

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

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

APS Chapter 1584



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Editor's Note

Dennis Buss

We note the passing of one of our founding members, Bob Kirk. Bob, along with George Land, called a meeting of stamp collectors living in the Santa Rosa area in November 2011. The outcome of this meeting led to the formal organization of the Santa Rosa Stamp Club in February 2012. It is a tribute to Bob that seven years later we are a thriving club and we continue to share our enthusiasm for stamp collecting through our monthly meetings. He



was more than willing to share his knowledge and interest in stamps through his informative presentations and encouragement of fellow members to pursue the great hobby that we so much enjoy. A couple of weeks before Bob died, he asked me to visit him at his home. He wanted me to see his collection of King George VI British Commonwealth stamps. He knew I shared his interest in this facet of stamp collecting. I was overwhelmed not only by the extent of his

collection but how well organized it was. He developed several volumes by designing his own pages for each of the Commonwealth countries that issued stamps during the life of King George VI. It was a truly remarkable collection and I feel very privileged to have seen it and to have known Bob not only as a stamp collector but also as a friend.

Back by popular demand, a second installment of "Ask Phil A. Tellick" is featured in this edition of the *Newsletter*. No doubt you will agree that Phil's insights into stamp collecting are unparalleled. Part 2 of my study on the "Ways of Collecting World Wide Stamps" is offered in this edition. Again, if you have any insights or opinions about the pleasures and challenges of worldwide collecting, I would be happy to hear from you.

Ask Phil A. Tellick

Steven Brett and Paul von Gottfried

Last issue's inauguration of *Ask Phil A. Tellick* received widespread acclamation and an inquiry from Sonoma Mental Health Services. I'm tempted to re-name this column *The Best of Phil A. Tellick* due to the crush of new hobby questions and the necessity of narrowing all the incoming inquiries to the best. I hope you agree with my choices.

Dear Phil: They say that lightning only strikes once but I beg to differ. I've met a wonderful fellow collector of Dead Countries thanks to our club's website (The Jonestown Stamp Club.com). Since our combined collections complete our mutual specialty—the stamps of Nossi-Be—we are getting married this fall. Our honeymoon itinerary is very special to us: two nights in Danzig, two nights in Saar; three nights in Armenia and day trips to Sarawak and Montenegro and finally a good long stay in the Cape of Good Hope. Do you know of any stamp dealers in these former countries and states?

Belinda.

Phil: Belinda, I am at your service! The U.N. Human Rights Commission lists stamp dealers in Saar and The Cape of Good Hope. See the website address Stampmort@hague/kaput.net and you will see a tab for Philatelics. I suggest you visit as many Lost & Finds as possible while you're in Sarawak and Montenegro.

Dear Phil: I have a long-standing deposit arrangement with the Switzerland Philatelic Agency for all new Swiss issues. In the latest batch from this convenient source I think I received something that may turn out to be a very valuable error. It is a souvenir sheet with 8 imperforate stamps of various Euro values - but the stamps are otherwise completely blank (white). In other words, there is nothing on the stamp except the Euro denomination. Did I hit the jackpot?

Gladstone.

Phil: Gladstone, I'm afraid you haven't. The Swiss Postal authorities were intent on an issue honoring all Swiss Comedians & Entertainers and this is what they came up with. Sorry.

Dear Phil: There is a growing fad among postal systems to issue flavored stamps. So far, a number of countries have featured food flavored stamps such as chocolate from Belgium. I'm a topical stamp collector and I specialize in stamps bearing the images of horses. Since the French eat horse meat, it would be a double bell ringer if my country, France, issued some horse flavored stamps. In your opinion, is that a possibility?

Eduard (internet pal, Marseilles, France)

Dear Eduard—may I call you Monsieur Ed? In one word, Neigh. Pony Express was strictly American. But, let me ask you a question: Can we expect more snail mail from your country?.



Dear Phil: Have you ever heard of or been aware of a "forgery of a forgery?" I've read that some stamp forgeries are actually valuable. Can you comment on that, too?

Ollie.

Dear Ollie: A forgery can either be a postal forgery intended to defraud a postal authority or a philatelic forgery to deceive collectors. There are two very famous philatelic counterfeiters, Jean de Sperati and Francois Fournier whose work is highly collectible. Indeed, their work is so valuable that specimens can fetch thousands of dollars. Consequently, there are nefarious groups in Romania and Russia that have been counterfeiting the works of Sperati and Fournier for decades. One such group in Minsk was

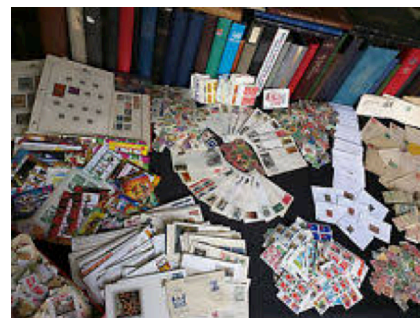
apprehended in 2016. Interpol was alerted by U.S. intelligence when the Minsk group made a major faux pas when reproducing Sperati's forgery of the U.S. airmails, C 13 -C15. It seems that the 2.60 blue Zeppelin had the words "Good Year" and "Let's Go Mets" along the port side. Sperati had a sense of humor and his 2.60 was an inside joke for a friend. As an aside, Qatar will be doing two souvenir sheets in late 2018 honoring "Famous Philatelic Forgers" and the two aforementioned will be amongst those honored by Qatar.

Dear Phil: It seems like the bottom has dropped out of the First Day Cover market. You can't give them away. At our stamp club beautiful binders loaded with U.S. Covers go for \$5.00—and that's if there's even one bid! Why is the market so darn soft in this area of philately? I like First Day Covers. Should one continue to collect them?

Bertram

Dear Bertram: Focus on unused/unaddressed/uncachet First Day Covers. They are the easiest envelopes to re-condition and re-use. The famous financier Bernard Baruch once said: "Buy when there is blood running in the street." This is a fine time to buy, buy, buy U.S. First Day Covers. If you'll kindly provide me with your mailing address I will send you 105 of my leatherette binders covering 1970—2010. Make your check out to Phil A Tellick. \$525 should do it. I'll even pay the postage.

Dear Phil: This is not quite a question but I hope you'll indulge me by allowing me to put in a good word for Mother Barker Stamp Services, Lubbock, Texas. I've reached the time of my life where it seemed wise to sell the bulk of my life long stamp collection. I chose Mother Barker because of their claimed reputation and guarantee of fast, courteous service and willingness to take it all. Which they did. What impressed me most was their professionalism. The buyer pulled into my driveway - on time - with a Van Lines truck filled with volumes and volumes of Stamp Catalogues - going back decades and more. Every rarity in my collection was catalogued using the very catalogue of the year it was issued. As the appraiser said: "This is the Ma Barker difference." I am quite satisfied with my check for 180 pounds and 12 shillings. Wouldn't you be, too?



Dorothy.

Phil: May I call you Dotty? Dotty, is he still in your driveway? If so, please call 911. Even if the first responder isn't a philatelist, explain the situation he will know what to do.

Dear Phil : Please help me. I can't stop buying stamps. I must have an addiction. I think about stamps, I dream about stamps and I keep ordering stamps. I sometimes camp out at the local stamp dealer's store until he opens. I fall into a small depression when he is closed. Where can I get help?

Timothy.

Dear Tim: I feel your pain. I went through the same syndrome. I was a stampaholic until a friend with the same problem led me to a wonderful resource: "The Symptoms & Cure for Philatelic Obsession " by Donald Sundman. This valuable publication is absolutely free, though it has a value of \$ \$25.95 on its cover. Just do what I did: Send your request with

your name and address and a brief description of what you collect to Mystic Stamps. I'm sure that you will also receive a free copy of this lifesaving publication and a wonderful selection of approvals.

Dear Phil: I have a very close Jewish buddy who specializes in Israeli philately. Over lunch the other day he told me that by statute, the Israeli Postal Authority clips a microscopic piece from the left corner of every new stamp issued within 5 days of issuance. Further, the Chief Rabbi of the postal Authority takes all the microscopic stamp clippings to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and places them in a designated niche with a prayer; "May all Numismatics become Philatelists by Rosh Hashanah." Tell me, oh wise one, is my friend Seymour putting me on? Thomas.

Dear Tom: Yes and No. The actual clipper is a Mohel (pronounced Moy-el). Rabbi's don't clip anything. Kenmore Stamps takes care of clipping. It is performed by Postal Specialists appointed by the Chief Postal Rabbi - presently Rabbi Fahrli. Secondly, the placement of the tiny stamp corners is not in a niche in the sacred Western Wall ("Wailing Wall"). They are incinerated with the stamps of Sharjah, Qatar, Oman and other Trucial materials. Sometimes with Bulgarian and Hungarian stamps, too. This is done with a prayer as follows: "May these Postal Authorities suffer printing paralysis by Christmas."

Dear Phil: The older I get the more troubled I am by the huge gap between Catalogue Value and what I realize when I sell my stamps either to dealers or at auction. I'm sure I'm not alone in this depressing situation. Can I do something about this? I feel so helpless. Please don't tell me that it is not about the money and I should enjoy the hobby for the fun of it! Collecting Hummels is fun - collecting stamps is a rat race. Elon.

Dear Elon: You're telling me! At our last club meeting there were three cardboard boxes waiting for us in our room - The Vets and Boy's Town sent our contributions back to us with a bill for postage. Here's how I handle this state of affairs. When I buy or sell scarce U.S. material I put on my 2018 hat. By contrast, when I buy or sell depressed or profligate countries like Cuba or Hungary or Marshall Islands or Grenadines I put on my 1958 hat. When I buy from Mystic I put on my Size 3 corrective hat.

*Dear Phil,
I feel overwhelmed by the number of recent U.S. stamps featuring our nation's flag. The first stamp featuring our flag, # 1153, was issued in 1960. There's been a plethora of flag stamps issued since then. There were 8 different in the 1960's, 4 in the 1970's, 10 in the 1980's, 18 in the 1990's, 20 in the 2000's and 15 different since 2010. One issue in 2000 featured 20 different flags. The first booklet featuring our flag was issued in 1977. There have been more than 73 different booklets issued since then. I haven't included booklets with different covers. I have not included issues that featured state flags. I didn't include stamps with other patriotic themes. Understandably, there were many issues celebrating our nation's bicentennial in the 1970's. No other stamp issuing country has come within 5% of this total. Phil, I'm as patriotic as anyone I know. But this seems over the top. There are so many other worthy themes, such as regional and local luminaries, etc. How*



about issues that feature the specific beauty of a few national, state and historic parks every year? So what do you think Phil?

Patriotically yours,

Red B. Blue, Flagstaff, Arizona

Phil: Dear Red, you must have a lot of time on your hands to go through the catalog so carefully. That being said, I have two suggestions.

First write to the following:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee

375 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 3300

Washington DC, 20260-3501

Express your concerns to them. Make specific related suggestions for stamps that you would like created. If you get a subsequent visit from the FBI, make sure you have your birth certificate handy. Second, buy commemoratives and other stamps that you like. No one is forcing you to buy flag and or patriotic related themed stamps.

Well, this ends the second installment of Ask Phil A.Tellick. Much of the fun of collecting stamps is corresponding with others who share this wonderful hobby. If I've learned anything in the process producing this column it is this: not only is there life in other sectors of the universe, there are also stamp collectors out there.

Phil

The Ways of Collecting Worldwide Stamps, Part 2

Selective Printed Albums by Time Period

The comprehensive album option raises the most important question the worldwide collector must consider. Should I collect stamps from all countries regardless of when the stamp was issued? Many worldwide collectors decide that that goal is just too overwhelming especially if they wish to work within the confines of a published album. Consequently, they look for a more selective approach while still using the guidance and convenience provided by a printed album.

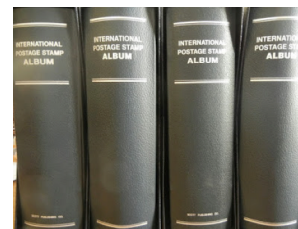
One solution is to limit the time period you wish to collect while retaining the goal of collecting as many stamps as possible within that span of years. Many collectors choose the so-called "classic period" from 1840 to 1940. As a convenient cut-off date, the first century of stamp issues certainly makes sense. The stamps of this period have great aesthetic appeal as most were finely engraved. In addition, the collector can document the evolution of how postal authorities dealt with various printing and security needs through different papers, watermarks, perforations, and re-plating varieties. Learning about these differences represents an absorbing philatelic challenge. However, attempting to collect *all* of the stamps from this period is still a daunting task. As we are well aware, the rarest and most expensive stamps are from the early period. At best, the collector of average means can only hope to acquire a sample of such stamps. Nevertheless, there are suitable period-based printed albums for building this kind of collection that are quite thorough in their coverage.

The *Subway Stamp Shop Vintage 1840 – 1940* album is actually a reprint of the old "Scott Brown Album" that covered the same time period. If you are a classic era collector, this is the most comprehensive illustrated album that you can purchase. The Subway Stamp Shop formats the album in either fourteen blue jumbo two-post binders or nineteen

green three-ring binders. The cost is \$1240.59 and \$1471.50 respectively, including slipcases. Santa Rosa Stamp Club members might be interested to know that George Land uses this album to house his collection.

It should be noted that the non-illustrated Steiner pages are also available for the 1840 to 1940/1952 period. At 6,500 pages, the Steiner version has spaces for 83,000 stamps (including King George VI British Commonwealth issues to 1952). It is based on the Scott Classic Catalogue and it is just as comprehensive as the *Vintage* album plus you get the KGVI pages. You supply the paper and binders after downloading and printing the pages from their website.

Perhaps your period-based preference is a bit less ambitious than complete coverage. Amos Press offers two printed options that are less selective in their coverage. Many collectors choose Scott's International four volume abridged set. Affectionately known as "Big Blue," the album covers the 1840 to 1940 period and sells for \$127.49 per volume (not including the two-post binders or cases). The album has space for approximately 35,000 stamps. The Scott editors deliberately



chose not to include watermark and perforation varieties. Moreover, complete sets are seldom depicted leaving out the more expensive higher denomination stamps. Some collectors may find this approach frustrating especially if you have acquired some of these missing items. The solution? You can always add a blank or quadrille page to include these stamps.

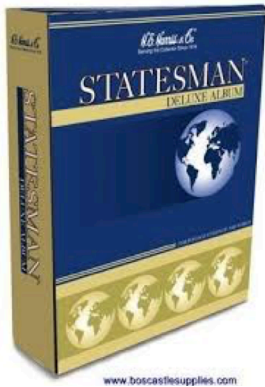
The second Amos Press option is to choose the *Minkus Worldwide Global 1840-1952* album. Based on the older Minkus Supreme Global album, it is more inclusive than the Scott album in two ways. The coverage goes to 1952 and includes spaces for over 76,000 stamps. For collectors with an historical bent, the great advantage is that you get to collect stamps from the World War II and Cold War periods as well as from the newly independent countries that shook off colonial control especially from Great Britain and the Netherlands. Secondly, the Minkus album includes most of the major watermark and perforation varieties especially from the British Commonwealth countries. Can you expand the time range covered by the Scott or Minkus worldwide albums? Yes, both offer album sets that take you into the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

There is still another type of the Selective Printed Album. These albums are comprehensive in years of coverage—1840 to the *present*—but *highly abridged* in terms of the number of different stamps for which spaces are provided. The publishers of these albums recognize that many collectors enjoy collecting stamps from all time periods while not necessarily striving for completeness. These abridged albums illustrate stamps from most time periods while also providing blank spaces for stamps not pictured. You might regard these as comprehensive worldwide *sampler* albums. Moreover, they feature the most easily obtainable and affordable stamps for the budget conscious.

The most ambitious publisher using this approach is the Collectors Supply House of Canadian Wholesale Supply (CWS). They offer several album options for worldwide collectors. The company makes the following notation: *Collectors expecting any kind of completeness of CWS world albums, at our prices compared to Scott Internationals retail price, are not being realistic. We sell blank and quad-ruled pages for the stamps that are not illustrated. Extra binders are also available.*

I will briefly describe three of their most comprehensive worldwide albums. The first, and most basic, is called the *Senior* album. This is a single volume album with a 3-inch two-post binder that features black and white illustrations on two-sided sheets. The dimension of each of the 567 sheets is 9x12 inches. The cost is \$109.95 in Canadian funds. The next option is The *Odyssey* album that features black and white illustrations on over 1700 sides on 9 x 12 inch pages contained in a 4-inch two-post binder. This album is designed to accept supplements to keep it up to date. The binder contains the base album and the latest 5 supplements. The cost is \$149.95 Canadian. The most elaborate of the CWS worldwide albums is the 5-volume *Olympian*. This album features black and white illustrations on 5952 sides of 9 x 12 inch pages contained in five 4-inch two-post binders with the 2016 supplement. The album lists at \$649.00 Canadian.

Americans are much more familiar with the H. E. Harris line of albums published by Whitman. Over the years this company has published several lines of worldwide albums including the *Traveller*, *Statesman*, *Statesman Senior*, *Ambassador*, and the *Citation*.



Currently, the company only sells the *Statesman* in a two-volume format at \$49.99 per volume including the two-post binders. Here is the Whitman description of the album: *Selected countries are now updated through 2010. United States and Canada are current through 2016. Volume I has 379 pages printed on the front and back and includes 220 countries from Abu Dhabi to Luxembourg. There are more than 17,000+ illustrations and the album has space for more than 19,000 stamps. It contains extensive geographical, historical, and demographic data for each country, plus a Vanished Lands section in Volume II. Volume II has 364 pages and includes 218 countries from Macao to Zimbabwe. There are more than 19,000+ illustrations with space for more than 20,000 stamps. Page*

dimensions are 9 1/8 x 12 inches. Collectors can keep the album up to date by purchasing annual Master Worldwide Supplements. Blank and Speed-rille pages are available.

As indicated above, collectors who are daunted by the prospect of collecting all worldwide stamps as provided by both the comprehensive and selective time period albums, may find the selective sampler approach best suited to their needs. These albums are considerably less expensive than their more complete counterparts. Yet they do offer some flexibility by providing blank and quadrille pages for stamps not illustrated. Moreover, these albums enable a type of worldwide collecting that is both challenging and feasible. It is known as the “collect to the album” approach. Using the stamp illustrations as a guide, the collector seeks only those stamps that are portrayed in the album. Blank spaces are filled with stamps that are not newer than the copyright date of the album. (Some may find the latter criterion a bit too arbitrary and will choose to mount more recent stamps.)

Another version of the “collect to the album” method is to purchase an older single or multivolume worldwide album from the 1960s or 1970s and confine one’s collecting to stamps up to the copyright date. Often these albums are offered for sale on eBay in good condition including several hundred or more period stamps. The older H. E. Harris albums cited above as well as the Minkus *Comprehensive Worldwide Album* and the *Master Global Album* are good ones to look for. In addition, Scott published the *Grand Award* worldwide album in a single volume that has the great advantage of including the Scott catalogue

number for each designated stamp space. As many of our Santa Rosa Stamp Club members recall, Jim Scholz was able to complete his childhood H. E. Harris *Traveller* with every space filled with stamps matched to the illustrations. This is the goal of the “collect to the album” collector.

Update: Since my first installment, I have learned that there are now approximately 830,000 different worldwide stamps issued between 1840 and 2015 based on major catalogue numbers assigned by Michel. Quite a jump from the 570,000 figure cited in Part 1 of this series of articles!

Attend a Stamp Show

East Bay Collectors Club Show, Civic Center, Walnut Creek, October 27-28

Sacapex Stamp Show, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento, November 3-4.



SRSC

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm at the Finley Community Center, 2060 W. College Road, in Santa Rosa. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Following a discussion of club business matters, the meetings feature a philatelic presentation and a member auction. For further information about the club visit our website at <http://www.santarosastampclub.org/home.html>

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Members are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter. Whether it is a short piece about an interesting stamp or cover in your collection or a more extended article about some aspect of philately, your submissions are welcome.

See Dennis Buss, the Newsletter editor.