

Stamp Collecting Fun: A Beginner's Guide to Stamp Collecting



Who Is This Guy?

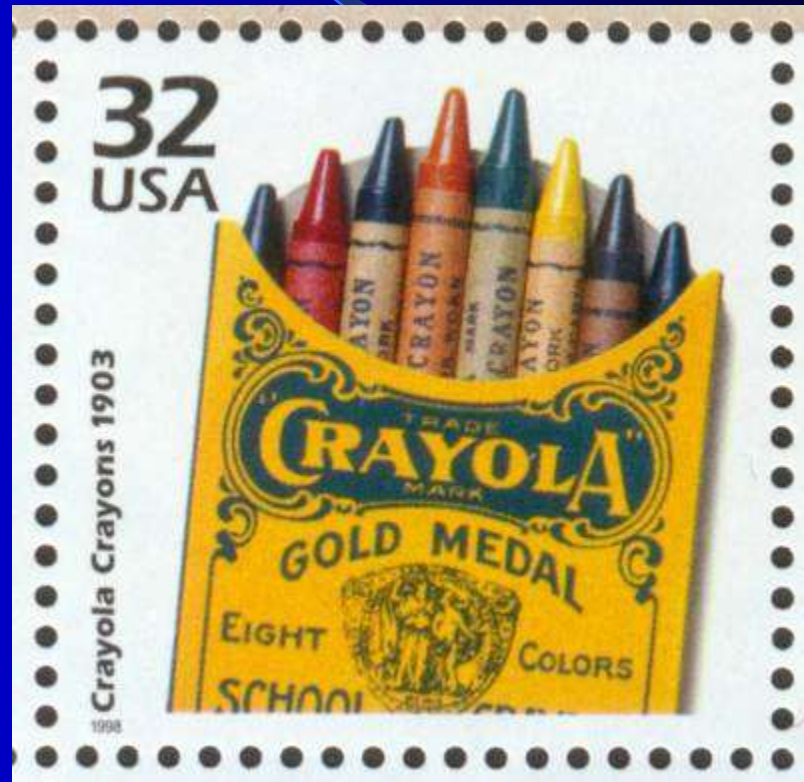
- Solon Resident
- Almost 40-year collector
- Professional Dealer
- Membership committee chair, American Philatelic Society



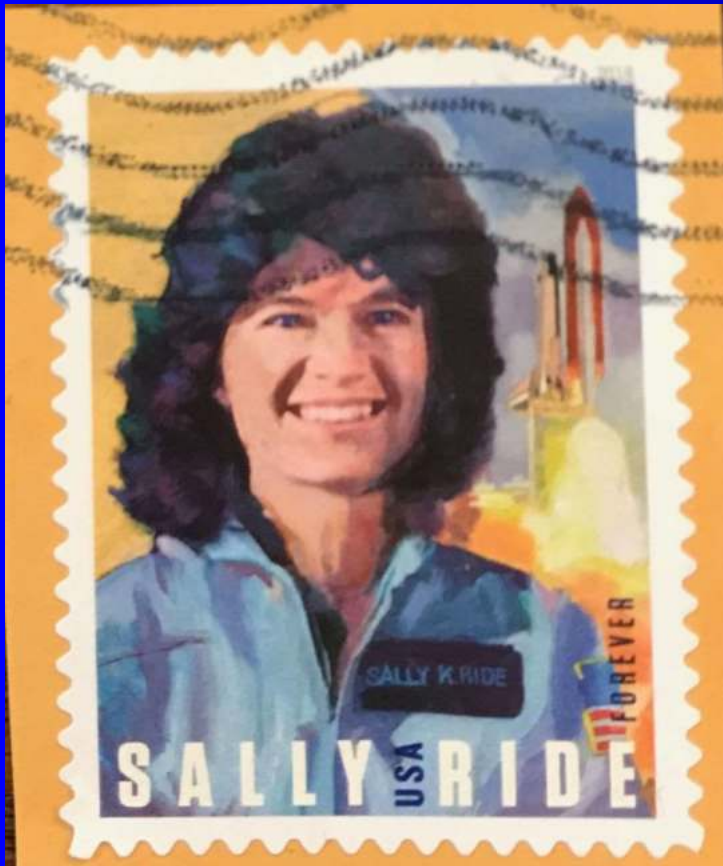
AMERICA'S STAMP CLUB
STAMPS.ORG

Why Collect Stamps?

- Colorful images
- Real-life stories
- Variety of topics: art, science, math, history, literature, geography...
- Treasure Hunt
- Academic Pursuit
- It's the liberal arts college of hobbies!



Why Collect Stamps?



The Most Important Reason

Stamp Collecting
(philately)
Is FUN!



What to Collect?



Commemorative



Color



Scott # C11

- Countries
- Specific Issues
- Topics
- Types
- Everything
- Anything



Topical



Great Britain

It's Dessert Night!



You Can Collect Whatever You Imagine



The American Topical Association - www.americantopicalassn.org -
has hundreds of checklists for different topics

What is a postage stamp?

- Prepays a service
AND
- Issued or
approved by
government or
postal service



First Stamps



Penny Black and
Mulready Envelope

First U.S. Stamps

1847: Washington and Franklin



What Came Before Stamps?



Later (U.S.) Firsts



1857



1918

Self Adhesives



Elements of Postage

1. Country name
2. Denomination
3. Topic
4. Perforations
5. Postmark
6. Cancellation
7. Color of stamp



Commemorative Stamps

- Important person, place, or event
- Limited quantity
- Available less than 1 year



Definitive Stamps



- “Postal workhorse”
- Printed in large quantities
- Remain on sale for indefinite time

Special Stamps



- Supplemental issues
- Love & Holidays
- Semipostals
- Other Special Purpose Stamps (airmail, express mail, etc)

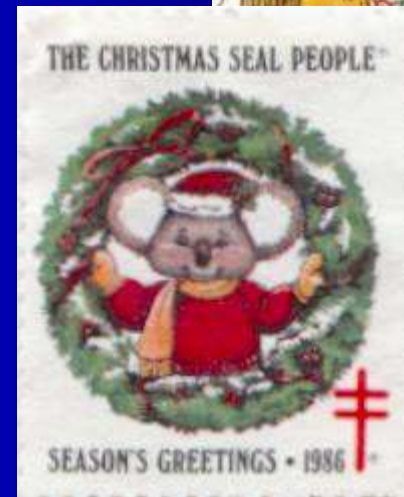
Souvenir Sheets

- Mini-sheet
- One or more stamps
- Commemorative inscription or artwork



Cinderellas / Labels

- Fantasy: nonexistent authorities
- Bogus: entity exists but did not issue
- Facsimiles: imitations
- Exhibition seals, local revenues, poster stamps



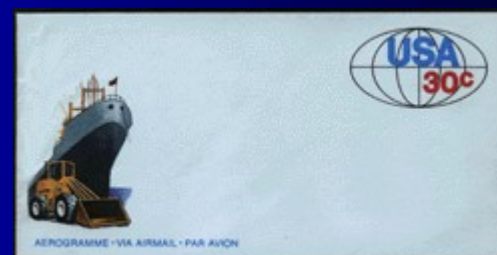
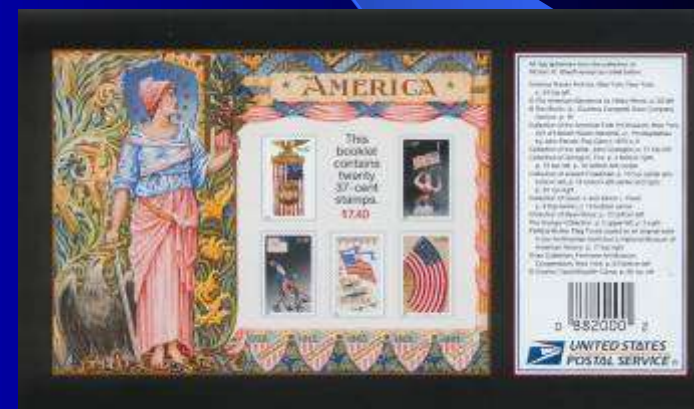
Revenue Stamps

- Documentary
- Excise Tax
- Transfer Tax
- Hunting
- Savings
- Many More



Stamp Formats

- Booklet
- Coil
- Sheets
- Stationery



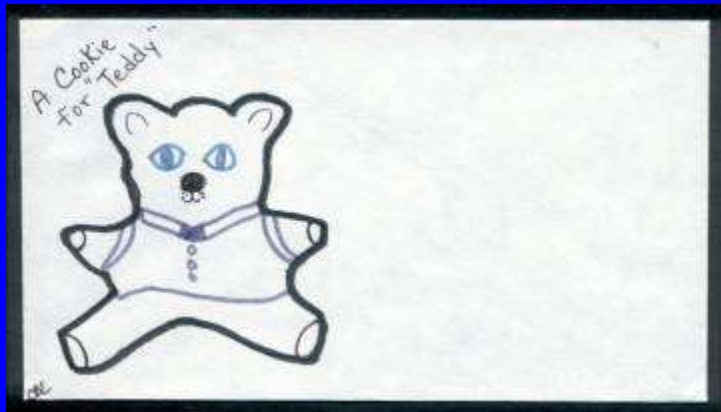
Postmarks and Cancellations

- Fancy
- Slogan
- Meter
- Pictorials



Types of Covers

- First day
- Event
- Flight



Postal History



Postal History



Tools

- Magnifier
- Tongs
- Mounting
- Perf Gauge
- Literature



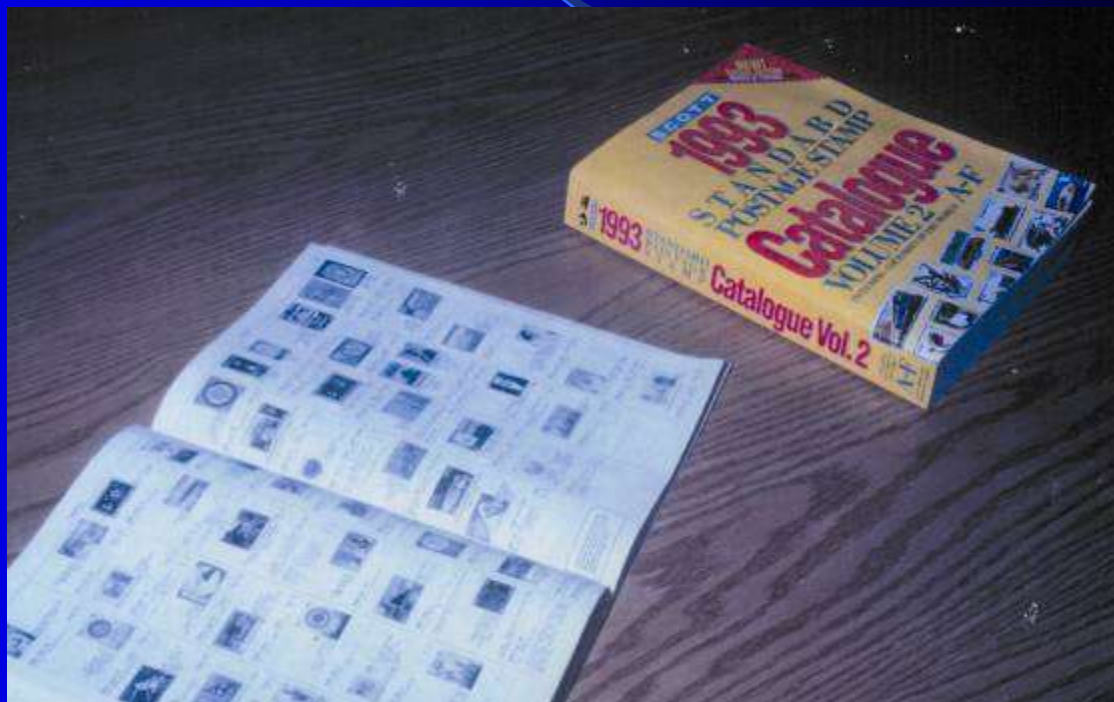
Magic Marks



- Watermarks
- Microprinting
- Hidden images
- Phosphorescent ink/Tagging

Stamp Catalogs

Scott
Michel
Stanley
Gibbons
Zumstein
Yvert



Catalog Listing

- Scott no.
- Illustration no.
- Country
- Denomination
- Year of Issue
- Mint/Used values

SCOTT NUMBER ①


ILLUS. NUMBER ②

LISTING STYLES ③

DENOMINATION ④

HARDING MEMORIAL ISSUE

Tribute to the memory of President Warren G. Harding, who died in San Francisco, Aug. 2, 1923



Warren Gamaliel Harding - A177

Plates of 400 subjects in four panes of 100 each.

FLAT PLATE PRINTINGS

Stamp designs: 19x22½mm

	1923	Perf. 11
610 A177 2c black, Sept. 1, 1923	65	.20
Intense block	.65	.20
grayish block	.65	.20
Never hinged	1.05	
On cover		.25
Pf block of 6	20.00	—
Never hinged	27.50	
Double transfer	1.75	.50
Horiz. pair, imperf, vert	2.000	

Imperf

611 A177 2c black, Nov. 15, 1923	6.25	4.00
Never hinged	10.00	
On philatelic cover		7.00
On commercial cover		15.00
Pair	13.00	10.00
Never hinged	21.00	
Corner margin block of 4	27.50	22.50
Margin block of 4, arrow	27.50	22.50
Center line block	60.00	40.00
Pf block of 6	75.00	
Never hinged	105.00	

ROTARY PRESS PRINTINGS

Stamp designs 19½mm by 22½mm

	Perf. 10
612 A177 2c black, Sept. 12, 1923	17.50 1.75
gray block	17.50 1.75
Never hinged	28.00
On cover	
Pf block of 4	300.00
Never hinged	425.00
Pair with full vertical gutter between	350.00

Perf. 11

613 A177 2c black pair	27.500
	60.000

No. 613 was produced from rotary press sheet waste. It is valued in the grade of fine.

BASIC INFORMATION ON STAMP OR SET ⑤

COLOR OR OTHER DESCRIPTION ⑥

DATE OF ISSUE ⑦

CATALOGUE VALUES ⑧

CHANGES IN BASIC SET INFORMATION ⑨

OTHER VARIETIES ⑩

FOOTNOTE ⑪

USED

UNUSED

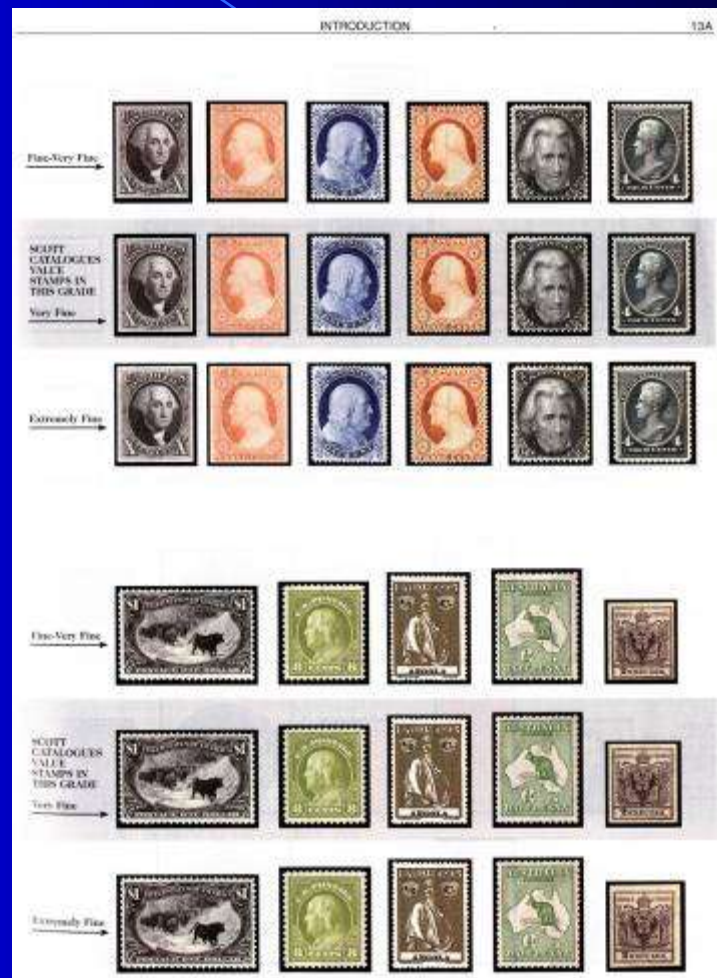
Perf. 11

Perf. 10




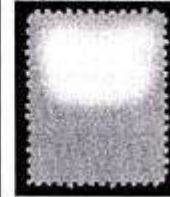
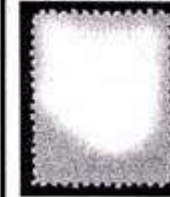

Perf. 11

Stamp Condition

- Fine – Very Fine
 - Very Fine
 - Extremely Fine
-
- Fine – Very Fine
 - Very Fine
 - Extremely Fine



Gum Condition

Gum Categories:	MINT N.H.	ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)				NO GUM
						
	Mint Never Hinged <i>Free from any disturbance</i>	Lightly Hinged <i>Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area</i>	Hinge Mark or Remnant <i>Prominent hinged spot with part or all of the hinge remaining</i>	Large part o.g. <i>Approximately half or more of the gum intact</i>	Small part o.g. <i>Approximately less than half of the gum intact</i>	No gum <i>Only if issued with gum</i>
Commonly Used Symbol:	★★	★	★	★	★	(★)
Pre-1900 Issues (Pre-1881 for U.S.)	<i>Very fine pre-1900 stamps in these categories trade at a premium over Scott value</i>			Scott Value for "Unused"		Scott "No Gum" listings for selected unused classic stamps
From 1900 to breakpoints for listings of never-hinged stamps	Scott "Never Hinged" listings for selected unused stamps	Scott Value for "Unused" (Actual value will be affected by the degree of hinging of the full o.g.)				
From breakpoints noted for many countries	Scott Value for "Unused"					

Details Make a Difference



These stamps have values of \$.25, \$1.75, \$4.00, and \$40,000. Can you tell the difference?

Where to Find Stamps

- Your mailbox
- Friends, businesses, institutions
- Stamp Shows and Local Clubs
- Post office and postal administrations,
- The Internet – Ebay
- APS

Organization

- Albums
- Stock books
- Stock sheets
- Envelopes



Hinges



Mounts



Soaking

- Water
- Paper towels
- Wax paper
- Pitcher
- Bowls



Storage

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Light
- Pressure
- Acidity

Collecting With Purpose

- Have a focus or a plan
- Stay organized
- Get the literature
- Assume the cheapest variety
- Keep a list
- ...and let yourself be distracted!

Investing in Stamps

- In a word, DON'T
- retail v. wholesale
- specialized knowledge
- Think of it as a hobby with some residual value



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