require such completeness. The more one limits oneself to a certain area or theme, the more one is able to aim for a meaningful completeness.

Examples of a more specific theme would include

- Scouting of a certain country.
- Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting.
- A scout section, i.e., Cub Scouts, Venturers, Rovers.
- Girl Guides.
- The movement principles such as badges, laws, salutes.
- Scouting activities.
- Jamborees, World, Regional, and national

One should be careful to make sure the task is approached with the central idea in mind and that it does not end up as simply a chronological series of stamps and other material. A healthy individual originality both in the choice of the theme and in the presentation is desirable.

#### How and What to Collect

Every collector has her or his own method. The minority collect in shoe boxes, the majority in albums. Some order everything chronologically, others according to countries or sort the collection into thematic chapters.

Thematic chapters have the disadvantage that whole sets must be separated or that some stamps can be placed into several chapters. Every collector must find the best solution for their collection.

Likewise there are no rules about whether stamps should be postmarked or in mint condition. However, in a thematic collection, the picture on the stamps should be of prime importance. The picture should not be obscured or distracted from by the postmark.

The collecting and organizing of stamps, postmarks and complete articles (First Day Covers, etc.) is an important preliminary stage in building the collection and its eventual layout.

What sort of articles belong in a thematic collection? These are first and foremost philatelic items. These include postage stamps, souvenir and miniature sheets, special blocks of stamps (provided they are not identical stamps such as a block of four, etc.), stamp booklets, stamps with special printed tabs, selvedge, gutters, etc., and all sort of postmarks and compete items such as postal stationery, aerogrammes, newspaper

wrappers, postcards, etc.

The presence of postmarks and complete articles is imperative in a thematic collection. Often Scouting and Guiding events are only recorded with a special postmark. With these items the collector has numerous possibilities to show his or her philatelic knowledge as the information and details of a postmark cannot be generally copied out of a catalog. It is also usually more difficult to obtain postmarked covers than stamps.

Genuine covers with interesting and, if possible, legal postal franking markings, stamp booklets, isolated trial proofs, as well as relevant text to sheet selvage can all increase significantly the value of a collection. Do not use, or use only sparingly, Cinderellas, printed cachets, vignettes, picture postcards, etc., as these are not postal items. Picture postcards with stamp and postmark on the front or maxim cards, as they are known, are acceptable.

After a certain amount of material has been collected, organizing and laying out the album pages can be started.

### **Dealing with the Theme**

Whether or not your thematic collection will be a success depends on how the theme is developed. Each theme has its particular characteristic requiring knowledge of the subject. Another aspect is knowledge of the philatelic aspects just as knowing about the existence of special stamps, sheets, etc. Some of this knowledge can be obtained by studying catalogs. The more that is known about these aspects the easier it will be to handle the theme.

Begin with an *outline* for building the collection. Later consider the *finer details*. The outline divides the collection into various logical sections (titles, sheet headings, subtitles). It is important that sections follow in logical order. Avoid large leaps from one idea to another. Create order in the collection to make it understandable to the lay person. There must be sufficient detail for a smooth and continuous development of the theme.

The outline should be accomplished first so you get an overview of the area chosen. This outline can be enlarged or modified later. Don't start collecting blindly or you'll never reach a goal. Before beginning to assemble the collection, consider what comes under the headings. At this stage you can show your individuality by indicating why collection pieces are there and why they are under a particular heading. You may find writing these explanations a real problem as you decide how much or how little to write.

The text should:

- Not be laborious to read or difficult to understand;
- Convey the necessary minimal amount of information about the stamp.
- Be as concise as possible.

The order of the collection is very subjective and not everyone possesses the same logic! For example, which of these orders is correct -- the insignias, the Promise, the salute or Law and Promise, the salute, uniform and badges?

### **EXAMPLE OF TEXT (ILLUSTRATION)**

#### **Example of outline:**

The Scout Movement

#### **1. Baden-Powell**

- A. Life of the Founder
- B. Commemorating him

#### **2. Development of the Movement**

- A. Founding, Jubilees
- B. Girl Guides

#### **5. Scout Meetings**

- A. Conferences
- B. Seminars
- C. World Jamborees
- D. International camps
- E. National camps

- C. Cubs
- D. Rovers
- E. Sea Scouts
- F. Jubilees of Groups
- G. Promotion of the movement
- 3. Principals of the Movement
  - A. Insignias and badges
  - B. Law and Promise
  - C. The Salute
  - D. Patron of Scouting
- 4. The Uniform
  - A. The Scout uniform
  - B. The Guide uniform
  - C. Uniforms worldwide
- F. Training centers
- G. Rover Moots
- H. Meetings of former Scouts
- 6. Scouting Activities
  - A. Camp Life
  - B. First Aid
  - C. Disaster help
  - D. Messenger service
  - E. Orienteering
  - F. Nature Study
  - G. Games and Sports
  - H. Technology
- 7. Other Scouting related events
  - A. Promotional exhibitions
  - B. Scout air mail services
  - C. Scout stamp exhibitions

You can write a short text under each stamp if your wish or under a group of stamps. It's a good idea to draw the attention of the reader to certain details that are not obvious such as something needing a translation. The philatelic materials should remain the most prominent part of the collection. Longer explanations should be placed above or under the collection on the page. Remember that the longer the text the less likely it will be read.

#### **General Impressions**

- Does the collection have cohesion and harmony?
- Is the wording neatly spaced, not dominating, but not too sparse? Not too large or too small, too colorful or irregular? Is it tidy and easy to read?
- Are lines drawn straight, not too thick, not too thin?
- If you use non-philatelic decorations, how can this be justified?
- Do the pages look too full or too empty?

Look at the collection as a whole. Are the titles and subtitles in the same place on each page? Are the stamps on each page the same distance from the edge?

Be sure to store your pages in a vertical position to avoid damage to the stamps. The pressure from horizontal storage could damage them.

#### **The Title Page**

This should give exact information about the chosen subject such as "Scouting - A Historical Documentation on the Scout Movement" or "The Scout Movement - Development, Principals and Worldwide Activities."

If you need more room for further explanations, use a second page which can also contain the contents. The contents, if simple, can be on the title page.

#### **The Album Pages**

Albums pages shouldn't have too much text, avoid non-philatelic decorations, proper angles, symmetry and pages should not have the major focus on the top of the page.

The layout should vary from page to page since the same arrangement is monotonous.

#### **Attaching the Stamps to the Pages**

Stamp hinges can be used for "used" stamps. Mint stamps should be placed in mounts such as Hawid mounts. Letters and larger articles can be attached using photo corners. Do not use glue of any type.

### **Printing**

Letters should not be too large. If hand lettering album pages be sure to avoid pencils, ballpoint pens, felt tip pens and colored pencils. A typewriter can be used by placing a sheet directly in the machine. Computers can be used by printing the information on a piece of paper to be glued in the appropriate places on the album pages.



## Correctly Collecting Scout Stamps

By Jay L. Rogers

THIS NEEDS ILLUSTRATIONS WITH IT

### **How many Scout Stamps exist?**

There are now over 1500 Boy and Girl Scout stamps issued by over 100 different countries. New Scout stamps are issued every year by one country or another. National and International Jamborees or notable anniversaries are typical events commemorated or honored. Single stamps, sets and souvenir sheets are issued.

### **Are Scout Stamps expensive?**

This is an important question if you are 12 years old and must pay for the stamps yourself. Some Scout Stamps, especially the older ones, are very expensive. Most of the more recent issues however cost 10¢ or 25¢ a stamp or between \$1 and \$3 per set.

Short sets (sets in which the expensive high values are missing) cost a lot less. Likewise, used Scout Stamps are also less expensive. Sometimes great bargains are available on whole groups of Scout Stamps from a dealer, collector or auction. Ads for this kind of bargain and others often appear in the Scouts on Stamps Society *Journal*. They are placed by dealers who specialize in Scout Stamps. Additionally, the SOSSI Sales Service offers Scout Stamps for sale.

Remember that buying good stamps and caring for them properly is more like putting money in the bank than spending money on candy bars.

On the other hand, for the collector who wants to invest in Scout Stamps, the opportunity is certainly there. Over the years, dozens and dozens of older issues have increased in value 10 times, 50 times and even more. Many new issues double in value within a year. A few choice Scout stamps can cost \$1,000 and are as solid an investment as classic U.S. stamps.

Many important Scout Stamp Collections have been assembled that won gold medals in national and international competition.

### **Where can I get Scout Stamps?**

Scout Stamps can be purchased from most any stamp store or there are dealers specializing in Scout Stamps and their ads appear in the SOSSI *Journal*. Additionally, in the *Journal* there are frequent auctions of Scout Stamps as well as monthly sales announced in the SOSSI Sales Service.

### **Is there an album to put Scout stamps in?**

Yes! Attractive printed pages for all Scout Stamps are available commercially and advertised in the SOSSI *Journal*. Additionally, SOSSI Sales Service offers a special Scouts on Stamps loose leaf binder. Many collectors prefer to mount their Scout Stamps on blank quadrupled pages using their own layout and write up.

### **Is there a checklist or catalog of Scout Stamps?**

Yes and Yes! A special illustrated catalog of all Scout Stamps, "Scouts on Stamps of the World" is offered through the Sales Service. Annual checklists and catalog supplements appear in the SOSSI *Journal*. The very latest Scout Stamps are listed and discussed each month.

### **Briefly, what about the stamps themselves?**

The first stamps considered to be Scout Stamps were issued in 1900 from the Cape of Good Hope. The three stamps pictured Baden-Powell, the founder, and a boy messenger on a bicycle. The first stamps issued after Scouting actually started in 1907 were a pair from Czechoslovakia in 1918. The first stamp to actually picture a Scout was issued by Hungary in 1925. It was part of a set of sport stamps.



Siam overprinted 19 stamps for their "Wild Tiger" or Boy Scouts in 1919 and 1920. Romania issued five full sets of semi-postal stamps during the 1930s; all honoring Scouts.

Hungary was the first to honor a World Jamboree with a set of five stamps in 1933. Again in 1939 Hungary was the first country to recognize Girls Scouts on stamps.

Through 1941, these stamps and just a few others were all that had been issued in 40 years and are considered the classics of Scouts on Stamps. Seventeen more Scout stamps were issued from 11 more countries from 1941 through 1949.

By 1949 something new was happening to the hobby of stamp collecting. People were beginning to collect by topic as well as by country. By 1952 Scout Stamp collectors had formally started the Scouts on Stamps Society. Meanwhile in 1950, the first U.S. Boy Scout Stamp broke all records for first day sales. Another 27 Scout Stamps were issued between 1950 and 1956.

The 50th Anniversary of Boy Scouting was 1957. No less than 59 Scout Stamps were issued that year -- as many as had been issued in the previous 20 years all together. Popularity of Scout Stamps soared, as did the value of the early issues and the hobby was never the same. Country after country, recognizing the demand, issued Scout Stamps with increasing regularity. Many times since then over 60 Scout stamps have been issued in a single year.

Along with the stamps, there was interest in Scout First Day Covers and Scout camp and event cachet covers. Scout cancellations also became a very popular field.

Today nice collections can be built in many different ways. For example, you may choose to save only new issues and selected old issues or you just might save stamps to honor World Jamborees. Some collectors save only covers. Others specialize in Scout Cancellations from around the world.

Using one's imagination makes anything possible in the Scout stamp collecting field. because Scout Stamp collecting is truly an excellent way to combine interest in stamp collecting with that of Scouting.

## Housing Your Collection

By Vernon G. Clay

The first question confronting a new stamp collector is "What will I use to house my collection?"

The answer is the same for every collector. It can be as inexpensive as a school type ring binder or as costly as some of the post type albums which run \$40 and \$50 each or more. Stamp collecting is a very personal hobby. No one can tell you what stamps to collect, how to mount them or what type of album to use. These are questions you must answer yourself.

The following are the more popular types of albums with their advantages and disadvantages. Before making your choice read the first three chapters of "Showcasing Your Stamp Collection" by C.E. Foster, published by the New Mexico Philatelic Association

### THE PRINTED BOUND ALBUM

#### *Advantages*

- Pictures are provided to help the beginner identify stamps.
- It sets up a goal to fill all the spaces.

#### *Disadvantages*

- By the time the album is prepared, printed and distributed to the local dealer most countries have issued more stamps making the album obsolete before you get it.
- The collector has no say in the layout of the pages or which stamps will be given space.
- There is no room for expansion.
- There will always be many empty spaces, sometimes entire pages without a single stamp.
- This type of album can't accommodate multiple pieces, covers or other related material.

### PRINTED LOOSE LEAF RING BINDER

#### *Advantages*

- Same as those for the bound album.
- Supplements may be purchased each year to bring the album up to date.
- Blank pages may be added to handle multiple pieces and covers.

#### *Disadvantages*

- Same as first four for the bound album
- The pages in the front and back of the album have a tendency to slide down on the rings and curl up. Some albums come with inserts designed to prevent this. I find them only partially effective.
- New additions to your collection must either be kept unmounted until the new supplement is issued or temporarily mounted on blank pages.
- Unless handled very carefully the ring holes tend to enlarge and sometimes tear out.

### BLANK PAGE RING BINDER

#### *Advantages*

- All pages may contain stamps.
- If a stamp is missing from a set you can either leave a space to fill in later or arrange the stamps so the omission is inconspicuous.
- Pages are available with a great variety of borders and titles such as country or name of subject matter. These will enhance and beautify your album.
- Pages can easily be removed for mounting or adding write-up.

- By using blank pages and making your own layout you can easily provide for multiple pieces, covers or other related material to help tell your story.

*Disadvantages*

- The potential for pages sliding down on the rings is the same as for the printed loose leaf album.

- The potential for enlarging the holes is also the same as with the printed pages but this can be almost eliminated by using Mylar reinforced pages. (Be sure to get the heavy weight paper.) These are available at nominal cost at most good stationery stores.

**SPRING BACK BINDER**

This binder holds the pages in a strong spring clamp which is quickly released by folding the covers back.

*Advantages*

- Same as the first five for the ring binder.
- There are no holes in the pages to tear out.
- Stamps already mounted on pages with holes can be placed in this album without remounting.
- The spring clamp holds the pages firmly so they can't move or curl up.

*Disadvantages*

- All pages are released when the spring tension is released and it takes a little practice to line them up neatly when putting them back into the album.
- This album will not lie flat when opened up.

**POST RING BINDERS**

This type of binder is somewhat similar to the ring binder except the rings are replaced by posts and the pages are holed in more firmly with little tendency to tear out the holes. The more elaborate construction makes the binder considerably more expensive.

**HINGELESS BINDER**

This is a relatively new type of album which provides a little pocket for each stamp. It has all the advantages and disadvantages of the printed album plus it is quite expensive.

**IN CONCLUSION**

If you choose any of the albums with removable pages, I would strongly recommend the use of 8-1/2" by 11" pages. This size is easily available and if you ever decide to put your stamps in a show they will fit into all standard frames.

## The Art of Creating Pages for a Stamp Collection

The art of making one's own pages for a stamp collection can run from the very simple and inexpensive to the very elaborate and expensive.

The first and most important consideration is having a final result that pleases you, the collector, as well as being within the range of your pocketbook.

The most popular, versatile, universal and least expensive album system is built around the three ring, loose-leaf binder. This base will result in a range of binders that will fill almost any need.

Binders can be purchased that are prepared especially for stamp collecting and probably with a specific area of interest on the label. Silk screening can be used to design a personalized album by using plain binders with a label affixed. This is an area that can be adjusted for anyone's needs.

The pages can be purchased ready made from various suppliers or the time and effort can be taken to design your own pages. Blank pages with no border, design or guides can also be used.

The paper stock should be satisfactory for mounting stamps. Plain notebook paper is too flimsy to support stamps in a satisfactory manner. In most cases card stock should be used. Card stock usually has to be cut to size and punched with holes for the rings.

One of the best places to locate card stock is through a local printing house. Order several hundred pages to get a price break.

If you are not ready to get into card stock, heavy "biology" or "botany" laboratory paper will provide a reasonable substitute. This paper should be available at most stationery supply stores.

There are a number of methods for titling the pages varying from handwritten to typing directly onto the page to gummed labels, transfer letters and professional lettering devices to creating on a computer and cutting and pasting. As the collector decides on the best methods for their collection, it would be useful to learn a little about printing methods and procedures. The knowledge will help in preparing pages and identifying and understanding more about the production of stamps.

If you decide to have your pages professionally printed, plan to have 1,000 or more pages produced. The actual cost of printing 1,000 pages changes very little from the initial set up cost and printing from just a few hundred pages. The cost of printing 100 pages versus 5,000 pages amounts to little more than the difference in the cost for the amount of paper used.

If printing your own pages consult the printer in the preliminary stages for rules and pointers on preparation. Then prepare the camera ready art work to deliver to the printer. If you ask the printer to prepare the art work, the cost of producing your pages will skyrocket.

## Mounting and Storing Stamps

*By Jeanne Hudak*

Certain indisputable facts face us — the earth isn't getting any larger, just more populated with countries, people, and Scout stamps!

The mere thought of organizing a Scout Stamp collection for the beginner can be staggering!

When I began collecting Scout Stamps, I was fortunate because I was directed to members of the Scouts on Stamps Society International who had collections to liquidate. For a couple hundred dollars I was able to acquire the stamps and covers I wanted. I had decided to collect both.

Today, in talking with people in and out of SOSI, I find the vast majority collect only the stamps, and only one of each. They dutifully mount them on the prepared pages available. When I looked around I found this didn't fit my concept of collecting for several reasons.

If you aren't going to "hinge," and most don't, this means you are going to purchase many mounts at some cost and apply them to the spaces provided on the page. (As a novice I was amazed to learn that prizes are given at stamp shows for exhibits on such pages.)

Outside of cost, which is considerable, I kept finding that the imperfs didn't always fit the mounts. No matter what sizes I had, another souvenir sheet would come along that didn't fit. After a weak start, they were all removed and applied elsewhere.

There is one other factor which I consider a drawback with prepared pages — there is something final about putting a stamp on a page in the space provided. I find it difficult to get people who do this to share their collection or talk about it. I've concluded that this was the extent of their interest.

Because of this I sat down one afternoon with several packets of three by five index cards plus some that had been cut in thirds lengthwise. I put them together with masking tape to make a card with a pocket at the bottom. I was then ready to identify the card: Scott #, Country, Reason for Issue, Date of Issue.

On the pocket I wrote the date of purchase, price paid and in some instances from whom it was purchased. I placed the stamps or stamps and souvenir sheets in the pocket. The cards were filed alphabetically by countries, using alphabetized index card dividers in a card board box.

I purchased a larger file box, one that was six by eight, with plain dividers for my covers. On the dividers I wrote the name of the country and arranged them alphabetically. I did this because I was collecting special cancels as well as First Day Covers.

This system worked well for me until I came upon the idea of using empty 10-1/2" by 12" X-ray boxes, 94 in all. I switched to this because much of my material was mounted for exhibiting. When I took the exhibit apart I could place the whole page back in its proper box. In order not to continually duplicate my efforts I began mounting all my exhibits on standard pages so they are interchangeable.

For storage of these boxes, I created a plywood box with glue and wood screws in no time so my collection rests comfortably.



## Inventorying Your Collection

*By Bob Nugent*

The constant flood of new issues makes keeping an inventory of your collection very important. In my family which consist of one wife, six children and one dog, no one else is interested in stamp collecting. No one else knows anything about the value of my philatelic holdings. My wife, Jeanne Marie, has said, kidding I hope, "You will be cold and I'll be selling your stamps."

Let's take her at her words — who does she contact, what is the value of my collection, should the collection be sold piece by piece or as one lot?

Here's what I've done:

- I have provided written instructions giving my recommendations on how to dispose of the stamps.
- I have discussed with my oldest son these recommendations and what my inventories mean, how to use them and what they are.
- At home I keep a "catalog value" inventory of my complete collection. Those items that are not priced in a catalog, such as imperfs, deluxe souvenir sheets, errors, etc., show retail price.
- In my office I keep a "retail value" inventory of my complete collection. This is made up from dealer price sheets.
- I update these inventories at least every year.
- In the "remarks" column of my inventory I record such specifics as the number on plate blocks or corner copies of individual stamps, anything that helps identify the stamps in case they are lost by theft. On the back of the page I tape a picture of my more valuable items which I run off on a copier.



## Scouts on Stamps Tell A Story

*By William E. Hoffman*

Because of my interests and activities in behalf of Scouting on a worldwide basis and in the Scouts on Stamps Society International, I have acquired a moderate degree of notoriety on these subjects. Though I will not assume the role of being an expert on Scouts on stamps, I am happy to share information and observations about these interesting stamps and collecting them as a hobby.

My interest in collecting stamps began over 50 years ago. Meeting with Scouts and Scouters from other countries began with my participation in the Boy Scouts of American national Jamborees and my meetings with Scouters from all levels while I served as the first Scout Executive of the EUCOM (now the Transatlantic ) Council

More than 150 countries of the free world have issued postage stamps honoring Scouting philatelically since 1900. These stamps depict, honor or commemorate the Boy Scout, Girl Scout or Girl Guide movements, nationally or on a worldwide basis. Some of them recognize individuals who have given distinguished service to Scouting or important events or activities of the Scouting program. These Scouts on stamps issues have been of special interest to many stamps collectors, particularly those who have been or still are affiliated with the Scouting movement, as a Scout or in a leadership capacity.

Scouts on stamps tell the story of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout movements and their activities in a colorful and interesting way. They cover a subject that makes them of particular interest to adult collectors with some interest in Scouting. Many of these collectors, both men and women, do their collecting as individuals but a considerable number of them in this country and abroad are members of stamp clubs such as Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI).

SOSSI is the largest and most active philatelic society in the world dedicated to the service of collectors interested in Scouts on stamps. It gives its membership access to information on current and past issues of Scouts on stamps and provides supply sources for Scout stamps and the supplies needed to care for collections. It also makes possible contacts with other collectors of Scout stamps. It works in an advisory capacity with Scout associations and postal authorities regarding the issue and promotion of commemorative Scout stamps.

The United States has issued five Scout commemoratives. The first U.S.A. Scout stamp was released on October 29, 1948 to honor the Girl Scout movement and its founder Juliette Low. It was an engraved three cent denomination printed in green. Its design included a portrait of Juliette Low and the Girl Scout badge.

The 40th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America was recognized by a brown three cent stamp issued on June 30, 1950, the opening of the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pa. It pictured a Cub, a Boy Scout and an Explorer with the Scout badge.

On February 8, 1960, with elaborate ceremonies in Washington, D.C., a four cent stamp printed in red, blue and brown depicting a Boy Scout and the Scout sign was issued to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. Norman Rockwell designed this popular issue. Nearly a million and a half first day covers with this stamp and a special Washington cancellation were sold.

The 50th Anniversary of the founding of the first Girl Scout troop in the United States was honored by a stamp July 24, 1962, at Button Bay, Vermont, at the third national Senior Girl Scout Round Up. This four cent stamp was printed in red and shows a Girl Scout with the American flag in the background.

Saluting the 12th Boy Scout World Jamboree held at Farragut State Park in Idaho, an unusual six cent air mail postcard was released on August 4, 1967. The card pictured

the Universal Scout emblem against a background of the Idaho mountains. As the host country for the Jamboree, the United States followed the tradition of host countries honoring a World Jamboree with a postal issue.

Other World Jamborees were honored by Hungary, 1933; Netherlands, 1937; France, 1947; Austria, 1951; Canada, 1955; Great Britain, 1957; Philippines, 1959; Greece, 1963; Japan, 1971; and Norway, 1975; and other countries.

Scout stamp sizes range from small to jumbo and their shapes vary from square to round, rectangular to triangular and some even come in "free form" such as those issued by Sierra Leone, Tonga and Norfolk Island. Just about every kind of printing process has been used to produce these stamps including off-set, engraved, photogravure, typogravure, lithographed, rotogravure, letter press or embossed. Many of them are works of art created by great craftsmen and designed by outstanding artists. There are also some which are rather crude and gaudy. Organized and properly mounted in an album, these stamps become a fascinating and interesting collection.

In 1979, the African country of Liberia put out an unusual and colorful issue of 50 large stamps in five denominations. Each stamp pictured a copy of one of the Norman Rockwell paintings used on Boy Scout calendars from 1925 to 1976. This set is a wonderful piece of Scout memorabilia telling the story of Scouting in America over half a century. The set received a very popular reception and may become a treasured collector's item.

Anyone interested in geography or far away place will find Scouting is active in the Faeroe and Gilbert islands, the New Hebrides, Norfolk or the Ryukyu islands, Nauru, Rwanda, Tonga or Truvalu, Antigua or Anguilla, Sri Lanka or Sierra Leone, Bhutan or Barbuda, Mauritania or Montserrat and even Tristan de Cunha.

The dream of just about every advanced collector of Scouts on Stamps is the three blue-print process stamps produced and used during the Mafeking siege in the Boer War in 1900. Two of these stamps pictured Colonel Baden-Powell, Commander of the British troops in Mafeking. The third stamp pictured one of the boy Cadets in the Corps organized and trained by Baden-Powell to render various types of community and emergency service in the beleaguered city. The delivery of the local mail was one of the services they handled.

The Cadet Corps was the forerunner of the Boy Scout program which Baden-Powell later developed and founded in England so it is not surprising that the portrait of Baden-Powell appears on later issues of Scout stamps. According to recent compilations there have been 71 different issues with a total of 132 individual stamps including a picture of Baden-Powell in their designs!

To those with an interest in Girl Scouts and Girls Guides, there are a growing number of issues picturing the portrait of Lady Baden-Powell who was closely associated with the Girl Scout, Girl Guide and Boy Scout movements in all parts of the world. SOSSI has assembled and presented a complete collection of Girl Scout stamps to the national headquarters of the Girl Scouts of America. SOSSI also presented a complete collection of Boy Scout stamps to the BSA headquarters. These collections are updated from time to time by SOSSI.

Information on stamps and stamp collecting can be acquired from friends who are active collectors or from reputable and knowledgeable stamp dealers. Viewing a friend's collection, seeing exhibits of stamps at museums and philatelic exhibitions are a good way to learn how collections are assembled and mounted.

*William E. Hoffman retired from the National Boy Scouts of America staff and was a past president of the Scouts on Stamps Society International president. He co-authored "Scout Stamps of the World" before his death.*

## How Scouts Appeared on Stamps

*By Glenn W. Moss*

The first Scout stamps, Cape of Good Hope, April 1900, were not really Boy Scout stamps. The City of Mafeking, South Africa, was under siege by the Boers (Dutch settlers) when the stamps were printed. Because the stamp supply had been exhausted, stamps were urgently needed for the local mail so Captain Greener designed the Baden-Powell stamp. Printed using a blue print method called the ferro prussiate process, it became the first Boy Scout stamp.

Later a second stamp was printed, "Goodyear on Cycle," featuring South African Cadet Sergeant Major Warner Goodyear who in later years was referred to by Boy Scout founder Baden-Powell as his first Scout. The stamps were for local mail, but at times, runners managed to pass enemy lines so the stamps were used for outside mail. Stamps on original envelopes are a rare item today.

The second Scout stamp was issued by Czechoslovakia in 1918. The Scott catalog does not recognize this issue. Produced from single dies, there are no genuine pairs or blocks. The 10 Halera is for postal cards and the 20 Halera for letters with the Scouts collecting a fee upon delivery. Each letter was "Registered Mail" since the receiver was required to sign his own name in a rubber stamped space on the envelope, remove the contents and return the envelope to the Scout as receipt for delivery.

Because of great intrigue and distrust of political enemies, each Sea Scout (equivalent of Boy Scout) had his signature on approved lists as proof of official messenger status to be compared by the government officials before envelopes were accepted. Forgeries of stamps and envelopes are known to exist and were sometimes crudely created. Postal cards were printed from the 10 Haleru plate and are very rare. Both denominations of the stamp were overprinted on December 31, 1918 with "Prijezd Presidena Masaryk" (Arrival of President Masaryk) for one day postal use. Only 600 copies of each were unofficially printed and therefore are questionable collectors' items. Czechoslovakia (#3-4) have also appeared as faked stamps. Although some catalogs do not list these stamps since they were issued before the country was organized, they have seen more postal service than many listed stamps.

Siam, now known as Thailand, was the next country to honor Scouts with a series of Scout overprints (#B17, B18-23) in 1920. These stamps were somewhat of a semi-postal for the people of Siam paid a tax on these stamps to support Scouting. Hungary, in 1925, (#B85) has the honor of being the first country to picture a Boy Scout on a stamp. It was one of a set honoring Scouting and athletics. The stamp was sold at double face value plus 10 percent with the extra money helping Scouting and athletics. In 1931 Romania issued the first true semi-postal Scout stamp. Several other countries have issued semi-postal Scout stamps. In 1933 Hungary issued the first Scouting stamps (#481-85) honoring the fourth World Jamboree for Scouts.

Scouts on stamps have grown over the years. In 1951 there were only 78 Scout stamps issued by 16 countries. Now there are over 3,000 Scout stamps issued by more than 135 countries. In 1982, the 75th Anniversary of World Scouting, 119 countries issued Scout stamps.

There are many ways to collect Scout stamps: covers, single, perfs and imperfs, gutter pairs, mini-sheet perfs and imperfs, souvenir sheets, deluxe souvenir sheets, proofs, proof strips and maximum cards along with gold and silver stamps. Scout stamps are anything a collector wants. Scout stamps tell about Scouting throughout the world, how Scouting has grown, what countries have Scouting and do not have Scouting but did in the past.

A person interested in collecting Scouts on Stamps may purchase from dealers who advertise in the SOSSI *Journal* or their local stamp dealers. There are check lists and a special illustrated catalog for Scout stamps, "Scouts on Stamps of the World." The first edition was published in 1949 by Harry D. Thorsen Jr., and showed only 16 countries with Scouts on Stamps issues. Updated editions were published in 1955, 1964, 1968, 1973, 1979 and the seventh edition in 1986. Supplements, supported by profits from the sales of souvenirs at Jamborees, are issued by SOSSI to keep people up to date.



## **A History of Scouts on Stamps Society International**

*By Harry Thorsen, Sarasota, Florida*

It all started when I published my first book, "Boy Scout Stamps of the World" in 1949. In 1948 I wrote to the national director of publications of the Boy Scouts of America asking if permission was necessary and whether the national organization would print or buy my manuscript. The answer was discouraging and, if it had not been for Arthur McKinney, former Scout Executive of Chicago Council and the Assistant to the Chief Scout Executive, perhaps the book would never have been published.

Before McKinney left Chicago a few years before, I met him as a fellow stamp collector showing interest in a book on Scout stamps. The director of publications mentioned my idea to McKinney who wrote me saying I should go proceed, even though the B.S.A. was not interested. McKinney felt that the international aspect was of interest and that if I printed it, the National Supply Service would sell on consignment.

The first edition of 1,000 copies was 32 pages plus cover and sold for only one dollar per copy. It included the 1948 Girl Scout Stamp honoring Juliette Low and mentioned that I hoped the Post Office would also honor the B.S.A. in the future.

In 1949 I called on Chief Scout Executive Dr. Arthur Schuck in New York City to ask that a stamp for the 40th anniversary of Scouting be promoted in 1950. He suggested that perhaps this was something to be promoted by volunteers rather than B.S.A. national headquarters.

I was then a young printing salesman for Redson Rice Corporation in Chicago. Mr. E.G. Rice was writing a manual of postal information for the envelope industry to give to their customers. Since Rice made frequent trips to Washington to see Postmaster General Donaldson, I asked if he would give a copy of my book to Donaldson and ask if the Boy Scouts could have a stamp in 1950 to honor their 40th anniversary. When Rice said that was a great idea and encouraged the design, it was the birth of the first U.S. Scout stamp which was promoted June 30, 1950, at the second National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pa.

By 1950 I was publishing my second edition which included the new stamp and my correspondence was mounting day to day. The constant question was where could stamps be purchased and how to trade with other collectors. About this time Jerry Husak in Milwaukee started the American Topical Association (ATA). In November, 1951, a Kansas City collector started "Youth Organizations on Stamps" with ten members and a bulletin. When he saw my book, Husak invited me to be a member. Because I objected to some of the membership (caused by the times), I turned down his invitation. Howard D. Bearce asked if I would consider being president if the name was changed to Scouts on Stamps Society (which I had suggested). Bearce said he would be secretary and editor of the organization's bulletin.

Discovering Art McKinney was already a member, I received his okay to be a director. One of McKinney's job on B.S.A. national staff included international relations which helped me obtain information on Scout stamps issued as well as promoting new issues. McKinney sent copies of my book to more than 50 countries. McKinney was a quiet, dignified man, very diplomatic and a wonderful friend to me and the Scouts on Stamps Society International. In retirement he became the Stamps Editor of Boys' Life magazine and co-authored "Scout Stamps of the World" with me.

The first issue of the Scouts on Stamps Journal was in March, 1952, when "Youth Organization on Stamps" became "Scouts on Stamps Society." Not until 1956 was

International added to the name.

The first meeting of the Chicago area members was November 16, 1952 in my home in Winnetka. This later became the Baden-Powell Chapter #1 in 1954.

The first national Society convention was held July 19, 1953, at the third National B.S.A. Jamboree in Santa Ana, California. There were eight present: Allen Mitchell, Warehouse Point, Connecticut; Glenwood Penslien, Tonawanda, New York; Fred Paulus, Elgin, Illinois; Ernest Diechman, Wheeling, West Virginia; Edwin Emmerling, Elmwood Park, Illinois; Vern Nelson, Provo, Utah; and Carl Johnson, West Haven, Florida. In 1987 four members were still alive: Allen Mitchell living in Henry, Illinois; Ernest J. Dieckman in Wheeling, West Virginia; Ed Emmerling still in Elmwood Park; and Harry Thorsen in Sarasota, Florida.

At the 1953 Jamboree the small display of Scout stamps and covers created interest resulting in new members from many states. Since this event SOSSI has been represented at all National B.S.A. Jamborees. Thanks to Art McKinney, SOSSI's Sunday afternoon conventions were always included in the Jamboree printed programs for the day.

The first World Scout Jamboree was in Canada in 1955. There were several Canadian members in SOSSI at that time and they promoted their stamps for the Jamboree. I was honored as President of SOSSI at a luncheon for all the national presidents of the countries represented. We had our first Society World Jamboree cacheted covers at this Jamboree.

Perhaps my greatest contribution in promoting Scout on stamps came in 1957 when the World Scout Bureau printed my articles in *World Scouting*. In 1956 Chief Korea Scout Bill Rhee was my house guest. His patrol of Scouts was on a world tour staying in homes of Scouts in Winnetka, Illinois. Bill had never heard of Scout stamps and was intrigued with my collection. He asked if I would help get a Scout stamp for Korea. In my living room, he and I designed the stamp issued in 1957.

I sent copies of my book to the Korean Postmaster General and to Sigmond Rhee, the president, no relation to Bill. At Bill's request I also sent a letter telling that I believed their Scouts deserved the stamp. When I asked what the Korean Scouts had done to deserve this honor. Bill told about the many years of Good Turns during war, famines and floods when Scouts served their nation. Bill asked that my books and letters be sent at the same time the National Executive Board was requesting the stamp. It worked and a stamp was issued in two values.

This Korean plan was reported in my *World Scouting* articles and for several years other Scout countries received postal recognition. This gave me information on new issues as well as stories behind stamp designs and pictures used. In appreciation for the Korean stamps, I was given a plaque reproducing the stamp in black lacquered wood inlaid with mother of pearl. This is on display in my Scout Memorabilia Museum.

In 1957 I suggested that SOSSI donated a complete framed collection of Scout stamps to the Boy Scouts of America. Eventually it was placed in the Scouting Museum after being presented at the National Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The history of SOSSI would not be complete without the story about Bill Hoffmann. I met Bill in Chicago for a meeting of the national council. He was leaving the next day for Germany to become the Scout Executive of the European Scout Council for American boys after World War II. I asked Bill if he could get me information on the Displaced Persons Camp stamps that Scouts had issued when improvising postal service in Germany and other countries. Almost a year later he sent helpful information. This started his membership in SOSSI. Hoffman took Art McKinney's place on the national B.S.A. staff in 1956. Later he became SOSSI president and co-authored an edition of "Scout Stamps of the World" with myself and Howard Kaplan.



### **Classic stamps**

Some of my thoughts on early issues of Scout stamps I have termed classics include:

Many collectors have questioned including the 1900 Mafeking Siege stamps of the Cape of Good Hope as Scout stamps when Scouting didn't begin until 1907. I believe these two stamps picturing Baden-Powell and messenger boy Goodyear are part of our Scouting history. It was here that Baden-Powell admired boys under boy leadership who performed helpful services during the Boer War. Baden-Powell called Goodyear his "first" Boy Scout. His book, "Aids to Scouting," sent to his publisher just before the hostilities began, was like a survival book, intended for the Army Scouts. The men meeting the tests were awarded a fleur-de-lis which later became the Boy Scout badge. Because 100,000 copies of the book were sold to boys in England by 1907, Baden-Powell wrote the book "Scouting for Boys" and started the Scout movement.

In 1949 I sent a copy of my book to Lady Baden-Powell in England. In her reply she objected to the reference about her husband stating Queen Victoria was displeased with Baden-Powell appearing on a British stamp when only members of the royal family had previously appeared. I had copied this from an inaccurate article on the Boer War. The stamps were intended for local mail during the Siege of Mafeking but were accepted by the British postal service as official mail when the war was over. The fact the Queen made Baden-Powell the youngest General in the British Army was certainly proof she was not displeased with stamps that were improvised to honor their Colonel during the 217 days of the Siege.

After several years of correspondence with Lady Baden-Powell, she was invited to become an Honorary Member of SOSSI and until her death was a great promoter of membership in the society. She was speaker at the Society convention at the World Scout Jamboree in Idaho in 1967. She said that Bill Hillcourt and Harry Thorsen had done more to promote interest in her husband than any other Americans. At this Jamboree SOSSI President Bill Hoffman presented an updated frame of Scout stamps to Joe Brunton, Chief Scout Executive, for the national museum.

The Czechoslovakian Scout stamps always interested me even though they were issued while the country was being organized in 1918. While they have never been recognized by Scott, they have seen more postal service than so called stamps having no postal use or need. The postal service by their Sea Scouts has been researched by many expert philatelists.

The Siam 19 overprinted stamps of 1920 have fakes that are possible to distinguish from the genuine copies. Before buying any compare them to the stamps in another collection

The first actual Boy Scout appearing on any stamp was the Hungary B85, the 1925 Bugler, a part of a sports set. When asked what to do with the non-Scout stamps, I believe they should be shown on the same album page, perhaps featuring the Scout stamp by position. Scouting was honored by being included in a sports set of semi-postals.

Often we are asked if stamps are a good investment. I believe that all kinds of collectibles depend on both supply and demand to reflect their value. We must realize that dealers' commissions lessen the resale value until the supply is exhausted or the demand greatly increases. If you compare our hobby with golf you realize that golfers expect no return from the fee they pay but we expect to make a profit if we sell our collection.

### **Thorsen's suggestions on collecting**

If you insist on stamp collecting as an investment, here are a few suggestions. Buy only stamps in the finest condition, well centered and perfect copies with full gum. Then consider the earliest items in demand with limited or known quantities. Watch

auction sales to determine values of rare items. Read stamp papers. Attend your SOSSI Chapter meetings to keep up with hobby news. Realize that most collectors have only one choice, to sell to dealers. As a member of SOSSI you have nearly 2,000 members with possible interest in your stamps when you decide to sell.

Too often we hear of discouraged members because they can't afford what they consider a complete collection. I suggest specializing within our specialty hobby of Scout philately. My favorite area of interest in recent years has been all the first day covers having stamps honoring Baden-Powell or Lady Baden-Powell as well as Scout seals and cancellations that depict our founder and his wife.

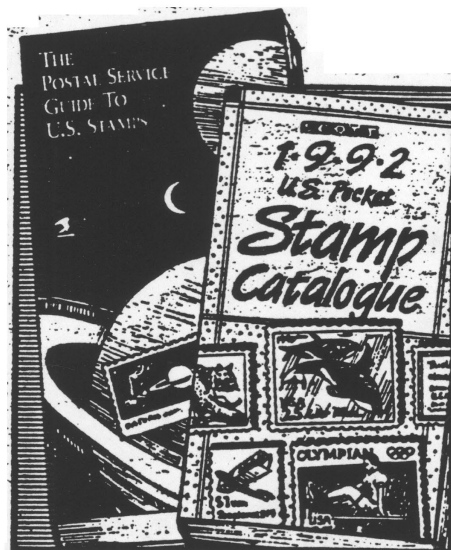
To me, Scout covers tell a story even better than mint stamps. Whether the cachet is made by a Scout, his troop or leader, I value it as much or more than those printed by a Scout council or a dealer. Cachets usually enhance the design of the stamps and further note the first day ceremonies if there were such. Cancellations with a Scout design or lettering are also interesting.

Another area of collecting is postage meters. These might be considered as having no value yet the oldest ones today are creating interest. Almost every Scout Council in America uses a postage meter and there are more and more having slogans announcing programs or events for fund raising. You can trade council meter slogans for other meter slogans.

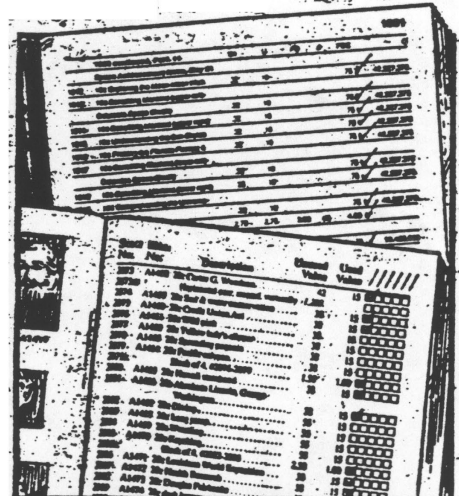
We have a wonderful topical hobby in Scout philately that is better because of the SOSSI Journal, local Chapter meetings, conventions at Jamborees and new friendships. We all can promote the hobby as well as world Scouting.

*Reprinted from the program booklet of Compex '87 Combined Philatelic Exhibition, Chicago*

# Collecting made easy



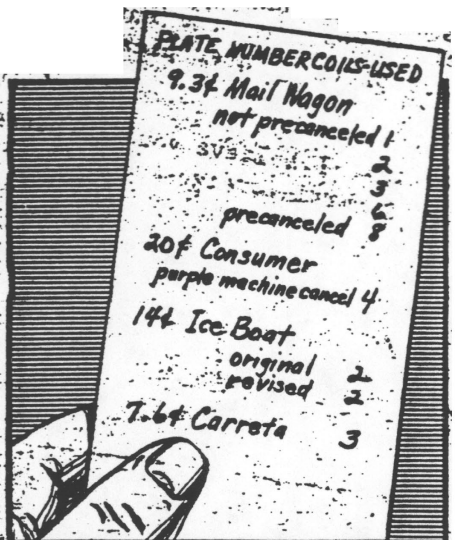
Checklists of stamps already in a collection can be made by marking the pages of one of the basic catalogs or guides.



Pages in these stamp catalogs or guides sometimes have printed boxes to check off stamps or space for making notes.



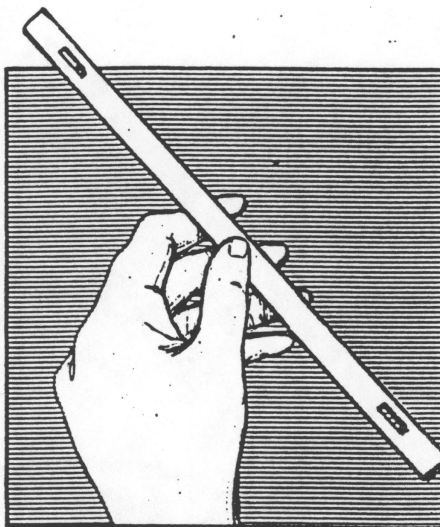
For some countries, a page cut from an old stamp catalog can serve as a checklist or a want list that is easy to carry.



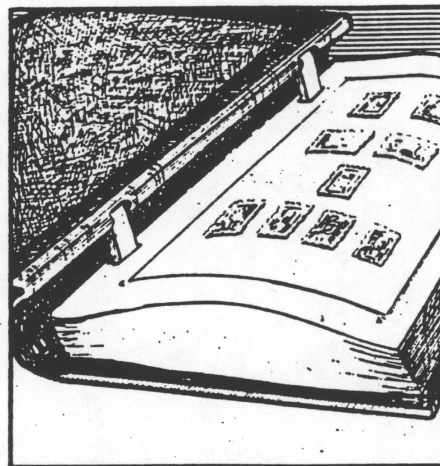
Handwritten lists are useful when only a few stamps are needed. They are easy to carry when visiting a stamp dealer.



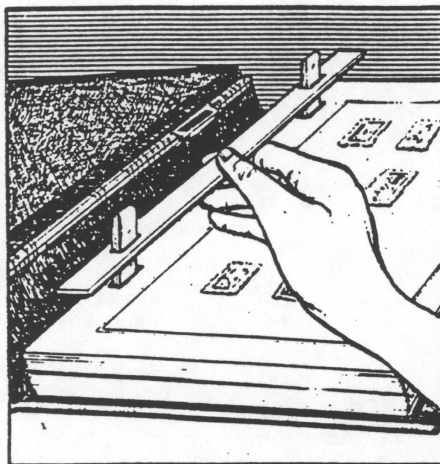
# Collecting made easy



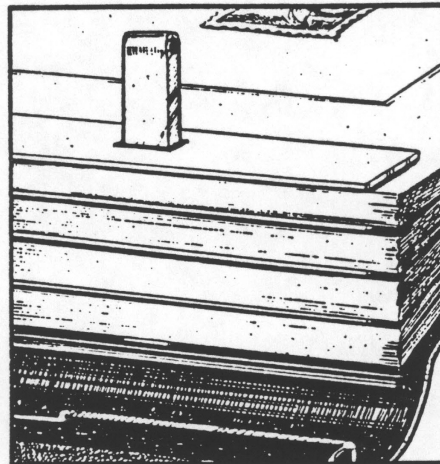
Filler strips are used to separate groups of pages in an album. Filler strips usually are made from a quality cardboard.



An album without filler strips will bulge at the center of the pages, especially when it is filled with stamps and mounts.

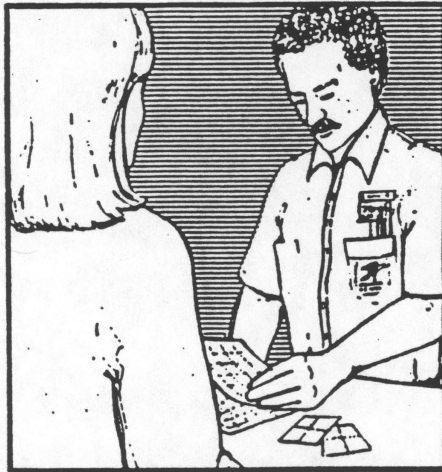


To add filler strips, open the album and insert them about every 20 or so pages.

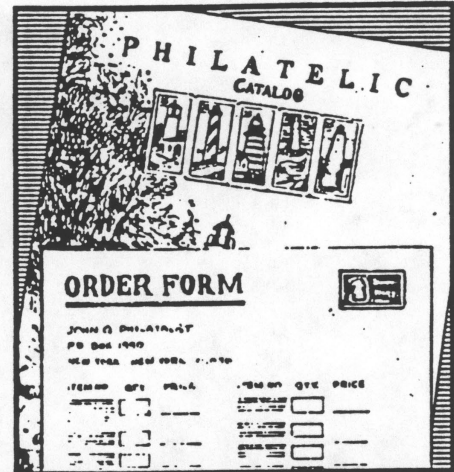


A strip above the top page will help prevent that page from tearing at the posts.

# Collecting made easy



Sources of stamps include the philatelic counters at most large U.S. post offices.



Current U.S. stamps also can be purchased by mail from the U.S. Postal Service.



Ordering by mail from the ads in Linn's is a primary source of many stamps.



Collectors also attend stamp shows and purchase from dealers at their booths.

# Collecting made easy



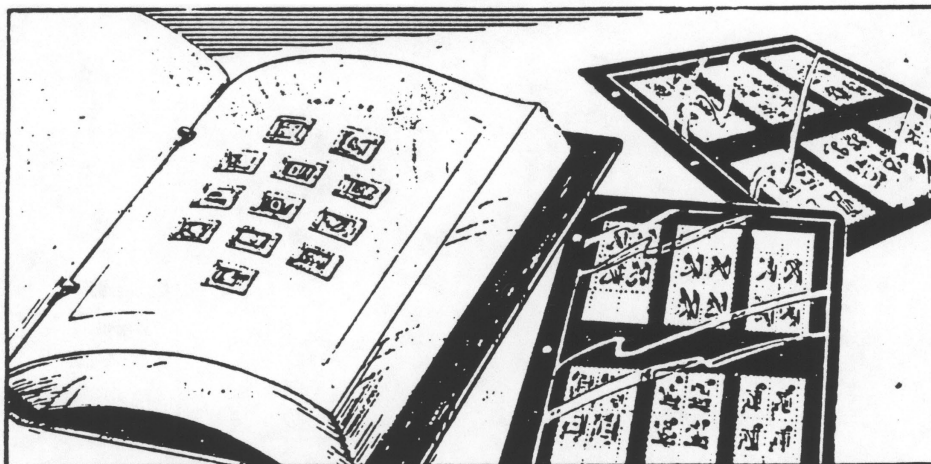
Topical collectors are interested in the subjects shown on stamps. Most topical collectors concentrate on one topic. Baseball, dinosaurs, railroads and birds are possible topics.



Saving stamps on first-day covers or commercial covers can be part of topical collecting.



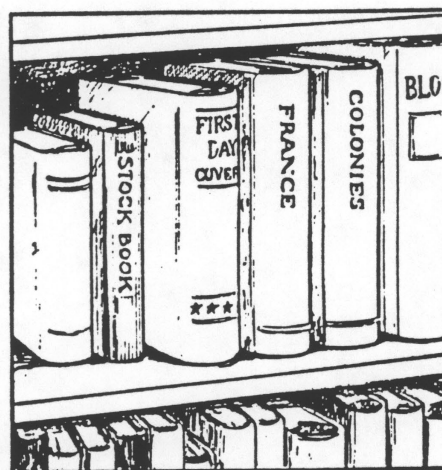
# Collecting made easy



Proper storage of stamps includes mounting them in albums or placing them on protective stock sheets. Albums and stock sheets keep stamps organized and clean.



Pages should be checked a few times a year to see that stamps remain mounted.



Albums should be stored upright on sturdy shelves away from sun and moisture.

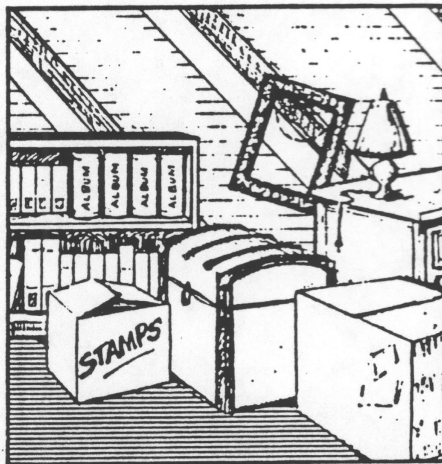
# Collecting made easy



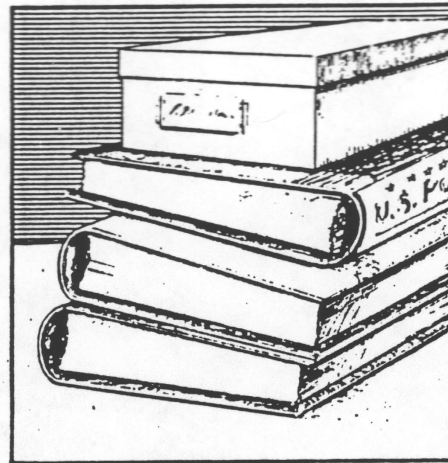
Improper storage of stamps includes temporary exposure to strong sunlight.



Moist basement air eventually will cause mildew and damage the gum on stamps.

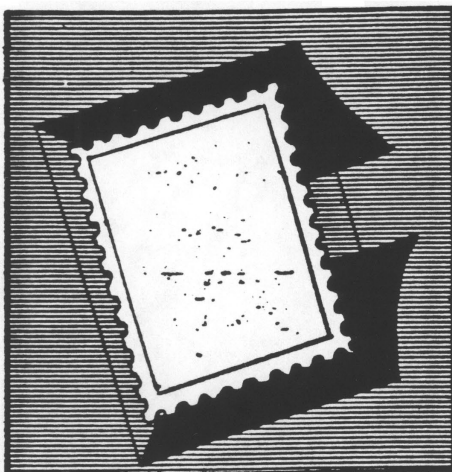


Over time, the heat of an attic will dry out stamp albums and make them brittle.

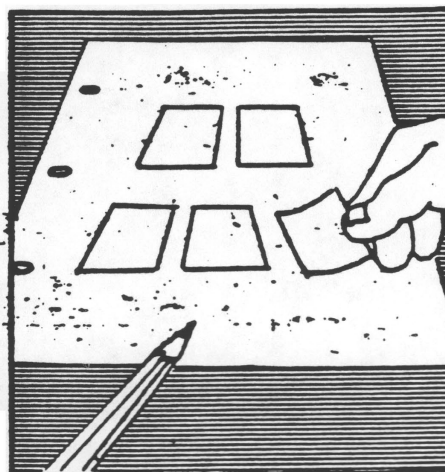


Storing stamp albums flat puts uneven pressure on the stamps and the binders.

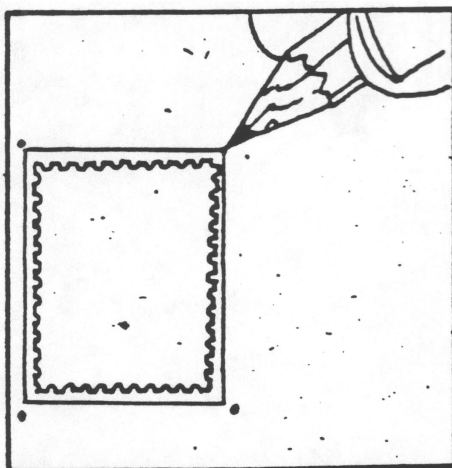
# Collector techniques



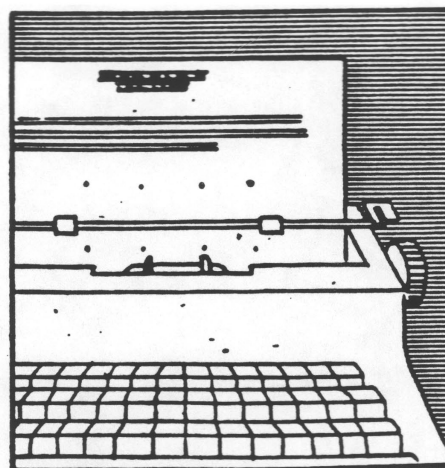
Arranging album or exhibition pages can be a graphic challenge. Stamp mounts have advantages here, because of their convenience and built-in backgrounds.



The first step is to arrange the material on the blank page. Any guidelines for balance and graphic design can apply here, too. Be sure to allow for written descriptions.



Mark the positions of the stamps lightly in pencil to preserve the design arrangement.



Then, just add text and headings, which can be typed or neatly hand-lettered.

# Collecting made easy

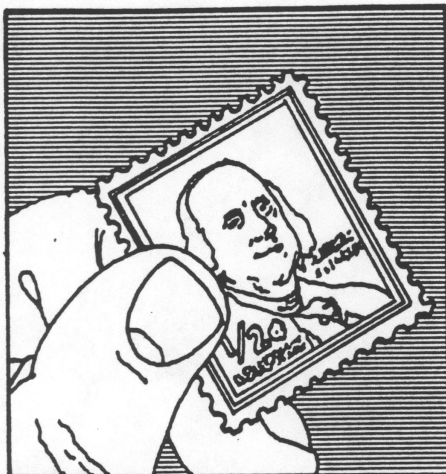


**Buying new issues:** Many postal administrations offer their new stamps by mail at face value (plus postage and/or handling fee). Some offer a service where a credit balance assures the sending of each new stamp automatically. A listing of postal administrations appears in *Linn's* periodically. The U.S. Postal Service issues a bimonthly catalog from which current U.S. stamps can be ordered (\$5 minimum and 50¢ service charge per order).

| NEW ISSUE STANDING ORDER FORM |                     |                   |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| — Americana                   | — Churchill         | — Napoleon        | — World's Fairs     |
| — Animals                     | — Communications    | — Olympics        | — Year of the Child |
| — Anti-Malaria                | — Copernicus        | — Queen Elizabeth | Formats Desired:    |
| — Art                         | — DeGaulle          | — Red Cross       | — Perforate         |
| — Same, (Nudes)               | — Dogs              | — Religion        | — Imperforate       |
| — Astrology                   | — Fairy Tales       | — Roosevelt       | — Booklets          |
| — Astronomy                   | — Fish & Marine     | — Rotary          | — Souvenir Sheets   |
| — Authors                     | — Life              | — Royal Wedding   | — Miniature Sheets  |
| — Automobiles                 | — Flowers & Plants  | — Scouts          | — Deluxe Sheets     |
| — (Classic)                   | — Gandhi            | — Shells          | — Errors            |
| — Same, (Racing)              | — Horses            | — Ships           | — Other             |
| — Aviation (History)          | — Rowland Hill      | — Same, (Sailing) | — Countries         |
| — Same, (Military)            | — Insects           | — Soccer          |                     |
| — Same, (Zeppelins)           | — John F. Kennedy   | — Space           | as follows          |
| — Same, (Concorde)            | — M. L. King        | — Same, (U.S.)    | <u>AUSTRIA</u>      |
| — Bicentennial                | — Lincoln           | — Same, (Russian) | <u>SWITZERLAND</u>  |
| — (U.S.A.)                    | — Maps              | — Sports          | <u>MONACO</u>       |
| — Bell (Telephone)            | — Medicine          | — Stamp on Stamp  |                     |
| — Birds                       | — Military Uniforms | — Trains          |                     |
| — Bridges                     | — Minerals          | — Transportation  |                     |

New issue dealers also will provide new stamps of countries or topics. Some publish lists from which the stamps can be ordered; others work on a deposit basis and automatically send new stamps. See *Linn's* display ads and classified ads (New Issues, Section 71).

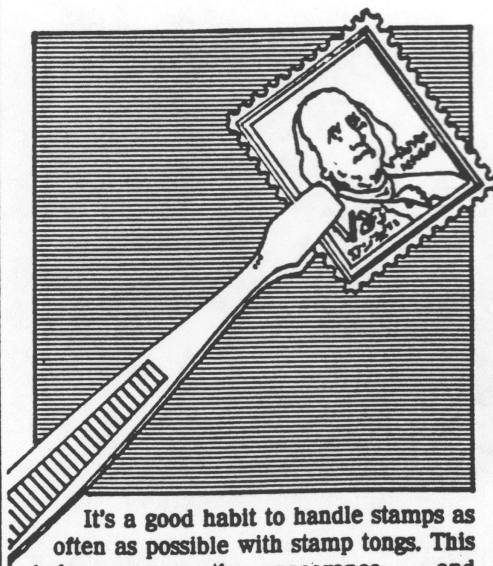
# Collecting made easy



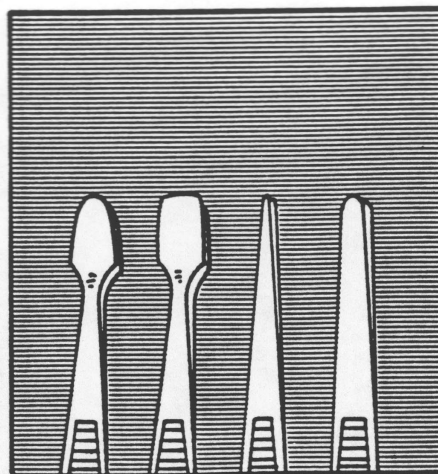
Careless handling of stamps can lead to problems and damage for these bits of paper. That damage may not become evident for years; its prevention is very important.



Dirty hands can leave instant fingerprints and grime. Even small amounts of oil on a person's seemingly clean fingers can cause uneven aging in a stamp's paper fibers.



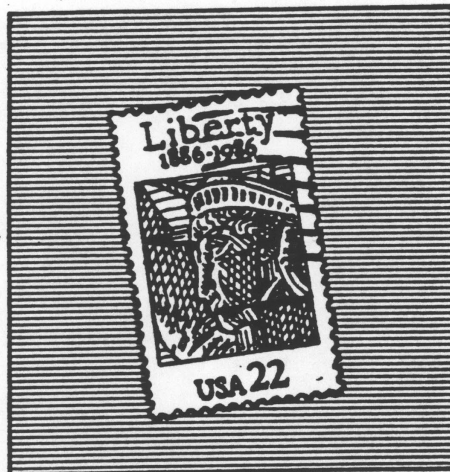
It's a good habit to handle stamps as often as possible with stamp tongs. This helps preserve the appearance — and value — of the stamp, front and back.



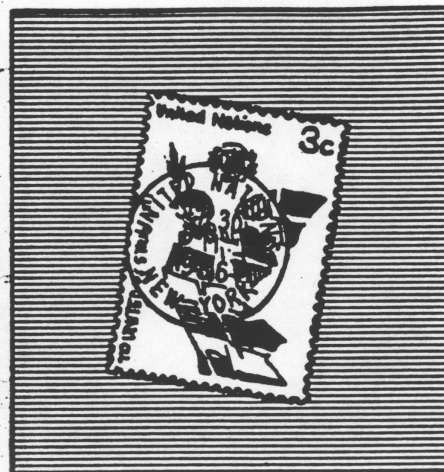
Tongs are tweezer-like devices designed especially for the hobbyist. Beginners should use rounded tongs; sharp edges in untrained hands might harm stamps.



# Collecting made easy



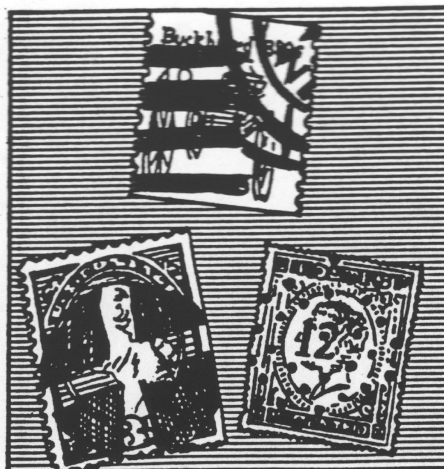
Collecting used stamps: an inexpensive way to collect stamps. Watch for lightly canceled examples — those that allow you to see most of the stamp's design.



A lightly canceled stamp with name of post office and date of mailing is the most desirable. It shows the pedigree of the stamp's use through the mailstream.

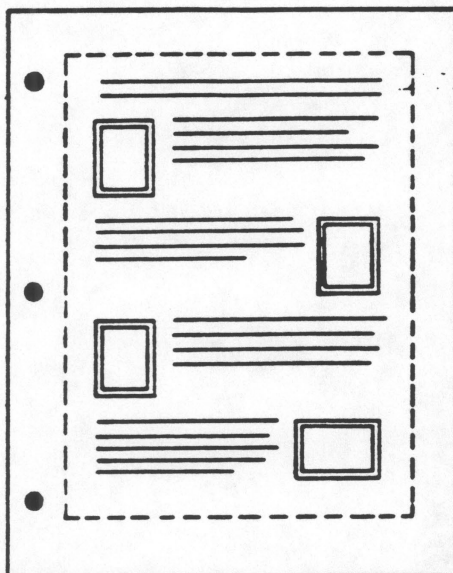


While a stamp with a corner cancel like this is desirable, it becomes less so if it still has gum. Such a stamp is canceled to order; it did not go through the mail.

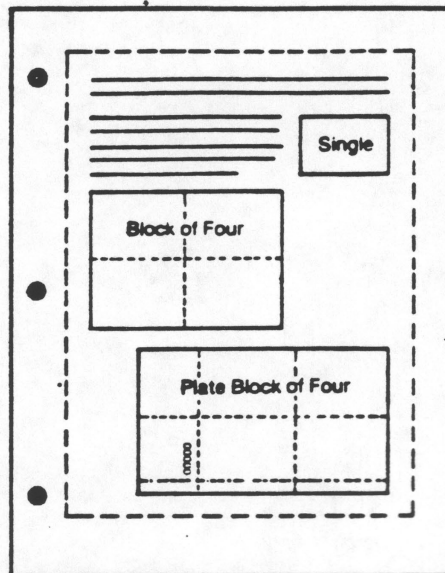


The heavily canceled stamp on top is in the least desirable category. The ones on the bottom, however, remain desirable; they are prized by cancellation collectors.

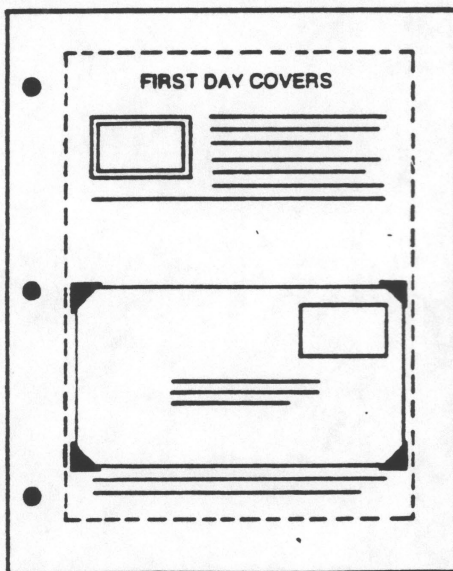
# Collector techniques



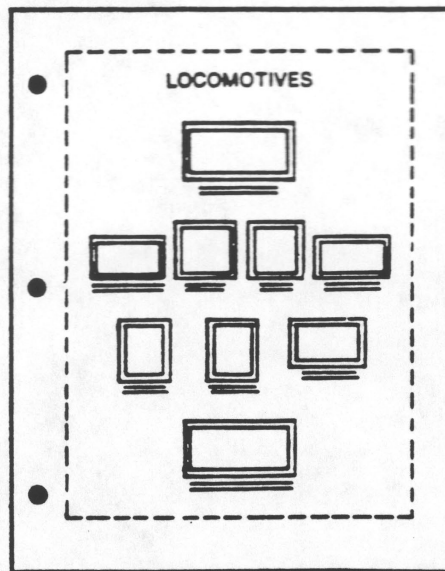
Creating album pages can be challenging. Specialized collections often require very individual arrangements and write-ups.



Combining different types of stamps on a single page — singles, blocks, etc. — is unlike anything in ready-made albums.



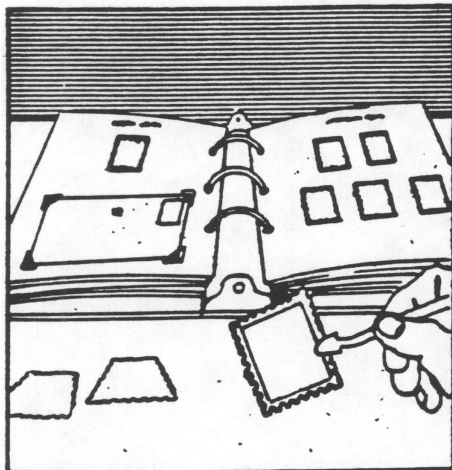
Covers present additional challenges, since they occupy a lot of space all by themselves. Postal history and first day cover collections demand such treatment.



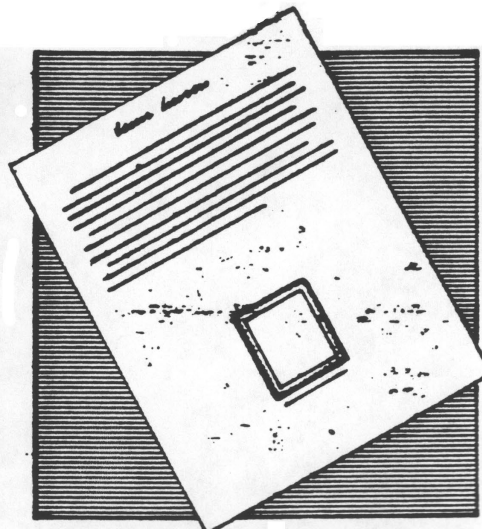
Topical collections require individual attention, too. Preprinted album pages aren't always available, so stamps will have to be arranged to suit the collector.



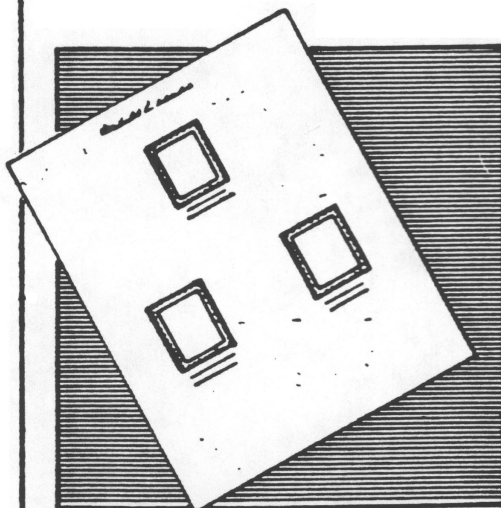
# Collector techniques



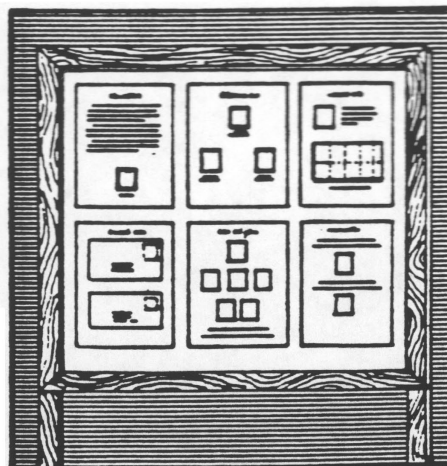
Exhibiting can be different from album preparation. Material must usually be selected and mounted especially for exhibit.



A title page serves to explain the content and purpose of the exhibit. It need not, but may contain a representative sample.

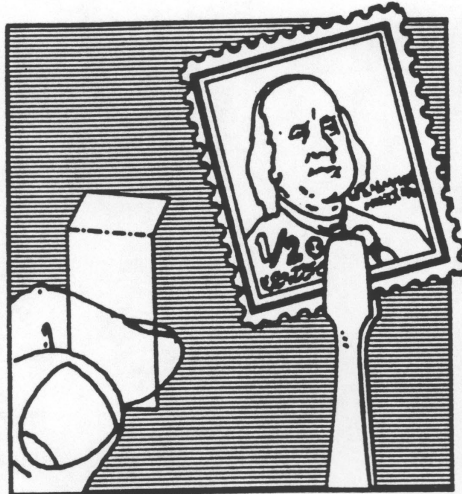


Pages should be uncrowded and simple. The stamps (or covers, etc.) must "star," and write-up should be as brief as possible.

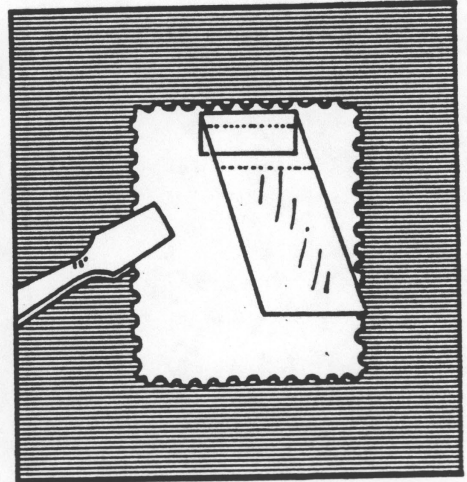


Sometimes, exhibits should be tailored to the audience, the locale or the frames, depending on how many pages fit per frame.

# Collector terminology



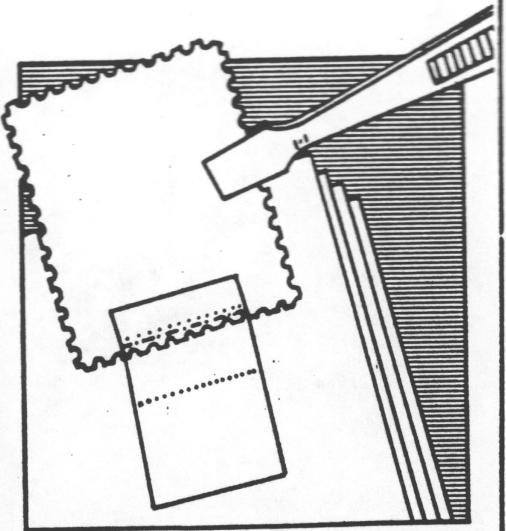
**Hinges** — tiny gummed strips of glassine — can be used to mount stamps on pages. If not pre-folded, the hinges should be creased about one-fourth of the length.



The lower half of the short flap should be moistened lightly and affixed to the stamp just below the perforations (out of sight); the area near the fold should remain dry.



About three-fourths of the long hinge flap should be moistened — again away from the fold — and attached to the page.



By leaving the area near the fold dry, the hinge permits easy lifting of the stamp for inspection of both the front and back.



# Collecting made easy



**How to buy at stamp shows:** Some dealers specialize in one or more areas. Check the signs or show program for this information, then go to those dealers who offer what you want. Know what you want. Having a want list of stamps needed and catalog numbers helps. Compare prices; another dealer at the show may offer the same stamp at a better price.



If you want cheap stamps, check the dealers who display 5¢ to 25¢ boxes, packets or collection remnants. The USPS and other post offices offer stamps at face value.

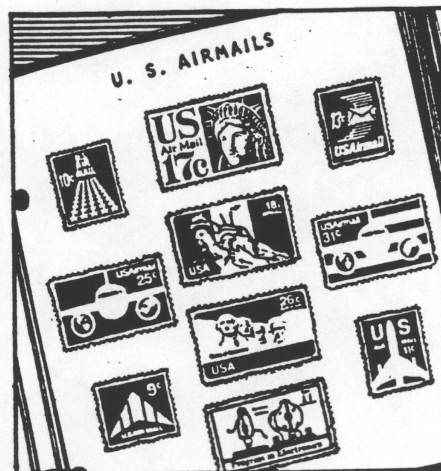


If an out of town dealer at the show has material you want, but you do not want to buy it all at once, ask for a pricelist so you can purchase the stamps through the mail.

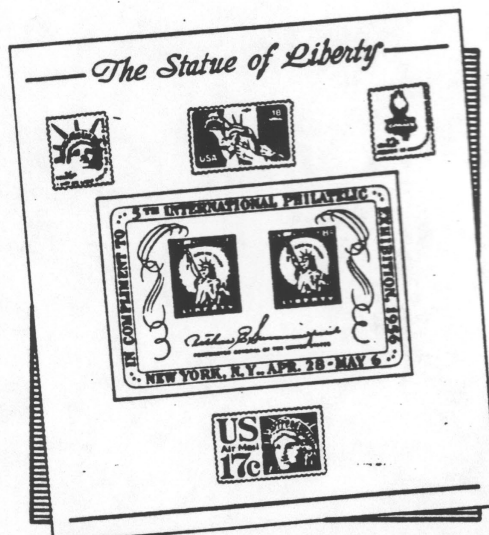
# Collecting made easy



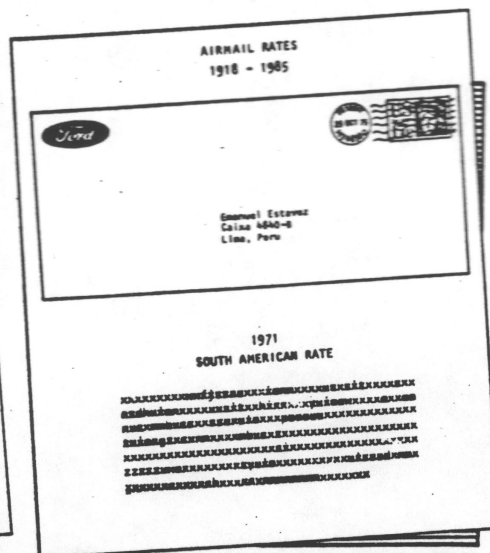
**Kinds of collecting:** Stamps can be organized and presented in many different ways to suit the interests of the collector.



**Traditional collections** display stamps grouped by nation and type in chronological order, as seen in most printed albums.

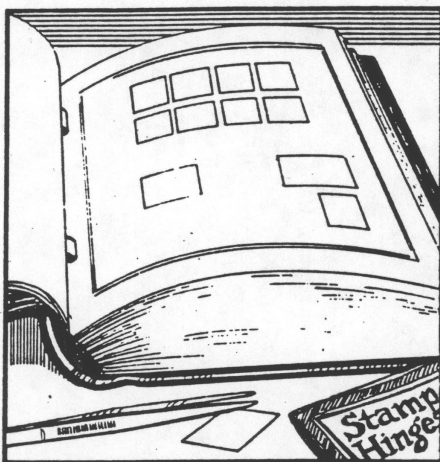


**Topical collections** illustrate a subject or theme, organized by the collector in the way that tells the story most effectively.

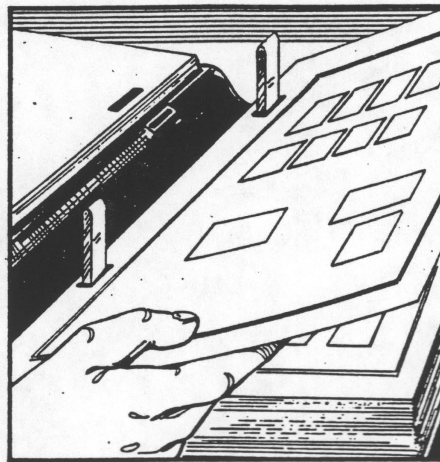


**Postal history collections** display covers to illustrate routes taken, rates paid, type of service and period of use of a given stamp.

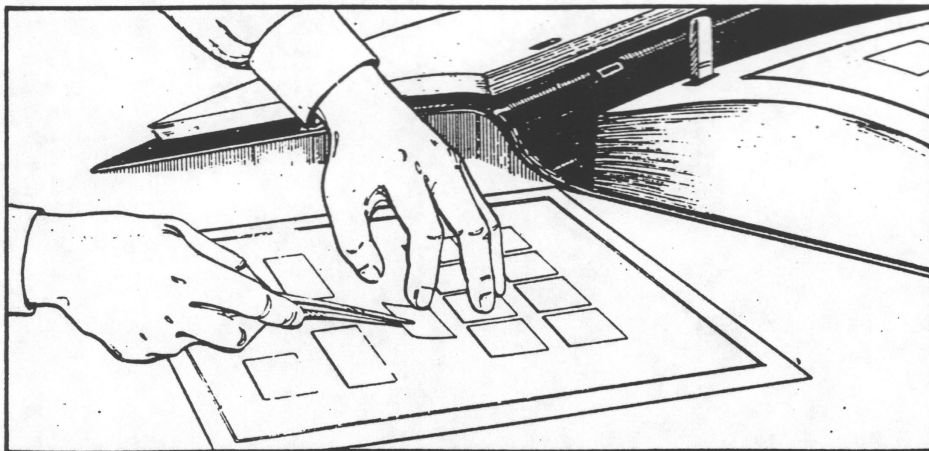
# Collecting made easy



Mounting stamps in a loose-leaf album is an easy and convenient way to store them.



Pages can be removed for rearrangement or for working on a clean, sturdy tabletop.



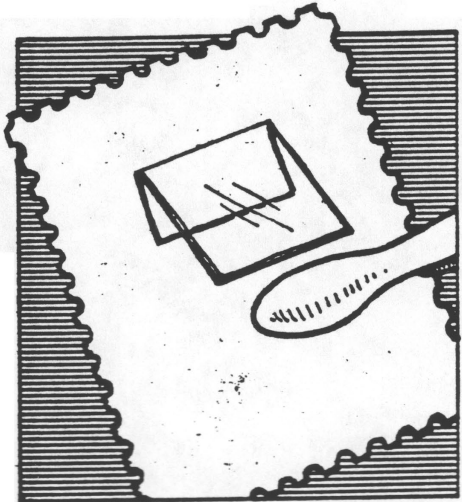
New stamps can be positioned securely with the page on a firm surface. That way, mounting pressure won't pop off mounts and won't tear the album pages at the post holes.



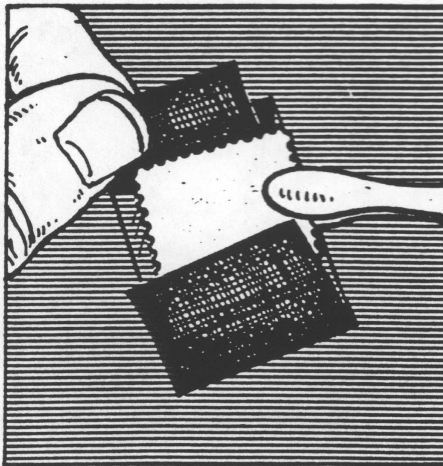
# Collecting made easy



**Mounting stamps:** In the early days of the hobby, stamps were glued down with adhesives which often proved harmful.



Stamp hinges later became a common mounting method, with modern peelable hinges far superior to the earlier varieties.



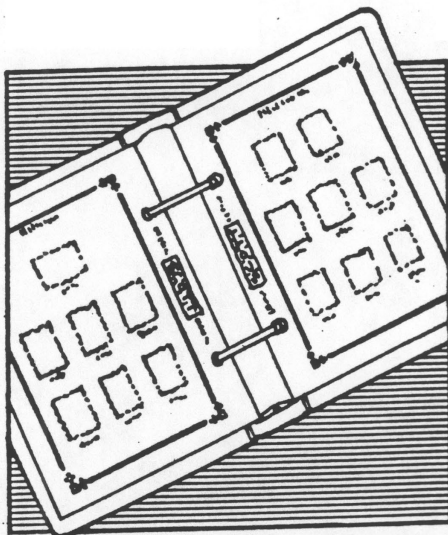
All-around protection that preserves the gum of mint stamps is provided by stamp mounts, available in a wide range of sizes.



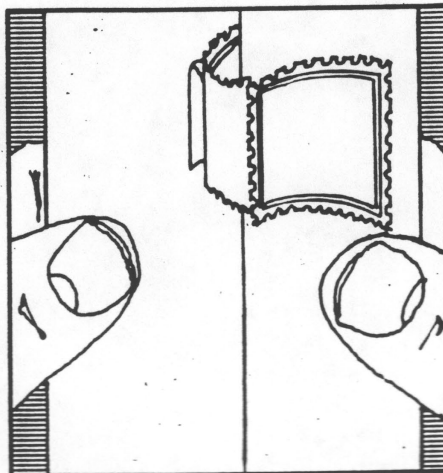
Expensive but easy to use, hingeless albums have mounts attached to the printed page into which the stamp may be placed.



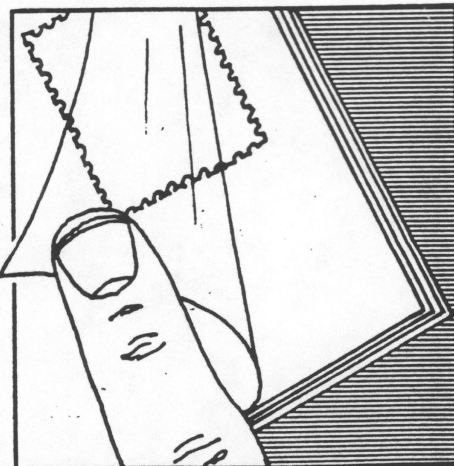
# Collector terminology



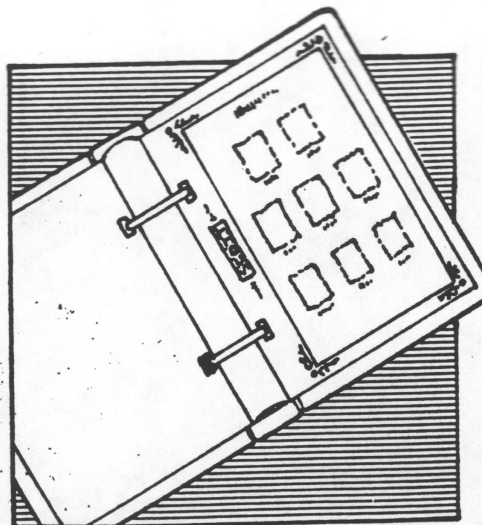
Preprinted albums come in a variety of styles. Those with pages printed on both sides are cheapest and most compact.



Problems arise when facing pages with stamps come in contact. Stamps on opposite pages can grab and tear at the perfs.

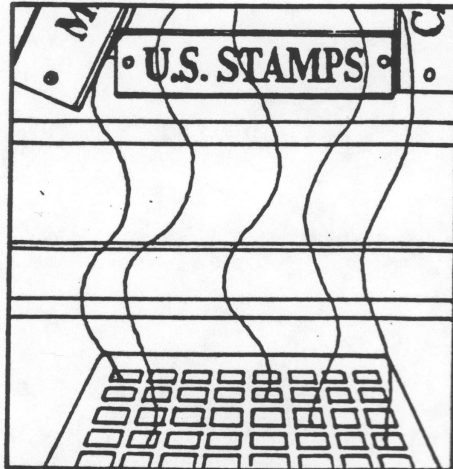


One solution is the use of glassine inter-leaving between pages. This protects stamps on facing pages from each other.

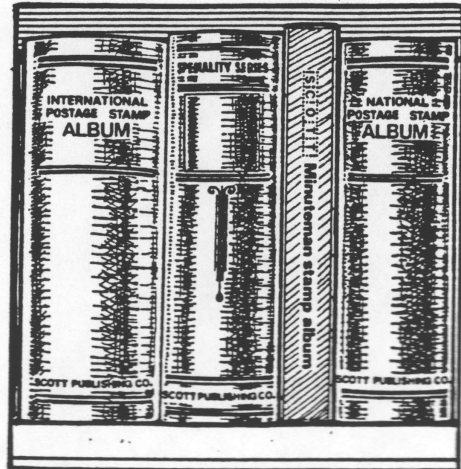


Albums with pages printed on only one side allow more room, and make it easier to mount pages in frames or exhibits.

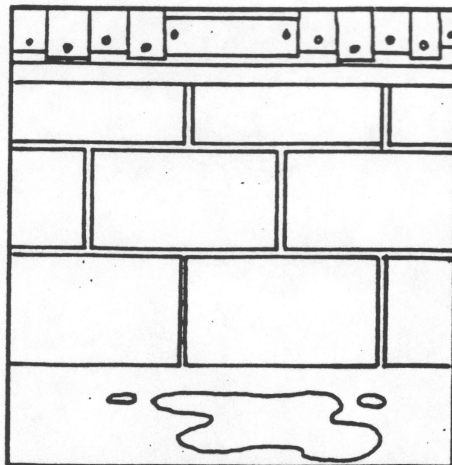
# Collector terminology



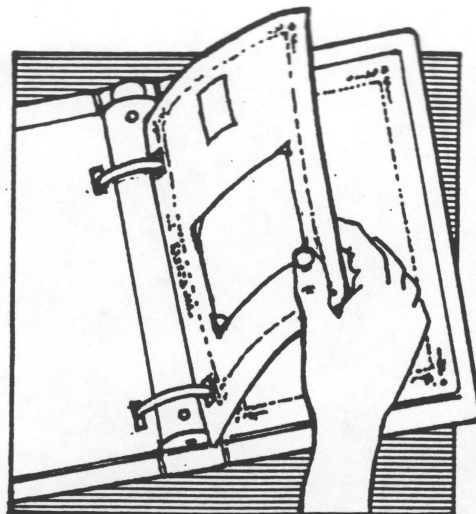
Proper storage of philatelic material is important. Stamps should never be stored near heat, nor should albums lie flat.



Stamp albums should always be stored upright; this prevents any adverse effects on the material from undue pressure.



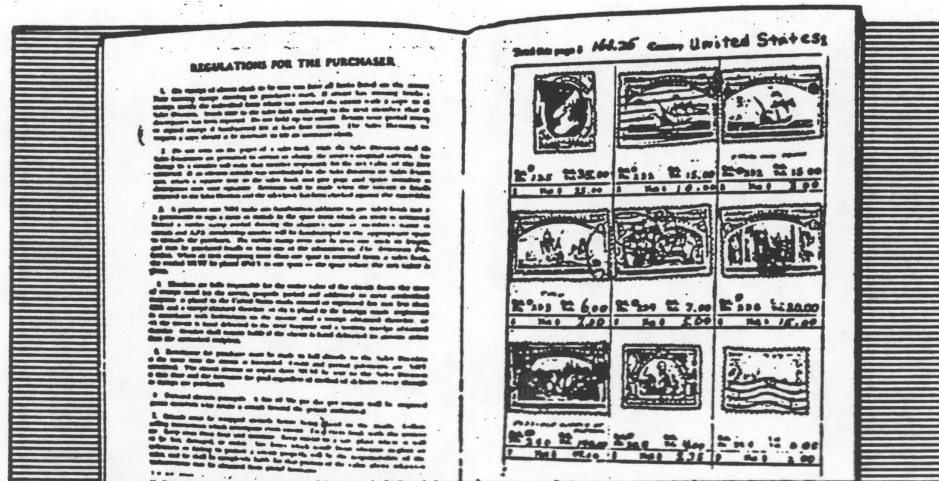
Humidity is another enemy of stamps, and material should be stored away from dampness. Basements are especially bad.



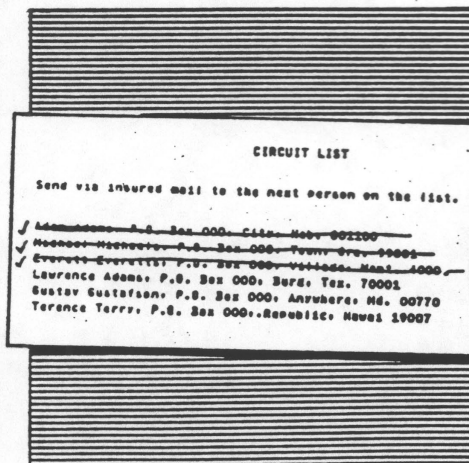
It's a good idea to flip through albums every month or so to "air" the material and check pages for potential problems.



# Collecting made easy



**Sales circuit:** Some local and national stamp clubs operate a sales division through which members may buy needed stamps and sell duplicates. Those wishing to sell, purchase empty books from the club, mount their duplicates separated into books devoted to one country, area or topic, and enter catalog numbers and values, as well as selling prices.



These are available at local club meetings or by mail from national societies. By mail, the collector is placed on a circuit list of usually no more than nine people.

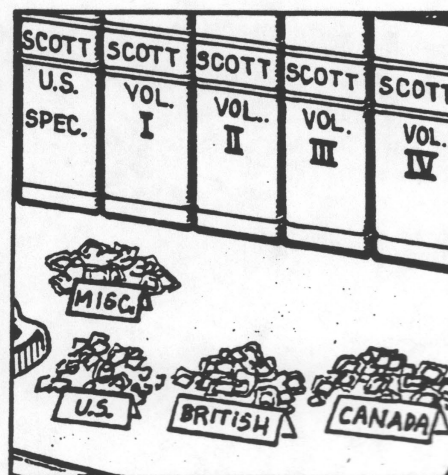


The collector takes the stamps he wants, records this in each book, sends the books to the next collector on the list, and submits his check to the society.

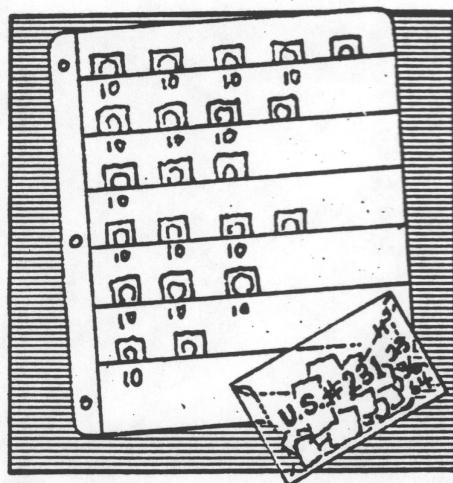
# Collecting made easy



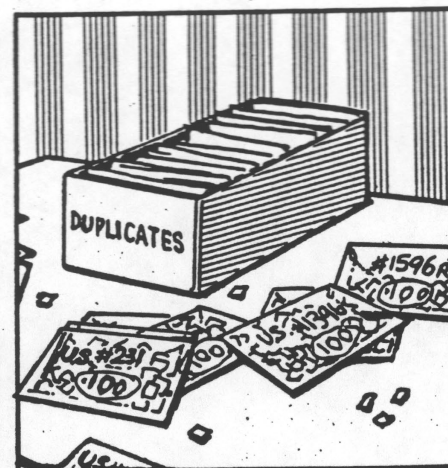
Sorting stamps is a very subjective collecting activity. There are many different approaches that you take to sorting, and you should use whatever approach suits you best.



Many collectors find that when sorting large numbers of stamps, it works best to sort them into general categories first, refining them into smaller groups later.



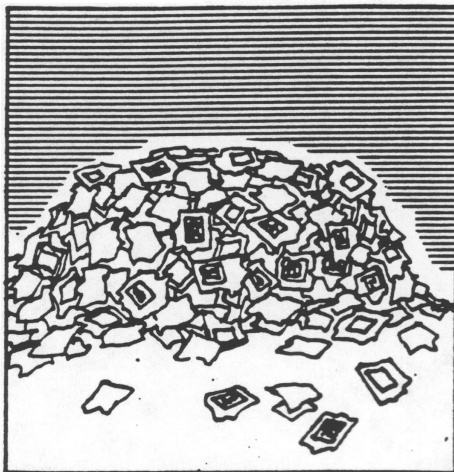
As duplicates are placed into stock books or glassines, it is helpful to keep track and note the number of stamps in pencil so they don't have to be recounted later.



After selecting stamps for your collection, large numbers of duplicates can easily be stored by placing them in glassine envelopes and noting the count on the outside.



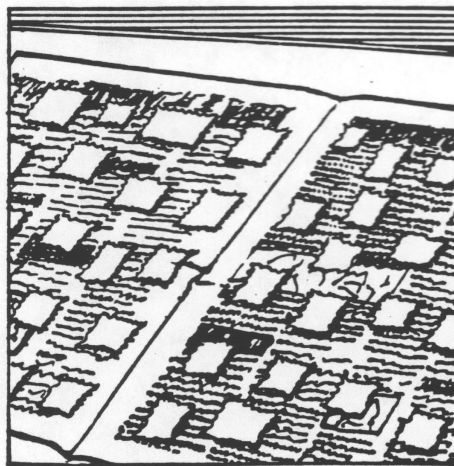
# Collecting made easy



**Soaking stamps.** If you receive stamps on paper, you will certainly want to remove some from their backing paper eventually.



Always use cool water for soaking stamps, and never soak more stamps than you can comfortably process at any one time.

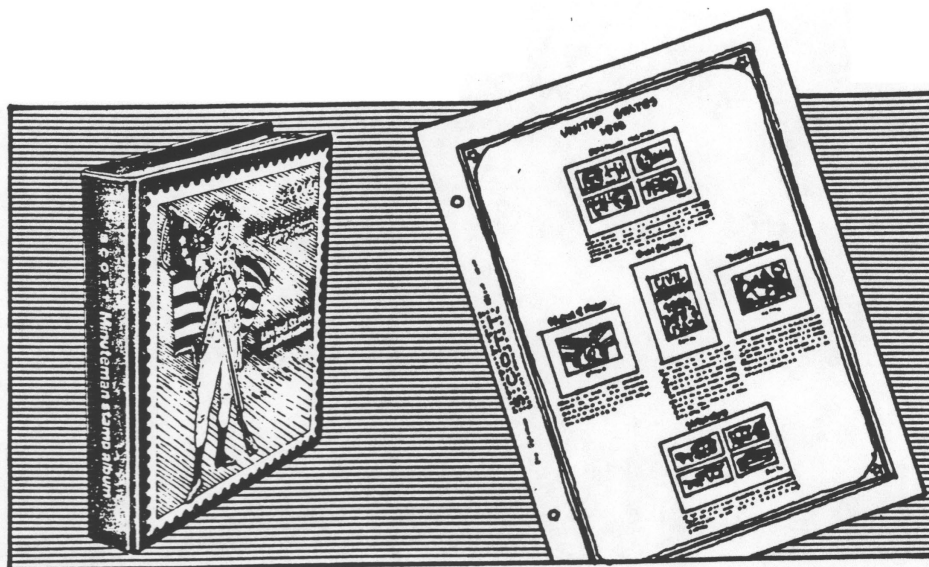


After removing their backing, stamps can be placed facedown on newspapers or paper towels to dry. If they are placed faceup, they will probably adhere to the paper.

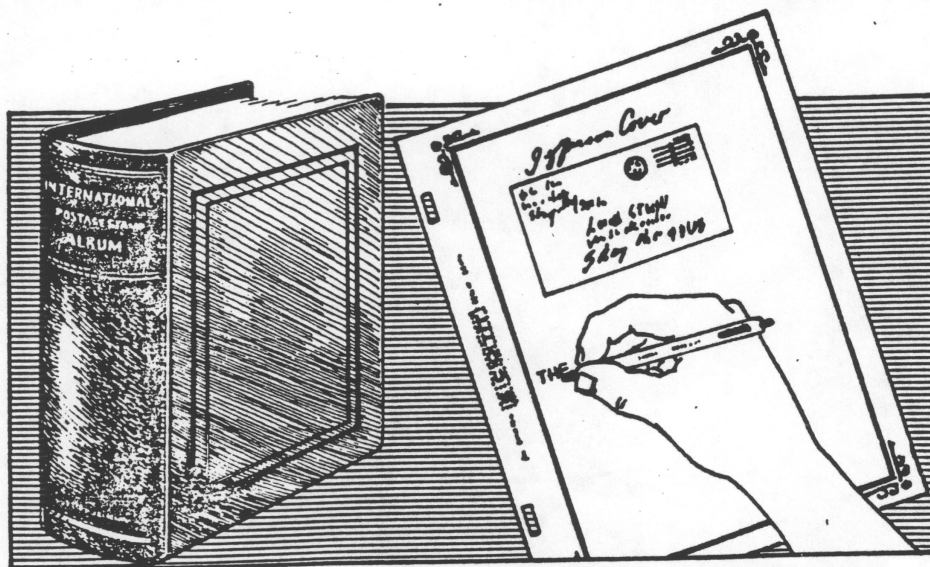


After your stamps are dry, some will naturally have curled. These curled stamps may be carefully placed inside a large book for awhile to flatten them out.

# Collector terminology

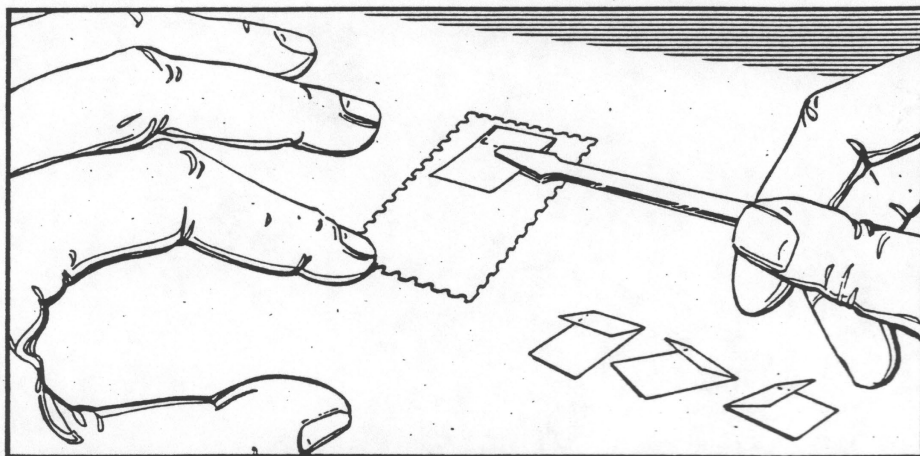


Stamp albums come in a variety of sizes and styles. Preprinted styles have illustrations or descriptions of the stamps (or plate blocks, etc.) to be affixed, from one or more countries. The best albums are loose-leaf, so that they can be expanded or rearranged easily.

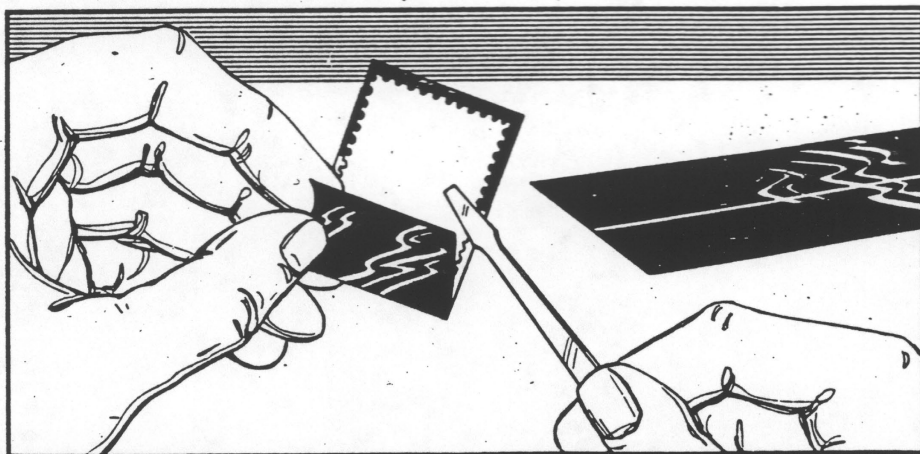


So-called blank albums can be created with an appropriate binder and plain or slightly decorated pages. Such albums allow flexibility in the creation and arrangement of material such as stamps, blocks, covers or other items, and are especially useful for topicals.

# Collecting made easy



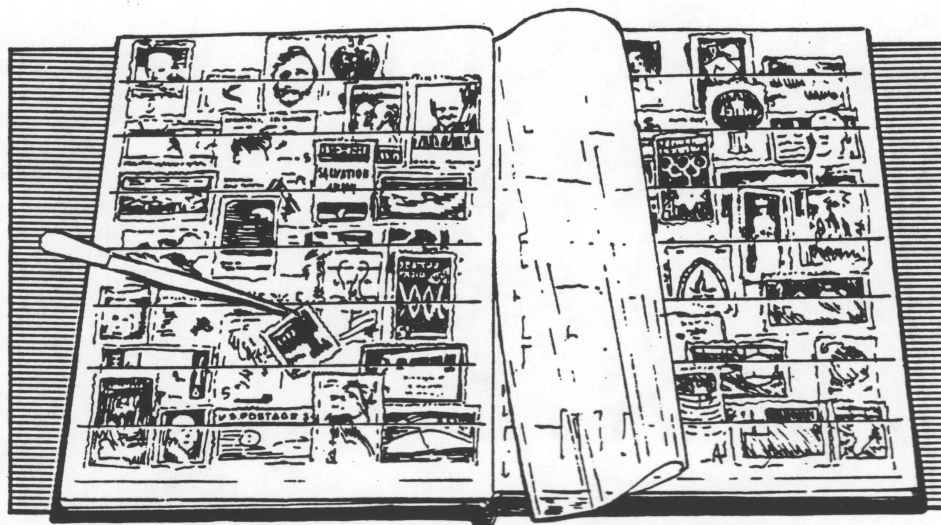
Stamp hinges are a frequently used low-cost method for mounting used or unused stamps.



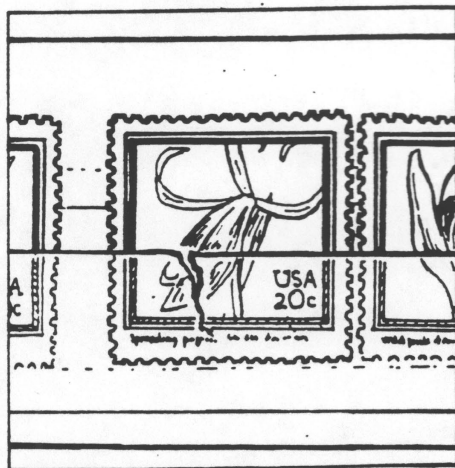
Acetate mounts are most often used for unused stamps, especially never-hinged ones.



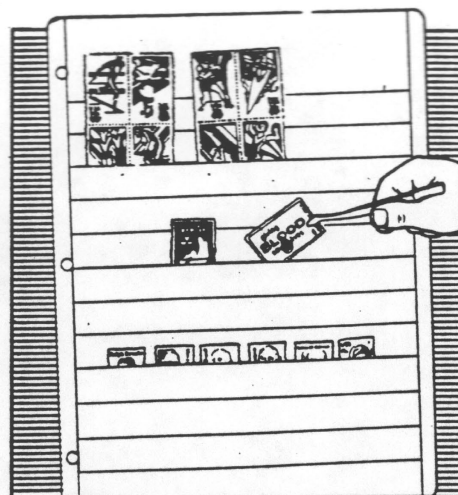
# Collecting made easy



**Stock book:** one of the best methods of storing stamps pending their mounting in a collection. Stock books contain pages with a number of strips forming pockets into which stamps may be inserted. The better stock books have some form of interleaving to protect material on facing pages from rubbing together. Some have white background, others black.



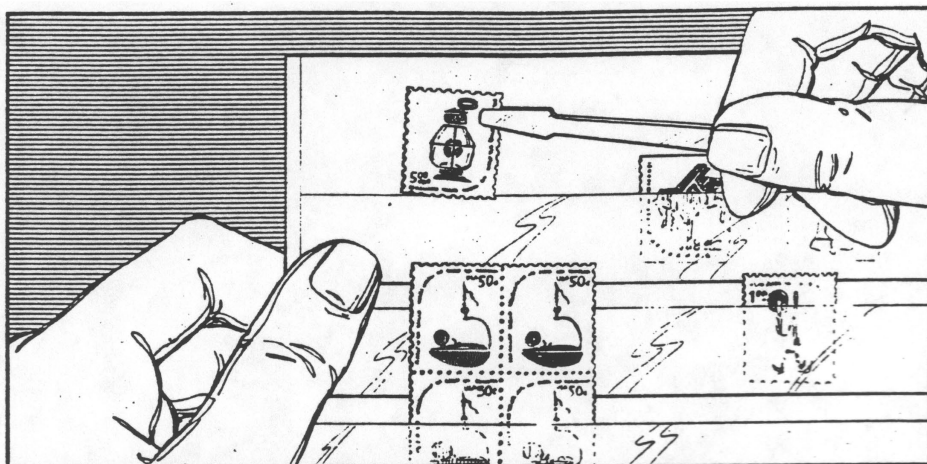
Strips may be manila, glassine or acetate. The latter is preferred, since the entire stamp is visible. Glassine is fragile and tears easily, while manila tends to stretch.



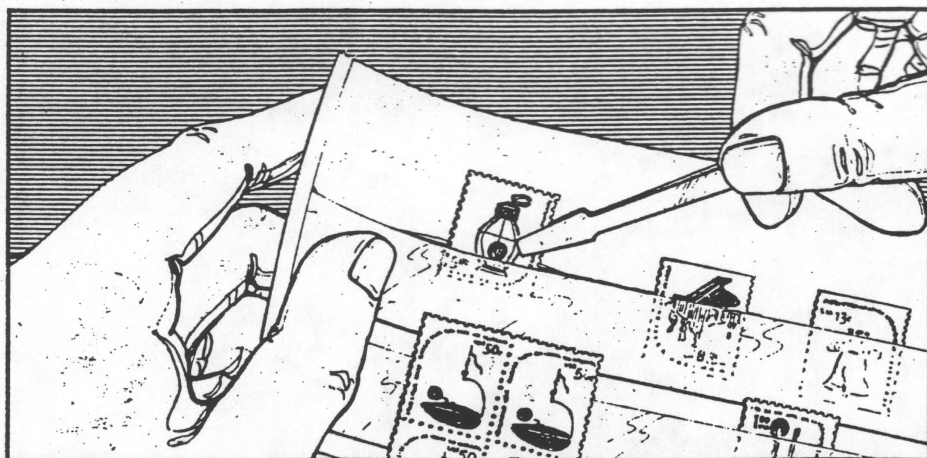
An alternative to the stock book is the loose-leaf stock page. This also comes with manila, acetate or glassine pockets on white or black. Some have interleaving.



# Collecting made easy

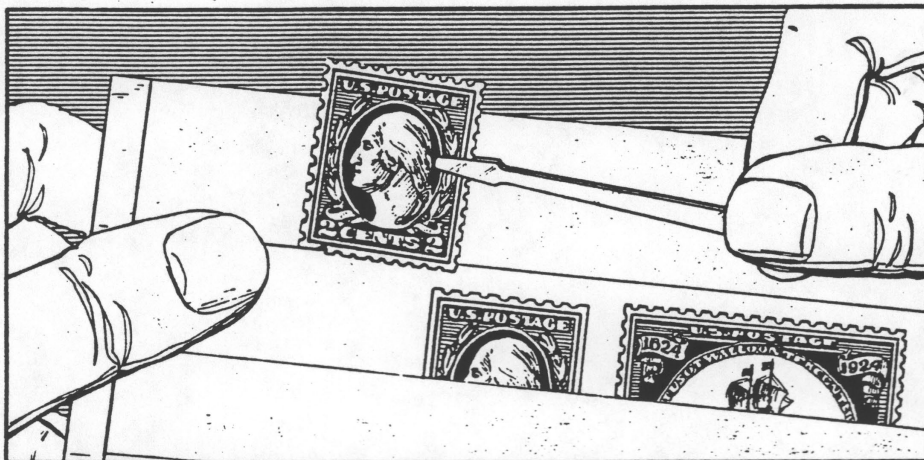


Stock books are used to store stamp collections and duplicates. Take care when inserting stamps into glassine pockets in a stock book so that perforation tips are not damaged.

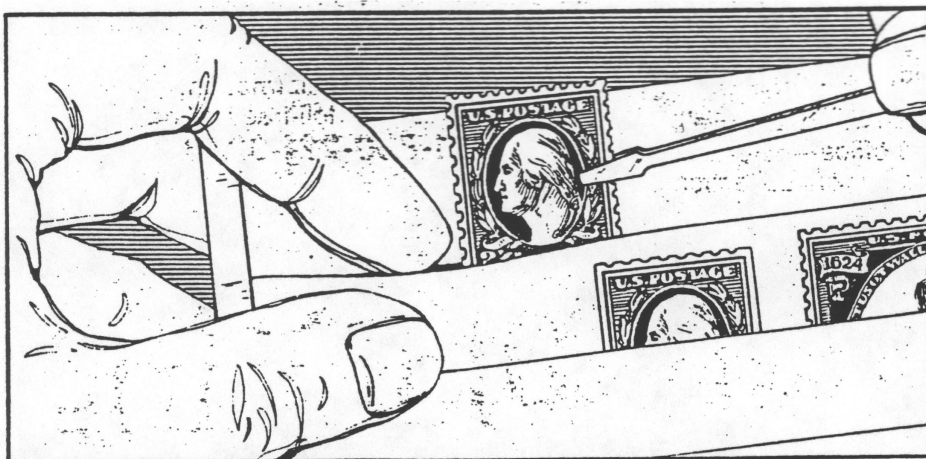


Gently flexing a stock book page will cause the glassine pocket to buckle slightly along the strip. A stamp then can be inserted easily at any buckling point and glided into position.

# Collecting made easy

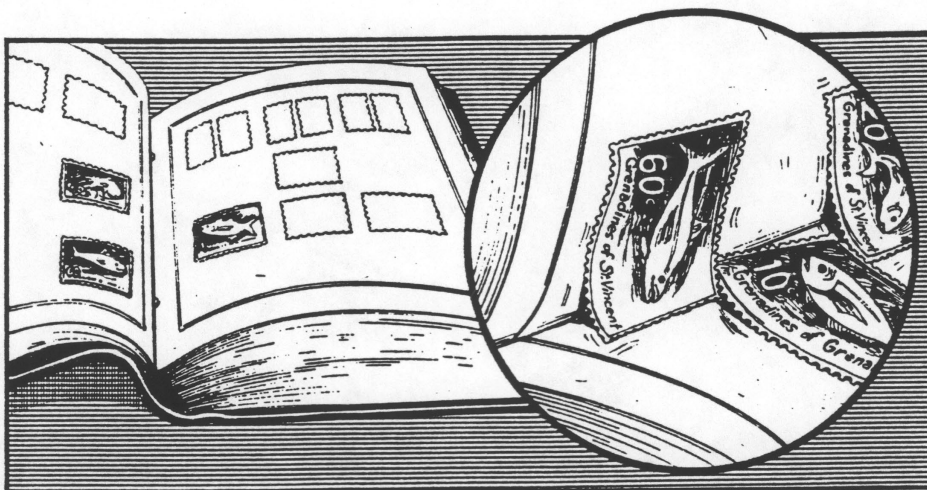


Stock cards are an inexpensive way to store stamps before mounting. Cards must be used carefully. Jamming a stamp behind a strip will tear the stamp or damage its perforations.

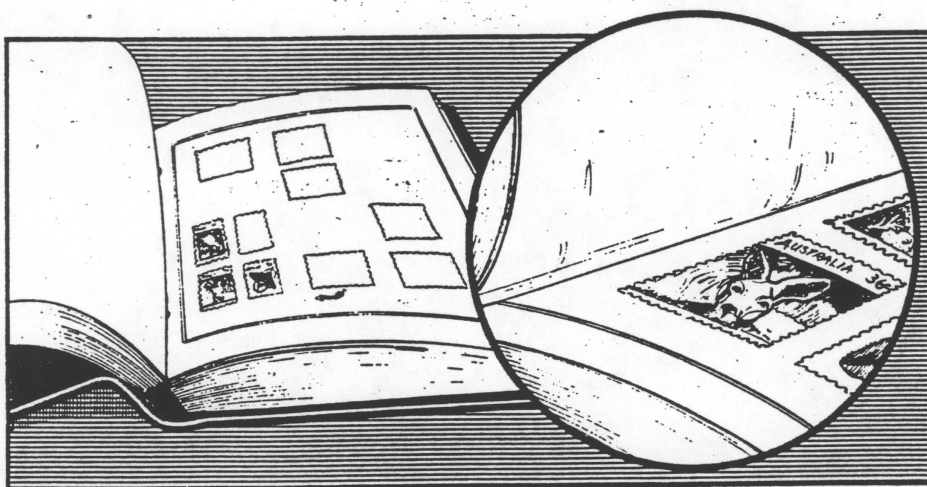


With tongs, hold the stamp in one hand. At the same time, gently raise the edge of a strip and insert the stamp behind it. Store the card in a glassine for further protection.

# Collecting made easy

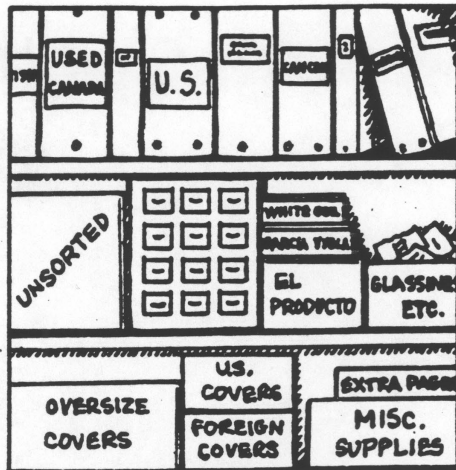


Stamp albums for beginners usually have spaces to mount stamps on both sides of a page. Stamps on facing pages sometimes become attached to one another at their perforations.



Most intermediate albums have pages printed on one side, and stamps do not become entangled. Using interleaves or blank pages also keeps stamps on two-sided pages apart.

# Collecting made easy

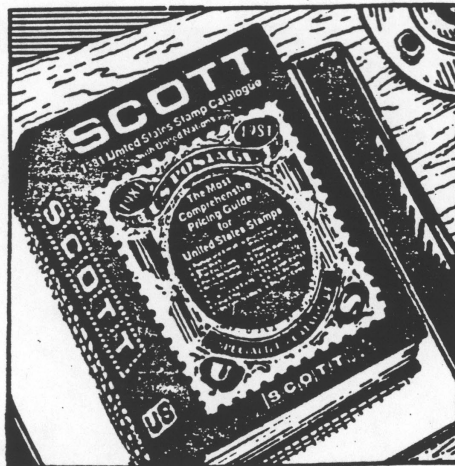


Storage and retrieval of your stamps is a very important part of your collecting activity. Stamps should not only be carefully stored, but easily located as well.

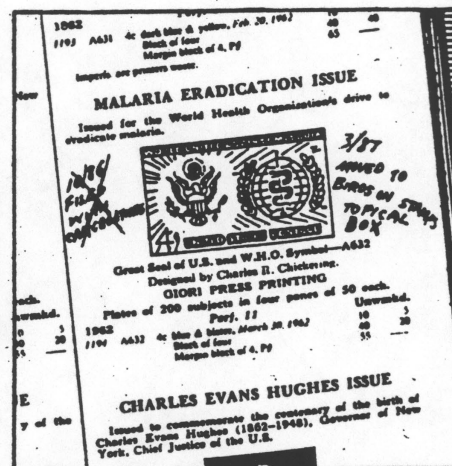


- ☒ U.S. USED
- ☒ CANCELS
- ☒ BELLS ON STAMPS

Because many stamps may fall into several different categories, it is a good idea to provide your own system of organization so that they can be found when needed.



An old catalog can serve not only as a good checklist for your stamps, but as an index and location guide to them as well.



Your stamps can become much more accessible by simply noting your filing location in the margin of the catalog page.



# Collector techniques



Narrowing a collection may simplify the search for stamps. Many collectors concentrate on a country, such as the U.S.

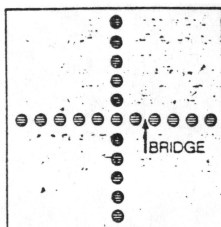
Collectors can also confine themselves to a single era, like the 19th century, or combine interests, such as 19th century U.S.



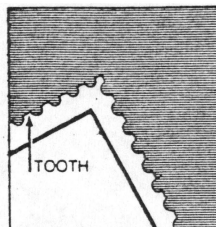
Topical subjects are also popular, and can involve many countries. John Kennedy, for example, appears on many stamps.

Other areas of specialized collection can involve such things as plate blocks, or worldwide coils, booklets, airmails, etc.

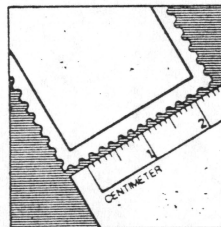
## Collector terminology



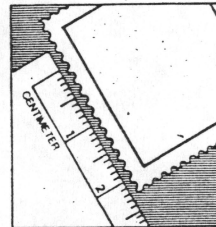
**Perforations:** a series of holes punched out between stamps for easy separation and use. The paper extending between the holes to an adjoining stamp is a bridge.



Once the stamp is separated from the adjoining stamps, and the bridges are broken, the projecting pieces of paper between the perforations are called teeth.



The number of holes in 2 centimeters is the perf number. A stamp with 11 holes in each 2 centimeters is considered perf 11.



A stamp with a different measurement on the sides has a compound perf. In this case, the top number is given first ((11x10).

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsey

## Collector terminology



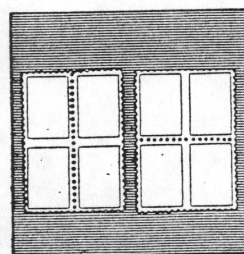
**Imperfurate:** This refers to stamps produced without perforations. Scissors were most often used to cut these apart. The term imperf is proper; imperfurate is not.



Most collectors prefer to collect imperf stamps in pairs, to ensure that a wide-margined perforated stamp has not been trimmed by a dishonest dealer or collector.



The term "imperfurate between" refers to normally perforated stamps having a line of perforations inadvertently omitted between adjoining stamps or rows of stamps.

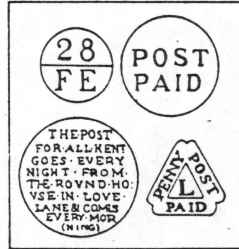


A vertical pair imperf between means that the horizontal perforations are missing, just as a horizontal pair imperf between means the vertical perforations are absent.

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsey

# Collecting made easy



Stamps: Originally, stamps referred to the various handstruck markings that appeared on letters as early as 1661.



Embossed and impressed revenue stamps, showing the payment of taxes, appeared many years before the first postage stamp.

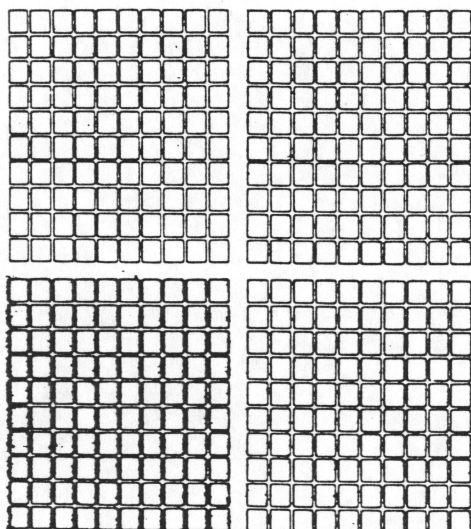


The first true adhesive postage stamp was the 1840 Penny Black of Great Britain.



Since that time, postage stamps have assumed many sizes, shapes and functions.

## Collector terminology

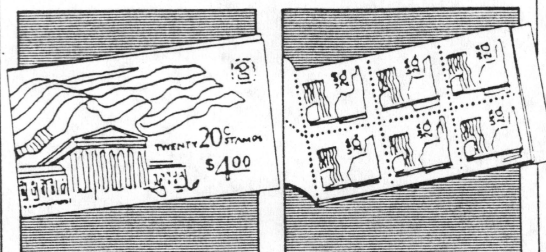


**Sheet versus pane:** Stamps come off the printing press in large sheets that are divided into smaller units called panes. It is the pane collectors purchase at post offices. Most United States commemoratives are printed in sheets of 200 and divided into panes of 50; definitives are usually printed in sheets of 400 and divided into panes of 100.

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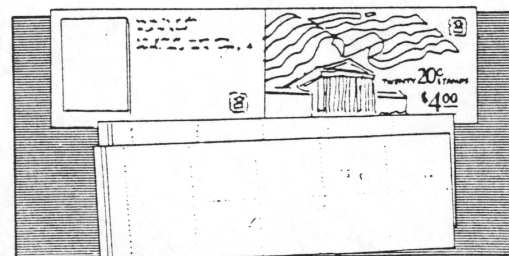
Illustrations by Mike Lindsay

## Collector terminology



**Booklet:** Booklets contain one or more small, specially printed panes of stamps affixed inside a card cover by some means, e.g., stapling, stitching or gluing.

Some booklet panes include the same stamp design and denomination. Others have combinations of designs and/or values, and may have one or more labels.



An "exploded" booklet is one that has been taken apart and mounted in a collection so that all parts of it are visible. When whole, the booklet is considered "unexploded."

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsay

## Collecting made easy



Coil stamps of the United States traditionally have been collected mint as pairs, line pairs or longer strips. For decades, properly cut coil stamps showed no plate numbers.



Coil stamps with plate numbers appeared in 1981. Most collectors save mint strips of three or five, with the number in the center. Some numbered coils also have joint lines.

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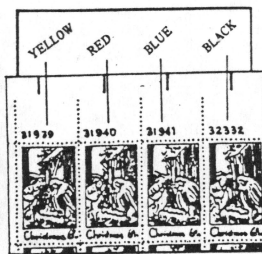
Illustrations by V. Schreiber; text by M.P. Schreiber



## Collecting made easy



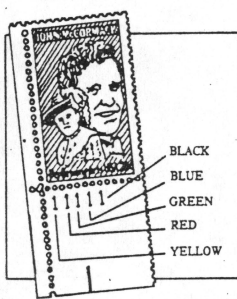
Plate number: an index number assigned to each printing plate. Until 1981, these numbers were printed in full on pane selvage. One color stamps have one number.



Stamps printed in multicolor gravure have one number for each color used, because each is printed by a separate plate. This is not always true for engraved stamps.



Beginning in 1981, a code (usually one digit) representing the full plate number replaced that number in the selvage. Stamps printed in one color have one code number.

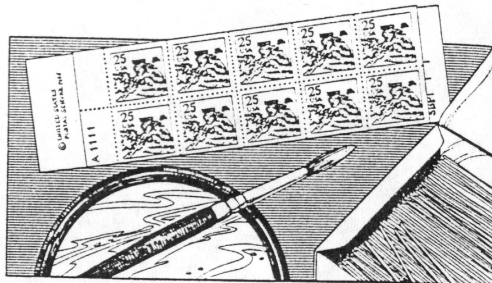


Multicolor gravure stamps usually have one number for each color cylinder used. The first plate made for a color is 1. If others are necessary, the code changes.

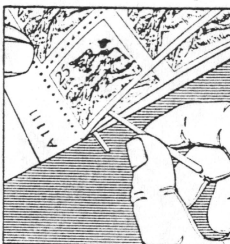
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Illustrations by Julian E. Keros

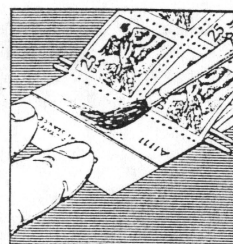
## Collecting made easy



Booklet panes should be collected with the tab attached. Shiny gum panes can be removed from their covers by applying water with a brush. Bottom panes can be used for postage.



Insert toothpicks between each pane and between the pane and the booklet cover. Some water will migrate into the perforations and into the stamp. The toothpicks will keep the panes from sticking together.



Apply lukewarm water to the tab with a brush. The tab's gum will soften. More than one application of water will be needed. After approximately 10 minutes, gently remove the booklet pane and its tab.

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## Collecting made easy

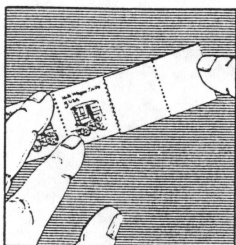
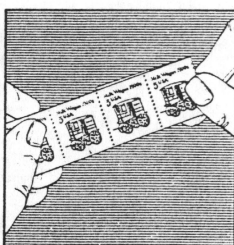
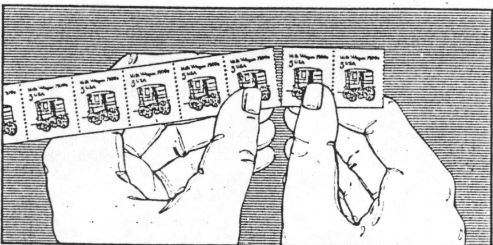


Plate number coil strips are collected as mint strips of five or three. First crease the perforations at the desired position.



Then fold the stamps in the opposite direction and crease them. Use dry hands to prevent stamps from being soiled.

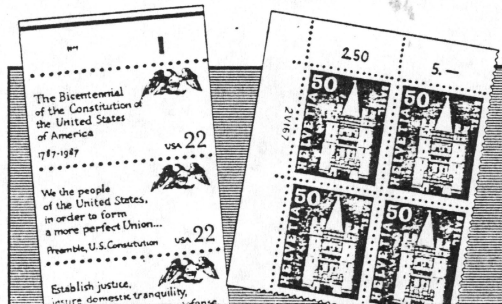


Carefully tear off the unneeded stamps at the creased perforations. Repeat the process at the other end of the strip, first folding the perforations in both directions before tearing.

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## Collecting made easy



Marginal markings: Marginal markings occur in the gutters between panes of stamps. They are often aids in stamp production, including printing, cutting or perforating. They also help postal clerks total the value of stamp stocks and provide information to customers.



Many of the markings or parts of them remain on the panes sold at post offices. These include printing plate numbers, job numbers, lines or bars read by automatic perforators and cutters, color registry and inking checks, post office slogans, or private advertising.

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Text by M.F. Schreiber; Illustrations by V. Schreiber

## Collector terminology



Semipostal stamps: postage stamps from which part or all of sales receipts go to charity or a relief or welfare fund. The Scott catalog lists them as "B" numbers.



Most semipostals are printed with two values separated by a plus sign. Face value is the sum of the two. The first value goes towards postage; the second to charity.

**Kingston  
Relief  
Fund.  
1d.**



**21. 10. 15.**

Some semipostals are regular or airmail stamps to which an overprint has been added. Some include the added value (upper left) while others do not (lower right).

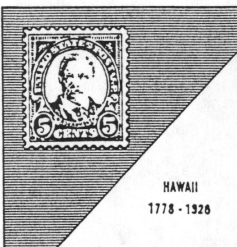


Some semipostals look like regular postage stamps. It is only when a collector consults a catalog that he finds a stamp such as that illustrated sold for more than face value.

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Illustrations by Mike Ladney

## Collector terminology



**HAWAII  
1778 - 1928**

Overprints can change the nature of a stamp completely. The basic stamp has its own identity, but with an overprint, a whole new variety of stamp is created.



The overprint can be commemorative in nature. In this case, a regular issue is converted into a commemorative with the addition of a simple overprint.



Sometimes a stamp switches countries. This basic stamp is Australian, but the overprint moves the finished product to the North West Pacific Islands, where it was used during the islands' occupation.

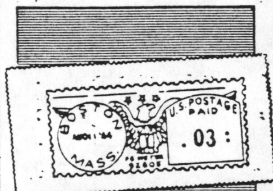


A special kind of overprint, called a surcharge, is designed specifically to change the value. This is especially useful when a denomination is not available and can be created with a simple overprint.

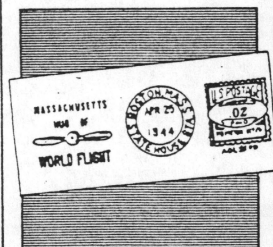
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Illustrations by Mike Ladney

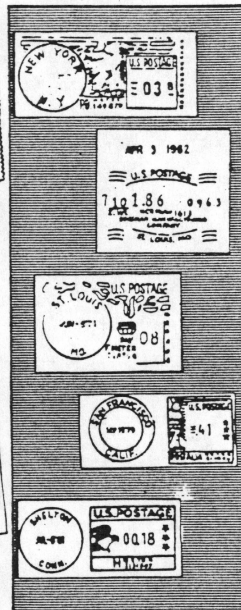
## Collector terminology



Postage meter: a legal substitute for adhesive postage stamps. Applied by machines, meters are used under postal regulations by businesses and large groups.



Some firms and organizations place a slogan advertisement to the left of the meter. The return address on the envelope often identifies the group using the meter.



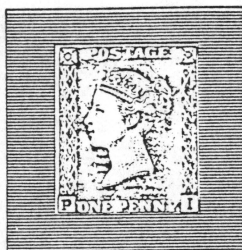
Meters include letters identifying machine manufacturers: PB for Pitney Bowes, NCR, National Cash Register; F or S, Friden; T-N or Postalia, Postalia; and H, Hasler.



## Collecting made easy



Definitives are regular issue stamps that are usually designed to be in use for a long period of time. They may be sent back to press as many times as needed.



Considered by most collectors to be the "granddaddy" of stamps, the Penny Black was the very first adhesive postage stamp. It was issued by Great Britain in 1840.



The first United States stamps feature Benjamin Franklin, who played a vital role in establishing our postal service, and the first U.S. president, George Washington.

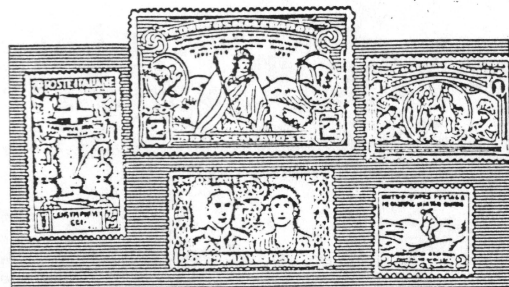


Current definitives are avidly collected. Examples of these include England's Machin Heads and the immensely popular United States Transportation series coils.

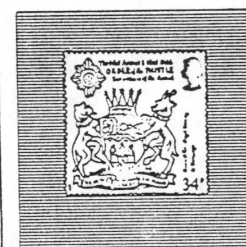
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Text by Wayne Youngblood; Illustrations by Julian Korman

## Collecting made easy



Commemoratives are stamps issued to honor a specific person, place, event or anniversary. They come in many shapes and sizes and are colorful. Commemoratives are generally very attractive stamps, and are issued frequently by many different countries.



Although the United States generally issues commemoratives only for the current first-class rate, many countries issue higher denomination commemoratives in sets.



Since commemoratives are a special issue, they are usually on sale for a specified period of time. Once they are taken off sale, they cannot be bought at a post office.

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## Collector terminology



Semipostal stamps: postage stamps from which part or all of sales receipts go to charity or a relief or welfare fund. The Scott catalog lists them as "B" numbers.



Most semipostals are printed with two values separated by a plus sign. Face value is the sum of the two. The first value goes towards postage; the second to charity.

Kingston  
Relief  
Fund.  
1d.



21. 10. 15.

Some semipostals are regular or airmail stamps to which an overprint has been added. Some include the added value (upper left) while others do not (lower right).

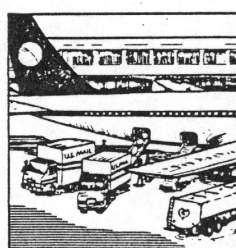


Some semipostals look like regular postage stamps. It is only when a collector consults a catalog that he finds a stamp such as that illustrated sold for more than face value.

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsey

## Collecting made easy



Airmail moves mail faster over long distances than surface mail. Trucks usually carry mail to an airport for loading.



Airmail stamps have the word airmail on them. They are a higher denomination than normal first-class postage stamps.



Since 1974 the United States Postal Service has issued airmail stamps only for the international letter and postcard rates.



Airmail collecting is a very popular topical collecting area. Subtopics include early flights, ballooning and space exploration.

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Text by M.F. Schreiber; Illustrations by V. Schreiber



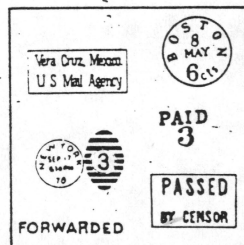
## Collector terminology



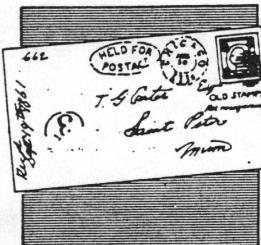
Cancellation versus postmark: A cancellation is any mark placed on a postage stamp to prevent the stamp's reuse.



The cancel may be a circular marking, bars, written words, punched holes, or even the postman's squiggly pen mark.



A postmark is any marking officially applied to a piece of mail as it goes through the mailstream. It may or may not be a cancel.



All the handstamped markings on this envelope are postmarks. This includes the one on the stamp, which also is a cancel.

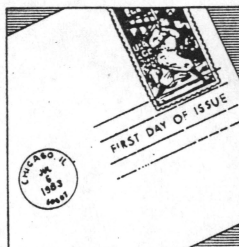
## Collector terminology



First day covers (FDCs) are easy to prepare. Many collectors prefer covers with cachets (ka-SHAYS), imprinted designs usually relating to the stamp subject.



Any envelope will serve. While postal personnel will affix stamps to submitted covers, U.S. collectors have 30 days in which to purchase and affix their own.

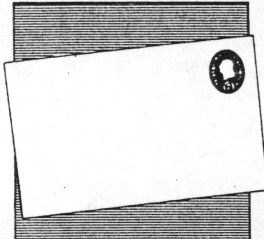


After affixing the stamp(s) and addressing the envelopes back to yourself, the covers must be sent to the postmaster of the first day city. FDCs are serviced and returned.

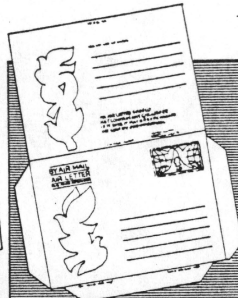


A current preference for unaddressed FDCs prompts many collectors to use peelable labels in addressing covers, which can be removed upon return.

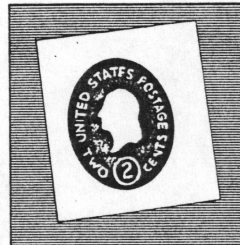
## Collector terminology



Postal stationery: all forms of postal envelopes, cards, letter sheets and wrappers that have impressed or imprinted stamps.



An aerogramme, or air letter, has gummed flaps and an imprinted stamp. When folded, it combines writing area and envelope.



When an imprinted stamp is cut from a piece of postal stationery in a square or rectangular shape, it is called "cut square." Collectors do not do this with postal cards.

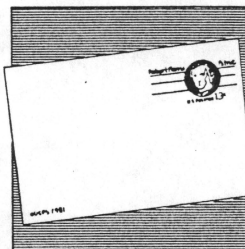


When an imprinted stamp is cut from a piece of postal stationery to the outline of the stamp design, it is called "cut to shape." This diminishes the item's value.

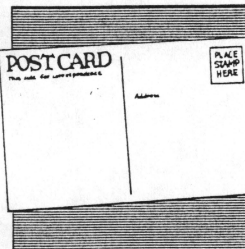
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Illustrations by Julian E. Kernes

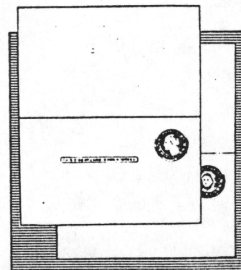
## Collector terminology



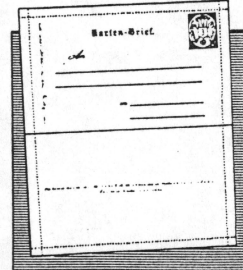
Postal card versus postcard: A postal card is government issued and bears an imprinted stamp. Usually, one side is for the address and the other for the message.



A postcard is privately produced and does not have an imprinted stamp. Usually, the message and address are on one side and a picture of some kind is on the other.



A reply card is a joined pair of postal cards, one for the message and one to be detached by the addressee for the reply. Illustrated are two sides of one card.

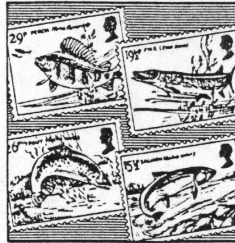


A letter card is lightweight and bears an imprinted stamp. The card is folded and then sealed by means of a perforated gummed strip around three of the edges.

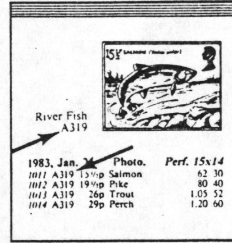
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Illustrations by Julian E. Kernes

# Collecting made easy



Type: Type refers to stamps with the same design features. Stamp denomination and wording are often in the same location.



Catalogs usually do not show each design. Instead, a type number is used with an illustration of a typical stamp in the set.

Liberty Type of 1982

| 1982                      | Engr. | Perf. 13 |                               | Perf. 13 |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1783 A915 5¢ dk. grn.     | 5     | 5        | 1887 A915 1.70¢ grn (74)      | 50       |
| 1784 A915 10¢ dk. red     | 5     | 5        | 1888 A915 1.80¢ cmer (75)     | 48       |
| 1785 A915 15¢ brt rose bl | 5     | 5        | 1889 A915 1.90¢ cmer grn (76) | 50       |
| 1786 A915 20¢ brt grn     | 5     | 5        | 1890 A915 2.00¢ red (77)      | 60       |
| 1787 A915 30¢ orange      | 5     | 5        | 1891 A915 2.20¢ red (78)      | 60       |
| 1788 A915 40¢ brown       | 5     | 5        | 1892 A915 2.40¢ red (79)      | 60       |
| 1789 A915 50¢ lilac       | 5     | 5        | 1893 A915 2.60¢ red (80)      | 60       |
| 1790 A915 60¢ lt red brn  | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1791 A915 70¢ ultra       | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1792 A915 80¢ ultra       | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1793 A915 90¢ ultra       | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1794 A915 1.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1795 A915 1.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1796 A915 1.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1797 A915 1.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1798 A915 1.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1799 A915 1.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1800 A915 1.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1801 A915 1.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1802 A915 1.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1803 A915 1.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1804 A915 2.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1805 A915 2.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1806 A915 2.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1807 A915 2.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1808 A915 2.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1809 A915 2.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1810 A915 2.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1811 A915 2.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1812 A915 2.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1813 A915 2.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1814 A915 3.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1815 A915 3.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1816 A915 3.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1817 A915 3.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1818 A915 3.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1819 A915 3.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1820 A915 3.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1821 A915 3.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1822 A915 3.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1823 A915 3.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1824 A915 4.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1825 A915 4.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1826 A915 4.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1827 A915 4.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1828 A915 4.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1829 A915 4.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1830 A915 4.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1831 A915 4.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1832 A915 4.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1833 A915 4.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1834 A915 5.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1835 A915 5.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1836 A915 5.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1837 A915 5.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1838 A915 5.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1839 A915 5.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1840 A915 5.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1841 A915 5.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1842 A915 5.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1843 A915 5.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1844 A915 6.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1845 A915 6.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1846 A915 6.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1847 A915 6.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1848 A915 6.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1849 A915 6.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1850 A915 6.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1851 A915 6.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1852 A915 6.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1853 A915 6.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1854 A915 7.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1855 A915 7.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1856 A915 7.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1857 A915 7.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1858 A915 7.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1859 A915 7.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1860 A915 7.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1861 A915 7.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1862 A915 7.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1863 A915 7.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1864 A915 8.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1865 A915 8.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1866 A915 8.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1867 A915 8.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1868 A915 8.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1869 A915 8.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1870 A915 8.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1871 A915 8.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1872 A915 8.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1873 A915 8.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1874 A915 9.00¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1875 A915 9.10¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1876 A915 9.20¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1877 A915 9.30¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1878 A915 9.40¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1879 A915 9.50¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1880 A915 9.60¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1881 A915 9.70¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1882 A915 9.80¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1883 A915 9.90¢ ultra     | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1884 A915 10.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1885 A915 10.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1886 A915 10.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1887 A915 10.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1888 A915 10.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1889 A915 10.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1890 A915 10.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1891 A915 10.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1892 A915 10.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1893 A915 10.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1894 A915 11.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1895 A915 11.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1896 A915 11.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1897 A915 11.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1898 A915 11.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1899 A915 11.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1900 A915 11.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1901 A915 11.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1902 A915 11.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1903 A915 11.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1904 A915 12.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1905 A915 12.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1906 A915 12.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1907 A915 12.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1908 A915 12.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1909 A915 12.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1910 A915 12.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1911 A915 12.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1912 A915 12.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1913 A915 12.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1914 A915 13.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1915 A915 13.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1916 A915 13.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1917 A915 13.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1918 A915 13.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1919 A915 13.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1920 A915 13.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1921 A915 13.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1922 A915 13.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1923 A915 13.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1924 A915 14.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1925 A915 14.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1926 A915 14.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1927 A915 14.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1928 A915 14.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1929 A915 14.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1930 A915 14.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1931 A915 14.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1932 A915 14.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1933 A915 14.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1934 A915 15.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1935 A915 15.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1936 A915 15.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1937 A915 15.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1938 A915 15.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1939 A915 15.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1940 A915 15.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1941 A915 15.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1942 A915 15.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1943 A915 15.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1944 A915 16.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1945 A915 16.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1946 A915 16.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1947 A915 16.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1948 A915 16.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1949 A915 16.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1950 A915 16.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1951 A915 16.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1952 A915 16.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1953 A915 16.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1954 A915 17.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1955 A915 17.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1956 A915 17.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1957 A915 17.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1958 A915 17.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1959 A915 17.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1960 A915 17.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1961 A915 17.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1962 A915 17.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1963 A915 17.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1964 A915 18.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1965 A915 18.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1966 A915 18.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1967 A915 18.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1968 A915 18.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1969 A915 18.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1970 A915 18.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1971 A915 18.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1972 A915 18.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1973 A915 18.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1974 A915 19.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1975 A915 19.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1976 A915 19.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1977 A915 19.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1978 A915 19.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1979 A915 19.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1980 A915 19.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1981 A915 19.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1982 A915 19.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1983 A915 19.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1984 A915 20.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1985 A915 20.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1986 A915 20.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1987 A915 20.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1988 A915 20.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1989 A915 20.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1990 A915 20.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1991 A915 20.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1992 A915 20.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1993 A915 20.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1994 A915 21.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1995 A915 21.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1996 A915 21.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1997 A915 21.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1998 A915 21.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 1999 A915 21.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2000 A915 21.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2001 A915 21.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2002 A915 21.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2003 A915 21.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2004 A915 22.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2005 A915 22.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2006 A915 22.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2007 A915 22.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2008 A915 22.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2009 A915 22.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2010 A915 22.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2011 A915 22.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2012 A915 22.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2013 A915 22.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2014 A915 23.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2015 A915 23.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2016 A915 23.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2017 A915 23.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2018 A915 23.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2019 A915 23.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2020 A915 23.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2021 A915 23.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2022 A915 23.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2023 A915 23.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2024 A915 24.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2025 A915 24.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2026 A915 24.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2027 A915 24.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2028 A915 24.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2029 A915 24.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2030 A915 24.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2031 A915 24.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2032 A915 24.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2033 A915 24.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2034 A915 25.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2035 A915 25.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2036 A915 25.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2037 A915 25.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2038 A915 25.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2039 A915 25.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2040 A915 25.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2041 A915 25.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2042 A915 25.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2043 A915 25.90¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2044 A915 26.00¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2045 A915 26.10¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2046 A915 26.20¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2047 A915 26.30¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2048 A915 26.40¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2049 A915 26.50¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2050 A915 26.60¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2051 A915 26.70¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2052 A915 26.80¢ ultra    | 5     | 5        |                               |          |
| 2053 A915 26.90¢          |       |          |                               |          |

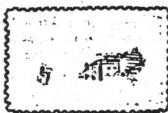


## Collecting made easy

Guide to damaged stamps: Always strive for stamps in the best possible condition. Pictured are several typical damages that greatly decrease a stamp's desirability.



Tears or pieces missing (stamp at the right should be thrown out)



Thin spot (often noticeable from the back of the stamp)



Creases or folds



Clipped or missing perforations



Stains or blotches



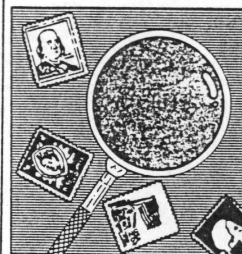
Bad centering (perfs cut into the design)

If a stamp in poor condition is used as a space filler for the collector's album, that stamp should be replaced with one that is in better condition as soon as the collector finds it.

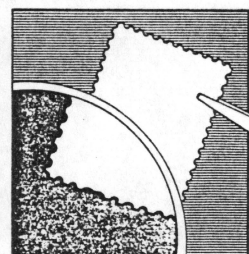
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Text by Elaine Boughner; Illustrations by Juliea E. Karos

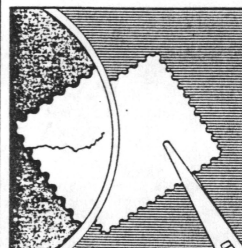
## Collector terminology



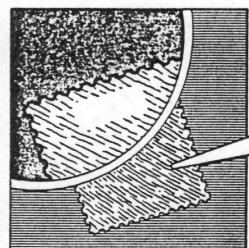
Examination of stamps with a magnifying glass is useful, especially in detecting flaws or other problems. Look for stains, marks, thin spots and so forth.



Check all around the edge of a stamp, especially perforations. Flaws like short perfs — unusually short or missing perf teeth — can become quite evident.



Look closely at both the front and back of the stamp. Close inspection may show signs of paper creases, tears or thins.



Gum condition may also require close inspection. Evidence of hinge marks or other gum disturbance can show up.

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsay

## Collector techniques



Centering — an important condition factor — is the position of the design in relation to the edges of the stamp. A superb (S) stamp is one with perfect centering; nearly perfect is extra fine (XF), with margins not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  equal to what they would be on a superb copy; a well centered copy is very fine (VF), with margins not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  superb.

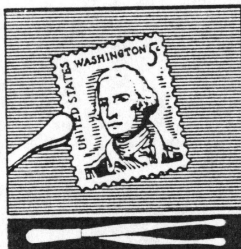


On fine (F) stamps, perforations are not into the design, but margins are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  equal to what they would be on a superb copy; a very good (VG) stamp has perforations that slightly cut the design or frame; a good (G) stamp has perfs well into the design. Anything worse — such as poor (P) — should be avoided or replaced, when possible.

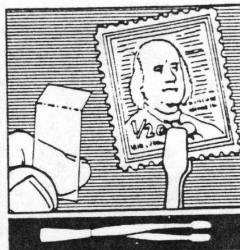
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Illustrations by Jeff Davis

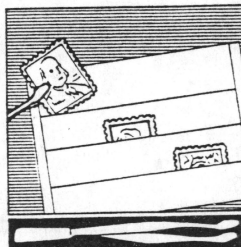
## Collector terminology



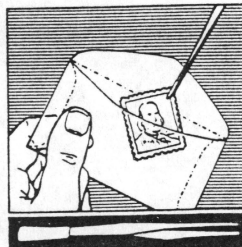
**Types of tongs:** Collectors should use the style tongs they can handle comfortably, without damaging the stamp. Most collectors probably use tongs with rounded tips.



Flat spade-tipped tongs come in two sizes long (about 5½ inches) and short (about 4¼ inches). The shorter version of this spade type is recommended for beginners.



Two lengths (short and long) of tongs with the spade tip at an angle are available. These are excellent for use in removing stamps from stock books, cards or pages.

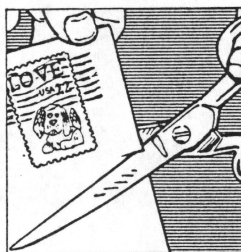


Three types of pointed-tip tongs are used: a shorter one (4½ inches) and two 6-inch tongs, one with an extremely pointed tip. The latter two are used by most dealers.

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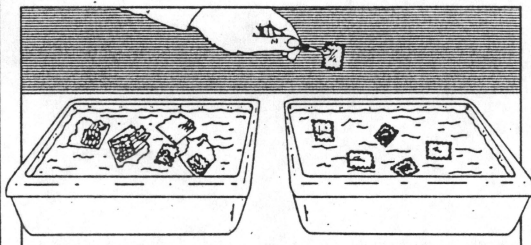
## Collecting made easy



**Soaking:** Cut the stamps from the envelopes you have accumulated, leaving about ¼ inch around the stamps. You now have what typically is called stamps "on paper."



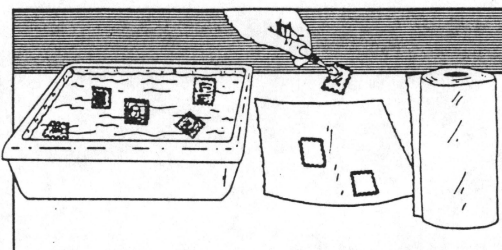
If you prefer to tear the portion bearing the stamp off the envelope, be very careful not to tear the stamp; it is useless if torn. Caution your friends and relatives about this.



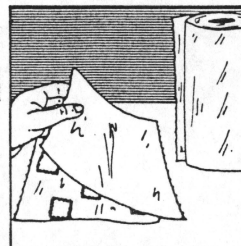
To remove the stamps from the paper, the clippings will have to be soaked. Put aside stamps on colored envelopes, those with colored or heavily inked cancels, and stamps with fugitive inks. The color or ink may run and ruin the stamps. Soak such items separately. Use lukewarm water. Allow the stamps to float free of the backing paper. Afterwards, a second "rinse" bath may be useful to help eliminate final traces of gum. Soak only a few stamps at a time. When the water becomes discolored, discard it and use fresh.

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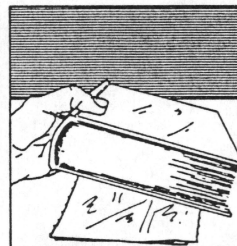
## Collector terminology



After soaking, stamps should be dried face down on absorbent paper, such as paper towels. Old newspaper can be used safely in most cases. As the stamps dry, they may curl.



To prevent curling, another piece of paper should be placed carefully over the stamps after they are almost completely dry, then weighted down with any heavy object.

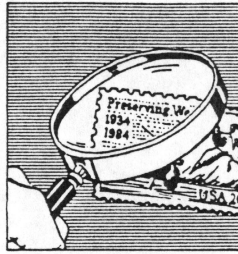


A large book makes a good weight. Stamps should be pressed in this manner for at least a few hours, or even days, if necessary. Then the stamps can be stored away.

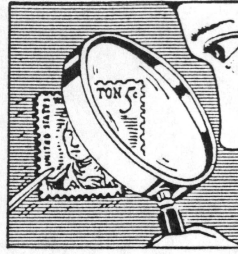
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Illustrations by Mike Lindsey

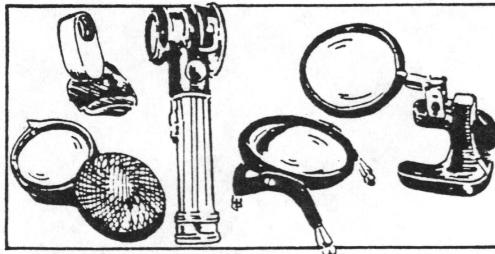
# Collecting made easy



Magnifiers: tools that enable one to examine stamps closely and identify details too small to be seen easily with the naked eye.

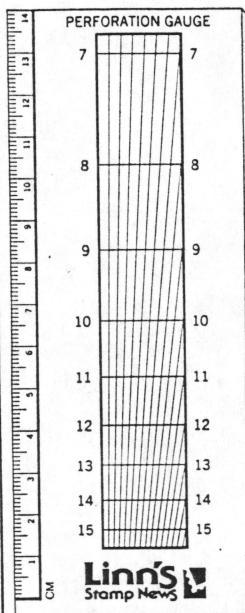


To properly use a magnifier, put lens close to the eye and bring stamp up to lens or bend forward to stamp until it is in focus.

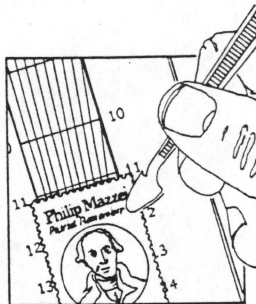


Magnifiers come in different styles: with a straight handle, pocket lenses that fold into cases, illuminated ones and stand types that leave both hands free. When purchasing a magnifier, check for distortion at the edges; the less distortion, the better the lens. A magnification of 4X is sufficient for most needs; 10X is required for closer details.

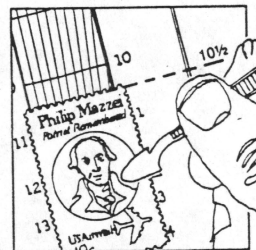
## Collector terminology



Perf gauge numbers represent the number of perf holes in 2 centimeters. When horizontal and vertical numbers differ, the horizontal gauge is first, as perf  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ .



To determine gauge, move the stamp up or down the scale until each slanted line exactly intersects the middle of each perf hole or perf tooth. This is perf 11.

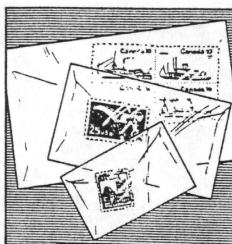


Determining gauge can be important when varieties exist. This U.S. 40c Philip Mazzei airmail stamp is perf  $10\frac{1}{2}$  horizontally, indicating the perf  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$  variety.

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsey

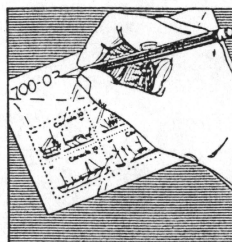
## Collecting made easy



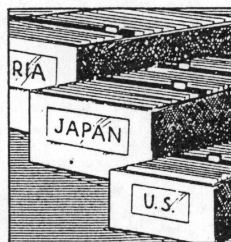
Glassine envelopes come in a variety of sizes that fit both stamps or covers.



Glassine envelopes allow for easy handling and protect stamps from perspiration.



Stamps are viewable through glassine. It can be written on with pen or marker.



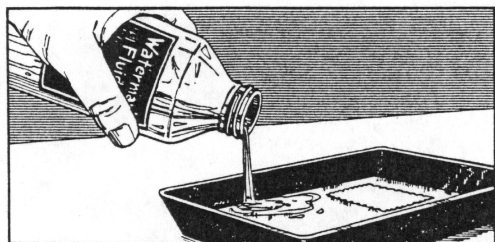
Glassines are easy to store in boxes. Both dealers and collectors use glassines.

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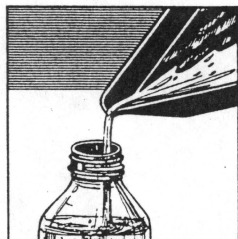
Text by M.F. Schreiber; Illustrations by V. Schreiber



## Collecting made easy



Watermark fluid is stored in a glass or plastic bottle and is used in a black tray. Most watermark fluids are dangerous. Children should use them only with an adult.



Watermark trays have a spout for pouring watermark fluid back into the bottle.

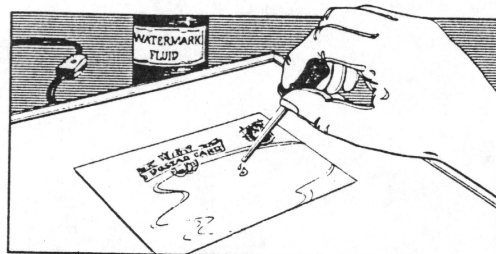


Keeping the cap on tight will prevent watermark fluid from evaporating.

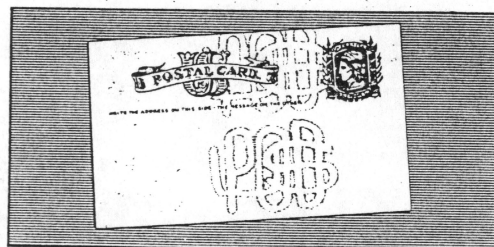
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## Collecting made easy



Watermarks on United States postal cards can be made visible by placing the cards on a back-lit surface and adding watermark fluid. An artist's light table is a good surface.

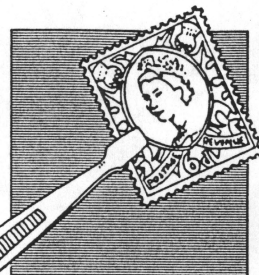


The card will absorb the fluid. Any watermark on the card remains visible for approximately 20 seconds. Using this method works better than holding a card up to a strong light.

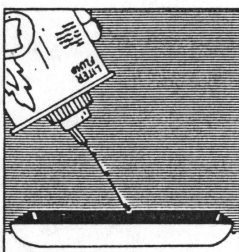
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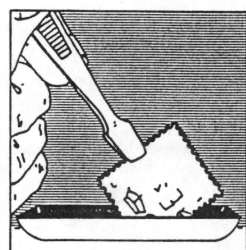
## Collector terminology



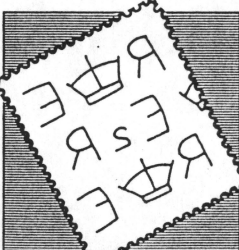
Watermarks can be important to collectors. Some issues, like the British definitives of the 1950s, can only be identified positively by the variety of the watermark. Checking watermarks is a simple process.



A few elements are needed: a shallow black dish (an ashtray); and watermark fluid (lighter fluid can be used). The stamp should be placed face down in the tray, and a few drops of fluid applied.



As the fluid penetrates the back of the stamp, the watermarked areas (where the paper fiber is thinner) will appear darker. Many watermark fluids are flammable; use caution and a well ventilated area.

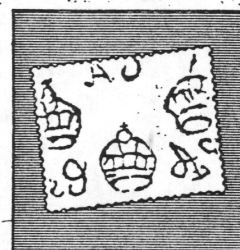


Looking at the stamp's back, the watermark will appear reversed. Watermark fluids will not dissolve gum. Inks, however, may run; check a cheap copy first. When finished, allow the stamp to air dry.

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Illustrations by Mike Lindsay

## Collector terminology



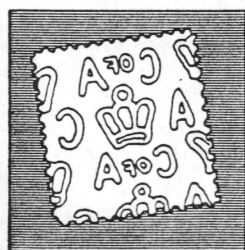
**Watermark:** A watermark is a distinguishing mark used in the manufacture of paper, usually as a security against forgery.



**Inverted and sideways watermarks** are upside down and sideways in relation to the upright position of the stamp design.



If watermarks could be read through the face of the stamp, they would show up in normal order, reading left to right.

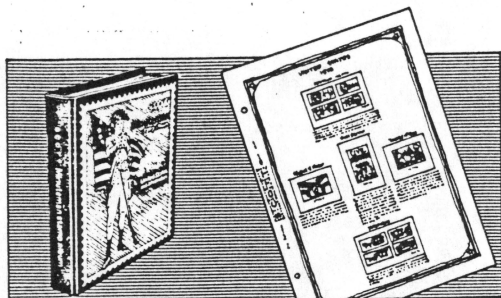


When watermarks are read through the back of the stamp, they show the marking in reverse order, with letters reversed.

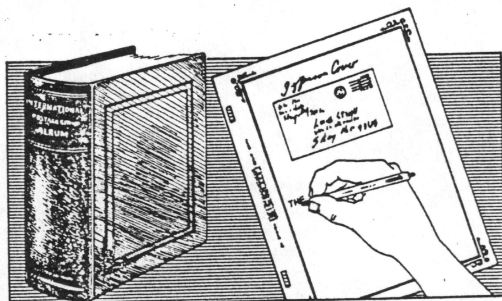
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Illustrations by Mike Lindsay

# Collector terminology

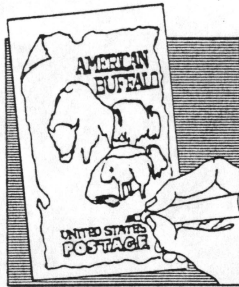


Stamp albums come in a variety of sizes and styles. Preprinted styles have illustrations or descriptions of the stamps (or plate blocks, etc.) to be affixed, from one or more countries. The best albums are loose-leaf, so that they can be expanded or rearranged easily.



So-called blank albums can be created with an appropriate binder and plain or slightly decorated pages. Such albums allow flexibility in the creation and arrangement of material such as stamps, blocks, covers or other items, and are especially useful for topical.

## Collector terminology



Stamp design is a complex and exacting art form. Once a subject is selected, a design may undergo numerous changes.



Even after the design reaches its final form, there are other considerations, including printing method, inks, papers, etc.



If the stamp must be engraved, the detailed line engraving work must be done in the size of the final stamp — in reverse.



The combination of design, engraving, printing and paper (a tan stock for the 1970 Buffalo) results in a finished stamp.

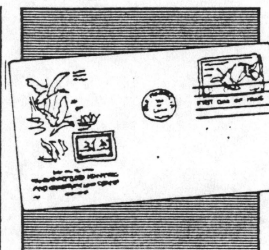
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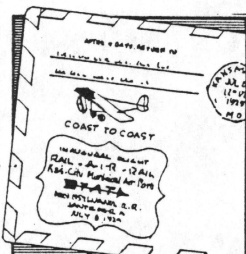
## Collector terminology



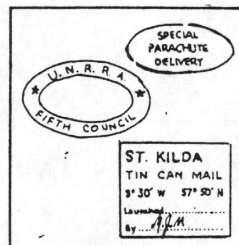
Cachet (ka-shay): a design or inscription printed, handstamped or hand drawn on an envelope to explain the occasion on which the envelope was mailed.



Most cachets refer to an event or anniversary occurring on the date of the postmark or to the subject of the stamp. Many first day covers have cachets.



Some cachets denote special circumstances under which the letter was posted; for example, an airmail first flight.

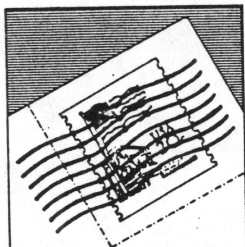


Shown are examples of handstamped cachets applied to covers to indicate posting under special circumstances.

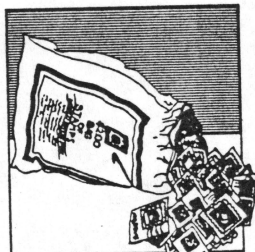
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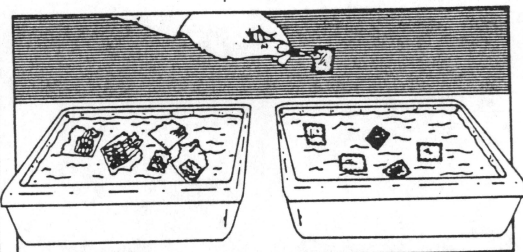
## Collector terminology



Stamp sources can include incoming mail. Just tear off the corners of the envelopes with the stamps; the resulting clippings typically are called stamps "on paper."



Mixtures are assortments of stamps mainly "on paper," with some amount of duplication. To avoid these duplicates, look for assortments called "all different."

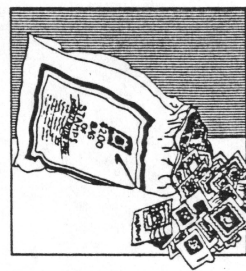


To remove the stamps from the paper, the clippings will have to be soaked. Use cool water in most cases. Fugitive inks and heavy cancels may run when soaked; if unsure, test a cheap copy or a small corner first. Allow the stamps to float free of the backing paper. Afterwards, a second "rinse" bath may be useful to help eliminate final traces of gum.

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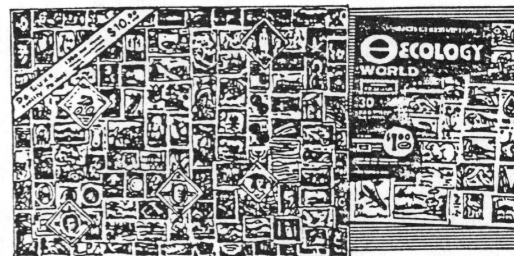
## Collecting made easy



Stamp sources: Mixtures are large accumulations that add to a collection at minimum cost. Most contain duplication and are "on paper" unless stated otherwise.



Mixtures may be described as picked or unpicked. The unpicked command a higher price, as the term means nothing has been removed from the original contents.

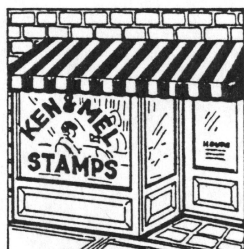


Packets are envelopes containing a specified quantity of stamps, usually off paper. Packets offer either stamps of the world, one country, one area or one topic. Collectors should watch for the words "all different" to avoid duplication. It is best to buy one large packet instead of several small ones, for the small ones will contain duplications of each other.

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## Collecting made easy



Stamp dealers: A good stamp dealer can be one of your greatest allies in building any kind of stamp collection you choose.



In addition to his stock of stamps, many dealers are happy to supply new issues, albums, catalogs and collecting supplies.



Stamp dealers can also use their knowledge and contacts to find special items if you let them know what you're looking for.

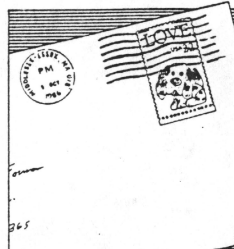


If you don't have a local stamp dealer, advertisements can aid you in locating several who can meet your exact needs by mail.

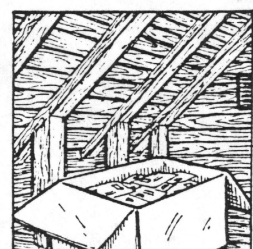
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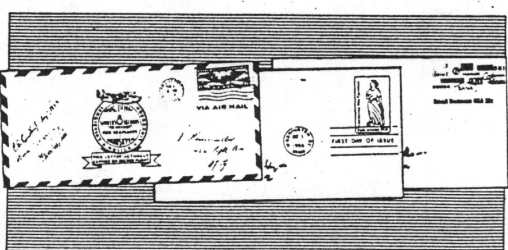
## Collecting made easy



Stamp sources: One source for stamps is the mail that comes into your home. Watch for packages; you may find some high value stamps on them for your collection.



Tell your friends and relatives that you are a stamp collector. Ask them to save stamps from their mail. Your grandparents also may have some old envelopes in the attic.



Try to arrange with your or your relatives' place of work, a local bank, or local industry to save their envelopes for you. Before taking the stamps off the envelopes, check them carefully for errors. Also put aside envelopes that have older stamps on (until you check if they are more valuable if left on cover) and envelopes with stamps printed on them.

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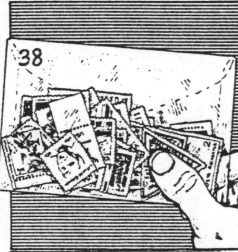
## Collecting made easy



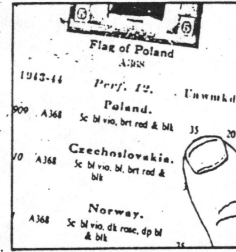
Trading: It is easiest to trade stamps with friends or club members. This is done face to face. You will see the item you will be trading for, and it is easy to come to terms.



Traders also are found in stamp papers' classified ads. Do not send expensive material, especially at first. Traders must agree to terms of exchange at the outset.



The basis for trading for some, especially when inexpensive material is involved, is by quantity; that is, stamp for stamp.

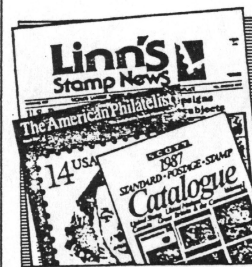


As the value of the material increases, the basis for trade becomes catalog value. Both traders must use the same catalog.

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## Collecting made easy



Philatelic literature: Publications about stamps and covers are a source of valuable reference information for beginning collectors and advanced specialists alike.



Catalogs describe, identify and price the stamps, usually in chronological order. Some catalogs list worldwide stamps; others cover those of one area or nation.



Handbooks provide in-depth information on stamp design, production, postal markings and history. They often lack the specific prices that appear in the catalogs.



Philatelic periodicals cover every conceivable topic and interest. They present the very latest news and new issues and publish up-to-date discoveries and opinions.

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