

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

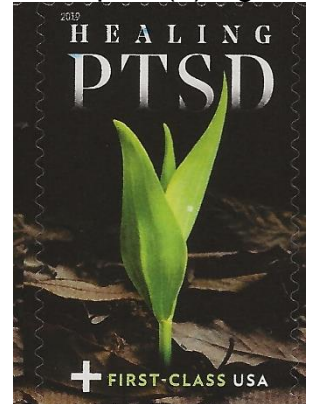
Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

January 1, 2020

Stamp of the Month

Once in a while (a very long while nowadays) a person runs across a stamp that has a little plus (+) sign on it. That plus sign indicates that when that stamp was purchased from the post office, the buyer paid a little over the face value of the stamp, and the additional amount is being collected by the post office, and then turned over to a charitable organization. These are semi-postal stamps. ("Semi-postals" for short.) Some countries like France and Germany have been doing this for many decades. France has issued over 700 semi-postal stamps, and Germany has issued over 1,000 semi-postal stamps. The United States has issued only six (6) different semi-postal stamps, with the sixth just being issued December 2nd. The PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) stamp is currently on sale at post offices, and costs 65¢, which is 55¢ for the postage and 10¢ for the charity. They are available in sheets of 20.



Take a look at the envelope in which this edition of *The Philatelikid* was mailed. It has one of these PTSD stamps on it, cancelled in the year in which it was issued (2019.) I'll bet there aren't too many of these stamps (other than FDC's) postally used in 2019, so your cover may be a scarce collector's item!

How Did We Get Here?

Almost everybody I have met over the past 30 years in the world of stamp collecting agrees that we have had a serious decline in people in our hobby, no matter what measurement you may use. We can measure number of stamp clubs, number of members in APS, number of stamp dealers, number of stamp publications, and so forth. The focus of Stamp Collecting Clubs For Kids has always been to make stamp collecting fun and interesting, with a big emphasis on FUN. We have always met in public schools. Attending stamp club meetings has never been mandatory. Every child who joins the stamp clubs does it voluntarily, and in fact it is a privilege to attend the meetings. Each child who attends stamp club has to give up a recess period of outside play. Nevertheless, every year the number of students who have joined has been approximately half of all the students in the school. Stamp collecting every year is very popular among girls, and every year they comprise about 2/3rds of the membership. Every year we have many returning students from the previous year, and we have some students graduating out of elementary school who have been members every year that they were in the school. We give out thousands of stamps to students at the end of every year so that they can keep collecting in the summer months. The students enjoy stamp club, and it is not uncommon to see them linger longer than they are supposed to, getting back to class late.

How did I ever get to this point? I began collecting stamps in 1957 at the age of 9, and have never had a day since that I did not consider myself an active collector. My father began collecting in his youth in the 1920's, and had quite a nice collection by the time I was old enough to appreciate it. My mother caught the collecting bug and was actively collecting for over thirty years, up to her death at age 90. Two of my sons,

now in their 40's, are active collectors and belong to the APS and other stamp organizations. I have exhibited and enjoyed it, but found I cared little about trophies and found that very few youth or beginners ever see exhibits, and when they do, they almost always find very little, if anything, of interest.

I am interested in just about every aspect of stamp collecting, including areas that are not exactly stamp collecting, such as collecting cancellations, Christmas seals, revenue stamps, postcards (deltiology), and souvenir cards. On recent years, most of my efforts and energy have been related to youth, and beginners in stamp collecting, including giving speeches related to youth stamp collecting, and working youth and beginner booths at stamp shows. I have created and run stamp collecting meetings on Cruises aboard Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Lines. During the past 15 years I have been working on writing two books related to stamp collecting. (One is more of a catalog.) There is rarely a day that goes by when I am not reading, researching, or writing something about our hobby.

I am not opposed to any efforts made by any stamp collecting organization to promote our hobby, but from my viewpoint, the efforts have been highly unsuccessful. I am also disheartened to see what level of importance many of our prestigious stamp collecting organizations place on making stamp collecting fun and interesting to youth and beginners. Looking at some organizations' financial statements, it is sometimes hard to even find the expenditures for the future of our hobby, and then they often represent less than one tenth (1/10) of the expenditures. I believe there is wisdom in the old saying that one can tell a person's priorities by where that person spends time and money.

In last month's *The Philatelikid* was printed, unedited, a letter received from the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, an organization I strongly support. Among other points, the letter suggested sending a donation to the APS to further its goals, which were listed along with various recent accomplishments.

I joined the APS in 2002, many years after I should have, when I finally realized it had a lot more to offer than just servicing collectors in the Eastern part of the United States, an impression I unfortunately had because I knew of nobody who was a member, or at least spoke favorable about it, and in 2006 I proudly became a Life Member. I am a member of the Tiffany Club at the APS, and have used many areas of the organization, including the library, stamp sales, circuit sales, and expertising. I have visited the headquarters in Bellefonte, PA four times, even though it is not close to where I live (in Hawaii.) I have attended numerous stamp club meetings, local, regional, national and international stamp shows. I have served on Boards of Directors of stamp organizations. I have written many articles for publication and attended in person many stamp auctions. I have created some pretty amazing collections, and have exhibited on local, regional, and national levels. In short, stamp collecting is a big part of my life. I would like to see this hobby prosper and continue on in the future, long after I am gone.

In terms of money, I have spent a fair amount on my own collecting interests in the past 6 decades, but I also have donated something north of \$40,000 to the hobby. I believe in stamp collecting, and have certainly received a lot from this hobby in both in terms of knowledge, friendships as well as fun.

Personally, I consider stamp collecting primarily to be the act of organizing stamps into albums. My own personal interests, as I have said above, reach far beyond just that. However, the beginning of my interests in this hobby originated in having a stamp album and putting stamps into it. Most others I have met had a similar beginning with stamp collecting. So far, I have **not** met many people who decided to collect stamps because they thought it would "further their education." I have met a few people who (by now are very disheartened) thought they could "invest" well in stamps, especially mint stamps issued by the USPS. I believe that the mentoring I received, as did many others, is what got me "hooked." I believe that still is the best way to create new stamp collectors.



Recent donation – interesting historical item no longer allowed by the USPS – a **leather** postcard, about as flexible as a pair of leather gloves – maybe more flexible! Mailed on October 3, 1906, from Des Moines Iowa to Arlington Iowa, 172 miles away.



To the right is a map of India, a huge country with an incredible history for stamp collectors. If you look at Scott, India number 1 was a stamp that was not placed in use, so to me the first stamp really was Scott number 2, which today has a catalog value of under \$50 – pretty affordable for a stamp that was issued in 1854! The country has issued over 3,000 different stamps, and if you want to really get into it, look up the Indian States such as Bhopal, Chamba, Cochin, Gwalior, Indore, Jaipur, Jind, Kashmir, Las Bela, Nabha, Nowanuggur (and many more) which issued stamps of their own, valid for postage.

Page at right is Courtesy of The Youth Philatelic Traveler, February, 2007

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 or www.yummystampcollecting.org which will redirect you to the same site.

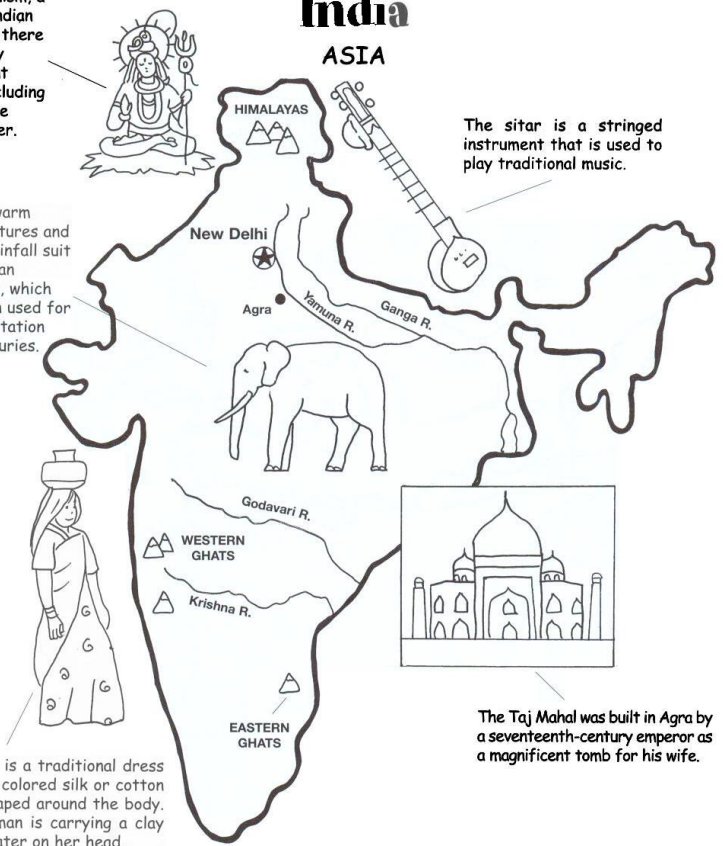
In Hinduism, a major Indian religion, there are many different gods, including Shiva the Destroyer.

India's warm temperatures and heavy rainfall suit the Indian elephant, which has been used for transportation for centuries.

The sari is a traditional dress made of colored silk or cotton cloth draped around the body. This woman is carrying a clay jar of water on her head.

India

ASIA



The sitar is a stringed instrument that is used to play traditional music.

The Taj Mahal was built in Agra by a seventeenth-century emperor as a magnificent tomb for his wife.



Indian Flag

Fast Facts

In 1947, India gained independence from the United Kingdom and is the largest stable democracy in the world today, with more than 300 million people voting in general elections. India is an industrial power, but most people still make their livings from tiny farms.

CAPITAL: New Delhi
 AREA: 1,269,350 square miles
 POPULATION: 1,065,070,607
 LANGUAGE: Hindi

CURRENCY: Rupee
 MAIN EXPORTS: textiles, gems, engineering goods, chemicals, leather

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