

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

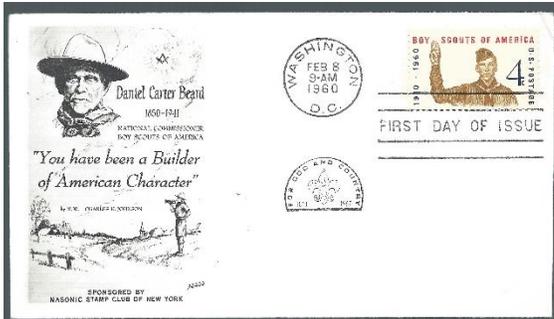
Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

December 1, 2016

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!!

Stamp of the Month



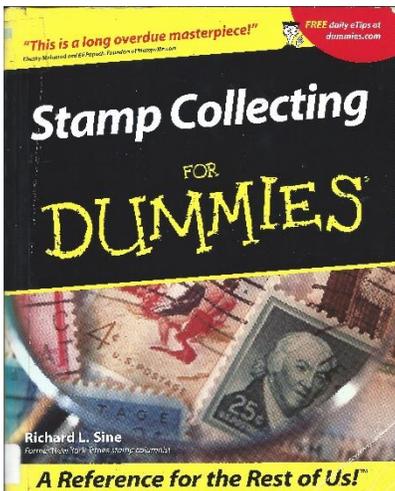
This month's stamp of the month is actually a cover. It is a first day cover from 1960 featuring a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America. It has a cachet, which according to the small print at the bottom was made by Fleetwood and sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. For me, this is a "three-in-one." Boy Scouts is a big thing in the Martin household. Each of my three sons is an Eagle Scout, a Mason, and of course stamp collecting, which has been taken up

by two of my sons, and already one grandchild. The stamp brings back memories because the Boy Scout is wearing a cap which is exactly like the one I wore when I was a boy. Today, Boy Scouts wear hats that are "baseball" hats.

I saved a book

Not too impressive to say, "I've saved a book" right? Everybody I know has saved books. It is not even very impressive to say, "I've saved a book about stamp collecting." Pretty much everybody who collects stamps has a few books about our hobby.

But in this case, I am referring to the meaning of "saved" as in the meaning, "I was saved from drowning by the lifesaver."



Last month, I was at the local public library, perusing the stacks in the 769.56 Dewey Decimal area, which is the area used for non-fiction books on the subject of stamp collecting. My perusing did not take very long because this particular branch, which is a medium sized library, had exactly one (1) book on the subject of stamp collecting. It is titled *Stamp Collecting for Dummies*, part of the large "For Dummies" set of books. I believe I actually used to have a copy of this book, but somewhere along the line I must have given it away.

The inside the front cover of this library book is a plain white page that has 12 due dates stamped on it, ranging from October 19, 2002 to the one just stamped in for me. Stamped just one line above was the

previous time that it was checked out, and it had a return date of December 6, 2011.

As I checked out the book, the librarian commented to me that I had just “saved the book.” I asked what she meant and learned that the public libraries in Hawaii have a policy that if a book is not checked out for five years, it is disposed. The last time this particular book, (remember it was the only book in the stacks relating to stamp collecting) was date-stamped just above my return date. It was December 6, 2011 – exactly 4 years, 11 months and 12 days ago. Another 19 days and there would have been zero books available at this library branch in the 769.56 because this one was slated for disposal. Hence, I “saved” *Stamp Collecting for Dummies*.

Two observations, beyond the obvious, that here is no interest in our hobby among local stamp collectors: First, this book has been circulating since 2002. A quick look inside revealed it was copyrighted in 2001, so it probably was written in 2000 or 2001 – at least 15 years ago, and thus is pretty out of date. Second, because it was the only book in section 769.56, even a person such as myself who wants to read something new about our hobby will find slim pickings at public libraries, something we all knew anyway.

When the first edition of Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting was released by the USSS in 2006, 10 years ago, I purchased a case of them and have given them out to various people, and to various school libraries and public libraries. After having donated several copies to some public libraries, I checked the stacks to see if the book was there, and I was pleased to see it was NOT there, meaning somebody had checked it out. But over a several month period, it never showed up, so I inquired why. It turns out, even though the book was encased in shrink-wrap, the person at the library whose job it is to go through donated books and determine which books to place in circulation had decided the Encyclopedia was not worthy of space on their bookshelf. It was either thrown away or put on the table of books for sale for 50¢ each. Unfortunately there was not in place any way a donor of a book could ascertain in advance whether a donated book would never be put in circulation. There were a variety of reasons to NOT place a book in circulation, including the library already had the book, or enough copies to satisfy demand, or that the book was not the most current edition.

The edition of *Stamp Collecting for Dummies* was copyrighted in 2001, and this particular book was the first edition. It turns out that only one edition was ever printed. On page 3 is a paragraph “About the Author.” The author, Dick Sine, it states can be reached at two websites: www.stampville.com or www.askphil.org. I checked those websites out and learned that stampville.com does not seem to exist any longer, and it is redirected to a website about the Imperial Mint, which has nothing to do with stamp collecting. The askphil.org has better results, but the website states the price of postage stamps “will drop to 47¢ in April” which was over half a year ago.

If you want your own copy of *Stamp Collecting for Dummies*, you can purchase a used copy in Very Good condition right now from Amazon.com for 1¢. That’s right, one cent, plus a small shipping charge, of course. One final note. After reading a few pages that seem familiar, I realized that **I was the previous person** who had checked out the book, almost five years ago.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 C (3) organization. All donations of \$10 or more are provided written receipts.

(A full color version of this newsletter is on our website.)