

## Chapter 1 : Old stamps for charity | Selling old posted stamps | Kiloware

*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.*

**Introduction to Stamp Collecting** What can you call a hobby which teaches so much—in addition to providing fun and pleasure. Stamp collecting helps instruct the collector in geography, biography, history, culture and art. Stamps are miniature gateways to the world. Stamp collecting has very few rules. However, there are a few simple things to remember when collecting stamps. Which Stamps to Collect? First of all, one of the essential rules to remember is that the condition of a stamp is a highly important consideration. Badly torn and mis-handled stamps are not only unpleasant to the eye, but they are worth next to nothing when compared to their undamaged counterparts. Try to acquire the finest possible specimens. Stamps are rated in condition from poor to superb. A stamp which can be called "superb" is one of the finest quality. That means it has perfect centering, brilliant color and perfect gum. A used stamp can also be called superb, if it is perfectly centered, fresh looking, is lightly cancelled and undamaged. A designation of fine means a stamp without flaws, average centering, gum with light hinge marks. Used stamps designated "fine" are not quite as fresh, cancels are heavier and centering is good. Stamp tongs come with differently shaped tips, but they all have smooth ends which you can use to pick up a stamp without damaging it. There may be minor defects such as disturbed gum, thin areas, heavy hinge marks. Stamps which fall below these standards should be ignored and are not worth acquiring by the serious collector; however beginners sometimes collect them as starters. These are known as "space fillers". Because their condition is so important -- and stamps are only bits of paper after all -- when handling them it is essential to remember to use caution. The best way to safely handle stamps is with tongs. Because stamps are small, it is often difficult to see all of their minute detail with the naked eye. Magnifying glasses, which come in a variety of shapes and sizes, will help you not only see the design better, but also, in some instances discover small details which can help distinguish one stamp from another. Look-alike stamps frequently turn stamp collectors into Sherlock Holmes! Sleuthing is fun and a test of your knowledge and skill. **Soaking Stamps** You can always find stamps in your own mail box, or you can ask a local business to let you have stamps from their mail. But when you want to remove a stamp from an envelope, you will need to soak the stamp off. When you soak stamps off of the remnants of envelopes, all you really need is a container to hold the cool water while the stamps soak. You can tell when the stamps are ready to be handled, they will float free from the envelopes. Not all stamps soak well. If you have stamps with purple ink or cancellations on them, you may want to soak them separately, because these colors may run, discoloring other items in the container. Others may require separate attention because of colors which may run from the envelopes on which the stamps were affixed. **Tools You May Want to Buy** If you have trouble in telling the difference between two seemingly similar stamps you may want to measure the perforations. A perforation gauge is used to measure the number of perforations in a prescribed space on each stamp. Some stamp designs may look alike but the gauge of the perforation is different. Subtle differences are apparent in other ways. Another way of distinguishing seemingly similar stamps is by using a watermark detector. Some stamps have a very faint watermark which has been incorporated into the paper during its manufacture, and it is necessary to use a special device to detect such marks. Although sometimes a watermark can be found by holding the stamp up to the light, more often the stamp has to be examined in a watermark detector. Place a few drops of special, non-toxic, watermark detector fluid into the detector dish, adding enough to shallowly cover the bottom. The stamp is then placed face-down in the smooth black tray. The watermark should quickly become visible. As a precaution, remember to always use watermark fluid in well ventilated areas. As with watermarks, look-alike stamps also differ in color. Color guides provide another helpful guide to differentiate between stamps which appear similar. Using a color guide can help you tell if your stamp is rose, rose-red, deep rose-red or dull rose-red. Knowing how to handle stamps properly is only one part of the fun of collecting. Perforation gauges, watermark detectors and magnifying glass will help you identify the

differences between stamps, but referring to periodicals, reference books, and catalogues will help you not only identify each item, but learn more about them as well. The most important book which you will want to use is a stamp catalogue. The catalogue you use will depend on the type of stamps you collect. If you collect only stamps from the United States, then you would need to use only the Scott Specialized Catalogue of the United States. For other countries, there are five other catalogues. Volume 1 includes U. Volumes 2 through 5 include the remaining countries of the world listed alphabetically. There are other specialized catalogues too. They are used by collectors who specialize in collecting stamps from other countries, or specialized collections that focus on transportation methods and other topics. These catalogues list stamps or covers by number, and if you are using pre-printed albums produced by the same companies, that number will probably be used as a reference there as well. In addition to numbering the stamp, the catalogue will usually tell such things as which printing method was used to produce the stamp and the date it was first issued. Even more information about your stamps can be found by using handbooks. Many times information that can be found nowhere else can be found in a handbook. Hundreds of different philatelic handbooks can be borrowed through your local library. If the library does not have the book, you can request that they order it for you through inter-library loan from the National Philatelic Collection. If you are unsure about what area of collecting you would like to concentrate on, you may want to consult a beginning collectors book. These "how-to-books" can be purchased or ordered through a local stamp dealer or bookstore, or you may find them at your local library. Because one of the first things you will learn through collecting stamps of other countries is geography, you may want to get an atlas, globe or world map to help you see where the country is located, or to help locate countries which issued stamps you have in your collection. Several stamp atlases have been published for philatelists; they show "dead" countries that formerly issued stamps, as well as current nations. Sometimes, collectors decide to collect stamps not by country of issue, but because of something else. Some people collect revenue stamps, which are used by the country of issue to tax items. Many more people collect stamps according to topic, such as animals, like birds, or fish, people on stamps, such as authors or scientists, or sport scenes, flowers, art or crafts, the list of stamp collections by topics is practically endless. If you have decided to collect according to a country, topic, or any other area of stamp collecting that you want to concentrate on, you may want to keep in touch with others who are collecting the same way. There are numerous specialized stamp clubs locally or nationwide. Many of these clubs can be found through web searches using the terms "stamps" and your collecting topic. Often when a club has members around the country, the only way for them to keep in touch with each other is through a magazine, newsletter, or bulletin. You may want to subscribe to a philatelic magazine that covers your interests. There are stamp journals which let you know what is going on in the field in general, and keep you up to date on new discoveries. There are stamp journals which are devoted to studying and describing stamps and covers. Whatever area of collecting you wish to collect in, there is an enormous amount of information available to help you enjoy your hobby. The best place to start is a local stamp club. Good luck, and rememberâ€”enjoy yourself, because the main reason for collecting stamps is for the fun of it!

### Chapter 2 : Frequently Asked Questions - Canadian Stamp News

*Other collectors decide to specialize in certain areas, and they only collect particular stamps, such as stamps from certain periods or about certain subjects. You can spend as much or as little time and money stamp collecting as you wish.*

Old posted stamps Old stamps for charity; donating and selling old posted stamps as kiloware Your unwanted and old posted stamps can help raise funds for the blind, for stray cats and dogs, and your local church. Recycled postage stamps have become synonymous with philanthropy because they are sold to raise funds to support various social causes. Or when you are in need of cash, you can make money out of those unwanted stamps by simply selling your used stamps to kiloware stamp dealers. Do stamps have any value if they have been used? Old posted stamps, though they cannot be re-used for postage, are sold to philatelists who specialize in used postage stamps collecting. However, most old posed stamps are not priced individually. These kind of old stamps are not preferred by dealers and collectors since they are not stamp rarities. What happens to recycled stamps? Most recycled postage stamps are sold as kiloware. As the name suggests, kiloware stamps are used definitives and other old stamp issues that are sold by weight rather than by quantity. Each kiloware is approximately 2. Charitable institutions and churches accept recycled stamp donations and they sell these old posted stamps by bags or packets to philatelists. The charity kiloware or mission kiloware are used to raise funds for various causes. How can I reuse my old posted stamps? Your dusty old posted stamps are nothing more to you but trash, but it means a lot to a budding philatelist who is about to begin stamp collecting. You can either donate your used stamps to charity or sell them directly to a dealer. Donating old stamps for charity 1 Take out your old mail envelopes and look for undamaged stamps. They should have minimal damage because it can affect the postage stamp grading and condition. Instead, carefully cut the envelope paper around the stamps. Remember, most charities do not accept stamps with more than a 1cm margin because they add weight to the stamps kiloware. Separate the commemorative stamps from the definitive stamps. The cause that you choose reflects your personal interests. If you are an animal lover, why not send your old posted stamps to non-profit organizations that make homes for poor cats. If your heart goes out to invalid individuals, there are organizations that sell charity kiloware to raise funds for guide dogs for the blind and wheelchairs for the quadriplegic. On the other hand, church associations sell mission kiloware to support their vocation. Selling old posted stamps 1 After sorting out your old postal stamps, search the stamp catalogue or local ads for kiloware stamp dealers near your vicinity. You can contact a stamp dealer first and discuss to him or her about the stamps you want to sell. To be sure if you are getting a good bargain, search the internet or other sources for the current postage stamp prices.

### Chapter 3 : Value of stamps

*Many more people collect stamps according to topic, such as animals, like birds, or fish, people on stamps, such as authors or scientists, or sport scenes, flowers, art or crafts, the list of stamp collections by topics is practically endless.*

These are the most frequently asked questions about collecting stamps. How do I start collecting? The best thing to do is just start picking up different things: As you find an area that interests you pick up a reference catalogue. It will prove invaluable in the future. Eventually you will need a plan to organize your collection. Let this follow your interests and other hobbies. Most collectors decide to specialize in issues of a particular country or time period, or even a theme, such as trains. What you chose is up to you, there are no rules. What should I buy? There are three basic rules to follow: Your collection should be fun to own and affordable. As a rule, it is better to own one high-quality item than it is to own several mediocre ones. Low value common items will probably always be low value common items. Are stamps a good investment? Some people have made a lot of money buying and selling these items, and others have lost fortunes. If you are serious about investing first spend a bit of time learning. Most successful investors were knowledgeable collectors first. A well-chosen collection will appreciate, but probably no better or worse than any other investment. By well-chosen we mean good quality stamps purchased at reasonable prices. How approachable are dealers to new collectors? Most dealers are willing to help out a new collector with advice and information but not all the time. However this is a business and their time means money. If a dealer is busy with customers then wait, or come back later. If a customer shows up, offer to wait until after they have been served. It also helps if you repay their time with a little patronage. How do I sell my collection? It depends on the collection. Most people believe that auctions will get the fairest price, but not always. Dealers are also looking to buy. The best thing to do is take an inventory and then contact a couple of dealers or auctioneers to see if they are interested. If they make an offer urge them to take all or nothing. A dealer will generally prefer to take only the desirable items, leaving you with the common ones that are difficult to sell. What are my old stamps worth? Although there are exceptions, most old stamps are not particularly valuable unless they are very well preserved or have interesting postmarks or a similar tie to postal history. The best place to start is by making a trip to the reference section of your local library. There are a number of catalogues, some for specific countries. I have stamps that looks like somebody made a mistake, are they worth a lot of money? Mistakes do happen, and some get past quality control. Most error stamps are sought-after by collectors, but you may need to have them examined by a recognized expert first. Any suggestions for changes or additions? Submit a Club Are you part of a club or society? Submit a club to us and we will display it on Canadian Stamp News.

### Chapter 4 : Topical Stamp Collecting; A Universal Hobby for Seniors (Part 2)

*Most collectors specialize in one area, and now with desktop publishing within easy reach of anyone with a computer, album pages can be designed to the collector's specific needs. The extensive albums earlier collectors knew were selling far less than previously by the s.*

A beginning collector often receives well-meaning advice to specialize in some aspect of the stamp hobby. Specializing, so it is said, makes one a serious collector. The specialization can be in a specific country, topic, time period or branch of philately. The most specialized of specialist collectors might only collect a single stamp issue. In some ways, specializing makes sense. Completion is certainly more attainable with narrower goals. Perhaps specialization can help a tight budget. And those with less time to devote to collecting might find the focus on one aspect of the hobby a better use of leisure time. Unfortunately, specialization also has some downsides. By selecting only one or two specialties, a collector limits his exposure to the richness, depth and diversity that a worldwide stamp collector experiences. Many, if not most, collectors begin as worldwide collectors. In this formative stage, any stamp from anywhere is of interest and is gleefully added to the collection. I began collecting as a youth, learning most of my geography and a good bit of my history through my stamp collecting activities. At the time, I had no idea it was educational. It was just fun. In fact, I recently rediscovered the fun of worldwide collecting by beginning a new global collection housed in an ancient Scott worldwide album that I acquired free at a local stamp club meeting. The album only goes to , so the collection has a built-in end point. It is understandable why some collectors find worldwide collecting so daunting. See the story on page 50, which reports that in , the latest year for which the count was completed, 14, stamps were issued. The odds are very small that a worldwide collector who sets completion as a goal will ever find success. But collecting the world is still a good idea. Unlike those who specialize, a worldwide collector can always find new stamps to add to the collection. You can easily find stamps at stamp shows, through auctions and club meetings and even by dumpster diving. It gives those who participate a broad general knowledge of many subjects rather than specialized knowledge of only a few. It is nice to be able to attend a stamp club meeting or a show and be able to appreciate stamps from exotic and obscure places such as Cyrenaica, Cilicia and Latakia and other countries most people have never heard about. A para-on-5p red overprinted and surcharged Ottoman Empire stamp, Cilicia Scott 98, is shown in Figure 2. A worldwide collection allows you to converse with others about a diverse range of collecting areas. Overcoming the storage problem is difficult but not impossible. With a little searching, you can often buy used albums in good condition at a fraction of the cost of buying them new. You can also make your own pages on your home computer using your favorite word processing or publishing software. This can be a simple project or a time-consuming one depending on how much detail and information you want on the pages. For a minimal fee, you can download designed pages from a site on the Internet and print them on your printer. Or, you could decide to forego stamp albums entirely and use stockbooks for storing and displaying your stamps. This allows you the flexibility to reorganize a collection at the slightest whim, and it eliminates the decision of whether to hinge or use stamp mounts for your stamps. Perhaps best of all, you never have any unfilled spaces. You might use a combination of these methods to safely house your collection. Whatever you do, make certain that the stamps are readily accessible so that you can see and enjoy them whenever you desire. That is why you have the collection. As previously mentioned, my new worldwide collection has boundaries established by the album I am using. It was published in , so it does not contain spaces for stamps issued after that date. Some collectors establish their own limits to reduce the bulk or expense of collecting the whole world. The good news is that it is possible to collect the world and still have a great collection that brings you a lot of pleasure. One possibility is limiting a worldwide collection by time period. There are albums for collectors who only want to collect the first years of postage stamps. An interesting, although much larger, collection would be stamps issued during the 20th century. With the two World Wars, the changing geopolitical conditions and development of innovative printing techniques, this could be quite a collection. Imagine being able to trace the rise and fall of Yugoslavia through its formation from the unity of several interrelated states to its final demise earlier in

Three of the countries or regions that were combined in to form Yugoslavia were Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia. Another collection could show the slow and sometimes painful progression from colony to independence for former British, French, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese possessions. A 20th-century collection can do that. A smaller worldwide collection can be made by acquiring just one stamp from each country that has ever issued adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage. Even with just one stamp per country, such a collection is still a worldwide collection. A more expensive endeavor would be to try and form a worldwide collection of all stamps numbered Scott 1. Grouping stamps by continent, ideology, language, monetary unit or change in leadership are other possibilities that can help you learn more about stamps, stamp collecting, religion, history, geography and other social studies. The ideologies of the various aspects of Islam have been in the news of late. The rial Islamic Revolution, 20th Anniversary stamp, Iran Scott , shown in Figure 10, would fit into an ideological worldwide collection of such stamps. Spending a little time to admire its design and find out a tidbit of information about the person, place, or event illustrated on the stamp can be one of the most satisfying and rewarding aspects of being a stamp collector. For most of us, it is not just the stamps that we value. It is also the stories they represent. Specialized collecting is great, but placing that specialized collection within the context of a worldwide framework is even better. If you are a specialist, give worldwide collecting a try and find out what you have been missing. If you are a new collector, my best advice is to start with the world. Collect everything that catches your eye. If you decide to specialize at a later date, you can make the decision based on some solid collecting experience rather than a passing whim. The web site contains a number of great articles, resources for beginners of all ages, and even free downloadable blank album pages. The ISWSC also operates stamp swap circuits that are an excellent, inexpensive way to acquire a lot of worldwide stamps.

## Chapter 5 : How to Collect Stamps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

*Selling your Stamps. As a stamp dealer for over 40 years you can imagine how many times I get asked how one can sell his stamps. The question comes both from stamp collectors who have decided it is time to sell their collections and from family members who have inherited collections that they know little about.*

Yes, you too can be a specialist collector December 21, Definitive stamps often offer the specialist collector the greatest challenges. Specialists choose to study how stamps are used on mail top , or study mint copies bottom , or both. Many collectors save mint stamps and also look for examples demonstrating postal use. Several varieties of the H-rate Hat design were issued Nov. For some collectors, the thought of new definitive issues like the H-rate Hat stamp is dreadful. For others, the new stamps mean new collecting challenges and an opportunity to begin an exciting new collecting specialty. Even the beginner collector can look at the many new stamps that will appear in the coming months and envision ways to build a new collection. Can a collector build a collection around a single issue like the H-rate Hat stamp? The answer, of course, is yes. There are many ways that the collector can specialize in a modern stamp issue, and some of the most recent series have provided the greatest challenges. Other details have been discovered by members of specialist societies, including the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club and the Bureau Issues Association. The Flag Over Porch stamp is not just one stamp. The specialist begins by finding out about all the different basic varieties of the stamp that were issued. With the Flag Over Porch, this includes self-adhesive booklets and coils and similar formats with water-activated adhesive. The stamp was also issued in panes of with water-activated adhesive, and even in a self-adhesive coil version that was issued with no liner paper known as the "linerless" coil. The stamp will be issued Feb. Additional details about this stamp appear in this issue on page 1 in print. Besides the basic formats described in the Scott U. Self-adhesive stamps often show variety in the wavy die-cut edges that resemble perforations. Specialists take note of how the edges begin with a peak or point extending outward or a valley a point extending inward, toward the design. Many of these differences have been documented for the various Flag Over Porch stamps, but the fun is just about to begin with the Flag Over City stamps. No one knows yet if the issue will be more or less challenging than its predecessor, but many collectors are looking forward to finding out. Where else does specialization lead? Coil stamps are issued with plate numbers on certain stamps set a specific number apart. Collecting these numbers on stamps in mint or postally used condition continues the specialization of the series. At bottom in the illustration is a strip of five mint stamps, with the printing cylinder number combination often called the plate number at the bottom of the design in the center stamp. Above it is an envelope that has a single plate number coil for its franking. The stamp is enlarged in the illustration to better show the number combination, S, the same as on the mint strip. Collectors look for different numbers on such issues. For some, only a single number combination may be used. For others, the collector may find dozens. Booklet stamps, including the flat panes described as "convertible booklets" by the Postal Service, are also issued with plate numbers that may change as printing cylinders are replaced. Are there specialization possibilities in other areas? Yes, collectors can choose almost any issue or series to make the focus of their interest. Because many definitive stamps are sent to press over and over again, they make for the most interesting specialty studies, because the chance for printing varieties increases whenever the stamps return to press. The United States issues many different commemorative stamps in series as well, though, and there are often new opportunities for study. In the first U. Collectors have already begun adding postally used examples on cover, as well as mint examples, to their collections. If that happens, specialists will start looking for differences in stamp paper, die cuts, color, backing paper and more. In collectors will see the debut of a new commemorative series titled "Nature of America," when the Sonoran Desert issue of 10 self-adhesive stamps is placed on sale March What other areas can specialists investigate? Production errors and freaks associated with the chosen issue are always interesting and may provide insight into manufacturing procedures. First-day covers and examples of earlier uses document when the stamp was first made available. On certified and registered mail? How about Express Mail? Some collectors choose to specialize in these different types of mail services to show changes in rates and service options. Figure 4

shows an envelope mailed in by Worldpost Priority Letter, which at the time was an experimental overseas expedited mail service. That service later became Global Priority Mail, which continues today. Every year brings new services, new stamps, new series and new opportunities for the collector to launch a new collecting specialty.

### Chapter 6 : A world of fun: worldwide stamp collecting

*When deciding how to sell, stamp auctions are an important option to consider. We'll get to online auctions (such as ebay) elsewhere but, here, we're talking about attending in person, though these are usually open to online bidders as well.*

Stamp Auctions When deciding how to sell, stamp auctions are an important option to consider. For an example of a high quality stamp auction, check out Alan Blair Stamps and Auctions in Richmond, VA by clicking on the highlighted link will open in a new window and below is an example of a crop of the cover of one of their mail catalogs. Alan Blair Stamps and Auctions Mail Catalog Cover cropped There are many dozens of companies that hold sales on a regular basis located all over the country. There are high-end, rare stamp auction houses offering some of the rarest and highest value stamps ever produced. Some of these companies have been around for nearly a hundred years and their names are synonymous with some of the great rarities and named sales of the past century. Siegel Auction Galleries is probably the most well known but there are a handful of others that also specialize in the rarest of stamps. They have unique access to the high net worth collectors that can afford to spend tens of thousands of dollars without a second thought These auction houses are scattered throughout the country and it may take some research to find the closest one. With a phone call you can find out if they travel to view collections and can talk to the proprietor about their terms and conditions and see if selling your stamps or collection through an auction house is right for you.

Stamp Auction Pros and Cons

1. There is little effort or time required of you. That means little work on your part though you do pay for that service - both with selling fees and a delay in receiving your money after the sale. Both the buyer and seller pay auction fees. Once you send your stamps to an auction house they have to identify and describe the collection which takes time and is in line with all the other collections to be sold. After the sale most auction houses send out payments 45 to 90 days after the sale depending on their terms and conditions. A worst case scenario is having items not sell or some other issue that delays you to the next auction. This is not the norm but you should understand the worst case scenario. Stamp Auctions depend on bidders to drive the price higher so there is a lot of variance in realized prices. Best case, your sales are very high because a bidding war breaks out between 2 potential buyers. The English method of auctioning aka Open Sale is the norm. Most companies sell using this format which basically means a minimum opening price starts the bidding and the sale price is the last bid offered. This simple format can result in bidding wars if buyers get emotional about the items or winning. The emotional allure of winning is why it makes a lot of sense to use auctions for the rare and scarce stamps that may not come up for sale again for years or decades. There are really companies that only auction stamps? The vast majority of stamp auctions are run by companies that only sell stamps. Collectors have reinforced this setup with their bidding behavior. About 5 years ago the largest and most successful auction company in the world, Heritage Auctions, entered the stamp market. Even with their scale and expertise in selling and marketing collectibles, Heritage was unable to make inroads into the market. They shut down their stamp division within 2 years. Stamp auctions can be a great resource for selling your stamps but it is important to understand the pros and cons in order to make the decision that is best for you. In summary, if you have valuable stamps or just want to sell your stamps with minimal effort a stamp auction may be right for you. If you care more about receiving the absolute highest price, receiving your money quickly or just want to be more involved in the sale of your stamps then stamp auctions are probably not the best option for you.

### Chapter 7 : How to Find the Value of a Stamp (with Pictures) - wikiHow

*A beginning collector often receives well-meaning advice to specialize in some aspect of the stamp hobby. Specializing, so it is said, makes one a serious collector. The specialization can be in a specific country, topic, time period or branch of philately. The most specialized of specialist.*

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 Stamp collecting ideas Wondering about stamp collecting and how you should go about it? Well, there are lots of things you can do and every stamp collector is unique. In this article I give you a list of great ideas for starting and growing a collection. Geography is a big reason why people collect and they make it a point to collect certain countries. There are a lot of countries with a lot of beautiful stamps. You can do the United States, All of the World or any country that you want. I pretty much stick with U. Post marked or Mint? This means do you want to collect stamps that have gone through the mail? Or do you want stamps that are pristine and never used? There are several factors involved in this. First off is the cost. Collecting unused stamps is more expensive and more valuable in a collection. Secondly is the beauty of the stamps. Mint condition stamps that do not have the postal marks on them are more aesthetically pleasing. This picture shows a stamp that is still on the envelope. It has been postmarked. That is those black bars running through it. Topicals - This term is used by stamp collectors to identify stamps by subject. For example stamps with Cats on them, or Birds on them. I love topicals that coincide with my interests. A lot of these interests are right here on my website. There are lots of stamp collecting stamps! Commemoratives - These are stamps that commemorate a person, event or other thing of significance. They tend to be larger stamps with beautiful designs. They have space for these stamps at the back of the album. Special Delivery - Wonderful category of stamps that was discontinued in What it meant was that as soon as a letter arrived at the local post office it was dispatched to the recipient. Some people love to specialize in these stamps. First Day Covers - This is a stamp on an envelope that is specially postmarked on the first day it goes into circulation. This is a very popular way of collecting. And you can get specially designed envelopes made specifically with art and graphics that accentuates the release of the stamp. Grilled Stamps - I love grilled stamps. They are very unique and only were printed for a few years in the 19th century. They also vary in value quite a lot. This picture here shows the grill on a stamp. It is that waffle pattern. I have more about grilled stamps right here. Do you like making projects and exploring a variety of hobbies? Sign up for my free newsletter. I give you regular updates on hobbies and projects you can make.

## Chapter 8 : Yes, you too can be a specialist collector

*Selling Your Stamp Collection We've been buying and selling quality stamps for over years! Apfelbaum, Inc. has been in the business of buying and selling philatelic properties since*

In the years since I first created this website, I have received many hundreds of web inquiries that begin with the line shown above. Many people consider that if a stamp is over 90 years old, it must be worth a lot of money. The commemorative and definitive postage stamps of the middle of the 20th Century were primarily issued for the payment of postage on letter mail. Millions of each of these commemorative stamps were printed. Billions of the more commonly used denominations of definitive postage stamps were printed. The Imperforate US 3 Cent Issue of , that I used to specialize in, though a little bit pricey these days, is a good example. Between and , it has been estimated that over 4 billion of them were printed and sold, and years later, used condition examples are still very common. The truth is that many of the stamp collections that were begun by children or young adults 90 years ago may not have actually appreciated in value at all! To understand this, one must take a look at the time periods in which these stamp collections were assembled. Many nations, including the USA, were forced to abandon their monetary systems. Currencies, formerly backed by bullion reserves, were replaced by new currencies backed only by "faith" in the federal governments, and within a few years, gold and eventually silver coinage would completely disappear. Just when things were starting to improve around the middle of the decade, social and political conflicts in Europe and Asia triggered an equally devastating world war, causing further economic and human suffering around the World. It is true that there were some very wealthy stamp dealers and stamp collectors spending thousands of dollars on classical world rarities during this time period, but they were very few in number. Around the World, most working-class families had very little, if any, disposable income, and their children had only what the parents could afford to give to them. So, how did a kid begin a stamp collection? The easiest ways were as follows. Acquire an inexpensive stock book or stamp album. Steam or soak the commemorative stamps off of letter mail received at home. Buy a mint example of each commemorative stamp, as it was issued, at the local post office. Buy packets of used US and foreign stamps at the local department store. Most retail stores had hobby departments, featuring stamp collecting supplies and assorted packets of stamps. Of course, the Internet, Google, and Wikipedia were not around during much of the 20th Century, so in order to learn about the many subjects shown on postage stamps, the novice collector had to go to a school or public library and search for the subjects in an encyclopedia or other reference book. During this era, most families could not afford a luxury item such as their own set of encyclopedias. These companies would mail selections of inexpensive sets of stamps to the collector. The collector could then take the sets that he wanted, submit payment for them, and then mail the balance of the approval selection back to the stamp company. For many young collectors that did not have a near-by stamp store to visit, this was their only way of acquiring new stamps for their albums. When he gave his stamp collection to me, in about , I continued to use Globus Stamp Company, and later H. Over the years, many dealers, collectors, and speculators hoarded complete mint sheets of commemorative US stamps. As a result, most of the mint commemorative US stamps issued since about are still very common, and the average US stamp dealer has excess stocks of all of them. Common used US and foreign stamps, that have been sold in packets or featured in penny-boxes in stamp stores, are what we refer to now as penny-stamps, and in most cases, they are still penny-stamps today. In most cases, when selling a stamp collection containing commemorative stamps issued since , one must take these factors into account. When evaluating collections of this type for purchase, most dealers count the mint US stamps at face-value often reluctantly, as they are probably already over-stocked. Mint foreign stamps are usually counted at their face-value, converted to US Dollars. The used stamps, unless they have substantial catalog value, are usually not counted at all. Many adults may have trouble with this concept, but the average eight-year-old kid that has just been introduced to stamp collecting could probably figure it out in just a few seconds!

## Chapter 9 : Machins Collectible Varieties

*How to Find the Value of a Stamp In this Article: Article Summary Observing the Physical Condition Determining History and Rarity Consulting the Stamp Experts Community Q&A Stamp collecting is a popular hobby all over the globe, and collectors enjoy everything from the aesthetic design aspects of the stamp to its rich history.*

Should you throw them away? Do not even think about it as the stamps may appear to be precious philatelic items that could worth a fortune. But how can you determine the price and value of postage stamps and get to know whether they are rare in the world of philately. Learn how to find the price and value of old stamps Before determining the value of stamps it should be mentioned that old ones are more expensive than the newer items. Also the price of a stamp depends on the availability of similar stamp specimens in the world of stamp collecting. In other words the rarer your old postage stamp is, the more valuable it will be. How much is an old stamp worth? There are many criteria that are used to determine the price of the philatelic items by stamp dealers. Sometimes used postage stamps are more valuable than their mint editions. Turn to a stamp dealer for help There are many online services as well as professional stamp dealers that can define the value of a postage stamp in a short period of time. The best way to find such a professional is to ask other stamp collectors who have more experience in this issue. Take into the consideration the fact that there are many unreliable stamp dealers who can cheat on their clients, so be careful and contact only with those professionals that have special documents and licenses. So, complete the following steps and you will likely succeed in the process of determining value of you philatelic items. Identify a stamp On the first stage you should identify a postage stamp itself. It is one of the most important steps in the process of determining the value of philatelic items. For this purpose take a look in a special stamp catalogue. The most popular catalog that contains only reliable information concerning postage stamps and their value is the Scott Specialized stamp catalog. There you will find photographs and postage stamp prices sorted by the date of stamp issue. You can also refer to an old stamp price guide that is usually sold at philatelic shops. Determine the centering of a stamp To determine the grade of philatelic items it is important to determine their centering. So, centering is the key factor in determining the grade of stamp. Unfortunately, there is no special system for determining how balanced a stamp is. It can be done only through eyeballing – a technique in accordance to which a stamp is turned upside down in order to see if it is centered. Studying the condition of a stamp The condition of a stamp is one of the key issues in determining the price of an old philatelic item. The values of even the rarest postage stamp decreases if it misses perforations, its colors are faded, the stamp paper contains some flacks etc. Pay much attention to the condition of the gum the glue found on the backside of a stamp. Such items do not have gum skips or heavy natural gum creases. Although the old philatelic items can have perfect gum in case the stamps were not used from the moment of their issuing. So, the philatelists classify the gum of old stamps as used, unused, and used, never hinged. Pay attention to the degree of cancellation What is a stamp cancellation? In simple words it is a method of applying a marking on a philatelic item to indicate it has been already used. There are two kinds of cancellations: The first kind means that the overall design of a stamp is visible under the cancellation that is quiet light. The other kind is heavy cancellation because of which the picture and inscriptions on a stamp are barely visible. The cancel is dark and lessens the value of old postage stamps compared to stamps with light cancel marks. Condition of the perforation Stamp perforations are circular holes punched onto a printed stamp to facilitate its separation from other items that the sheet contains. The perforations can be different in size, in its number etc. The valuable and good stamp should have full teeth and clean holes. To measure the stamp perforations you can use perforation gauge. Determine the rarity of philatelic item To determine the rarity of a stamp one can check the philatelic market on its availability. If there are no such items for sale it likely that this stamp is quiet rare. If an item is quiet old a philatelist may do not pay so much attention to its condition or grade. The stamp auctions are also reliable sources to determine whether this item worth something or not. Moreover, some stamps that have flaws in design are considered to be rarer than old stamps in perfect condition. These stamps are called error stamps and their price is extremely high. The stamp collectors fight for these items so do not be upset if your stamp has some flaws, maybe you

have turned your luck around and it is this rare error stamp that is quiet popular on the philatelic market. The material and age of a postage stamp Stamp collectors and dealers like stamps with rich and interesting history as the origin of some item can tell about the period during which it was issued, the place where it was manufactured, as well as the type of material that was used to create this tiny work of art. Aside from an excellent stamp and grade, the value of old postage stamps will greatly increase if their history can be traced with the help of special philatelic literature. These factors make vintage stamps highly desirable to stamp collectors. That is why there are philatelists who specialize in sea mail collecting because most of these old stamps have exciting stories to tell.