

The Cover Story

What is in your Library? by Phil Fettig

Unlike the commercial on television, I'm not interested in what is in your wallet, only your Philatelic Library. No matter what your collecting interest is, somewhere there are books that can help your efforts and increase your pleasure.

I will start with books for the general worldwide collector. *Linn's Stamp Identifier* (Figure 1, on Front Cover) is a small reference, but is packed with information. You do not need to be fluent in foreign languages, just look up the stamp inscription in the alphabetical listing. Next are alphabet tables and then 70 pages of illustrations. This has a low price and is readily available.

Next is *This is Philately* by Kenneth A. Wood (Figure 2, on Front Cover). This three volume set contains much of the information in the Linn's identifier but has a multitude of additional topics. Information is provided on technical aspects of stamp production, stamp collecting terms and maps, just to mention a few. This reference is out of print, but can be located online starting around \$40.00 and is a welcome addition to any philatelic library.

The last mention for the general collector is a real masterpiece of philatelic knowledge. *Fundamentals of Philately* (Figure 3, on Front Cover) by L.N. Williams is published by the American Philatelic Society. This large book covers paper, watermarks, design, printing, ink and gum, among other subjects, in great depth. It is available from several sources, starting with the APS, and at a variety of cost from \$40 - \$60.

Everybody is familiar with Scott's Catalogs that cover the world. There are many other specialized catalogs that cover individual foreign countries. They are very helpful, even in non-English formats. You can search online to find these items, look up philatelic book dealers, or if you need help to get started, just ask me.

For the U.S. collector, the choices are both simple to start and then almost never ending for specialized material. We will start with Scott's Specialized Catalog. If you don't go any further than reading all the material in the first 90 or so pages, you will be ahead of many collectors. In you decide on early U.S. material, you can't go wrong with *The Scott Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps* (Figure 4, on Front Cover). The late Charles Micarelli, a former member and President of the Central Florida Stamp Club, developed this reference that clears up some of the identification problems when dealing with early U.S. It is readily available at \$39.95.

At this point I need to call a temporary halt. If I had the time and space the article could go on to list books on: a single stamp, a stamp series, stamps issued in a century, gum, paper, printing, color, watermarks, grills, coils, booklets....and on it goes! And, don't forget – we didn't even get around to mentioning covers. Now, for a challenge – if enough interest is shown, I can present a program showing these items and many more. It all starts with a little interest...and a book!

[Editor's Note: The pictures to the right are part of my reference library. I developed a love for the Scotts Catalogs – so I have made an effort to acquire as many of them as possible. The earliest one in the group is from 1880. They make for interesting reading -- especially if you view them from the perspective of the time frame of issue.]



Contest Time!

Why do I always look? by Phil Fettig

When breaking down collections or postage lots, there are some issues I always stop and take a more serious look at. **Why is this block of U.S. #1460 issued in 1972 of special interest?**

Submit your answer in writing to the Editor no later than 8:20pm at the first meeting of February. E-mail before the meeting date is also good. Duplicate correct answers will result in a drawing for one \$10 door prize.



New Additions to the Library by Newton Kulp

The total number of items in the Club's Library recently increased to 32 with the addition of three new donations.

The three books, all published by The Collectors Club of Chicago, are hardback books printed on glossy paper in a large 9 by 11¼ inch size. The three books are *Ten-Cent 1869 Covers – A Postal Historical Survey* by Michael Laurence published in 2010; *The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946* by Robert B. Morgan published in 2003; and *First United States Perforated Stamps – The 1857 Issue* by Jon W. Rose published in 2005.

If you wish to borrow any one of these books or any of the 29 other books and CD's please email Newt Kulp at newton@kulp.com and he'll bring them to the club meeting.

For a full list of the items available for loan, please see the Club's website.