

TOO MUCH SPARE TIME!!

by Stephen L. Strobel

Everybody, regardless of one's situation, has had a lot of alone time; more than most of us really wanted! We want to be busy with our clubs, volunteering for our interests, museums, traveling or visiting with others. Home projects (work jobs), movies on Netflix, catching up on our reading backlog are all worthwhile, but personally, I don't mind being a little behind in those areas.

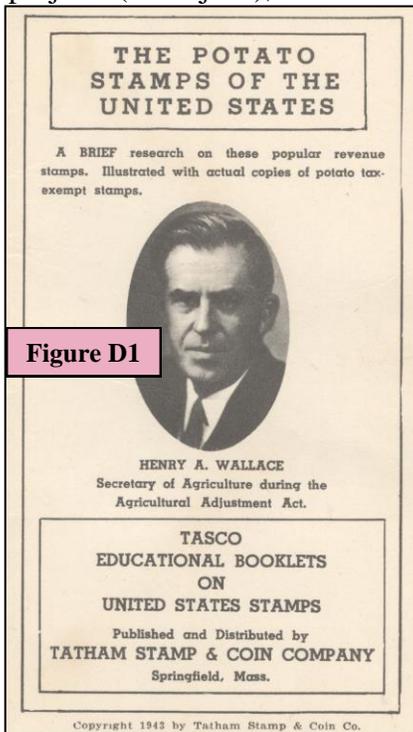


Figure D1

So, after reading our latest newsletter, *The Philatelic Missive*; I became inspired to write another article. I hope you like it. I enjoyed the extra inserts that others contributed. But I did notice an underlying thread that connected them all. Regardless whether we consider ourselves as philatelists, collectors, or accumulators, we all have some very eclectic wants. This is demonstrated so well in our well-produced CFSC Bourse. This month's newsletter is even further proof; Mike had some interesting postal history from one of his covers. Francis is obsessed with matching coil plate numbers (among other things). Josh loves pre-cancels. Steve is a self-proclaimed accumulator. Who knew there was a specific word for accumulating matchbooks, besides hoarding? And well John, an Englishman, to admit to learning something new and admitting to a previous error was outstanding! Phil's knowledge is extensive. His piece including the bats was interesting as well. I had recently seen that very bat item mentioned on a television show. When he said, "Dr. Adams and the U. S. Government actually worked on this plan, but it was a futile effort." The program, I think was "Mysteries of the Abandoned", showed a burning building at a Carlsbad, NM base started by experimenting with the bats with incendiary bombs attached to them. And although Francis said: "returning to a more normal size newsletter format!", I guess I will continue my efforts to contribute more material.

I did like one of Josh's statements in particular; "so, here's a brand-new collectable for all of you whose current collections have become so good that you can't afford to add to them".

I collect several philatelic things myself, among others. The list seems long, but Josh had a good point. I used to be an apiarist and collected worldwide only bees on stamps, not insects. I quit that as I am no longer a beekeeper. I used to raise thousands of orchids as well, so I collected orchids on stamps, but there were so many CTO's it hardly proved worthwhile or satisfying. I quit that. I really grew up coveting the Farley's and I think now I have exhausted that area as well. If any of you read one of my articles about the Florida state revenue stamps, specifically relating to citrus, I will continue to collect them, but I feel like I really reached the pinnacle with the addition of the elusive stamp for limes. So, another area that has recently piqued my interests is the TASCO educational booklets.

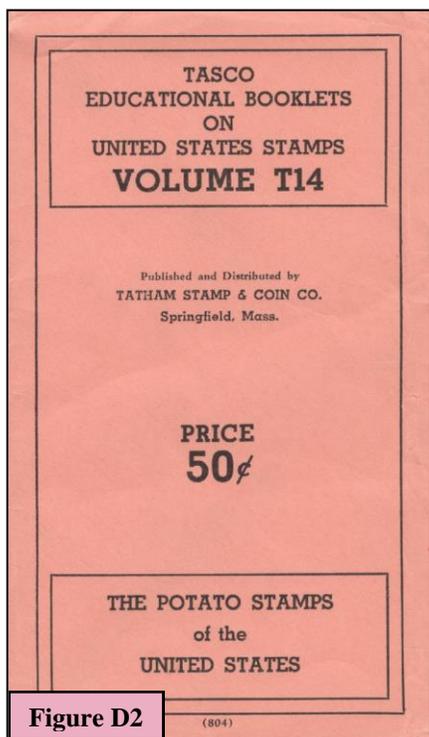


Figure D2

The Tatham Stamp & Coin Company (TASCO) was originally located in West Springfield, Mass. in the Tatham neighborhood, the source of the company's name. They moved to Springfield where they had a large store and mail order business. While

starting in 1928 in the original building, they moved to the second building and by 1948, their 20th anniversary, they were employing 40 people. After those two moves, they moved again and continued for ten years in a third larger store of more than 4,000 square feet until 1958 when they closed the business. Tatham not only sold stamps but promoted stamp collecting with their TASCOS booklets explaining many difficult areas of U.S. collecting. Howard E. McIntosh founded the company in 1928. The business was very successful, and the booklets were popular with stamp collectors. The company's 15 booklets were produced between 1938-1943. The booklets included real postage stamps to illustrate the topic of each booklet. They are either bi-fold or trifold printed on thick cream-colored card stock. The size of 3.25 by 5.75 inches pocket sized guides helped collectors identify different hard to identify stamps. They were originally priced from 15 cents to \$1.50. Today they can cost considerably more depending on quality, completeness, and the subject.

The owner of the company committed suicide and died on September 5, 1958. Henry Evanson and his partner Arthur Morin bought the company from the estate that same year. The partnership was dissolved in 1960 and they sold the business and the name but retained some inventory. Henry Evanson formed a new company named after the street he lived on. For legal reasons, The Spruceland Stamp & Coin Company sold the booklets as the 'Spruceland Variety' of the TASCOS booklets that are listed separately in the new TASCOS Handbook/Catalog. He continued to sell stamps mail order and at shows until his death in 1994.

The original company along with the booklets marketed a variety of other items as well. Among some of the items known to exist from one of their catalogs of 100 pages from 1955, that I have, include Christmas seal albums, all kinds of stamps, covers, packets, albums, and accessories. Gayland G. Bird was the Editor and Publisher of the 'new' *Bird's Handbook of Tatham Stamp and Coin Company Products*. There were four copyrights of 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012. It is a very nice catalog with an 8.5 by 11-inch format and 50 pages. As I said earlier, there are 15 booklets all prefaced by a 'T' number.

They are as follows:

T1	The one and two cent issues of 1890 to 1898	[Booklets 5, Envelopes 5]
T2	The one cent issues of 1870 to 1888	[Booklets 3, Envelopes 5]
T3	The three cent issues of 1870 to 1887	[Booklets 2, Envelopes 5]
T4	The two cent issues of 1908 to 1920	[Booklets 2, Envelopes 4]
T5	The three cent issues of 1908 & 1920	[Booklets 1, Envelopes 5]
T6	Postage stamps of the Confederate States	[Booklets 6, Envelopes 8]
T7	Insert for the above booklet, blocks of four	[Booklets 1, Envelopes 3]
T8	The two cent issues of 1922 to 1938	[Booklets 3, Envelopes 4]
T9	The two cent Columbian Exposition issue of 1893	[Booklets 4, Envelopes 6]
T10	The three cent issues of 1851 to 1860	[Booklets 3, Envelopes 6]
T11	Booklet panes of the United States	[Booklets 4, Envelopes 3]
T12	The paper used for stamped envelopes 1853-1943	[Booklets 1, Envelopes 2]
T13	The Future Delivery stamps of the United States 1918-1938	[Booklets 4, Envelopes 5]
T14	The Potato Stamps of the United States [Figure D1 & D2]	[Booklets 3, Envelopes 2]
T15	Boy Scouts of America	[Booklets 1, Envelopes 1]

It can also be noted that there are multiple types of the various booklets along with various types of their individual envelopes. This makes for a staggering number of individual items with 43 booklets and 64 envelopes for a total of 107 individual items. Happy hunting!

[Editor's note: While one would think these items should be able to be found and purchased – good luck with that thought. While some can be found easily -- most of them are rare and virtually impossible to find in any condition. After nearly 3 years of hunting, I own not even one-half of the total items in the list.]