

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

March 1, 2020

Where is Bethesda Fountain?



Those familiar with the Holy Bible will recognize Bethesda (John 5:2) as a pool in Jerusalem where a paralyzed man was healed. In the United States, a town in Maryland named Bethesda is where the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is headquartered, as well as the Bethesda Naval Base, where Walter Reed Hospital is located, just 7 miles north of Washington, D.C.

For the location of Bethesda Fountain, see the end of this newsletter, *The Philatelikid*.

One Way to Collect Modern Mint Self-Adhesive Stamps

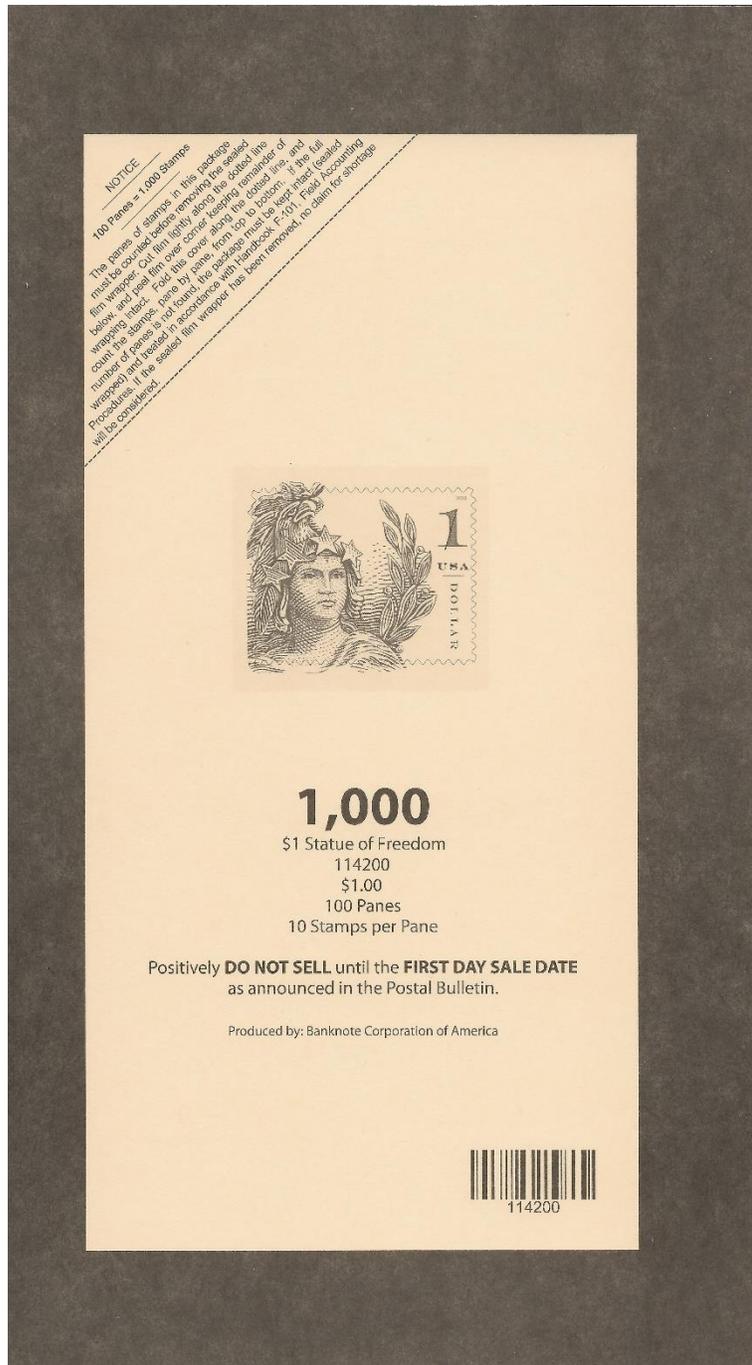
Modern self-adhesive stamps are sold on a “liner” paper from which the stamp is peeled just prior to being affixed to an envelope. For collectors who use hinges to mount their stamps, this creates a problem because no hinge will adhere to the wax-paper liner. That leaves two other possibilities: (1) the stamp can be peeled and then placed directly into the album, or (2) the stamp can be affixed to a small piece of paper, trimmed to allow about ¼ inch around the perforations, then hinged and mounted. This also works well for stamp collectors who have hingeless albums because placing a mint self-adhesive stamp into a hingeless album requires the stamp, if kept on the backing paper, to be cut, or torn, from the rest of the pane of stamps. Some panes come with die cuts through the backing paper, making this easy. But... normally when the stamp is separated from the pane, using the die cuts that pre-existed, there will be small amounts of perforation tips that are exposed on one or more sides. This means that those perforation tips will stick to the hingeless album! Future removal from the album could result in damage to the perforations, not to mention “disturbed gum.”

Leap Day – February 29, 2020

This March 1st edition of The Philatelikid is being mailed on Leap Day. There are stamp collectors who collect postmarks for just Leap Days, which occur only once every four years, meaning a cancellation dated February 29th occurs only once every 1,461 days! They are pretty hard to find!

Collecting Postmarks

Stamp collectors often collect things related to stamps, but which are NOT stamps. There are collectors who like to collect postmarks. A postmark contains the city, state, and date mailed, and sometimes even the time mailed. In modern times the zip code is included on the postmark. A postmark can be entirely on a stamp, thus creating what is called a “sock-on-the-nose” (SON) postmark, or the postmark can be nearby but entirely off the stamp – on the envelope, or, it can be partially on the stamp and partly on the envelope. The partly on-partly off postmark is said to “tie” the stamp to the envelope.



There are many ways that stamps tied to an envelope can be collected. One popular way is to collect a stamp on its first day that it is available for sale, called the First Day of Issue. (FDOI). In fact, there is a philatelic society just for people who collect FDOI's. It is the American First Day Cover Society. It has an interesting and informative website at www.afdcs.org. Check it out!

Other popular ways postmarks are collected are by certain dates (such as Valentine's Day), certain years (try to get a postmark for every day in 1970, or some year that is special to you), and different cities and states. The Post Mark Collectors Club's website is www.postmarks.org.

Something Free to Collect

Next time you are at your local post office ask the clerks to save for you the cover page to the packages of stamps they receive. The cover [page has no value, and once opened, is usually thrown away. They are printed on a light cardboard and show a black and white picture of the stamps, along with information about the printer and a caution to not sell the stamps prior to the official first day. To the left is an image of the \$1 Statue of Freedom Cover Sheet. It comes with the black border.

Bethesda Fountain is located in Central Park, New York City, at the southeastern edge of Central Park Lake. Construction of the fountain began in 1861, during the Civil War, and was completed in 1873. The name of statue standing at the center of the fountain is the Angel of the Waters.

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.

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