

# The PhilateliKid

**The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)**

**Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)**

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

September 1, 2017

## **Stamp of the Month**

The stamp of the month for September is actually a set of 6 stamps by Isle of Man commemorating the



300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of modern Freemasonry. Illustrated here are three of the stamps featuring the Square (looks like an upside-

down letter "V") the Level (looks like an upside-down letter "T"), and the Plumb (looks like the letter "I"). Those carpenter tools are used symbolically in Freemasonry (also called "Masonry") to represent the 3 principal officers of every lodge: the Master, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden. In modern language they would be titled the President, the Senior Vice President, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

## **Selvedge, Part 2**

(Part 1 about Selvedge appears in the March 1, 2017 *The Philatelikid*.)

Selvedge can be important to distinguish stamps with two different catalog numbers, but without the selvedge could not be distinguished from each other. For example, in 1934 the United States issued a series of 10 stamps featuring different National Parks, Scott # 740 through 749. There were perforated 11 and were gummed. The following year the exact same stamps were issued without perforations, which we stamp collectors call imperforate, or "imperf" for short. Scott Catalogue assigned numbers 756 through 765 to the imperf varieties.

Those imperf variety stamps were issued primarily for stamp collectors, who wanted the imperf variety of the perforated stamps because stamp collectors learned that the imperf variety had been made available to just a few people in the government, and their friends. The imperf varieties were all ungummed, but for people who wanted gum

on their stamps, the post office offered to gum them for free, if the stamp collector would send them to the post office and request gumming. Apparently very few sheets were gummed that way. Only recently has Scott listed them as a variety.

The exact same 1¢ imperf stamp was also issued in sets of 6, in a small souvenir



sheet issued by the post office on October 10, 1934 as part of a souvenir sheet for the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition held that year in Omaha, Nebraska, Scott 751. Those stamps were gummed. Each of those stamps could be cut from the souvenir sheet and used for postage, and some were. Without the selvedge that was on the souvenir sheet, a single stamp from the sheet,

Scott 756      Scott 751a      if in mint (unused) condition, is different from Scott 756

only because it is gummed. However, a used single stamp Scott 756 and a used single from the souvenir sheet (Scott 751a) are identical unless there is selvedge showing! A used single Scott 756 has a minimum catalog value, but a used single Scott 751a catalogs at \$1.60 !

## Stamp Collecting Club for Kids in Hawaii

The 2017-2018 school year kicked off in August, and we already have over 100 students who have signed up for the stamp club! On the first day of stamp club, every student who joined received a mint copy of the new USPS “Total Solar Eclipse” stamp. It has thermochromic ink which disappears when slightly heated, using the heat from a thumb or finger. This stamp was a big hit with the kids (and several teachers and staff who also stopped by the stamp club to see the stamp.) Luckily, we had a refrigerator nearby, so we could place the stamps in the refrigerator for about 15 seconds, thus bringing the black color back to the ink. Everybody enjoyed!

What do you think? Thoughtful comments are welcomed and will be published, so please feel free to write! (150 words or less, please.) Mail it to Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, Hawaii 96753-1809. It should be written as if the reader knows nothing about your topic, so beginners can understand it.

Visit our website at [www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org) or [www.yummystampcollecting.org](http://www.yummystampcollecting.org)

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