

Why Not? by Michael Rogers

A while ago, I decided to collect mint worldwide stamps to 1940. I have always been a fan of blank pages. Simply filing in the printed album pages seems too orderly. Sometimes stamps will come along with marginal inscriptions for which I consider almost sinful to detach. I will mount postal history on blank pages. Say an envelope used in the time period is chosen to give a sense of how the stamps were used. Advertising covers, crash covers! Following my rules for my albums, you get a sense that my albums explode with life. Good!

Many years ago, Scott Publications came out with a five volume Brown International hard covered set, 1840-1940. Somewhere along the line, another company was able to reproduce the pages from this set, printed on one side of the page. The primary source is Subway Stamp Shop on the web (www.subwaystampshop.com) and toll free 800-221-9960, ask for John.

Have you ever wanted to buy a collection at auction without viewing it first? The rule is “over 10 stamps, the auction lot cannot be returned”. It is one thing to buy stamps which will be absorbed into a larger collection but how would you feel to spend a lot of money and receive material for which you have no use at all?

Months ago I attended an auction. In the catalog appeared a lot I had not viewed which sounded right up my alley: couple thousand European stamps up to 1940 mint/used on Scott pages, better material included. I bid, I bought. Oy! When I was home, I was crestfallen to discover only 15 stamps were mint and the rest were used. Not an accurate description! Still, I paid fair money for what I received.

I'm not one to complain unless I absolutely have to, and I suppose that if I'd gone to the wall, I would not have retained the lot. But as I looked over the collection, the more appealing it became. I put it to the side with a grin and pondered what to do. Collecting “Used” became one of those “Why Not?” quandaries, as I thought it through.

Collecting “Used” means having the opportunity to branch out into lots of side doors. I was born in 1949, so I could try a calendar collection of 366 stamps each bearing a different postmark for all the days of the year. Challenging. Or pick any stamp and display town cancels or shades. When I collected China, I had a lot of fun with English language postmarks. I enjoy United States 1st, 2nd and 3rd issue revenues with printed cancels of which there are many different.

No lie, those international pages take up a lot of room and they are costly. I bided my time, and lucky boy that I am, a partial set of the same pages, albeit used, 1900-1940 came up on eBay, where I bought it for \$245 postpaid. They were punched for the blue International binder. A most unusual listing.

Scott binders are so well made that I am well satisfied buying a used binder (\$10) instead of new (\$50). Being frugal makes a difference since I'm up to thirty-odd Scott binders. I have a mixture of used and new binders, depending how patient I was when I needed them.

Both the mint and used collections are re-arranged geographically. I tend to concentrate on the areas that I have had the least experience with: Central & South America, and Europe. That which I don't care for, I simply skip.

Thanks to the super active Hollywood Stamp Club, I added more Internationals to my used collection, extending the collection to 1959. Weekly, 70 or more club members participate in the auction as so much material is available. Collecting the world means I'll never run out of something to collect.

Doctor's orders for a healthy and happy retirement? Play with my stamp collection! Go to the stamp club. Friends + stamps = big smile.

Phil's Corner by Phil Fettig

I suspect that sometimes I talk about submarines more than I do about stamps. Well, I guess I can't help it since they played a big part in my life. Recently I discovered another person that might have had an interest and I would have loved to find out what the connection was! **Figure 1** shows a rather routine naval cover that did interest me for a few reasons. The USS CACHALOT is a submarine built in the early 1930s. The name is an alternate identity for a Sperm Whale. It caught my interest on eBay because I knew she was in Pearl Harbor when World War II started and was involved in major operations in the 1942-3 period. After newer replacement subs arrived, the CACHALOT finished the war as a training boat in New London, CT. I suspect the patriotic label was added long after the cancellation date because of the subject matter and the fact we were not at war yet.



Figure 1

correctly, Slavia at the time. He was the Pastor there until his death in 1955. Mrs. Tuhy lived in Lutheran Haven until her death in 1988 and was survived by several children and great-grandchildren. Both Tuhys are buried in St. Luke's Cemetery. I have too many other projects to work on, so I will probably never follow up to find out more but I know the next time we drive out to Lukas Nursery, I'll be wondering! My final thought for you is – see what looking at just one philatelic item can lead to? It can be as much fun --- and interesting as you want to make it.

Images from the history of Slavia.

The town officially never seemed to have existed, kind of like many in Central Florida like Plymouth. The Mikler family was one of the founding families. The left two pictures are of the Mikler family circa early 1910s, along with the family gravesite. The other two photos show Slavia's unloading station, with the general store in the background and finally the gas station.

