

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

## Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby) 2/1/19

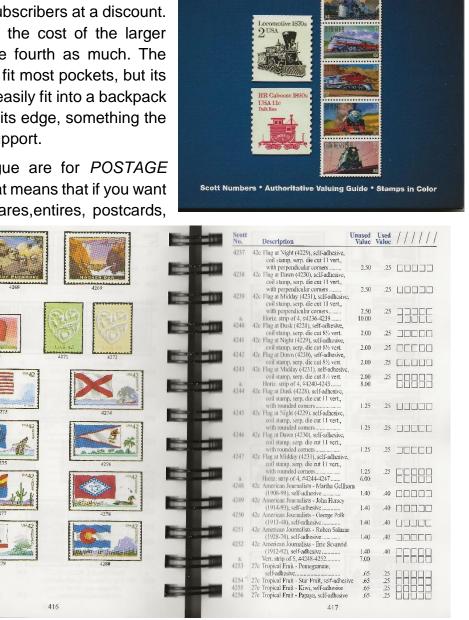
www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

## Book of the month

The Scott 2019 United States Pocket Stamp Catalogue is published by Amos Media (658 small pages) and is published only in a hard-bound spiral binding that permits the user to lay the book flat. That's one benefit that is not available in the larger version of the catalogue. The retail price is \$32.50, available to Linn's subscribers at a discount. That is about one fourth (1/4th) of the cost of the larger catalogue, and it weighs about one fourth as much. The "Pocket" catalogue probably will not fit most pockets, but its smaller size and weight will make it easily fit into a backpack or briefcase. It also will stand up on its edge, something the "big" catalogue cannot do without support.

The listings in this pocket catalogue are for POSTAGE stamps of the UNITED STATES. That means that if you want to collect revenue stamps, cut squares, entires, postcards,

essays, proofs, or stamps from Canal Zone, Hawaii, Ryukus, etc. they are not listed here. One exception is that "Duck Stamps" which are actually Hunting Permit stamps and are not valid for postage, listed. There are very few advertisements, mostly just other products available from Amos Media, and two ads located inside the front and back covers by stamp dealers, and one more ad on page 560 by Vidiforms advertising Company, stamp mounts. There are just 7 pages



SCOTT

2019

**United States Pocket** 

Catalogue

introduction, and there is no index. Just the basic stuff.

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The layout is not very good. Many of the stamps that are illustrated, all in color, are on pages that face a page that does not list those stamps! The above illustration shows how the stamps and the listing are not conveniently located next to each other. The stamp in the upper left corner of page 416, the Mount Rushmore \$4.80 stamp is listed on page 419.

The same unrealistic values that appear in the Specialized Catalogue are used in the Pocket version. Many of the post 1940 stamps have mint value listings that vastly exceed the amount they can be easily bought for, especially if purchased in multiples, like a pane of 100. Scott 5295, the Statue of freedom \$1 stamp currently for sale in every post office for face value of \$1, is listed at \$2. A used (cancelled) 899, the 1¢ Statue of Liberty stamp issued in 1940 is listed in mint at 25¢. It can be bought in bulk for face value of 1¢ each. But more amazingly, the used 899 (the same stamp) is also listed at 25¢. That stamp in used condition is essentially worth its weight in tonnage only.

About one third of every other page (the odd numbered pages) have columns of small squares - five across - to be used as the owner so desires, but probably for most of us, just a waste of space.

Like its larger version, there is nothing about many collecting areas that are very popular, such as First Day of Issue cachets, special cancellations, auxiliary markings, precancels and perfins. Without the stamp finder located in the larger version, finding a stamp in the Pocket version can be very challenging. Try to find a stamp featuring Agnes de Mille. This is a big drawback for topical collectors. It also is hard to make out some of the finer points of many stamps, such as what exactly does it say beneath "Ameripex 86" on Scott 2145.

Some things are not current, such as on page 14A the advice on where to get accessories:

## Your local stamp dealer probably stocks a variety of stamp albums and accessories Check the Yellow Pages....

All I can say about that is it has been a very long time since I had a local stamp dealer, and the dealers I am familiar with today often stock almost nothing in the way of accessories. Check the Yellow Pages.... (When was that written? Before the Internet was invented?)

In summary, if you are looking for just the basic Scott prices, and don't want much more else, and just postage stamps of the U.S., this small book may be just the thing for you.

What do you think? Thoughtful comments are welcomed and will be published, so please feel free to write! (250 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.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - <a href="https://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org">www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org</a>

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