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Essential Supplies for the Stamp Collector

How to Go About Organizing Your Stamp Collection

How to Keep Stamps Fine-and-Dandy!

Collecting stamps, for some people, is more than just a hobby—it's a lifestyle. In fact, the world has been witness to decades upon decades of stamp collecting. Case in point: the American Philatelic Society (APS) with its 44, 000 members--the biggest membership in the entire world--was founded as early as 1886.

The passion for collecting stamps is rooted in a variety of reasons. Some collect stamps because it helps them connect to a bigger historical identity of their country. Others collect stamps simply for their aesthetic value. Still others collect stamps because of its capacity to assist in educating people about history, culture, and events. Others partake in the tradition for the thrill of chasing that rare stamp, and at times, even gaining profit from the sales of a stamp that another collector is looking for.

However, the greatest challenge faced by collectors is the storage and care of these stamps. The storage of these stamps, first and foremost, will help in the manageability of the collection. A stamp collection that is well organized and catalogue provides the collector with much ease in monitoring what stamps he or she already has or otherwise, and locate duplicates that may be sold to other buyers who may be interested in the same design.

Moreover, stamp collections of huge volume are most preferably stored using minimal space, as much as possible; philatelists recommend that stamps are rather stored upright than laid out.

However, the most important of all is protecting the quality and longevity of the stamp. As they are, stamps are printed on paper and are therefore perishable. This subjects them to a huge variety of natural conditions that can make or break the worth of the stamp to the collector or future prospective buyers.

Protecting the stamp begins with proper handling; some professionals use tongs to handle stamps, keeping the natural oil found in the hands away from the stamp. This natural oil can corrode the stamp over time.

More importantly, stamp collectors face the greater challenge of protecting the stamps against natural conditions like moisture, dust, heat, decay, and the like.

The capacity of stamps to retain moisture that hastens the decaying process makes humid and warm places unfit for storage. Some of the places that must not be used to store these stamp collections include basements and attics that tend to get extremely warm on some seasons.

In relation to moisture, heat has the very strong capacity to discolor and destroy the quality of the stamp. Continued exposure to the sun's rays and to heat will cause the colors to fade over time, making the design's details close to unnoticeable.

Dust and other dirt particles have the corrosive property of damaging the stamps. Moreover, dusts pose the threat of becoming smeared onto the face or design of the stamp, compromising the design centered on it.

As such, it is completely necessary to find adequate cases and storage solutions for stamp collections.

While waiting to transfer stamps into more permanent albums, philatelists recommend the use of glassine, a very thin transparent paper that protects stamps from dust and air. However, glassine must only be temporarily resorted to; it should be of primary importance to find a suitable album for stamps.

These albums, as much as possible, should be free from all forms of plasticizers. These plasticizers tend to chemically react to the components of the stamp, especially under high humidity and heat. The stamp may be completely ruined, or may stick to the album permanently if plasticizers are not avoided.

However, at the end of the day, an album is not sufficient protection for a stamp collection that spans a lifetime of years. Usually, collectors make their cases dust-free by putting albums inside dust covers before storing them; others store their stamp albums in cabinets with doors or glass covers to minimize any other ulterior exposure to dust.

While it is important to maintain stamps dust-free, it is also imperative that the stamps are not stored in an airtight container. Airtight containers leave no room for the stamp to "breathe," and may cause accelerated aging to the stamp. In an airtight case, the stamp being protected from dust and moisture will most definitely turn to dust over the long run!

8 Reasons Why Collectors Need Free Stamp Collecting Software

Stamp collecting is one of the most well liked diversions or sidelines in the world. According to some statistical reports, from the 20 million stamp collectors in the United States, the numbers of collectors just keep on growing, as more and more people from around the globe are enticed to engage into this gratifying activity.

On its basic context, stamp collecting involves a high organizational skill that is absolutely required in order to manage a myriad of stamps.

Considering the fact that there are as many varieties and classifications of stamps as there are stamps, managing these items can be very confusing especially if there are already too many. Getting an album or any tool to keep them intact would not be of much help once you have too many for your collections.

However, with the advent of the Internet, things had definitely been easier for stamp collectors. With the arrival of stamp collection software programs made available for downloads, organizing stamps had never been so easy.

Therefore, for those who are not yet aware of the benefits of stamp software collections, here is a list of some of its advantages and see for yourself if it works best for you:

1. Amazing organizer

Since stamp collecting involves a lot of organizing and monitoring hundreds, if not thousands, of stamps so having a free stamp collection software is a definite plus.

One of the best things about these free stamp collecting software programs is that they are capable of recording stamps by design. Once you have this software, the only thing you have to do is to encode a "stamp catalog number" and the rest, as they say, is history.

2. Value identification

If you are not so much familiar on evaluating the values of the stamps, then, having a software program to do that is an advantage. The free stamp collecting software can absolutely evaluate the values of your stamps. In this way, it would be easier for you to locate which stamps would be great for trade-ins and which are best kept in secret!

3. Stats and more stats

With free stamp coin collecting software, obtaining a statistical report of your collection is never hard to accomplish. Statistical reports can provide you accurate information regarding your stamp collections. With a good list of stamp compiled in a very reliable database, you can be sure that getting all the data for future reference will never be hard again.

With this kind of software, numbers and figures really do matter.

4. Information overload

With free stamp collecting software, all you have is an information overload. This is because, aside from being a good organizer, these kinds of software programs also include everything you need to know about stamp collecting.

Best of all, there are thousands of United States stamp icons with their detailed profile. This could be very handy especially if you are just new in stamp collecting.

5. Friendly user interface

One of the best things about these free stamp collecting software is that most of the programs are built in such a friendly user interface that anyone who is not technically expert in computers and software can actually use the program without any difficulty.

Changing, editing, arranging, and organizing the stamps are relatively easier to do with stamp collecting software helping you finish all the transaction in a snap.

This goes to show that with stamp collecting software, organizing stamps is so easy with just one click.

6. Printable information

These kinds of software programs give you the option to print all of the information that you need. In turn, you would be able to keep a record of your stamp collecting in hard copy, which makes record keeping more reliable and dependable over time.

7. Online discussion group

Most of the free stamp collecting software have online discussion group. This enables you to check on with the other stamp collectors. You get to ask other people about some information on stamp collecting as well.

What's more, with the online help of this software, you can ask for any solutions once you need to troubleshoot your program.

8. They are free

The greatest benefit that you can obtain from these kinds of software is that they are absolutely free. Imagine that! Without any frills, you can get remarkable and dependable software without spending any money.

Given all that, obtaining a free stamp collecting software is unquestionably the best tool any stamp collector could ever have.

Stamp Collecting Freeware

The world is just getting smaller and smaller. With the onset of the Internet technology, the email correspondences and the cellular phone, miles and miles of distance seem to be an issue only of yesterday.

However, it is not only the means of communications that makes the world smaller. Sharing something with other people in the other parts of the world is a better way to have some sort of connection.

If there is one endeavor that proves to be worthwhile and interesting in this regard, it is stamp collecting. Stamp collecting is a popular hobby. It is shared by millions of people worldwide. People of different ages, nationalities and languages are able to share the sentiments over their favorite past time. They all partake of the longing to look for more stamps to add up to the collection.

What is it really about stamp collecting that makes people love it?

Stamp Collecting

Stamp collecting involves the act of saving stamps from the mails and searching further to gather stamps. The stamp collectors can look for very old stamps of other civilizations or simply

acquire high-valued ones. They represent more than the value of the postage service in delivering the letter. It also provides one way of looking into the history, culture, politics and art of a certain civilization.

Collecting Stamps

Collecting can be very inexpensive in many ways. Simply gather all the mails in the household and collect the stamps attached. Some people pursue having pen pals abroad to start on their foreign stamp collection. It will not hurt also to ask other friends. More often than not they will be willing to give the stamps from their mail stack.

Simply seek for another stamp collector and trade with one another. There may be stamp clubs in the vicinity or in school that one can choose to join.

Another way for collectors to gather more stamps is to buy from stamp shops or from the postal service. The ordinary stamps will not cost much, they can be purchased at face value. Some items for advanced collectors and the high-valued stamps can be very expensive. Still these stamps are really worthy, so for a serious collector, the price is nothing.

To get guidance in stamp collecting, it will be very helpful to get a stamp catalogue. This will showcase the stamps with their details and even the price. It can also be a good way to know the value of the stamps in the collections.

Stamp Collection Equipment

Stamp collecting will have to entail the care of the items. There is actually little equipment required to support this hobby. A stamp collector needs only a stamp album to accommodate the items. Some mounts can be acquired to properly attach the stamps to the pages. Other stamp albums have plastic strips where the stamps can be easily inserted.

Tongs and tweezers may also prove to be helpful in stamp collecting. They are good tools when removing the stamps from the letters. These stamps are not to be forced away from the paper. There is a proper procedure to remove the stamps at the same time ensuring their preservation.

It is best to tear away the part of the envelope with the stamp in it from the rest of the mail. Then soak this in water for a few minutes. The stamp will then separate from the paper as the gum gets dissolved in the water. Use the tongs to pick up the stamps and to mount it to a proper place.

Serious stamp collectors also consider inventory of the stamps as an important element of the hobby. These written inventories can prove helpful to keep track of the collection and to know the details and valuations of the stamps acquired through the years.

Stamp Collecting in an Advancing World

Many people feared that stamp collecting would dwindle as the Internet technology gives less reason to send a mail to a correspondence. This was expressed before when

telecommunications was feared to overpower the mailing system. Still, stamp collecting remained and flourished.

The Internet technology may even actually be a good thing to for the stamp collector. It may be a good way to meet people who share the same interests. It may even bring stamp collectors together.

Stamp Collecting Software

One good thing about the Internet is that it provides another resource for the serious stamp collectors. It can provide information about stamps all over the world. It can even be a venue to purchase stuff like stamps, stamp catalogues and more.

Some stamp enthusiasts with web sites even developed some software that is something for a devotee to enjoy. The stamp collecting software contains the important information and images and they are all about stamps.

This is also the best tool to organize the collection. It can also serve as a good stamp inventory software. With this, you can easily keep track of those stamps, their numbers, date of issuance as well the purchase prices.

Another better thing about the online community is that you can have such wonderful software products for free. Some web sites dedicated to stamp collecting allow their regular members to have this as freeware. Sometimes, all you have to do to get the software is to give your email address to receive future updates and information. Nothing to lose at all.

So, as you proceed with the stamp collecting hobby, make sure that you grab hold of the stamp collecting software for free!

Stamp Collecting Software for Macintosh OS 9

All of us have a hobby. Some will be into sports. Some like to play games and puzzles. Others are into craft and arts. There are lots of us that are into collecting stamps. Stamp collecting is one of the hobbies shared by millions of people.

Finding a good hobby, like stamp collecting, can be really worthwhile. It tells a lot about the personality of a person. It can teach a lot of values like taking care of things, recognizing the worth of little objects and even learning the details. This and many more reasons make stamp collecting the best hobby for lots of people.

In this modernizing world, is it right to say that collecting stamps is outmoded? Definitely not! Even with the onset of the computer and software technology, the wonders and fulfillment of collecting stamps will remain and flourish.

Actually most people, instead of regarding the technology as a threat, see the technology as a very helpful tool in pursuing the ends of stamp collecting.

What Is Stamp Collecting?

Stamp collecting is all about collecting stamps and anything related to it. Stamp collectors target those little adhesive papers attached in the mail. Some collectors will even gather the mails and envelopes where the stamps are attached.

Starting out this hobby is very easy. Simple collect all the mails you have in the household and get the stamps. This will be the first items in the collection and you got it for no expense at all.

It will actually be very helpful to find a friend to swap or trade some stamps with, especially if you have a lot of one kind. If you are very particular with the stamps you will get, you may consider buying already. Serious stamp collectors actually endeavor to purchase from stamp shops and from auctions.

What is it about these stamps that make them desirable and collectible? They are simple piece of paper materials yet what makes stamps click?

The stamps provide a good view to the sight. They are made up of different pictures and illustrations that could tell a story already. Furthermore, each stamp is also shaped by its context. It can showcase and tell a lot about history, politics, arts and events.

Taking Care of the Stamps

It necessarily has to follow that the stamp collector will take care of the stamps. It is a big must to do so. Some stamps are made of materials that will not last if left just anywhere. They are so little that they can be easily lost.

Proper storage is the best option. Some people will put all their stamps in a box or container. This is to keep them all together and clean. It is also good to use stamp albums for storage. Most stamp albums have plastic strips where the stamps can be easily placed and viewed.

Some serious stamp collectors even go out of their way to make an inventory of all the stamps they have gathered through the years. The inventory can help in keeping track of the collection. It can be easily resorted to when scouting different places for stamps without having to bring the entire collection.

Stamp Collecting and the Modern Technology

The modern technology can be very handy at this point. Stamp collection inventory is a very tedious work. It takes into account all the details of the stamps, the name, face value, purchase value, date of issuance or release, material and even the status of the stamp.

There are many software developers that aimed to address the stamp collector market. They know the needs of an ordinary collector, to be able to take care and keep track of the collection. This is why stamp collecting software is very much available online.

The software contains all the necessary features of a useful inventory. One can easily enter the necessary details and keep track of them. You can even have your stamps scanned so as to

complete the details of the stamp collection in the software. With this at hand, you can easily know what other stamps you will have to look for.

The stamp collecting software can be purchased online. There are web sites dedicated to selling software. There are also stamp collecting web sites that can provide downloads or links to download. Some can even provide this software for free.

However, it is necessary to be particular with the requirements and details of the programs. When purchasing a software, take note of the system requirements, especially if you have a Macintosh OS 9. You have to make sure that it will work with a Macintosh OS 9.

It is very easy to determine. You can easily include the "Macintosh OS 9" when you enter the key terms in the search engine. The search field can be filled like this, "Macintosh OS 9 stamp collecting software." This way you will be limited easily to the choices.

If you directly access a download site, it will be necessary to look at the system requirements of the software. Look for the operating system field. It should be indicated there that it will work with Macintosh OS 9.

Stamp collecting is easy and interesting. It is even made easier by the latest in modern technology. Just be sure that you know the particulars of your system to maximize the benefits of the stamp collecting software.

Stamp Collecting Software to Choose From

The traditional way of compiling of stamp collections requires more effort in arranging and distributing the types of stamps. The most common tool that is used to organize a stamp collection is the album list. Today, there are software that can easily help a collector in filing, securing, detecting, upgrading, and providing information about the stamps. These software are now used to make the collection easier to manage. There are many software that are now advertised in the market. Here are some of them.

1. **StampManage 2006** can catalog and file all stamps that came from Canada, USA, and UK. This software can contain 30,000 stamps in its database and can feature 21,200 images. These are all compiled in Scott numbering system. This numbering system is standardized and was introduced by the SCOTT Company. They provided the license to StampManage to practice this kind of numbering system. The 2006 latest edition now features an integrated report designer that has the ability to document personal reports. These Reports can be transferred through HTML, PDF, and Excel.

2. **The Stamp Organizer Deluxe** software can recover and view all information about a stamp. The software shows great efficiency and accessibility to gather all information in a compiled data. The stamps could be arranged in various ways. The collector has his options on how he can organize his collection using this software.

3. **The Stamp Collection Wizard 1.04** can create personal records and accumulate reports about the stamps origin, price value and other informative data. A collector may enjoy the benefit of being updated and informed using the stamp collection database of the program. It has also the capacity to store and track the price value and the date of all special stamps.

4. **The Report Label Wizard** can easily determine and print various kinds of reports listed on this software. There are specific sets of wizard catalogs that allow a user to determine the report category. The stamps can be defined according to color, graphics, size, perforation, and margins. He may also outline the report using headers and footers. To save any of these program settings, he may index it using templates.

5. **Customized Display Data Software** can set any settings displayed on the windows regardless of the size and amount of data information. A collector has the option to choose from what type of size, color, and font to use in compiling the collection in the organizer. He may change the information on the data entry controls by determining the customize reports on the program.

6. **Stamp Collector Professional 3.0S** can compile and arrange all personal stamp collections. This program helps a collector to have an organized compilation of those special and rare stamps that may have a good price value. It also identifies and shows all records and information about the date issuance, place of origin, characteristics, theme, and the price value of the stamp.

7. **The Specialized Data Fields Controls** can speed up any new entry records on the database. It can also create new command responses related to the data entry. Any graphical features are scanned from the List Box program, which also sets up a particular element from the first category of characters. This software also features a Date Field calendar, Email Field Integrated, and a Data Field with calculator.

8. **The Organized Deluxe Designer** can modify and upgrade the structure of any stamp. Similar to other organizer programs, it has the functionality to determine different kinds of data fields where a user would like to store huge number of compilations.

9. **The StampManage Canada 2005** specializes on stamps that came from Canada. This program catalogs and files all information about Canadian stamps. It has a special software that determines all Canadian and provincial stamp data that features images and report data fields about the compiled information.

10. **The Web Ready View Page Software** can update and read all record fields on a section basis. Ha may display his file collection of stamps from the database to the web page of the site. They can be featured with complete background images using the browse page to edit all the necessary information that he may add on the web page.

Most software for stamps offer flexible functions and database files that can store and compile stamp collections. They can easily help a person on how to use the functionality of the software. His own style of arrangement and categorical summary will depend on how he can have organized sets of collection in a particular software.

Taking Care of Stamps Using an Album

In order for the hobbyist to maintain an existing collection, this should be stored in a safe place free from dirt and other problems. Some people encase it in glass while others put it in a shelf. For people who collect stamps, the best place to preserve it is in an album.

The first stamp album was made by Mr. Stanley Gibbons in the 19th century. Though this was primitive back then, this was the best way to take care of it. The problem was removing it since these did not have plastic slips to hold it. After addressing this problem, the modern album evolved.

The album used for stamps is different from those used to hold photographs. Each page has layers of plastic slips on it, which can hold a number of stamps per page.

An album can be purchased at the local hobby store or in the bookstore. Since these only have a few pages, it will be a good idea to buy the type that can add more pages later on.

Since the price of albums may be a bit expensive, perhaps ordering it from the Internet can save the person some money.

Some albums can only hold a few stamps per page. This is because placing stamps on the opposite side could damage it. Since this does not maximize the number of pages per album, it will be better to get the kind that has a plastic cover in between the pages.

There are many ways to arrange stamps in the album. Those that belong to a certain year can be placed together. If the person has a lot of certain kind, this can also be placed in the same manner.

Some stamps are also grouped in a certain collection. By finding all of these and putting it the album, other collectors will pay more for it since it takes to complete.

Proper care should be given when transferring the stamps to the album. This will require some special tools such as a pair of tongs and magnifying glass to transport it safely especially when it is from an envelope.

Another way to get stamps will be buying it in rolls then transferring it to the album. Proper care must be given at all times so the collector can sell it at a good price.

The stamps inside the album should not be exposed to direct sunlight for a long time and must be stored in room temperature to prevent it from discoloration.

The best kind of album to preserve stamps is the kind that has hinges or mounts on it. This will make it easier to take out when the collector wants to trade it with a fellow hobbyist.

Some albums come separately with the pages that are used to hold the stamps. By picking the right kind that will suit the needs of the hobbyist, the person will have a good time making the collection get bigger.

The album is something that is easy to carry around. Being lightweight, the person will be able to bring it to exhibitions and conventions that are venues to trade stamps.

This is better than holding the stamps in the folder or an envelope that could fall or get damaged when it is carried around.

Stamp collecting is a hobby that takes time to expand. As the collection gets bigger, the person has to buy more albums. By finding a reputable supplier, the hobbyist will be assured that the stamps are in a safe place until such time that it will be sold or traded with other kinds.

There are many companies that produce albums for hobbyists. By doing some research on the quality, the person will find the right one to handle the stamps.

People who decide to pursue something like a hobby should be prepared with the responsibility that goes with it. Since taking care of it will require some money, the person has to think of the bigger picture.

The album can make it all happen. By inserting the stamps properly in between the pages, this will really count when the time comes that the collector decides to trade it with other people or sell it and make a decent profit.

The Pros of Stamp Collecting Albums

Since the dawn of postage stamps, stamp collecting had been one of the most popular hobbies since then. With over 20 million of stamp collectors in the United States alone, stamp collecting is definitely a solid form of leisure pursuit that nobody can easily eliminate in the American history.

As more and more people are still adding up to the number of stamp collectors in the U.S., experts believed that the number would continue to grow especially now that different tools and devices were created to make stamp collecting easier to manage.

Experts contend that stamp collecting is simpler and more enjoyable if you have the exact devices and tools to assist you in identifying, evaluating, handling, and organizing your stamps.

True blue stamp collectors have different stamp collecting tools that assist them in collecting different kinds and classifications of stamps with pleasure and the expertise. With the advent of the Internet, there are some software programs that were technically designed to aid the stamp collectors in organizing, evaluating, and monitoring their stamps.

For some people who are not such tech-savvy, there are tools that can also give you the same efficiency and reliability that these technological advancements can give you.

Hence, if you are a newbie in stamp collecting, and you would like to learn how to keep and organize your stamps in such an easier way, you need to obtain a stamp album. Stamp

collecting albums are one of the best storage tools that you can have without having to compromise your money.

Why? Because as far as stamp collecting is concerned, stamp collecting albums are the best and the most affordable means of keeping track with your stamps.

Stamp collecting albums are not just built for the sake of having them. In fact, stamp collectors do not just buy albums for their stamps but they also find some stamp albums worth collecting themselves. This is because most of the stamp albums these days are artistically designed to fit the tastes of stamp collectors like you.

Here is a list of some of the advantages of stamp collecting albums. Go over them and see for yourself if these types of albums can really work for you.

1. Optimum protection

Unlike coins, which are also one popular collecting hobby, stamps are more vulnerable and remain defenseless against damages and wear and tear, especially if they are on their own. This is because, as we all know, stamps are made from paper material; hence, it is susceptible to any damage even if it was unintentional or just by accident.

For this reason, placing or keeping your stamps in a stamp collecting album is a perfect idea in protecting them against the harmful elements in the environment such as dirt, water, dust, or other perils brought about by animal or human activities.

2. Easier handling

Stamp collecting album provides easier handling. This is because these albums contain different ways on how to keep or hold stamps.

Generally, stamp collecting albums have two ways of handling the stamps. It could either be mounted or hinged.

When opting for a mounted stamp, you can clearly see and easily identify each stamp because they are placed in a transparent plastic casing that can be opened on both areas. Using mounts is so easy because all you have to do is to put in the stamp into the mount, and then, fasten the mounts to the pages of the stamp collecting album.

Even though they are a little costly than hinges, mounts offer better protection against moisture, dirt or dust, and air.

On the other hand, hinges refer to see-through plastics or paper with unique "gum" on a particular side of the hinge. Hinges are glued at the back of the stamps, and then, the hinges are the ones that are attached to the pages in the stamp collecting albums.

This type of securing stamps in the album is preferred by the stamp collectors if the kinds of stamps that they want to keep are those that are classified as "mint stamps." This is because with hinges, the adhesives or the gum is easily peeled off once the hinges are detached.

3. Affordable

Most stamp collecting albums are more affordable to obtain than the other kinds of stamp collecting tools. Hence, almost all of the stamp collectors are opting to use albums, especially those who are still at the beginning stage of their hobby.

Given all that, without these kinds of protective tools, stamp collecting may have never flourished up to this point in time because stamps would have been easily worn out as time has passed by.

A Guide to Stamp Collecting Supplies

Stamp collecting is a hobby, which is loved worldwide. In the United States alone, there is an estimated 20 million stamp collectors. It is a long tradition that has continued and will continue to exist.

Why is stamp collecting so popular? It is a hobby that doesn't need many expensive tools or equipments. However, there are some basic tools that a collector must have to be able to further enjoy collecting and preserve the stamp in good condition. These tools are usually inexpensive and can be purchased easily. Here are some of the supplies for stamp collecting:

Albums

These albums are very significant in the whole stamp collecting hobby because it secures the stamps and allows the collector to be able to organize the stamp collection and at the same time display them in an attention-grabbing way.

One must be able to know what kind of albums to use for his stamp collection. A good stamp album would have thick pages, which can hold a lot of handling and stress. It must also have ample space for the stamps so as not to get them too crowded. The binding of the album must be sturdy and strong to hold the pages more effectively. Last, but not the least, the pages must be acid-free.

Mounts and Hinges

The small rectangular pieces of gum-coated paper or glassine are called stamp hinges. They are used to attach the stamps to the pages of the stamp album. They work like ordinary door or cabinet hinges. These hinges do not cost very much. In fact, one can purchase a thousand of them while spending only a few dollars.

Another tool can be used to attach the stamp into the stamp album pages, this is the stamp mount. Unlike stamp hinges, stamp mounts do not damage the gum of the stamp. Mounts have sleeves where the stamps are inserted, therefore eliminating the need to attach the stamp to a gum-coated hinge. These mounts costs more than the stamp hinges and are usually used to hold the more expensive kinds of stamps.

Tongs

These are comparable to ordinary tweezers. These tongs are usually made from plastic or stainless steel. They are used for handling the stamp to prevent damaging it. Using tongs for expensive stamps is a must because a simple touch can destroy or decrease the value of a stamp.

Magnifying glass

In collecting stamps, one of the greatest thrills is examining the items. A magnifying glass is needed in order to effectively assess the stamp at hand. This will allow a collector to spot certain tears, damages or errors on stamps.

Envelopes

Thin translucent envelopes made of glassine come in different sizes and are used for storing and sorting the stamps before they are placed in the stamp album. These can also be useful in mailing the stamps to other people.

Watermark Detector

This will allow a collector to see the embossed pattern that was printed on the stamp, which indicates the time when the stamp was made. Although not all stamps are embossed with watermarks, having a watermark detector sure is handy.

Catalogs

These are good references for one to be able to assess the value of his stamps. Usually, these catalogs give some useful information or interesting facts about certain stamps, which they feature.

The world of stamp collecting is an exciting and wonderful one. Stamps tell the story of the world and its history. Having the proper stamp collecting supplies can make the whole experience of stamp collecting more intense and fun.

What Supplies Do You Need for Your Stamp Collection?

Compared to other collectible items, stamp collections only require inexpensive supplies and accessories. These tools are essential in securing, protecting, and preserving any kind of stamps. Each stamp should be handled and cared using these tools to ensure that stamps would last a long time.

A collector should exert the effort of availing these items. He should learn how to value the importance organizing and preserving the items he has collected. One true trait of a special collector is the way he preserves his collections by attending and being concerned with the safety of his stamps. It is important to preserve and secure the stamps because these items are

only pieces of papers. They can easily be torn or may lose their designs when they are not properly attended.

Here are some basic tools and accessories that are essential in securing a preserving stamp collections.

1. Stamp tongs are similar to tweezers that are designed and specially made to hold, and pick up the stamps. It is important to handle the stamps with the use of tongs. These are used especially for those stamps that have higher value and have limited edition versions. They may come in stainless plastic or stainless steel. He may want to consider buying the plastic tongs, which are more affordable than the stainless steel tongs. He needs to make sure that the tongs do not have sharp or pointed edges.

2. A watermark detector will allow a person to see the transparent prints and embossed markings that were intentionally made to value the price of the stamp. He may be able to detect those prints using watermark detectors and identify some forged stamps that are used for illegal purposes.

3. Magnifying glasses are helpful in examining and determining what kind of inscriptions and special prints are featured on the stamp. It may also be used to identify the condition of the paper, if it is a special or ordinary stamp. It also spots small wrinkles like spots or printing errors on the paper. These spotted markings may influence the value of the stamp.

4. Stamp hinges and mounts secure the stamp on the album. Stamp hinges are folded and rectangular in shapes, which are made from glassine paper wrapped with glue to hold firmly the stamps on the pages where they are pasted. These items have low prices and a person can purchase thousands of hinges for only a few dollars.

On the other hand, stamp mounts also hold the stamps from the pages without altering the original glue of the stamp. The face of the stamp mount features a transparent plastic sleeves where the stamp will be placed. A collector can preserve and prolong the designs and marking in the stamp using these hinges and mounts.

5. Stamp catalogs are helpful in identifying the current value of a particular stamp. These items are also responsible for giving reference and information regarding the stamp's value and additional information about the stamp. There are catalogs available in libraries if he may not able to purchase these items.

6. Stamp albums are very essential to a stamp collector. Almost all stamps that are collected are placed in albums where they could be displayed and secured properly. A collector can organize and he may arrange his stamps according to the category or types they represent. He may choose what size of album he may purchase. There are albums that have large spaces and can accommodate thousands of stamps safely.

7. There are tiny aligned holes in the stamp that are called perforations. The purpose of the perforation is to allocate the individual stamp from those collective stamps. The use of the perforation gauge is to measure the tiny holes by 2 centimeters in length from the blocks to the perforation. Most of the time, stamps can have similar features and prints but one thing that

separate their similarity are the perforations. These perforations serve as the identifying factor that will distinguish the difference between two identical stamps.

These supplies and accessories are commonly used in stamp collecting. A collector can enjoy exhibiting and displaying his stamps on a well-organized album using some accessories that can make the stamp collection presentable and safely secured.

Essential Supplies for the Stamp Collector

Collecting stamps is a widely loved hobby all over the world. Stamps are pieces of history, which has value that is sought after by the whole world. Collecting stamps is also a hobby that most people can engage into because of the minimal expenses that it requires.

From the time of the birth of the stamp, people have been engaged in stamp collecting. The first stamp was introduced in 1840. After twenty years of stamp circulation, more than 70 countries have adopted the postage stamp system. There is an estimated 200 million collectors of postage stamps all over the world. There are around 125,000 stamp collecting supplies dealers and a handful of organizations and clubs which are centered on stamp collecting.

The value of a stamp depends on the maintenance of its integrity and quality. The proper handling and care for stamps is necessary if one is to engage seriously in stamp collecting. There are several stamp collecting supplies that are available out there in the markets, which can be availed to ensure proper handling of stamps. Here are some of them:

Stamp mounts and stamp hinges

Stamps are stored in albums or books. These books contain spaces where the stamps are placed using stamp mounts and stamp hinges. The stamp mount is used if one is paranoid in damaging the original gum of the stamp. Mounts have sleeves where the stamps are inserted and this eliminates the need to attach the stamp into a gum-coated hinge. The stamp mounts are more expensive than stamp hinges and are usually used to hold the more expensive stamps in the collection.

Stamp hinges are the small rectangular pieces of paper or glassine, which are coated with gum. They are primarily used to attach the stamps into the pages of the stamp books or albums. They function like a door, which is held by hinges. The good thing about stamp hinges is that they are very inexpensive and one will not spend more than a few dollars to buy a thousand of these stamp holders.

Stamp albums

Stamp albums are very important in collecting postage stamps because they are used to secure the stamp collection. They allow the collector to be able to organize his stamp collection and display them in a very neat manner.

Knowledge about the kind of stamp album that will be suitable for holding the stamp collection is a good thing to have. A good stamp album would have thick pages and can hold a lot of stress and withstand faulty handling. It must have ample space for the stamps so as not to get them too crowded. The binding of the album must be sturdy and strong enough to hold the pages more effectively and secure the stamps properly. The pages must be acid-free to avoid damaging the stamps.

Stamp tongs

Stamp tongs are comparable to ordinary tweezers. However, stamp tongs are usually made from plastic or stainless steel. They are primarily used to handle the stamps to prevent any damage from occurring. The use of tongs is a must for expensive stamps because a simple touch can decrease the value of a stamp.

Magnifying glass

A collector will examine his collection one time or another. In examining the stamps, one must use a magnifying glass so as to have a clear view of their conditions. Examining stamps is necessary to spot stamp tears, damages or errors and most especially, they are important for appreciating the beauty of the stamps.

Perforation Gauge

Perforation gauges are used to identify a stamp from a set of identical stamps. Perforations are a stamp's way of identifying itself. Every stamp has different perforations. The number of curves can be measured using a perforation gauge. They measure curves every two centimeters.

Watermark Detector

The use of a watermark detector will allow a stamp collector to see the patterns, which are embossed on the stamps. The patterns indicate the time when the stamp was issued. Although not all stamps are embossed with watermarks, it sure is useful to have one at hand.

There are many other stamp collecting supplies that are essential in the art of collecting stamps. If one is involved in stamp collecting, for any reason at all, he must have the proper tools to be able to make the experience fun and exciting.

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