

The Sarasota National Stamp Show by The Editor

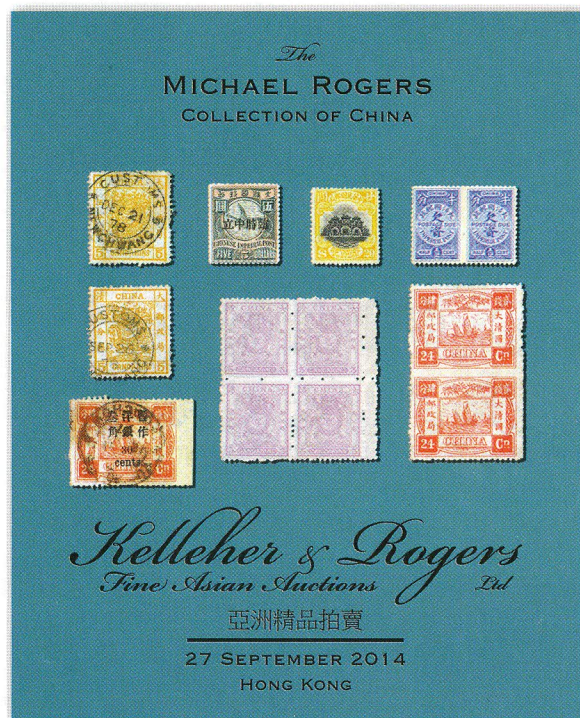
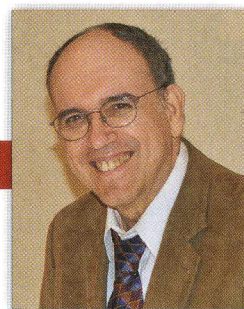
I have to say – Sarasota in February is a nice experience. It reminds one, why Florida is preferred over upstate NY! The Sarasota National Stamp Show (SNSS) has morphed from the roots established in 1952 into a World Series of Philately event as of 1975. FLOREX is slightly senior to SNSS having origins in 1949. The show for many years has been held in the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium located a stone-throw from the waterfront. The facility is bright with a high arched ceiling which allows in a lot of natural light. With 36 dealers in attendance, 200 frames of exhibits and a health crowd of folks, the venue seems rather stuffed full. During the three days I spent there, I did notice numerous members of the CFSC who made the trek south. Many folks could be found happily hunting through dealer stock – in search of that one great item that made the trip worthwhile.



Reminiscences

By Michael Rogers

Simplifying & Downsizing



Like many of my peers, at age 65, I am simplifying life by downsizing. I am pursuing a well-trodden course. Michael Rogers Inc. has been absorbed by Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions. No longer do I have the responsibilities of running a business; now I have joined the Kelleher Company, buying and accepting consignments. I truly enjoy being on the road, meeting folks in their home or at shows.

No lie; it was very tough parting with a namesake business that I have worked at my whole adult life. Saying goodbye to employees who had been with me for years wasn't easy. In order to ascertain whether I could emotionally handle the sale, I purposely stayed away from my last two auctions. I'm adjusting.

The Kelleher folks did me proud by renaming their Hong Kong auction house "Kelleher and Rogers," a great honor as I see it. For the first series of Kelleher & Rogers auctions, I consigned my own China collection. Realizations were impressive. Now I can walk collectors through the process of selling their stamps in Hong

Kong, using my collection as an example.

Initially, I wasn't a traditional China collector. I would hold onto souvenirs that reminded me of career highlights or key friendships. When I sold Bob Cihak's collection at auction, I purchased a coiling dragon franked card that I fancied. Likewise, the German Offices in China card that depicted a fierce standing German warrior in combat came from Tony Herbert's collection at my auction.

On the flip side, I ventured into a 1983 conversation with the great student of Chinese large dragons, Phillip Ireland. Responding to the question whether it was possible

to form a calendar collection of postmarks, that is, 365 different dates forming the year, Ireland gave me a loud, roundabout answer which included his visit to the Turkish Dardanelles Islands. He ended it by exclaiming "What a stupid question!" I thought to myself, he doesn't know the answer. I should have collected large dragons then. Soon enough, I would know.

I waited until 2007 when I purchased a Scott China album to begin my calendar postmark collection on large dragons. Carefully I plotted out lines, allocating the proper number of spaces per month. Because I see so much material, I made things maddeningly more difficult by requiring each specimen to be cancelled on the nose, postmarks including the month, day and year. Finding first year '1878' postmarks scored realizations of ten times Scott catalogue when my collection sold in Hong Kong!

Stamps and postal history items of great sentimental value went into the albums. Filling the printed spaces in the albums came next. I had a China stock! Elusive material was acquired from auctions.

I have a keen eye. I paid dear prices with-

out regard to prevailing market valuations because I have always taken the long view. A stellar piece comes up infrequently. That which seems expensive likely is viewed as a bargain down the road.

Winter Park, Florida has been my home over forty years. I'm relocating to south Florida within ten miles of family. Just north of Ft. Lauderdale is a beachfront condo that I am renovating. Not that the unit needed that much or that it ever will be finished.

Ever a cautious one, I investigated the rules of safeguarding my stamp collection from mildew and dampness. I started with a philatelist friend named Austin Foo who was raised in Malaysia. Austin responded to my concerns with the name of a Malaysian collector organization website. Malaysian philatelists know how to deal with the tropical climate.

Austin and I are members of www.stampboards.com ("You ask the questions") An international online forum, participants debate answers to each other's questions. A valued source.

Amazon sell containers intended for cameras that protect delicate parts from humidity. Dry box cabinets large enough to accommodate stamp albums are available. Albums go in slipcases to protect page edges. Bookshelves which hold stamp albums should have a door front to further inhibit mildew and dampness. Buy a dehumidifier. Always keep the air conditioning running.

Does it sound like overkill? I have seen my share of toned perforations, stuck stamps and wrinkled mounts; these in stamp albums perched on top of a closet. Tis better to be prepared.

Call me semiretired. Based in south Florida for my Kelleher road trips, I will have a less stressful life living on the beach. I will be free for more writing. There are collections to remount, covers to describe. Yes, I am looking forward to south Florida. ☒