

Chapter 1 : Learn About Stamps - How can I begin stamp collecting?

How to Get Started with Your Stamp Collection - Simple Tips Collecting stamp is a famous hobby as well as an easy activity, which provides many lighter moments. If you would like to start your own collection of stamps, here is the list of procedures to get started.

Not only are they functional, showing that postage has been paid to deliver a letter or package from one place to another, but they. If you want to become a stamp collector, give some thought to the type of stamps you want to collect. You might begin with something connected to another interest you have. If you like music, for example, you may want to collect stamps related to music. You might also want to choose stamps from a particular country or stamps celebrating a particular holiday. You could also choose to focus on landscape stamps, green stamps or romantic stamps. The United States Postal Service identifies three general classes of stamps. The first and most common stamp is known as a definitive stamp. These stamps are about one inch square or smaller, and produced in large quantities and multiple print runs. Larger and more colorful stamps are known as commemorative stamps. These stamps honor events, people or things that are important in American culture and life. These special stamps are usually only offered for a limited time; such as for Christmas and other holidays. To begin stamp collecting, you. The most versatile method is to choose a stamp album that has removable pages. You can buy stamp albums or make your own with a binder and good quality paper. Most collectors use strips of glassine paper that have adhesive on one side. Using a stamp hinge protects the stamp and makes it easier to remove later. Clear, plastic sleeves called stamp mounts can also be used to place your stamps in their album. To see your stamps in detail, consider using a magnifying glass. Also, to protect stamps that haven. And to protect valuable or fragile stamps from the oils on your hands and fingers, use a pair of stamp tongs. There are a number of stamp catalogs that provide pictures of stamps, along with information about the values of various stamps. While certain old or rare stamps are quite valuable, as are stamps that were printed with an error, stamp collecting is a hobby best pursued for its enjoyment, rather than the potential for any financial gain. You can buy new stamps, look for packages of stamps available for sale, trade or buy stamps from other collectors or ask friends and family members to save interesting stamps for you. As your collection begins to grow, so too will your excitement and knowledge of this fascinating hobby.

Chapter 2 : www.nxgvision.com - the most complete stamp catalogue on the internet

Another very inexpensive way to start, or great for kids to get started with a US collection. Mystic Stamp company is the #1 company and is very well respected. They have this nice beginner US kit with an album, hinges and they throw in US stamps.

Wholesale value what the dealer will pay on that day Make your own Inventory Recommended only for those with stamp knowledge If you have some knowledge and experience in stamp collecting, you have an edge when selling a stamp collection. Start by preparing an inventory or list of your stamps. The most common method of preparing a collection for sale is by marking in pencil the catalog value keeping in mind that the catalog value is a guide and may not represent the true market value of each stamp or row of stamps in the margin of the album page, according to one of the current stamp catalogs. It is important to note that many U. Methods of sale There are several methods of sale to be considered. The appropriate method depends on the nature of collection, the value of the material, the preference of the person selling the collection and sometimes the geographical location of the sale. Direct Sale to a Dealer Selling to a dealer has two advantages. The seller receives an agreed amount of money immediately and there is no fee. Consignment to a Dealer The seller can place the stamps with a dealer on consignment. The seller should ask for an itemized receipt, a minimum price should be set, and payout terms should be arranged before the collection is consigned. If possible, the seller should have photographs of any expensive stamps in the collection, and these should be made part of the receipt. A time limit, in writing, should be placed on the sale and on the payout. Consignment to an Auction House Auction offers the greatest potential for the highest sale price. There may be a wait of a few months, between the time of consignment and the date of the next auction. On a consignment of sufficient value, most auction houses will, at the time of consignment, give a cash advance against the estimated sale price. Outright Sale to an Auction House This is the same as an outright sale to a dealer. Placement in a Mail Sale Consignment to a mail sale can be a way to dispose of a large number of items with a smaller selling price. Fees vary and the seller should inquire about all charges. Private Treaty Retail dealers and auction houses often act as agents to offer collections in their entirety for sale privately. Sell at a Stamp Show Take the collection to a local regional stamp show. There you can show it to several potential buyers at one time and obtain the highest price offered. Where Should It Be Sold? When the decision has been made as to the appropriate method of sale for the collection, the seller needs to have assurance of the sound reputation and financial responsibility if any dealer or auction house. The seller should ask for references, and should contact the American Stamp Dealers Association to ask whether the dealer is a member in good standing. Most members display the ASDA sign of membership in ads. Other Options You might consider keeping the stamp collection. Throughout the years stamps have increased in value. You could try to add to the collection and enjoy the hobby. It is one which can be shared with children and grandchildren. You can also visit a local stamp club and make friends while you learn about stamp collecting and get to know your local ASDA stamp dealers. When the market is good, a collection will bring a higher price. When money is tight, it may be beneficial to wait to sell. How to store your stampsâ€¦ until you decide to dispose of them The condition of your stamp collection affects the final sale price because buyers all seek stamps in sound condition. Postage stamps do not bring top prices if they are torn, creased, mildewed, stuck together, pasted down or damaged by moisture. Therefore, during the time that you are determining the value of your collection, you should take the following precautions. Storage Keep your stamp collection at dry, moderate room temperature. Avoid attics or basements, since temperatures are both hot and cold, or dampness damages stamps. When storing stamp albums, place them in an upright position. Do not stack them one on top of another since the weight of other books will tend to make stamps stick. Condition If any of the stamps are stuck together, do not attempt to separate them because you may do damage in the process. Leave them stuck together until a professional stamp dealer can look at them and determine whether they can be separated safely. Do not remove any stamps that have been postally used on envelopes. If the stamps themselves have a value, they can have an even greater value when left on an envelope. Leave the stamps in multiples, whether cancelled or unused, intact,

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since they are sometimes more valuable as blocks or sheets than as singles. In Short Selling your stamp collection is like any other business decision; consider all of your options, always get multiple opinions, plan carefully and be sure to do business with stamp dealers that display the ASDA logo.

Chapter 3 : Stamp collecting - Wikipedia

Our Supplies For Stamp Collecting come from all the major album companies, including Scott, H.E. Harris, White Ace, Minkus, Lighthouse, SAFE, Lindner, plus Showgard, Prinz and more. Our discount priced stamp collecting supplies are in stock for fast delivery and your satisfaction is our guarantee.

How to Get Started with Your Stamp Collection - Simple Tips Collecting stamp is a famous hobby as well as an easy activity, which provides many lighter moments. If you would like to start your own collection of stamps, here is the list of procedures to get started: First you need to decide on what kind of topic you would like to use for your collection to get started with this hobby. It is also recommended to start with general but choosing a specific theme for your stamps will be more exciting. If you would like to collect postage stamps from other countries, you may start narrowing down your collection for the stamps coming from a specific country. You can also start the stamp collection by buying new stamps from the market. If you are aiming for the stamps of the specific country will help you to get a good start on your collection and will help to prevent the duplication of your collection. Buying a whole pack will give you different designs and will make more interesting for you and motivate you to collect more. If you have limited budget for starting the stamp collection you may have to collect the used stamps from your friends and relatives, which they have received from the mails. They can also help you by asking their friends to donate the stamps to you, which will be exciting since the stamps came from people will be with different themes and special to you. This will make you to value the sentimental values of the collected stamps. Once your friends and relatives are informed that you are collecting the stamps, they will make you to learn that they will provide you stamps as a gift for occasions. This kind of helps will make the collection easier for you. Some times your friends and relatives may make use of their maximum effort for getting special editions or commemorative stamps to make you happy and surprise. You may then narrow down your collections by considering the new or old stamps, which one is more preferable to you. Many people prefer to collect more old stamps in their collection than the new stamps. On the other hand, the new stamps are easier to find and manage. Once you have decided the type of stamps to keep in your collection, you should not throw away the other stamps because, you can exchange them with other collectors to get the stamps as per your choice. One benefit of stamp collecting is that you need not spend much money for the hobby. You may buy inexpensive tools and supplies, which you need for your collections. For starters, an album is the first thing to acquire. The most popular type of the album is the loose-leaf album. A loose-leaf album has a binder that has removable sheets. This will make the stamps easier to manage and compile. It is most important to learn removing the used stamps from envelopes to place them in your album. You may the cut the envelope along with the stamp but it is important to leave the space between the scissors and the edges of the stamps. Now, you can place the stamp by the face turned down in a bowl with warm water. When it becomes completely wet, you can peel off the stamp and place it in the album after drying it properly. There are many resources where you can get informations about stamps and stamp collection. The Internet is the most effective way to search for stamps and determine the place you can get the cheapest and even those stamps, which are hard to find. You can also make use of the Internet to make friendship with other stamp collectors, which will help you become more interested in the hobby and they may help you in finding the stamps you are looking for. You can also exchange stamps with one another making your collection bigger and more exciting. The best part of the collection is displaying them to your friends and loved ones. Once you have your own collection, you can show them to your friends and relatives. You may even have your own exhibition in the future. One way to let the people know about your collection is by putting up your own website. You can create the website, where you can exhibit all of your collected stamps and you can also give the notes about the stamps and your efforts to collect them.

Chapter 4 : How to Get Started in Stamp Collecting

Two very useful stamp-collecting tools are the stock book, which holds stamps and protects them from damage, and stamp tongs, which help the collector handle stamps. Inexpensive pocket catalogs are good for collectors starting a United States stamp collection.

Much depends upon the budget and interests of the individual coin buyer. With input from John Albanese and Kris Oyster, recommendations for true beginners are presented here. Collectors who plan on spending just a few dollars per coins and collectors who will spend thousands per coin will, I hope, find the material here to be helpful. The current approach is very general and is aimed at true beginners, who are often puzzled as to how to get started. Although I believe that many rare world coins are excellent values, the advice provided pertains to U. Realistically, most collectors in the U. Moreover, collecting world coins, colonial coins, or medals is more complicated. There are fewer resources available from which to learn. It is very easy to find a good deal of valuable reading material and pricing information relating to U. Decide on a Budget A coin collecting budget should not be limited to one year; it should be part of a long run plan. A collector should decide how much he or she is willing and able to spend on coins each year, for ten years or more. If a collector is unsure how much he wants to spend, or can spend, then set an annual minimum, with the idea that, if the collector becomes much more interested or his financial situation improves, the maximum may be greater than the minimum. It is important, though, to be realistic about how much a collector can really afford to spend on coins. A collector should not spend money that may be needed for retirement, health care or family emergencies. While this may sound obvious, it is common for collectors to financially over-extend themselves. A passion for coins may lead to runaway spending. Click here to read my interview of him. In , Albanese was the sole founder of the NGC. In , he was the founder of the CAC. There are specialists in coin related literature, as well as a few vendors on the Internet, who buy and sell used coin reference books. These should be avoided. Certainly, in the Internet era, the Redbook is not as important as it was in earlier times. There is a great deal of educational information on the Internet. Of course, as Albanese, Oyster and others point out, there is an incredible amount of misleading information and coin related fraud stemming from websites on the Internet. Nonetheless, a beginner who spends a couple of months browsing coin related sites on the Internet, without even spending one cent, may learn a great deal. In addition to the large number of past articles and columns on CoinWeek. Leading auction companies maintain archives of past auctions with prices realized and quality images. Before spending any money, it is a good idea to look and read. The seventh edition was released in November While a beginner may, initially, find this book to be a little confusing, the text will become clearer over time and much of the information included is very valuable. Yes, this mammoth book contains a significant number of errors and some of the material is outdated. Even so, this book features s a wealth of very valuable information and some excellent discussions of U. Again, it contains errors and other faults. As for books on U. An effective author may often seem to be much more knowledgeable about a topic than he is in actuality. When I talk about sports memorabilia, for example, I often sound more knowledgeable than I really am. Maybe no one will discover that I really do not know much about baseball gloves, jerseys and bats, or even about autographed footballs. Invariably, while searching and learning, beginners will come across other books about coins that are well written by knowledgeable authors. Indeed, beginners often find books by Jeff Ambio and Q. David Bowers to be very helpful. Buy Classic, not Modern, U. The pursuits of modern coins lack cultural rules, and stem, in part, from the whims which are often profitable for the national government of decision-makers in the U. It is indisputable that U. They lack individuality and there is hardly any tradition of collecting them. It makes logical sense for a collectible to be scarce and to have individual characteristics, rather than be something that was recently mass produced. Also, beginners should collect coins that sophisticated experts regard as meaningful; such coins do not have to be expensive. Some collectors are under the impression that modern coins are less expensive than classic pre coins. While I understand how my auction reviews may give that impression to beginners, the truth is that there are numerous pre coins that are not expensive. A quick perusal of the value estimates at Numismedia.

There are naturally toned, scarce pre coins available for collectors of all income levels. It only takes a few dollars to buy some neat coins. In regard to modern coins, this question is tricky and is covered in my column on modern coins. As I suggest that everyone buy coins minted before , the discussion in this section relates to pre U. Again, colonial coins, medals, tokens and world coins are all different matters and would require separate discussions. There are experts who are not honest and there are honest dealers who are not experts. Coins sell at market levels, not below market. If any collector is planning to buy a pre U. Yes, I have written about grade-inflation and coin doctoring. Put differently, if a beginning or intermediate collector buys coins that are PCGS or NGC certified and then buys apparently very similar coins, in terms of type, rarity and represented quality, that are not certified, the group of certified coins on average will usually be vastly superior, in terms of overall quality and originality in particular, than the corresponding group of non-certified coins. It is really important to examine many such coins and to ask questions of experts. A beginner should spend only a small percentage of his or her coin collecting budget while attaining a basic understanding of the physical characteristics of coins. With experience and effort, knowledge may be attained and grading skills may be developed. Again, it is important to communicate with experts. In sum, it is easy to get started collecting U. Formulate a budget, read a great deal, think and explore, ask questions of experts, and then buy coins.

Chapter 5 : American Philatelic Society

Collecting stamps. also known as philately, the study of stamps and other postal materials. can be an interesting and educational hobby. If www.nxgvision.com interested in getting started as a philatelist, read on for more information.

How to get started in stamp collecting January 01, Another choice collectors make is whether to save stamps from the United States left, some other country in this case, Comoro Islands, at right or from all over the world. Two very useful stamp-collecting tools are the stock book, which holds stamps and protects them from damage, and stamp tongs, which help the collector handle stamps. Inexpensive pocket catalogs are good for collectors starting a United States stamp collection. More expensive specialized catalogs provide additional information. How do I get started? The following paragraphs discuss the basic choices we all face. The stamp at left is in mint condition: The stamp at right in the illustration was used to mail a letter. It has postmark lines across the design and the gum on the back of the stamp is gone. Many collectors decide early on if they are going to collect mint stamps fresh uncanceled stamps sold at the post office, or postally used stamps those that have been used to send mail. The used stamp was clipped from an envelope and then removed from the paper by soaking in warm water. Why choose to collect one way or the other? The fact is, you can collect both ways and create a perfectly fine collection. Mint stamps may cost you more money. What if you really like the Polar Bear stamp, but no one sends you mail with a Polar Bear stamp on it? United States or another country? A lot of people in the United States collect only U. Many people collect stamps of a different country or even a group of countries. Some people try to collect stamps from every country in the world. Figure 2 shows two stamps picturing exotic fish. The franc stamp at right was issued in March by Comoro Islands, an African archipelago off the northeast coast of Mozambique. Deciding on a country to collect depends a lot upon your interests. If your ancestors are from England, Spain, Germany, Japan or some other country, you may find collecting stamps from that country appealing. A printed list can be obtained by sending an addressed, stamped No. Postally used stamps from other countries can be clipped from mail and soaked off envelopes, or they can be purchased individually or in packets from stamp dealers. Collecting the world It takes an organized person to collect stamps from all over the world, but many people enjoy it very much. Topics Some worldwide collectors choose to look for stamps whose subjects showcase a specific topic. The two stamps shown in Figure 2 both depict fish, for example. A collector might choose to build a collection entirely of stamps showing different fish, or one specific kind of fish. This type of collecting is known as "topical collecting. You literally can start collecting without any tools at all, but a few items will make stamp collecting a little easier. To find a stamp dealer near you, look in the telephone book yellow pages under the headings "Stamps for Collectors," "Hobbies" or "Coins and Stamps for Collectors. A tool that looks like a long pair of tweezers, used to pick up and hold stamps. Why not just use your fingers? Because no matter how clean your hands are, your fingers can leave natural skin oils that can eventually stain stamp paper. Picking up a stamp with your fingers may also bend corners or crease the stamp. Stamp tongs have polished rounded tips, while tweezers have sharper edges and ridges that can damage stamps. A pair of stamp tongs in use is shown in Figure 3. Also shown in Figure 3 is one page from a stock book. This specially designed book has horizontal strips across each page to organize stamps and hold them safely. This is one of the best ways to make sure you can look at your stamps conveniently while also protecting them from damage such as creasing, dust, and so on. A stamp catalog will help you identify and value the stamps you collect. There have been hundreds of thousands of stamps issued around the world, so worldwide stamp catalogs are very big. Many public libraries have copies of the Scott catalogs. Two such catalogs are shown in Figure 4. The catalog also lists when each stamp was issued and provides an approximate retail value for mint and used copies. What about an album? Some are fairly inexpensive, while others may cost a couple hundred dollars for binders, pages and supplements. Look over the options carefully before you make the decision to commit your collection to a specific album. Browsing at a stamp store or local stamp show is a good way to get a look at stamp album options. A stock book is a great way to keep your stamps safe and accessible for viewing until you decide what kind of stamp album you would like to use. If you cut apart envelopes to soak for stamps,

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watch for interesting markings, such as certified mail, postage due, and others. Many collectors save such envelopes also known as "covers" without cutting off the stamp or marking on it in any way. Often a complete cover has greater value than the stamp alone. Joining a local stamp club is a great way to learn about how people collect stamps. The APS will also send you information about joining that group if you request it. Stamp collectors often get together at shows that take place in different locations across the country. A stamp show usually includes stamp dealers selling stamps, covers and supplies, as well as exhibits of stamps created by other collectors.

Chapter 6 : How to Collect Stamps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

Stamp Collecting - Getting Started & Gifts. Buying as a gift? View our range of Stamp Collecting Starter Packs. Starting a stamp collection is a lot of fun, learning all about the stamps which have been issued by the countries of the world over the years.

Hi, Thanks for visiting my website. My name is Will and if you have questions or would like to contribute projects or ideas you can contact me The Hobby of Stamp Collecting During my pre-teen and teen years I really got into the hobby of Stamp Collecting. Well, my collection fell out of my hands in later years and the responsibilities of life got in the way. But in the back of my mind I always thought that someday I would return to that wonderful hobby. And I am sharing it with you here. Jan An explanation of re-issue stamps. These two stamps look exactly the same. They use the same exact design but were issued in different years by the USPS. And there is a difference! Identifying differences in reissued stamps can be very challenging. I have some tips for you here: Navigating the challenge of reissued stamps. Valuable stamps to look out for. Maybe you have come into a collection and you are intimidated by all the stamps! Here I have some stamps that are easy to identify and are actually worth some money! The USPS issues a set of unique eclipse stamps. You press your finger on a stamp and the moon appear. I have more about them here: A video on the basics of starting a stamp collection. I cover some of the basics of the hobby including where to get stamps, how to put them in albums and how to identify watermarks, grills and more: An introduction to Stamp Collecting What is your stamp collection worth? Maybe you inherited it or somebody gave it to you. I have seven tips for you to assess if the collection is valuable. Is your stamp collection worth anything? Totally free audio book on stamp collecting by Librivox. It is a public domain book and recording. You can download it right here on my site, unzip it and listen to it. Stamp Collecting Audio book. About Stamp Lift Fluid - Experience the frustration of trying to remove a hinge without damaging the stamp? They make a special fluid for removing stamps from albums, or envelopes. And for removing hinges safely. Is it worth it? I have a full review with pictures right here: About Stamp Lift Fluid The philosophy of stamp collecting - Stamp collecting very neatly fulfills some basic human traits. I also call this article the Crow, the organizer, the Historian and the Banker.

Chapter 7 : Stamp Collecting

This page provides you with a list of selected articles aimed mainly for new and beginning stamp www.nxgvision.com entries are mostly about three topics: 1.) hands on advice about picking the best resources, tools and practices; 2.) advice about the real value of stamps, and 3.) some deep thoughts about stamp collecting (and the life of stamp collector) in general.

Buying as a gift? View our range of Stamp Collecting Starter Packs Starting a stamp collection is a lot of fun, learning all about the stamps which have been issued by the countries of the world over the years. Postage stamps are miniature works of art - colourful, well-designed and superbly printed. Some of them commemorate famous people and events, others show animals and birds, flowers, railways, ships and aeroplanes, buildings and bridges, coats-of-arms and flags, space and sport. Stamps are educational and provide some of the nicest - and most practical - ways of learning geography and history, politics and religion, and the everyday way of life in different parts of the world. Your First Stamps The best advice to the novice is to buy the largest packet of whole-world stamps you can afford, together with a medium-priced album and some gummed stamp hinges to mount the stamps. You will be able to identify most of the stamps without hesitation: To keep your interest alive, you will be seeking more and more stamps, and there are numerous sources of supply. Your family and business friends may receive letters from abroad and may be persuaded to save the stamps for you. Even Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man have their own distinctive pictorial stamps, which are well worth collecting. You can examine the stamps at leisure in your own home, keep those you wish to purchase and pay for them when you return the remainder. At this stage some of your stamps will be unused, others postally used, and it is usual to collect one or the other, not both. Mixed unused and used stamps look rather a hotchpotch in the album, while a page of unused stamps, neatly arranged, can be very attractive. On the other hand, some stamps - especially those from the more remote territories - are often difficult to find in postally used condition and cost more than unused ones. You may be fortunate enough to inherit an existing stamp collection which provides a ready-made start and a foundation on which to build an even larger collection. Alternatively, a section of it - which has the most appeal - can be kept and the remainder sold off to a stamp dealer or at auction. Condition is vitally important. Nothing detracts more from the value of a stamp than a crease, a tear, a stain or a heavy postmark. Damaged stamps are usually worthless and should be discarded or replaced as soon as possible. The ideal postmark is light not faint and clear, a circular town datestamp being preferable to part of a slogan cancellation. Some postmarks are often more valuable than the stamps, especially if kept intact on the original cover. The great dominions of Australia, Canada, India and South Africa were formed of provinces and states, each of which issued their own stamps years ago. New stamps are issued at the rate of about 9, a year so that the total number of stamps issued all over the world to date is truly vast. Thus it is impossible for the collector to form a complete whole-world collection; difficult enough to complete even a representative one. Many Kinds of Stamps At an early stage one should know about the different kinds of stamps in general use, some for special purposes connected with postal operations, others having no postal validity at all. Some countries have issued Express and Special Delivery stamps to cover the extra fees for these services. It provides complete, detailed lists of all the postage stamps issued by every country in the world from the earliest days, with information about dates of issue, commemorative events, face values, colours and designs, and - if it is a fairly new catalogue - the current prices of the stamps, unused and postally used. For the beginner and general collector the most useful catalogue is the Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogue - Stamps of the World. It contains all the details the average collector needs for every country. If current stamp values are not of importance, many cheap catalogues are available. Alternatively, most public libraries have a range of Gibbons catalogues which can be referred to or borrowed. These show all the new issues and latest prices since previous editions. As you progress in the hobby so the catalogue will become of more and more assistance. It shows you which stamps you need to complete a set, their face values and their designs, thus providing a guide to the arrangement of your stamps in the album. The catalogue will also help you to become acquainted with the colours and their

names - the basic reds, blues and greens of Stamps of the World or the more explicit carmine-reds, greenish blues and yellow-greens of the main catalogues. The magnifying glass is the one tool which everyone associates with stamp collecting. Through the magnifying glass, stamp designs appear in detailed close-up and are seen to be miniature works of art. You will also enjoy looking for errors and varieties, many of which are visible only through a glass. Perforations and watermarks will eventually concern you - differences to the normal perforation or watermark of a stamp can enhance its value, and it is necessary to be able to measure the perforation or identify the watermark if only to establish that you have the normal stamp. The perforation gauge measures the number of perforations within the measure of 2 centimetres. The main instrument for detecting stamp watermarks is the human eye. If colours or colour-names are a problem, then the novel Stanley Gibbons Colour Key will assist you. It contains colour tabs, including many of the shades most likely to be encountered. Your Album Choice Before you purchase your first stamp album you should have some plan in your mind, even just a few thoughts and inclinations, on the likely progress and eventual scope of your collection. Most beginners buy or are given a monster packet of stamps and a printed album with a page for every country. Sooner or later you will run out of space and the surplus stamps of some countries will be scattered untidily on other pages. In these circumstances, enthusiasm may flag as the only solution is a larger album with all the work of rearranging your stamps! Your choice of a suitable album is important. Printed albums - those with printed country headings at the top of each pages - can be obtained fastbound like a book or with loose-leaf ring-fitting binders. The great advantage of the loose-leaf system is that the leaves can be rearranged - and extra leaves added - as you wish. Obviously, the affixing of the mounts by hand is a time-consuming process and hence such albums are more expensive than those which require you to affix the mounts yourself. For many collectors the convenience is well worth the extra outlay. They are priced according to quality, size and capacity, and the binders are springback which open wide to release the leaves, ring-fitting or peg-fitting. Multi-ring albums have the advantage of lying flat when the album is opened, while it is usually necessary to take out spring-back and peg-fitted leaves when working on them. You can prepare your own country headings for blank leaves, or you can buy the special booklets of gummed country-name labels. Blank albums are of course especially suitable for thematic collecting - the pursuit of a certain subject or theme such as birds, flowers or transport - where the arrangement of the stamps entirely depends on the theme and its sub-divisions. They include an album, stamps, magnifier, tweezers and hinges. Arranging Your Stamps The essence of a good stamp arrangement is neatness - stamps placed squarely in the spaces provided for them or in level, tidy rows on a blank leaf. It sounds simple - and indeed it is - but it does require care and thought. Usually these are big enough to accommodate the majority of stamps which are invariably rectangular - horizontal or vertical - in shape. Larger stamps will extend beyond the confines of the square and in such cases the printed background should be ignored, with two stamps taking up the space of three squares. Personal preference and ingenuity should be employed! For the average collection, gummed stamp hinges are the most convenient to use. These are small slips of gummed paper, which attach the stamp to the album page - just fold down about a quarter of the hinge, gummed-side outwards, and lightly moisten the narrow folded portion with the tip of your little finger. The advantage of these is that you can keep your unused stamps in pristine mint condition, which most collectors and dealers now consider to be essential. The monotony of page after page of uniform rows of stamps can be avoided by paying attention to balance and symmetry. Bizarre and fanciful layouts should be avoided - invariably they waste space and lack symmetrical cohesion. Some sets of stamps contain irregular shapes and in such cases the usual order of face value lowest to highest can be varied row by row - horizontal designs in one row, verticals on another, or a blanked mixed row. Country names or other page headings should be uniform throughout the album and sufficient space should be left above and below the rows of stamps for sub-headings and captions if it is your intention to write-up the collection. Branching Out If you wish to develop your stamp collection on more specific lines than simply accumulating stamps, there are various ways in which you can pursue a serious philatelic study. But that can be for the future. More Stamp Collecting Guides.

Chapter 8 : How to get started in stamp collecting

To get started with the hobby, you need to decide first on what kind of topic you would like to use for your collection. It is also recommended to start general but it is more exciting to choose a specific theme for your stamps.

It is a very easy activity that provides fun to many. If you would like to start your own collection of stamps, here is how to get started: To get started with the hobby, you need to decide first on what kind of topic you would like to use for your collection. It is also recommended to start general but it is more exciting to choose a specific theme for your stamps. If you would like to collect postage stamps from other countries, you may start narrowing down your collection from stamps coming from a specific country that interests you. You may also start by buying new stamps from the market. You can start the collection by choosing a specific country that you would like to choose. This will help you get a good start on your collection and this will also prevent duplication of your collection. Buying a whole pack will give you different designs that will make it interesting for you and motivate you to collect more. If money is limited while starting the collection. You may want to consider asking your friends and relatives to give stamps that they are no longer using. They can also help you in asking their friends to donate their stamps to you. This will also be exciting since the stamps came from people who are special to you. This will make you value the stamps more because of their sentimental values. Once your friends and relatives have learned that you are collecting stamps, you will learn that they will give you stamps as gifts for any occasion. This will make the collection easier for you. Some may even exert the effort of getting special editions or commemorative stamps to make you happy. You may then narrow your collection by considering whether you like new or old stamps. Many people prefer old stamps in their collection. New stamps, on the other hand, are easier to find and manage. Once you have decided on what stamps to keep for your collection, you should not throw away the others since you can still exchange them with other collectors. One benefit of stamp collecting is that you will not spend much money for the hobby. You may buy inexpensive tools and supplies needed for your collection. For starters, an album is the first thing to acquire. The most popular kind is the loose-leaf album. A loose-leaf album has a binder that has removable sheets. This will make the stamps easier to manage and compile. It is also important that you should know how to remove the stamps from envelopes before you can place them in your album. You may cut the stamp from the envelope around the stamp but it is important to still leave a space between the scissors and the edges of the stamps. You can then place the stamp with the face turned down on a bowl of warm water. You may then peel the stamp, let it dry and place it in the album. There are many resources where you can get information about stamps and stamp collecting. The Internet is the most effective way to search for stamps and determine where you can get the cheapest and even those that are hard to find. You can also make use of the Internet to make friends with other stamp collectors. This will help you become more interested in the hobby and they can help you in finding the stamps you are looking for. You can also exchange stamps with one another making your collection bigger and more exciting. The best part of the collection is displaying them to your friends and loved ones. Once you have your own collection, you can show them to your friends and families. You may even have your own exhibit in the future. One way to let people know about your collection is by putting up your own website. You can make the website a place where you can exhibit all your stamps and you may also provide stories about the stamps and how you got them.

Chapter 9 : Getting Started Collecting U.S. Coins: Basics For Beginning Collectors

How to Collect Stamps. In this Article: Article Summary Collecting Stamps Removing Paper from Used Stamps Storing and Organizing Your Collection Identifying Rare Stamps Community Q&A. Collecting stamps can be a rewarding hobby at any level of skill or expense. A beginner or child can be perfect with an album of pretty pictures.

It can be started easily enough, and can grow to a wonderful collection over time. One of the aspects of stamps that collectors find most fascinating is their ability to reveal much about the history and culture of other places. Stamp collecting is a hobby that is simple enough to get started by children or adults alike, and can be continued for decades. If you are new to stamp collecting, follow this guide to get started and discover some useful tips and resources. Even in those early days, people quickly began collecting postage stamps! It became a large enough hobby that companies were creating stamp collection albums, books about stamp collecting and other related items. By the mids, it was mostly children and teens who collected stamps. However, as they grew up, they became experts on stamps and the hobby grew even further. Today, around five million Americans still enjoy stamp collecting. While it may go without saying, a stamp album is essential. Since it is imperative to preserve the stamps as much as possible, a pair of tweezers will be needed for handling, and will prevent fingerprints, sweat or grease from getting on the stamp. Remember, the condition of the stamp has a large impact on its value. A magnifying glass is also very useful for inspecting fine details. Make sure to keep the stamps and stamp albums away from moisture, warm areas, and light. Depending on your preference, the collection can be arranged according to a theme, such as country, time period, or subject. Older collectors might even pass on their collection to children or grandchildren. As the collection grows larger, it becomes more and more important to properly catalog the stamps so that you know exactly what you have. Finding and Collecting Stamps An easy way to start collecting stamps is to simply ask people you know to pass on stamps from mail that they have received. If a friend is going on vacation, ask them to send you a postcard or purchase a few stamps for you. Elderly people may also have old pieces of mail with out of print stamps. These stamps can make an especially interesting addition to a collection. As the collection grows, you may become more interested in purchasing stamps to complete a theme. Try hunting at garage sales, at stamp collector events, at online specialty stores or through stamp dealers. Serious stamp collectors end up investing enormously in rare, vintage and unused stamps over time. There are plenty of online forums and communities for stamp collectors to compare and discuss their findings. These types of message boards are also extremely useful sources for new stamp collectors to find answers about stamps that they currently have or are seeking. Care Tips for Stamp Collectors â€” Find out how to properly store and care for stamps. Identifying Strange Stamps â€” If you have a stamp that is difficult to identify, this resource helps to determine its origins. All About Stamp Collecting â€” Learn more about stamp collecting and how to go about it. Stamp Shows â€” There are several exhibitions and fairs for stamp collectors across the U. Philatelic Glossary â€” Look up and learn common terms used in philately and stamp collecting circles. Inheriting a Stamp Collection â€” Read about how to proceed if someone has passed on their stamp collection to you. Valuating a Stamp â€” See how to find the true value of a stamp from various sources. Collecting Postal Stationery â€” Stamp collections can include other items besides stamps, such as official postal stationery.