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Getting Started As A Stamp Collector: What You Need to Know

Stamp Collecting is Fun!

Stamp Collecting may start on a simple gift of stamps given to another person. This can give him the interest in becoming a stamp collector. He could also start collecting by considering it as a hobby.

It is considered as one of the most popular hobbies that still exist in this modern time. Since earlier periods, stamp collecting has been popular among royalties in Western Europe. There was a time when all kinds of people became interested in stamp collecting and treated it as their personal hobby as well.

Some people may wonder, why collect stamps? The reason they may point out is that stamps are only pieces of papers or pictures of some significant persons or events. Many people may think what would a person benefit and acquire in collecting these kinds of items. There should be many reasons why people collect stamps. People collect stamps because they find it really fun and enjoyable.

The designs of stamps are appealing to every collector. They have very attractive designs with different colorful pictures and backgrounds. Aside from the attractive designs, it also gives a person the information about a significant person, event, sports, and everything a person could find interesting.

Nevertheless, the most common stamp collectors collected are those with people, places, and events in the stamps, which may represent some valuable information regarding the history of a certain country or group. Stamp collecting provides resourceful knowledge while a person is having fun. He may not realize that he is learning and allotting some time to value such collections.

For beginners, here are some tips on how to collect stamps:

1. A person can be a generalist and start collecting a variety of stamps that may feature everything. In this way, he may have an idea on what type of stamps he may specialize in collecting. He may place all his collection in an album and categorize each stamp according to topics or themes he has chosen.
2. If he loves to travel in different places, he may start collecting stamps from those places he may have visited. There are particular areas and locations that offer stamps that feature the history of the place and significant persons that may have lived in the place.
3. He may pursue collecting stamps he finds interesting. He may focus in collecting stuffs that he truly enjoys and stuffs that intrigue him. He may find those stamps that feature his favorite sport, sport icon, cars, fishes, and many more.

4. One advantage of collecting stamps is that a person can save more money and time because these items are affordable and easy to find. Unlike with other collections, the hobby may cost him more money and may consume much of his time in finding the collection that interests him.

5. He may join a special organization or club that have occasional gatherings and whose themes apply to his interests. He may meet people who are collecting the same stamps that he collects. He may trade his other stamps with other stamp collectors and they may give him tips and advice on how to take care of his stamps.

6. He may collect stamps with friends that are fond of this kind of hobby. He may enjoy it by sharing the stamps he collected and citing the information that is represented in the stamp. He may also ask his friends information on where to find more stamps that are related to his collections.

7. He may collect on his own by searching the Internet to find more stamps with the most affordable price available. He may look for stamps anytime he wants. It is considered as a passive hobby where he can relax and reduce stress. It also gives a person the feeling of accomplishment.

8. He may find that stamp collecting is a lifetime hobby. There is always something to know and learn about collecting stamps. It has a wide coverage of different things and persons. He may change the theme into other topics that he may think can bring another dimension to his stamping collecting.

There are many ways on how to collect stamps. It is important to do something that really interests a person. It is even recommended to start collecting at a younger age and he will be surprised of the many things he may learn from this hobby.

Stamp Collecting as a Fun Activity

Many consider stamp collecting as a fun activity not only for older people but also for kids. It provides a person the pleasure of collecting different types of stamps that he may find in ordinary binders or through his received mail. Some people consider it an exciting hobby. For a beginner, he may be fond of compiling different kind of stamps from his album until he realizes that he could specialize in collecting the these stamps.

It is indeed a fun hobby because a person may enjoy and learn different kinds of information from collecting stamps. A stamp features everything that may come into every person's mind from places, persons, sports, historical events, cars, and many more. He may find it rewarding in the future for having enough compilations and albums where he may display and exhibit his collection.

He may also realize that he may profit from these items. There are special stamps that may feature an important event or a person. The price value of these special stamps can be expensive depending on their rarity and the limited versions of the releases. They can be similar

to other commodities where a collector may find a dealer that can provide the possible price value of a particular stamp.

A better option for him to profit more from his collection is to find stamp collectors that may show interest in some stamps that he may also be possibly collecting. He may advertise his collection in newspapers and magazines that conduct special advertisements for rare and special stamps. He may also make use of the Internet in joining auction sales for his stamps. He may also be ensured of an updated value of the stamp by comparing the offered value from current advertisements from the Internet.

The price value can vary depending on the production and supply of the item. The increasing number of collectors that specializes from those rare stamps and limited edition stamps may motivate him to be more competitive in finding these items. There is also an increase on the price value because of this high demand.

Nevertheless, they are more than just earning and profiting. Most stamp collectors consider it as a fun hobby. He may never compare the pleasure he feels every time he find those stamps that interested him. There could be many reasons why people collect stamps. In addition, one good reason they may answer is that it is fun and can give satisfaction of accomplishing something.

It is also helps a person to be informed on different things. Most of these items feature insights about the landmarks and history of a country. This is one reason why it very popular and famous among other collections. A person can never get over the enthusiasm of learning and discovering new things. If he would like to pursue this hobby of being a stamp collector, here are some few things to keep in mind.

1. He should know what things that interest him. He may start finding for collections that can have special meanings or importance to him. He may have the option of choosing from simple stamps that he may receive from mail and postcards from binders.
2. He may join clubs and gatherings to interact with people. He might be able to meet people that are collecting items as well. He may ask the person that may have some collections related to these stamps. In this case, he may be able to trade some of his stamps in replace of that particular stamp.
3. He needs to make sure that he knows how to maximize his time in places where he travels. He may find places that he can possibly find stamps with the theme that he collects.
4. He may access some sites in the Internet that can provide information on where and how to look for rare and special stamps.
5. He may continue doing this hobby for as long as he is having fun. There are many topics and themes to choose from. A collector will not be limited on a certain topic.

A stamp collector should always remember to take importance of the things that makes him fulfilled and pleased. He should take proper care to these kinds of items. Stamps are very sensitive. They are only pieces of paper but they have significant value and importance.

Stamp Collecting 101

Thanks to the advent of technology that has made almost any chore less time consuming. Now, more people can indulge more on various hobbies. One age-old past time that never loses its luster is stamp collecting.

Are you one to start a plethora of stamp collection, too? It's easy. Here are some tips for newbies to get started:

If you have none, buy some. Some assorted stamps from all over the world are available from stamp dealers or hobby shops. With just a few dollars, you can be an instant collector. If you are lucky enough to have access to stamp shows, you can even buy more than a handful of stamps in just a few bucks, as well. Just be in the know of stamp resources.

A good bit of advice in starting out a stamp collection is to become a general stamp collector at first. This is for you to be able to amass thousands of stamps that will eventually make you an informed decision of what kind of stamp collector you plan to be. When you get the hang of it, you will develop a certain inclination to a few kinds of stamps that allow you to single out the kind of stamp that you really would want to focus on.

Collect them like a pro. There's no safer way to collect stamps, safe in a sense of preserving them, than to collect them on paper. This means that if you collect stamps that are from mails, you have to cut the mail with the stamp. Stamps on paper are easier to handle since it prevents them from getting creased, torn or lost.

One tip is to never try to pull the paper backing of a stamp as chances are it will get damaged. To be able to get the stamp in good condition, cut first the paper around the stamp with a sharp pair of scissors. Take care not to cut the perforations or edges of the stamp.

De-paper them. It will be advisable for a newbie stamp collector to do this process with an expert as it will require soaking stamps into water that might make the color of the stamps run if not done properly. Of course, dry the stamps after soaking and taking off the paper backing. Even the drying part necessitates utmost precaution, too. After drying, flatten the stamps with any clamping device, a book can be an improvised clamp but there are really some customized stamp drying books that can do this job quite well.

Sort them out. It will be helpful if you sort your stamps according to countries. Aside from identification purposes, it will also help in knowing what really makes you tick with your stamps. If stamps from a certain country enamor you, keep a mental note of that.

Store them well. A stamp belongs to either an album or a stockbook. They are for holding your stamps. One can easily mount stamps on an album.

The other perk of stamp collecting is getting stamps for free. Here's how?

Solicit from your kin. What's hard with announcing that you are now officially a stamp collector and that all of your relatives are requested to save all the stamps they get from mails? If you don't have too many relatives, befriend!

Also, if you are still one of few who get snail mails from distant friends, you can simply ask them to use more special stamps, e.g., commemorative stamps, to vamp up your collection. Your grandma might even have mails back in the olden days which have stamps that were made available when you were not yet born.

Penpals can help. It's easy to look for pen pals. Go surf the Net and you will find a lot of people looking for others who prefer the old way of communication - snail mail. Vary your pen friends, much better if you can speak other lingos as it will widen your horizon and consequently your stamp collection.

Look for international business offices or government offices that receive foreign mails regularly. If you know people who handle the mails that go to those offices, it's easy to ask for some of the stamps. Just ask.

Rummage through paper wastebaskets near P.O. boxes. Since people who get mails from P.O. boxes usually discard their mails' envelopes on the nearest trashcans, chances are you can find a few stamps from those supposed to be garbage cans. Talk about one's waste can be one's treasure!

Trade or swap. This is one way to widen the variety of your collection. Ask other stamp collectors to trade with you some of their duplicate stamps. Or if you know some more experienced collectors, ask if they can give you some of their duplicate stamps. Definitely, there will be some good-hearted folks who would be more than willing to give you a piece or two of their duplicate collections.

With that rundown of basic know-how's of stamp collecting and some "begging" techniques, becoming an expert collector would be a cinch for you in no time.

How to Become a Stamp Collector

Stamp collecting is one of the most popular hobbies of many Americans and other cultures. It may be weird to some people who do not understand the joy people get from collecting stamps. Stamp collectors find it satisfying to see their huge collection of stamps from different countries, each depicting their own origins and purpose why they were produced.

If you have a hobby of collecting different items, stamps may excite you the same way coins do. People who engage in collecting stamps do not just enjoy the hobby. They learn at the same time. They gain knowledge on art, history and stories about different places.

If you want to be a serious stamp collector, you may want to consider collecting commemorative stamps. These stamps are produced by a certain country to depict a memorable event, a person or an important object that may be a part of their history.

Why would a person want to be a stamp collector? Anyone can be a stamp collector. People of all ages may try this hobby. One main reason why collectors choose stamps is that it is considered as one of the most affordable hobbies. People may collect coins, cars, tags, pins and many more but stamps are considered one of the most inexpensive ways of collecting.

Stamp collectors come in all ages. It is not limited to certain type of group or age bracket. Even kids can become stamp collectors on their own little ways. Stamp collectors even start this hobby at a young age. What is important is the passion you have for collecting stamps regardless of their price and origin.

A stamp collector may find old stamps that he can include in his collections. You may even get these stamps for less than a dollar. There are few collectible items that you may consider as inexpensive, and stamp collecting is one of them.

A stamp collector may also benefit from learning from the stamps he collects. Collecting a stamp may interest a collector to research about the stamp, why it was produced and the events that are featured on a specific stamp. You will enjoy and at the same time learn many things from them.

Being a stamp collector is not a difficult task. There are many places where you can get your own collection of stamps. Postage stamps used for airmail may also be used. Stamp collectors compile them depending on the country they came from.

There are also sites and message boards in the Internet that features stamp collecting. You may even earn friends through these sites. People may also exchange stamps and some make use of these sites to display their collections. Others even consider selling their stamps thus making the hobby as their source of income.

If you would like to be a stamp collector, then you should know all information about stamps. It does not necessarily require people to know everything. One important thing to remember is to know how to take care of ones collections.

Stamp collectors are very disciplined when it comes to taking care of their stamps. That is because stamps are very fragile since they are made from paper and other thin materials. It takes responsibility to become a stamp collector.

Stamp collectors are also considered as artists on their own way. And if you think you are not gifted with that talent, stamp collecting will help you discover the art that is within you. Stamps come in various colors and images. Some of the images may be considered an Art. Choosing from these many stamps will enhance your artistic skills and will develop your creativity and imagination.

If you would like to be a stamp collector, you should also have the necessary supplies needed. If you are a beginner, the album is the first accessory needed. This will compile and organize all the stamps that were collected. The album will also ensure that the stamps will be safe from dirt and moist.

Stamp collecting may be considered a skill to many. However, everyone can be a stamp collector if they wish. It is an educational and informative hobby that even kids will benefit from it. It does not only give fun and knowledge but it is also a way to discover the artistic side of every person.

What Makes a Good Stamp Collector?

Stamp collecting is one hobby that is loved all over the world. Aside from the wonderful experience that stamps give to the collectors, it is also a very inexpensive hobby.

Stamp collecting does not only involve collecting stamps per se but also other stamp-related pieces such as envelopes and packages which contains the stamps. Would one believe that stamp collectors are revenue-generating agents for countries, which make limited edition stamps?

There are collectors who are involved in collecting stamps for the sheer fun of it. There are those who have taken stamp collecting into a higher level and have taken a philatelic way of stamp collecting. Philately is basically the study of the intricate details of a stamp. Many have become philatelists because they have seen the value of the stamps.

If one is starting to collect stamps, he can ask his immediate family members or friends for their stamps if they are not into collecting. Many people just throw away stamps without realizing that there are people who might be interested in them. One might want to ask his grandparents regarding stamps, they may have saved some stamps from years ago. Older stamps are harder to find and most probably more expensive than the common ones which are produced today.

There are certain basic things that a stamp collector needs to be able to do. These things will make someone enjoy stamp collecting and preserve the integrity of his stamps. Whether a collector is a casual stamp collector or a philatelist, these are must-do things in stamp collecting.

A good stamp collector:

- keeps his collections safe

Collecting stamps or anything in general is not about gathering all the items and leaving them somewhere in the corner of a room for it to catch dust or cobwebs. In collecting stamps, the items should be safely kept in a container (usually an album) which will keep them from being damaged or destroyed. The slightest tear or scratch on a stamp will definitely decrease its value.

-has the right supplies

In relation to the previous trait of a good collector, he must have the proper tools to be able to keep his collection safe. Having the right tools doesn't mean spending one's pockets out. Stamp collecting supplies are relatively inexpensive and one can avail them without digging too much into there pockets.

-knows what to collect

There's nothing wrong with collecting any kind of stamp in general, especially if one is just beginning to collect stamps. However, there would come a time that a collector feels the need to specifically target a certain set which he would want to collect. There are many different

kinds of stamps, which are out there for collecting. There are postage stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, first day covers and other stamp collectibles.

If there are duplicate stamps, one might consider selling the duplicates or exchanging them for other kinds of stamps. This will avoid redundancy in the collection and allow it to expand.

-knows how to assess the value of his stamps

Stamps can be very valuable. One needs to have basic knowledge on how to appraise the value of his stamps. He can start by reading stamp catalogs and other detailed informational materials. Stamp catalogs list the price of different kinds of collectible stamps, they also give some nifty facts about certain stamps. One can also ask the help of expert stamp collectors about the values of certain stamps, which are not included in the catalogs.

These are just a few traits of a good stamp collector. No matter how one collects or what he collects, the important thing is that he enjoys what he does and finds meaning in it.

The USPS and the World of Stamp Collecting

Even before many philatelists thought up the hobby of stamp collecting, it is rather obvious that the act of exchanging letters through a centralized system that would recognize stamps as payment to cover carriage costs would have to be put in place. The American Philatelic Society (APS), which is the biggest convention of philatelists and collectors in the entire world, is predated by the United States Postal Service.

For more than two centuries now, the United States Postal Service has delivered mail-letters and cards-in huge volumes to all its mailboxes situated in all of the states, including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the American Virgin Islands. It serves 7.5 million customers daily through over 37, 000 postal offices, and providing employment for more than 700, 000 career employees.

While the numbers are overwhelming, the huge network of the USPS only means one thing to stamp collectors and philatelists-this means the issue of a huge volume of stamps with great variety delivered to millions of homes daily. To approximate more closely, the USPS delivers 212 billion pieces of mail on average to over 144 million houses.

The USPS caters to philatelists and stamp enthusiasts in other active avenues other than simply delivering letters to them. In fact, the USPS is the primary source of stamps that are continuously being collected by philatelists in the United States of America, and subsequently, the rest of the world.

However, the USPS and the stamps it issues every year is not the singular pulse of the staff of USPS. Instead, every year, the designs issued on USPS stamps beat the pulse of the entire nation, thus reflecting American history at its best. Every year, the postal service receives thousands of design proposals from Americans on thousands of themes that may be featured in stamps.

Through what is known as the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) goes over this huge volume of submissions in order to recommend to the Postmaster General educational and interesting subjects for consideration.

Because the CSAC employs no assistance or staff for its purposes, it takes a huge amount of time before a stamp is taken into regard. Subject submissions must be done in writing to provide each submission an equal opportunity of being reviewed and selected. A design proposed for a particular year must be submitted three years in advance of the proposed date of issuance.

If the stamp proposal meets all the requirements of CSAC, it may at the end be chosen as one of the subjects forwarded for the approval of the Postmaster General. Otherwise, submissions may undergo to courses of action-either they will be rejected completely or put for future consideration. However, if the stamp is indeed chosen among thousands of submissions, it will be one of the 25 stamp proposals recommended to be made into commemorative stamps, alongside the extensive line issued by the Postal Service each year.

If the proposal is set aside for future consideration, the submission will be put into file for the Committee to refer to in the future for when the submitted proposal is relevant.

As for the translation of these proposals into designs, the Postal Service employs the services of trained stamp artists to bring these stamps to life.

These commemorative stamps, alongside the regular issue stamps of the Postal Service, are made accessible to the public and to the philatelists through the various USPS postal offices as well as the convenient USPS Postal Store. In the Postal Store, the general public is offered stamps for mailing and shipping purposes, for leisure purposes, for collecting, and for education.

Under the various items for collecting are the traditional first-day covers, commemorative panels, state quarters and stamps, and uncut press sheets. Non-stamp items include miniature mailboxes, which may be used to store stamps, lapel pins with stamp designs, as well as collecting supplies.

First-day covers are stamps attached to envelopes and are cancelled on the same day that they are issued. Commemorative panels are a number of commemorative stamps in an attractive layout, including information on the event, state, or person being commemorated by the stamp. Stamp quarters and stamps is, collectively, a portfolio containing a number of quarters of the state and some stamps featuring the state, alongside pertinent facts and information.

Alongside these collectibles offered by USPS, they also cater to, of course, the provision of the most basic and most important part of stamp collecting-the stamps. This would include 39-cent First Class stamps, the regular 37-cent stamps, additional stamps, priority stamps, and stamps in coils, panes, or stamp books.

At the end of the day, the USPS fuels the continually growing hobby of philately and stamp collecting. Through its help, Americans and enthusiasts worldwide are given access to a

continuous supply of stamps, and are given assurance that the stamps will keep on reflecting the strong and vibrant American spirit.

The Land of the Free and Happy Philatelists

Philately, or the study of stamps, is a huge field of study that has captured the attention of many Americans over the years. This fascination with stamps and the history that surrounds them has led to a hobby related to philately, which is collecting stamps.

Usually, stamp collection begins with the acquisition of a first couple of stamps and the choice of a particular classification of stamps where the collector will concentrate his or her efforts on. The continued acquisition of the stamps for the collection is done either through personal letters, the postal office, trading with fellow collectors, or collectible stamp dealers, rare and high quality stamps under the chosen classification.

However, while it may seem that a philatelic hobby is far too difficult or obscure, it actually is not. The collection and study of stamps is not a completely novel idea; over 110 countries worldwide have a sort of society for philatelists (or stamp collectors and enthusiasts).

In the United States of America, philatelists banded together in the year 1886 under the umbrella of the American Philatelic Society (APS). For more than a century now, the APS provides its members not only an avenue to meet fellow enthusiasts, but also various services and informational programs to assist in the pursuit and enhancement of the collecting experience.

Over this huge span of time, the APS has been kept alive by donations, sale of its various publications, receipt of payment for its services, and receipt of its members' dues. The community of APS is not a small one that may be overlooked. In the country, there are more than 44, 000 philatelists formally part of the APS. There are many others who are new to the trade, or are yet to find their way to APS.

This huge number is proven by the fact that various states hold annual philatelic conventions for enthusiasts in the area to meet and convene. Another philatelic association in the United States known equally for its expertise is the Philatelic Foundation.

Various classifications and concentrations of collection are available. Some of them include postage stamps from other countries (particularly those of age), postage stationery (including air letter sheets, government-issued post cards) that preceded the printing of the first stamp in the form we know today, revenue stamps, or first day cover stamps.

However, one particular stamp category is more or less unique to the United States of America (and its adjacent territories, including Canada). These are Federal Duck stamps, which are used basically for licenses for duck hunters. These were created with the primary goal to conserve ducks and their immediate environment.

This was evident when a well-known conservationist by the name of Ding Darling designed the first Federal Duck stamp, which was released in the year 1934. These stamps slowly became a tradition, with annual competitions participated in by many wildlife artists. At the end of the day, the winner ends up having his or her design printed on the year's Federal Duck stamp, alongside the instant fame and prestige coming with having the winning entry.

The U.S. government, through the Department of Interior and local state agencies, spearheads the sale of these Federal Duck stamps. Revenues from the sales of the stamps go to the acquisition of wetlands, home to these ducks, with the intention of protecting and preserving them.

First-day covers (FDCs), which are increasingly becoming popular with stamp collectors, are stamped envelopes cancelled on the very date the stamp is issued. The later designs of FDCs bear the theme of a particular stamp's issue, otherwise known as a cachet. Known philatelist George W. Linn cacheted the first FDC in the year 1923 for the Harding Memorial stamps.

Today, cachetmaking is considered an art, and is achieved by various methods. These methods include drawing directly on the envelope, lithography, block printing, and laser printing, among others. Today, the U.S. produce huge volumes of cacheted stamps through the services of known cachetmaking companies like Artcraft, Colorano, and House of Farnam.

However, stamp collecting in the United States was not always a smooth road. In the period of 1920s, the value of U.S. stamp issues increased significantly in value. This caused many Americans to collect mint U.S. stamp issues in bulk, with hopes of re-selling them some years down the line for a higher price. However, due to the fact that there are too many available in the market, among other reasons, these stamps are priced only a little over their original face value.

Whatever the case, the trend of philately and stamp collecting in the United States may continue to grow over the years. Critics predicted a decrease in philately with the dawning of the Internet and email. However, the continued demand for stamps and the volume and frequency of turnover of stamp design continually increase over the years, bringing much excitement and celebration to the world of philately.

Some Things One Should Know About Stamp Collecting

A stamp is a small piece of paper that is glued to the envelope whenever a document or a letter is sent via the post office. This is used both locally and internationally as a fee for the service rendered.

There are two ways to send mail. The first is buying postage stamps then sending it using the mail box. The other is going to the nearby postal office and having the postal worker do it.

People have found another thing to do with stamps. Instead of mailing it, some have turned it into a hobby now known as stamp collecting.

Some people mistakenly think that an individual who is known as philately is the proper name for someone who collects stamps. This notion is wrong since this title is for those who study stamps.

Stamp collecting can begin by cutting out the stamps that come from letters the person has received. Some may come locally while others can come from friends and family abroad. Another way to add stamps to the collection is going to the post office and buying it in bulk.

Collecting the stamps can only go so far without the help from other people. The person can ask friends and family members to also give those coming from the letters. There are some who also sell these in bulk. A good place to find these is in the classified ads of the newspaper that can offer the collector a good bargain.

The internet is also a good source to obtain these small objects. There are websites that do the same thing making it easy for those to expand the existing stamp collection. These are just the regular stamps.

For those who want to specialize in old stamps or want to collect those from other countries, it will be a good idea to join philatelic exhibitions and bid at auctions. By looking at it closely, the person might be able to find some good deals, which will be a good addition to the collection.

Using money to acquire stamps is one way to deal with other collectors. This can also be done by trading what the person has with something of interest that the other collector possesses.

Acquiring stamps is just one of the things that stamp collectors do. The other is taking care of it so that if the person wants to part with it in the future, some money can be made.

The proper way to take care of a stamp is putting it in an album. Only one side per page should be used to avoid destroying or harming the others in the collection. If the collector has no more space, putting a plastic sheet over the stamp will allow the individual to put some stamps on the other side.

Stamps should be handled with care. Since the hands may be dirty or oily, it is a good idea to use tongs when handling it to avoid causing any damage. A tong looks like tweezers but it is not the same thing. The edges of this object are the thinner making it easier to hold a stamp.

The proper way to remove stamps from envelopes is cutting a small portion of the surrounding area and putting it in water. After some time, the collector should use tongs to extract it from the paper underneath, hold it in the air to dry before inserting it in the album.

There are many things that could do harm to the stamps. The most common is sunlight. The hot rays of the sun may change the colors and the gum at the back may stick to the album making it hard to remove. This makes it important to always store it in room temperature.

When working, it will be a good idea to not bring food or drinks in the area since it could damage the stamps. Smokers should also refrain from doing in the room since the smell could be transferred to the collection.

Stamp collecting is a nice hobby that anyone can engage in. This activity is known as one of the most popular in the world. The person should just devote some time and effort in looking out for old and new ones and taking proper care of it.

Tips For The Amateur Postage Stamp Collector

For postage stamp collectors, "a stamp is not just a stamp." The stamp collector often sees a mysterious place as well as an interesting culture the moment one views a stamp from a foreign country that depicts a foreign landscape.

"Postage stamp collecting" is a fascinating hobby that stimulates one's curiosity in people and places beyond one's borders.

Here are tips for the amateur postage stamp collector:

On soaking the stamps:

1. Before soaking your stamp, separate stamps that are on any colored paper, stamps having colored cancellations, particularly those with purple or red ink, stamps of very dark in color, stamps that are on poor paper quality, or those with unidentified inks that could liquefy in the basin of water and can stain other stamps. Any "unusual" stamps should be separated and handled one by one.
2. Trim the paper of the envelope that surrounds stamp, being extra careful as not to scratch or slice the edges of the stamp.
3. When soaking the stamp, take a shallow container with lukewarm water and float in the stamps having the pictures side facing you. Make certain that there is enough room for the stamps to float not to stick to each other. Avoid soaking too many stamps all at one time.
4. Leave the stamps to float until such time that the adhesive dissolves so that the stamps easily slides off the piece of paper. Paper can rip easily so handle the stamp carefully and just allow the water to work on it.
5. Rinse off gently the stamps back in fresh clean water to so that all the adhesive is taken off.
6. Position the stamps in a manner that they are not touching each other on top of paper towels to dry, or old newspapers.
7. Leave the stamps to dry. When they should curl afterwards, place them in another dry piece of paper and place a heavy book on them.

Choosing the right album for your collection:

1. Your very first postage stamp album will be an experiment, except when you have looked at someone else's stamp album and you believe that type would also be ideal for you.

2. Listen to and take the dealers advice when buying a postage stamp album; do not be completely convinced by allegations that a certain album brand is "the best." Note that a stamp album that is made by a well known stamp album manufacturer, and is expensive, does not necessarily mean that it is "the best" and is right for you.
3. When shopping take into account all features and aspects such as the albums price, appearance and format and make a wise choice.
4. Good and efficient beginners' stamp albums are widely available and should be affordable and fully characterized so to point out where certain stamps should go and some albums can even include added information, like maps and data regarding different countries.
5. If you prefer not purchasing those premium albums due to its price, choose the quality carefully. Stamp albums with weak and delicate pages can not endure the tension of heavy stamps when your collection increases.
6. Choose an album with acid-free pages.
7. When buying a stamp album similar to most things, one needs to shop around first and examine it thoroughly before buying. Also do not be discouraged when your first album turns to be not the perfect one for your needs. You always will need a temporary place to keep your duplicates as your hobby expands.

Some popular stamps:

1. The "Treskillig Yellow Swedish" postage stamp is in fact the world's most valuable stamp. Likewise it is the world's most valuable "thing" in terms of volume, weight and density.
2. The "Penny Black" was actually the first in the world as an "official adhesive postage stamp;" released on "May 1, 1840" by the "United Kingdom."
3. The "Inverted Jenny" is a postage stamp from United States issued in 1918 whereby the airplane at designs center, accidentally was printed the wrong side up. There were only 100 inverts found, thus this made the Inverted Jenny among the "most valuable" stamps, now costing about 150,000 US dollars
Being a postage stamp collector offers diversity in knowledge. Indeed, stamp collecting is worthwhile hobby.

Postage Stamp Collecting

Stamp collecting has become one of the most loved hobbies of people throughout the world. A stamp contains a piece of time and a piece of place and that's why people love collecting them. Stamp collecting can also be a very inexpensive hobby and this is one of the main reasons why people join the stamp collecting bandwagon.

Postage Stamps

The first postage stamp was issued by Great Britain as a way to pre-pay for the cost of the delivery of mail. The first-ever stamp was issued on May 6, 1840. Sir Rowland Hill first came up with the idea of postage stamps as part of Great Britain's standardized postal rates.

The first postage stamp was referred to as the Penny Black. It assisted in the elimination of certain problems that are associated with mail delivery. Twenty years after the stamp was introduced, it became so popular around the world that 70 countries adopted the postage stamp system.

Stamp Collecting

Postage stamp collecting was born basically at the same time that the first stamps were issued. Around 1860, there were already thousands of collectors and businessmen became caterers in terms of the desires of these collectors. The stamp madness swept Europe and the European colonies all over the world. People collected stamps in different ways. Some of them even went to cover their rooms with sheets of stamps, which were issued.

Business

Businessmen found a niche in stamp collecting. They opened businesses that catered to the needs of the collectors. They started to sell different stamp collecting paraphernalia such as stamp books, hinges, coverings, etc. They also specialized in selling stamps. The oldest business which specializes in selling stamps and supplies is "Stanley Gibbons" in London. It was created back in 1856 and is still growing!

Popularity

Stamp collecting is continuously garnering popularity. In the United States alone, an estimated 25 million Americans collect postage stamps. Around the globe, there is an estimated 200 million stamp collectors. There are around 125,000 stamp dealers, manufacturers and other businesses that are connected with stamp collecting. There are also numerous associations, clubs and stamp-oriented organizations. There are also around 4000 shows and exhibitions about stamps in the United States annually.

Taking Care of Stamps

Many collectors house their stamps into specially-made albums and stamp books. The stamps are encased in special plastic, which prevents them from being damaged. These plastic encasings are usually hinged so as to minimize contact with the stamps. There are other supplies such as stamp tongs and magnifying glasses, which are useful in handling stamps. The value of a stamp is mainly dependent on the preservation of its condition. A single scratch on the stamp can render a stamp worthless.

Ways of Collecting

There are several ways of collecting stamps. People collect stamps according to their countries of origin or according to the time periods when they were issued. Some people like to collect stamps according to a certain sub-topic, such as collecting stamps, which contain cartoon characters or perhaps their favorite animal. Postage stamp collecting is not only limited to collecting postage stamps per se. In general, stamp collecting refers to collecting stuff that are connected with stamps such as stamp covers, envelopes and containers which contain the stamps themselves.

Philately

Collecting stamps is not quite the same as philately. Philately is commonly associated with stamp collecting but it is actually the study of stamps. A philatelist may not necessarily be a collector and a collector need not be a philatelist.

Economic Activity

Stamp collecting has generated substantial revenues for small countries, which create limited edition stamps. These stamps are designed to attract the collectors and are made for profit.

Future for Stamp Collecting

Some people argue that postage stamp collecting is nearing its end because of the advent of the different hi-tech communication systems such as the electronic mail or e-mail. However, nothing would beat a personalized mail coming from a dearly beloved friend or family member. People will never stop sending mails and packages to other people.

And even though the need for postage stamps would decrease, the need for collecting stamps will not diminish. People will be more interested in collecting stamps especially under the assumption that they will become more and more difficult to find.

Collecting postage stamps should not be clouded by too many rules and restrictions. Even though these stamps can actually be means of earning money, the real value of stamps come from the sheer fun that they give when one is collecting them.

The Excellent Tradition of Postage Stamp Collecting

Stamp collectors, enthusiasts, and philatelists take so much interest in stamps because of the interesting story told by each stamp, and even by each stamp issue. There are a huge variety of things that may be collected in relation to stamps, and each individual collector can make a choice over categories when starting to collect.

When collecting, some opt to collect state quarters and stamps. These are commemorative folios featuring the state, its quarters, and a group of usually 4 stamps in an attractive layout. State quarters and stamps pose very little challenge to a collector as they come almost ready for display and storage.

Others opt to collect for non-stamp collectibles, like stamp lapels, or miniature mailboxes. Stamp lapels are commemorative pins issued by a particular company or country in connection to a historic event or person. The lapel, obviously, contains a stamp featuring the relevant theme. Miniature mailboxes, sold at the USPS Postal Store, are small tabletop USPS mailboxes that may be used to contain a small amount of stamps.

However, as is evident, majority of stamp collectors opt for the most vital yet simplest thing-- postage stamps themselves. Postage stamps are stamps used as proof of payment for the service rendered by a postal office to provide carriage for a piece of letter, card, or mail equivalent to its pre-determined destination. However, because of the fact that stamps have been collected for decades upon decades, postage stamps are collectible in both their mint and used conditions.

Used stamps usually come cancelled, and are found in letters already delivered to their rightful destination. These may be personally acquired from correspondence with other people within the locality or abroad. However, to increase the volume of the collection, collectors at times opt to go out of their way to buy kiloware. Kiloware is the collective term used to refer to the used stamps attached to a portion of the envelope they were originally attached sold in bulk or batches by companies and organizations that receive huge volumes of mail from all over the world.

Other times, postage stamps are acquired used from other collectors selling or trading their wares.

Another form of used stamps available are first day covers (FDCs), which are stamps cancelled on the same day that they are issued.

Some opt to keep their used stamps still attached to the envelope that it came attached to in order to avoid damaging the stamps; those with more experience can afford the risk of personally soaking or lifting the stamp off its attachment.

Soaking and lifting stamps pose the risk of completely damaging the stamp when done improperly and without adequate knowledge. For example, stamps issued before the 1940s were printed using fugitive ink, which run in water. Soaking these stamps will inevitable cause the design to fade and even completely disappear! Moreover, cancellations on the stamp may use water-soluble ink that can run onto the design when the stamp is soaked in water.

Mint or unused stamps, however, may be purchased in postal stores in various forms. They may be bought in numbers as preferred (4s or 6s, depending on preference), or in panes, which are blocks of stamps. Other times, mint stamps may also be purchased in coils. Stamp coils are in reels used in slot machines in postal offices. Smaller coils are available for individual purchases as well.

Do mint stamps hold more value than used stamps? Or is it the other way around? There is no actual objective measure that says a mint is better than a used stamp or vice versa. Instead, however, the law of demand and rarity explains best the assessed relative value that one would have over the other.

Mint stamps are more expensive should it have been the trend to use these stamps in large volumes when it was issued. On the other hand, used stamps that were so rarely used in postage during the time of its use are more expensive than mint ones.

Collecting postage stamps will never be likely a definitive and decisive collection. As it is, more than 212 billion pieces of mail are delivered every day in America. Moreover, the Postal Service issues a huge variety of stamp designs per month, with 25 citizen-proposed subjects alongside the already extensive line of regular stamps produced. However, stamps are historical pieces of note, and collecting postage stamps is taking part in a hobby that has a history all its own.

Why Collect Postage Stamps?

Many people consider stamp collecting as a personal hobby. To get started in collecting stamps can be fun and exciting. It is important to be sure what type of stamps to search and look for. He must also know how to secure and preserve them so that he will be able to present them in a very organized and well-presented compilation of stamp collections.

A mail cannot be delivered if it has no postage. It is a small square or rectangular piece of paper pasted on the right part of a mail. Postage stamps are very important to make a letter or message inside the envelope delivered to a person or organization at a certain location. Postage stamps can feature many designs. Printings like, cars, flowers, landmarks, animals, persons, places and events are the most common themes of these stamps.

One of the main reasons why many people go for postage stamp collecting is because of the price value. The most famous items that are still available are the sports collectors' stamps, icons, landmarks, places, and famous celebrities. One of the most out sought collection stamp is the 1993 Elvis Presley postage stamp. The philatelic collectors have popularized it by insisting to include the image of Elvis from postage stamp circulation all over the country.

Other famous celebrity postage stamps that followed are the sexy pictorials of Marilyn Monroe issue in 1995 and the James Dean stamp of 1996. There was also success for releasing cartoon postage stamps especially those with featured images of Bugs Bunny in 1997 and the peanuts postage stamp in 2001. The world of sports also has its share for issuing stamps that were widely accepted by sports enthusiasts like the Centennial Olympic stamps of 1996 and the Summer Olympics stamps in 1992.

The Post Office also gave importance to the American community when they issued the Black Heritage series of postage stamps in the 70s. They featured great African Americans like Otis Redding and Harriet Tubman. These postage stamps are still widely recognized as collectors' items.

Other postage stamps may seem to have valuable costs aside from these special commemorative postage stamps. Some of these stamps are valued because of the some errors in making these stamps. The United Post office may have released them and they have considered them collectibles because of the errors in the images and probably the imperfections

on the stamps. The uniqueness of these postage stamps makes them valuable and considered special editions of stamps.

For those aspiring stamp collectors, they may want to avail of some limited edition stamps from the main United States Post Office that have released commemorative stamps since early 2005 and is still making these featured postage stamps. The value of an average stamp is less expensive than a commemorative stamp. The difference with the price value is obvious.

To most collectors, the ideal collections are the stamps that were not used yet for the mail. Most used stamps in mails may have been creased or torn already. However, a collector who goes for collecting because of the fun and pleasure may accept used stamps. Others may still go for the stamps that are not yet used because they are after the profit and price value of limited edition stamps.

For those collectors who want to pursue their interest of making money out of these collections, they should remember some important thing to make the price value of their stamps increase in price value. A collector should know how to keep the stamps clean and keep them away from dirt and creases. If a person is lucky enough to avail initial release stamps, he should preserve the new issues with plastic coverings. He may also secure them with wax paper bags that he can buy at the post office.

He should make sure to secure and preserve the postage stamps properly. He must find a place where he can store them. Stamp albums should help him organize and compile the items safely and have them presentably displayed. He must make sure the album is acid-free to ensure that it will not alter any sensitive prints and markings on the postage stamps. It is advisable to store them on a cool and dry place.

Art Collectibles as Hobbies in the Form of Stamps and Coins

Life is an art.

And so goes a saying. But where people find things of profound interests, experts say that it is a form of art as well.

By definition, when an object is considered as a work of art, it simply means that the object is the result of a creation of an item using the valuable application of a mass of expertise along with an array of talents and cleverness.

It is on this context that experts consider collecting as one form of artistic endeavor in the sense that the mere acquisition of objects that is limited to the interest of the person who acquires them is already artistic. This means that not all people were born to collect coins, stamps, or any other items that may not be valuable to other people but to some, they are almost priceless.

Consequently, most experts contend that the hobby of collecting some explicit objects are generally based on a precise area of interest of the person involved. Because the interest of the

collector is the primary purpose of this kind of leisure pursuit, many people consider collecting stamps and coins as an art collectible hobby.

Why? Because based on the definition of art collectible hobby, the mere acquisition of stamps and coins based on the personal attention given by the collector to the items are already artistic in nature. In short, when a person is attracted to a certain thing, the object becomes an art collectible.

Moreover, the basic features of the coins and the stamps are also one of the reasons why it becomes an art collectible. This is because coin and stamp designs are not just created by anybody who knows how to draw some lines or shapes. The designs that are engraved or sketched in the surface of the stamp or coin are made by people who were gifted with the talent to draw things imaginatively and creatively.

Take the stamps for example. The creation of the designs in a particular stamp undergoes a detailed process of brainstorming, evaluation, analysis, and good decision making in order to come up with a truly creative design. In fact, a group of 12 to 15 people forms the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, which serves as the body that will recommend the ideal designs to be included in stamp production.

Every year, the committee contemplates on about 50,000 designs and then advocates at least 35 of it to the "postmaster general" for the production of "commemorative stamps."

This just goes to show that the selection of the design is such thorough process that the value of the item is clearly identifiable.

For this reason, stamp collectors and coin collectors, particularly those that focus more on the rare items, know that the value that goes with each item is almost priceless.

So for those who still cannot understand why many people are into art collectible hobby of stamps and coins, here is a list of some of the reasons why these enthusiasts are so much engrossed in collecting:

1. Art collectible hobby provides various areas of interest

When a person have decided to start an art collectible hobby of a particular item such as coins or stamps, this reflects the kind of object he is interested in. for instance, in stamp collecting, if a particular stamp collector focuses more on the rare stamps rather than the ordinary stamps, this could mean a lot of things.

He could be interested with the rarity of the stamps, or he could be interested with the income that he can generate by trading the stamps to other collectors.

2. Art collectible hobby may trigger the desire to accomplish something

While most of the collections are focused on the mere acquisition of various items such as different kinds of stamps or coins arranged according to the interest of the collector, there are some people who opt to collect stamps and coins and aim to complete the whole set.

This means that additional art collectibles are obtained to fill in the missing spaces in between stamps and coins. Once completed, the collector usually feels the unexplainable satisfaction that other people cannot feel.

Given all these premises, it can be concluded that art collectible hobby of stamps and coins are not just mere samples of leisure pursuits. On its broader context, stamp and coin collecting can be considered as new forms of arts as well.

What is in a Stamp Collecting Merit Badge that Makes It So Special?

It must have been a confusing part for people who are not so much into stamp collecting when some people say that they have acquired their first sets of stamps during their scouting years as they tried to gain some merit badges.

Basically, merit badges are reward or honors given to the "Boy Scouts of America," based upon the different activities required for them to accomplish. Each activity is centered on a particular "area of study." The object of this activity is to finish all the actions that were called for. Once accomplished, a particular merit badge is awarded to the concerned person.

Every merit badge that is given to a particular buy scout includes a leaflet or a booklet that entails all the information regarding the merit badge as well as the requirements for that particular award.

There are instances wherein some badges should be obtained by a member of the Boy Scouts of America in order to achieve the "highest rank" in the organization ó the Eagle Scout.

Consequently, among the many subject areas that are included in the long list of merit badges is the stamp collecting. The stamp collecting merit badge was created in 1932 and has continuously been updated ever since. In fact, it was just in January 1, 2001 that this particular merit badge was updated.

In the updated edition of the stamp collecting merit badge, most of the changes were focused on the requirements stipulated in the merit badge. Some of the notable changes are purely textual in nature. Here are some of the examples:

1. In the 5th requirement for this particular merit badge, wherein the scout is required to show the functions of at least 3 of the given "stamp collector's tool," the letter "s" in the word "magnifier" was omitted.
2. In the 8th requirement, where the scouts are required to "mount and show" some given requirements based on a stamp album that was "homemade" or was bought at a local stamp collector retailer. The requirement on showing and mounting a "collection of 75 or more different stamps on a single topic," the word "scouts" as one of the given topics was change to "scouting," and instead of the inclusion of the term "etc." it was also omitted.

These are just the known changes in the updated version of the stamp collecting merit badge. They may seem minor in details but they could have been made for some purposes that were not disclosed.

For a gist of the requirements stipulated in the stamp collecting merit badge, here is a list, though, not in full details just to give you an idea what stamp collecting merit badge is all about.

1. Stamp collecting merit badge requires a scout to explain how history, people, geography, etc. was better understood through stamp collecting. It was also required by the merit badge that the scout should be able to know the development of the U.S. postal system as well as its difference with that of the other countries.
2. They were asked to describe the concept of "topical stamp collecting" and the different classifications of stamp collections.
3. Scouts are required to present some examples of the different kinds of stamps like the perforated stamps, coil stamps, etc.
4. Scouts were required to prove the link between the "catalog value" and the equivalent market value of the stamps. They were also asked to give details on the definition of the word "condition" when associated or linked with the stamps.
5. In order to gain stamp collecting merit badge, scouts were also required to show "at least three" of the given "stamp collector's tool" like the stamp tongs, envelopes, hinges, and magnifier.
6. Certain activities were also required to be performed by the scouts such as the proper way of mounting stamps in a stamp album. Then, they were required to talk about ways on how to contribute in the preservation of the stamps and the accessories that go with it.
7. Scouts were also required to perform any two of the given actions stipulated in the merit badge such as writing a review on a particular article from a magazine, book, or a newspaper about stamp collecting or learn to plan a stamp
8. Lastly, scouts were asked to "mount and show" any of the given requirements in order to complete the task such as "a collection of 250 or more dissimilar stamps" taken from no less than 15 countries.

Once the scouts were able to finish all of these tasks, they will be awarded with the stamp collecting merit badge, in which they can brag about.

The bottom line is that stamp collecting merit badge, just like the other merit badges, were created to entice the scouts to explore and learn more on the area of their interest in the same way that they learn to value each skill that they learn in the "Scoutcraft."

One of the best things about these merit badges is that these become the trigger that lures the scouts to engage into a particular interest and eventually make them a lifetime hobby.

2 Things That Every Stamp and Coin Collector Should Know

Being in charge of their busy lives, most people would find the enticement of other activities that would fill the emptiness that stress and pressures could bring into their existence. The sense of being able to create something that not all people share the same degree of gratification would simply pertain to an activity that simply entails what fun really is.

This particular kind of activity is known as a hobby. Exaggerations aside, a hobby is something that reflects a person's strong inclination or interest to something. And by merely engaging into such activity, he is able to fulfill the shallowness that they sense deep within.

Some psychologists on a clinical study on 50 people, who were known executives in different businesses, contend that 75% of the total respondents have improved psychologically, emotionally, and even physically after their attention had been diverted into other activities without the pressures of everyday work.

Hence, most psychologists believed that hobbies were not made just for the sake of having it but were created to heal a person's soul by taking interest to something with a different view.

Consequently, along with the different examples of hobbies, collecting seems to be the most preferred diversion of the majority today. Varying from different objects, hobbyists get to collect the object that suits their line of interest. The profundity and the extent of the collected works may show a discrepancy.

Take for example those people who are into stamp and coin collecting. The way they collect their objects may vary according to their specific interests. Hence, it could never be concluded that all of the stamp and coin collectors have the same interests.

History has it that stamp and coin collectors have started collecting their "things" since its inception. For instance, stamp collectors were born during the birth of the stamps.

Coin collectors, on the other hand, have started collecting coins during the 14th century when capitalism was still the main focus of the economy. It was during this time that people collect coins not because it is a hobby but because they wanted to save their money for future use.

It was only during the moment when Francesco Petrarch, acclaimed as Father of Humanism, had seen the value of the coins beyond its capitalist environment that coin collecting started. After Petrarch had started this wonderful hobby, many people were enticed to lead the same leisure pursuit.

From that time on, numismatics and philatelist, although both referred to the study of coins and stamps respectively, have been used and associated with coin and stamp collectors.

With the sophistication that stamp and coin collecting can bring, more and more people are enticed to join this circle of collecting enthusiasts. However, not everybody who had tried was able to achieve something.

Hence, for those who wish to be coin or stamp collectors someday, here are some tips that you should know before engaging into the wonderful world of stamp and coin collecting.

1. Know your leisure pursuit

Experts insist that it is not enough that a person becomes interested into stamp and coin collecting. What matters most is the kind of knowledge about his interest that a would-be collector must learn.

To do this, one should try to learn updated facts as well as the historical data of the stamps or the coins through books, magazines, and any other reading material that could provide the right information about the hobby.

In fact, most of the experienced and successful stamp and coin collectors have asserted that education is the single most significant factor that will trigger the success of the hobby.

2. Collect for the true motivation

Most of the stamp and coin collectors who have failed explained that one of the reasons why they did not succeed in this kind of leisure pursuit is because they were not able to identify the true reason why they started collecting in the first place. Some of them contended that they started collecting because their friends enticed them. It is as like everybody seems to be doing it, so why would not they.

This is where the problem starts. What matters most in stamp and coin collecting is to have the real reason to commit one's self into this kind of hobby, and the only real reason that would drive an individual to stick to this kind of hobby is for him to love the activity. It is his ardor for the activity that he would be interested to find the rarest, buy the item even if it is expensive, and learn things as if it is some object under study.

These are two of the most important things that every stamp and coin collector should know. This is because from these two things, the achievement is clearly defined once a person has a clear distinction between what he really wants and what he thinks he should have. These are two different things: the first refers to the feelings of a true collector, while the second one refers to the person who just wants to go with the flow or trend.

Collecting Both Coins and Stamps

People who have plenty of time to spare can do a lot of things. Some suggest of getting of getting into sports while others can get a hobby.

Those who want a good challenge can do more than one hobby at the same time. A good challenge will be in two of the most popular hobbies in the world namely coin collecting and stamps.

To those who have not done this before, it will be a good idea to do some research. This should include the tools that are used to preserve it and where this can be acquired.

A good place to get information is in books, asking those who are doing it as a hobby and resources that are available in the internet.

The best thing to do is to focus on a particular time period then get working on it.

The difference between the two is that the person can make more money in coin collecting. Should the person find one that is in good condition and has historical value, the value of it is more than twice what is on the coin.

Another thing that makes coins more valuable is the fact that some are no longer in circulation. Silver coins were used until the 1930s and after that, these were converted into copper.

Stamps on the other hand don't have a high value in the market. This is because even old ones are still being used on parcels and packages.

For the person to know the value of the existing collection, coins and stamps have a price catalogue that can be obtained at the hobby shop, which serves as a guide to its value in the market.

Both coins and stamps need an album to preserve it. This will keep these items in good condition, which can be passed on to the next generation or traded for a collection of better value in the future.

This is available in the hobby or bookstore and can be ordered online. The person should get the refillable type. This will save money in buying an additional album as the collection gets bigger.

Coins and stamps need to be handled with care. This will prevent it from being damaged or discolored that will decrease its value in the market.

The proper way of handling a coin is at its edges. The surface must not be touched by hand since fingerprints can smudge it. Cleaning the coins should be done in water and held in the air to dry. Polish must never be used since it could also damage the coin.

Stamps on the other hand need special tools. A pair of tongs, which is similar to tweezers must be used so that oil or dirt will not damage the surface.

There are many venues where the person can collect stamps and coins. This can happen in conventions and exhibits. All the collector has to do is bring the album then talk with fellow hobbyists who may want to trade.

An auction is another place where business can happen. The only problem is that it will cost a lot of money to bid for a coin. Stamps on the other hand are cheaper because of their availability in the market.

People who do this as a hobby can also do some trading online. The person can advertise the collection on the net and trade it with other items or sell it off and make a decent profit.

Stamps have dealers that make it easy for the collector to add new ones to the collection. These people can be found in the classified ads of the newspaper or online.

Coins on the other don't have dealers. The best place to deal with it so through contacts in the hobby shop in the club that the person belongs in who may want buy or exchange it for something else.

Stamp and coin collecting have similarities and differences. There are people who have waited years before being able to complete an entire collection. If the person has the patience and the determination to succeed, then this hobby is just right for the person. The individual should just be aware of the rules that go with engaging in it.

Coins and Stamps: A Favorite for Collectors

People have different hobbies because people have different interests. There are people interested in sports, in arts, in crafts or even in games. What matters in choosing a hobby is that it keeps you interested. It makes idle time worthwhile. It tells a lot about the passions of a person. That is why most people are interest in collecting, collecting stamps and collecting coins.

What Is Stamp Collecting?

Stamp collecting is all about gathering stamps and anything related to it like the mails and the envelope. Stamps through the years have showcased more than mere pictures and illustrations. Important figures, historical and cultural events and artworks as well are featured in the stamp. It gives the hobby more relevance and significance to the collector.

Stamp collecting however is often associated with philately. This two must be differentiated for the latter is concerned mainly in the study of stamps and anything related to it. Collecting stamps does not necessarily entail the study of it and vice versa.

What is Coin Collecting?

Coin collecting is concerned with the study and collection of coins. It can also involve paper money bearing the official design of the country and the monetary value. Coin collecting is also known as numismatics, taking from the Greek word nomisma, meaning coin.

In the past centuries, coins have very high value. They do not only represent a value of money, they have their own value. Each coin contains an amount of gold or silver. This is one aspect that makes the hobby extra expensive, especially if it concerns old coins.

However, the trend now in most nations is to replace the old coins with new ones made of inexpensive metals. Coins today have no intrinsic value anymore.

This hobby requires caution. It is not all about collecting coins that will come your way. It has to be a genuine coin. It is part of the coin collecting hobby to physically examine the coin to know the grade, see the problems and make sure that it is authentic. This way, the value of the coin can be easily evaluated.

It is important to identify the coin. It is important to know which country it came from and what is its face value. It must have a denomination, or else that coin must be a mere token. The authenticity of the coin will often require the opinion of an expert. Frauds have taken opportunity of many coin collectors before. Thus, before purchasing a valuable coin, it is a must to seek the help of an expert.

The grade of a coin is the summary of its overall condition. The market value of the coin depends a lot in the grade. Cleaning is an important aspect of the hobby. A used coin will often be scratched, holed, altered, dinged or corroded. This is not pleasing to the eye. The coin should be kept clean and made attractive.

What Is at Stake for Both?

Stamp collecting and coin collecting, just like any hobby will require the effort and dedication of the collector. They both have to inquire into necessary information to get the worth of their money when purchasing. There is the danger of getting into fraudulent transactions. This must be avoided as much as possible.

Both stamp collecting and coin collecting require particularity with the details as this will determine a lot the value of a piece for the collection. Both kinds of collectors refer to a catalogue to guide them through the different aspects of the collection.

For the stamp collector, a stamp catalogue will provide the price details, date of issuance, country of origin, material and even the historical background of the stamp. This way the stamp collector will easily know which of the stamps should be included in the collection. This is also a good resource to know the price to bargain for in purchasing a stamp.

For the coin collector, the coin catalogue will definitely help in ascertaining the price of the coin. The market value will also be influenced by the condition of the coin. The catalogue will also be a good resource to learn more information about coin collecting.

The Collector and the Modern Technology

Computer technology also helped the endeavors of the stamp and coin collectors. Collectors would often rely on database programs and spreadsheet templates to make an inventory of their collection. They also use it to list out the things they want and aim to collect. The computer software can also be used to print out albums with all the important details included.

The internet also proves to be a haven to most collectors. They can meet fellow collectors and enthusiasts online. There are web sites available also that will provide information, updates and offers that stamp collectors and coin collectors will enjoy.

The perseverance and dedication that a stamp collector and coin collector can showcase can be very amazing. That is why collecting is more than just a habit-forming hobby. Collecting can also teach values. That gives more worth to the money and to the collection.

You are invited to pass this report along to as many people as you like, provided that you make no changes to it and that you give it away for FREE.

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