

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

June 1, 2019

Strange things Stamp Collectors Save, Part II

If you have been collecting for a long time, you may have reached a point in your collection that you feel it is as complete as you care to make it. This may be because you have lost some of your interest in the subject or some other subject has become more interesting to you. It may be because you have found that acquiring more items in your particular field of interest is very difficult. For example, if you are collecting covers mailed from Kihei, Hawaii with a postmark between December 6 and December 8, 1941, you just might have every cover that was ever postmarked during that time frame, and there is nothing more to collect.

In collecting mint (unused) stamps there is a limited number of options once you have one copy of the stamp. You could try to improve the quality of the stamp you have by obtaining one that is better centered, or never hinged. You could collect multiples such as a plate block, or an entire pane. For some stamps you may be able to obtain an entire sheet, which is multiple panes on one piece of paper, prior to its being cut into individual panes. You might try to obtain various errors, if they exist, such as an over inked stamp, one without any perforations, one with partial perforations, or a stamp with a “perfin” – which is a series of small holes punched into the stamp by an individual or a company to identify the owner of the stamp prior to its being used.

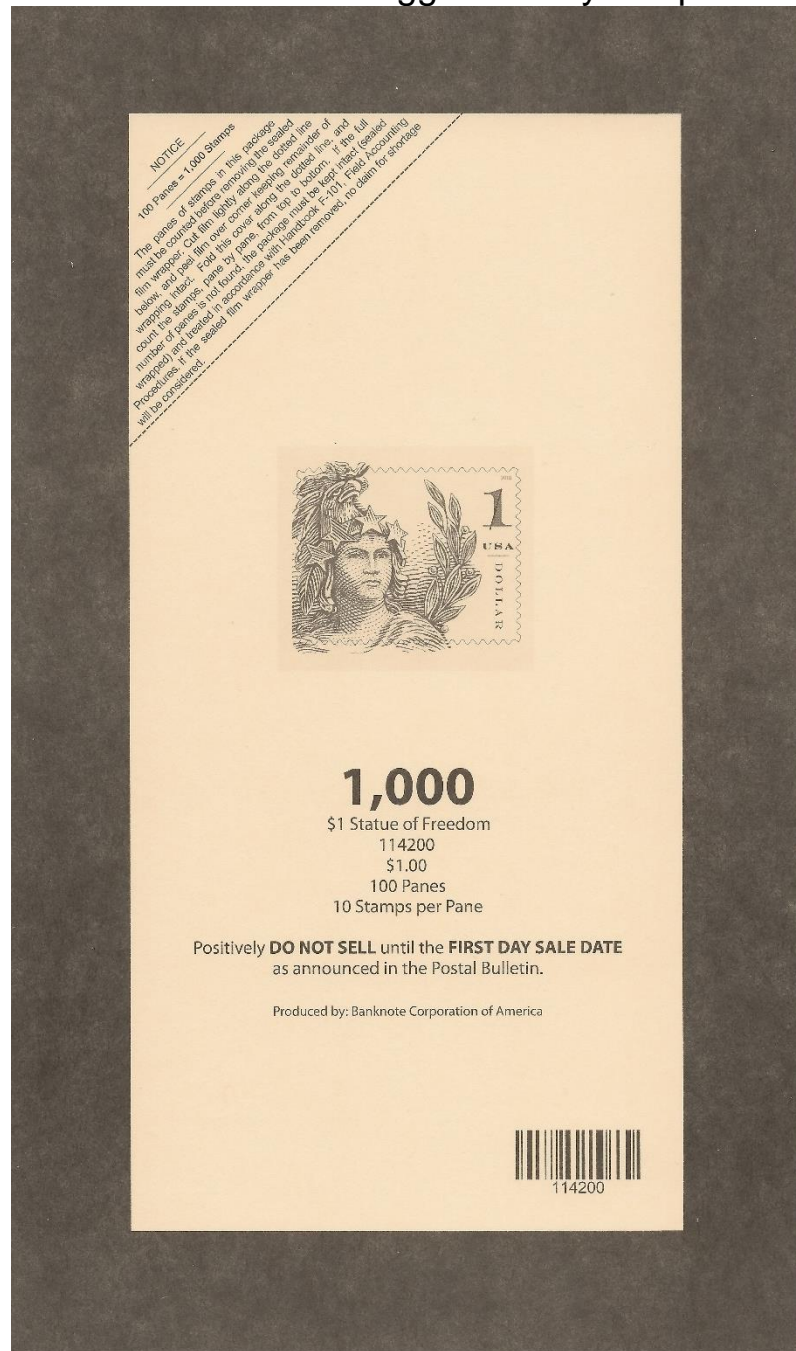
You may believe that no more is to be found, and quite frustratingly, you probably will never find out for sure. (“Probably” is because there is a tiny chance that you could obtain every copy of the stamp ever made, so you would then know for sure! But in most cases, that is impossible.)

So, what to do? Just “close the book” on stamp collecting? Of course not. May I suggest some options. One common option is to look for interesting cancellations on stamps. Another option is to begin collecting “postal history.” Postal History is a fancy term for used stamps still on the envelope or package on which it was used to sent an item through the mail. The is very popular, and become a lot of fun. The “hunt” for items in a specific group can be fairly easy, or quite difficult.

This month I want to suggest a very inexpensive type of collecting. The cost is zero.

What? Free?

Yes! Try collecting the cover pages for stamps shipped to post offices. These cover pages are the first page of each bundle of stamps, today wrapped in shrink wrap. Once the bundle is opened, the cover page of usually thrown away. But, if you have a friendly clerk at your local post office, he/she may be willing to save those for you. They make an interesting collection all by themselves, and also could be a nice addition to a collection specializing in a specific stamp. This is particularly fun to do in today's stamp collecting environment because with the advent of self-adhesive stamps, some areas of collecting have virtually disappeared. (Does anybody collect used plate blocks of self-adhesive stamps? If so, please let me know how you manage to do it!)



<<< Actual size and color, on buff colored paper.

As far as I can tell, there is no resale market for these cover pages, so don't expect your collection to ever have any significant value, but you never know, some day there just may be somebody who is willing to pay something for these items. Isn't it nice to collect something without having to always be concerned about the price!

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 - www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org