

So Many Stamps, So Little Time, Part II by Michael Rogers

Want to collect worldwide stamps? Looking at the six-volume Scott catalogs A-Z, a serious effort seems like a daunting proposition. I've seen collections made up of hundreds of one inch thick home-made notebooks as well as one room ringed by shelves covered with Scott International 1840-2015, 100+ volumes, counting 16,000 pages, numbering 200,000+ stamps. Awesome!

At Winter Park Stamp Shop, I'd suggest a loose leaf United States or Worldwide stamp album of no great cost to introduce philately to a youngster or adult. With an outlay of \$20 to \$30, and a few months- time, more than a few turned into real stamp collectors. It was delightful seeing the transition, a sense of real accomplishment.

Now it became my turn. As you can imagine, in my travels, I have seen just about every which way of collecting. After forming quite a few single country collections, I thought I would change direction and try my hand in collecting US/WW 1840-1940. That's still a heck of a lot of stamps.

I'm in south Florida now. Having sold my auction company and put my Winter Park condo on the market, moving close to family, I'm transitioning to retirement. I'm told guys my age run out of things to do about four months after relocating here. Ladies do just fine because they are more social, but guys have a harder time. Following a routine of reading, beach, volunteering and what not sounds great, but after a while, it gets stale.

Stamp dealers will factor into a transaction the type of mount the stamps are in. Whoa be it if a collection come in with Crystal Mounts or PM mounts; taking it apart might be more labor intensive than the profit potential. But now the shoe is on the other foot. Right now I am taking apart a Paraguay collection where the stamps were encased in a thin plastic lining that has to be slit on three sides. I'm having fun doing it.

Looking over the Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps & Covers gave me a road map on what to expect. Fortunately a loose leaf album allows me to open the binder and pull out the pages for what I haven't an interest in as well as add blank pages when I want to expand. Now that I knew what I wanted to collect, I needed to find the right album.

I purchased a two volume collection housed in Scott 1840-1940 International albums. Right off I had some problems. The pages are printed back to back so without glassine interleaving, stamps facing each other would jostle against each other. Quite a bit of editing was apparent. What I collect, I tend to do full steam ahead so I wanted to see as much completeness as possible. Blank pages, here we go.

John T. of Subway Stamp Shop told me about their reproductions of the Scott Big Brown International Albums, actually the five part hardbound set which ran from 1840-1940. I went online to research them. Collector websites opined that a drawback was since these are reproductions of actual album pages designed many years ago, you're stuck with any omissions or short sets.

The stats are impressive: 5,100 pages, printed on one side pages, accompanied by 19 dust cases and the same number of 2-post deluxe brown padded leather-like albums. The price is impressive as well -- \$2000!

Well, I went ahead and bought the Subway Big Brown International Repro set. First thing to do -- and it was a doozy -- was taking the cellophane off the units and working the parts together chronologically. This is no easy task. Bet it took about a week. Some back of the book titles weren't labeled correctly which I fixed by photo copying a correct page and doing the relabeling. I didn't mind the effort because I have lots of free time.

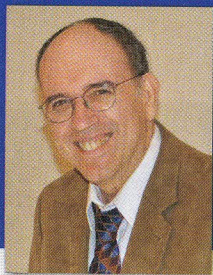
Well I do remember the demand for country album pages. They are right here, albeit up to 1940.

Try searching for clean Guatemala pages. True, in very limited cases have I noticed stamps eliminated. Only one set of China Large Dragons (1-3) and Small Dragons (10-2), as well as Chile 124-6 are noted, but that can be corrected with blank pages.

I give the Subway Big Brown International a big thumb's up. (1-800-221-9960 or www.subwaystamp.com)

Ecclesiastes: To everything there is a season. My Mom observes that I was a collector at age 7, then a stamp dealer, and still collecting at age 67.

[Editor's Note: Another article that Mike Rogers wrote about this subject can be found in July 2016 issue, Insert C.]



Reminiscences

By Michael Rogers

Collecting Worldwide?

Want to collect worldwide stamps? To make a serious effort, it seems like a daunting proposition. I've seen collections made up of hundreds of one inch thick home-made notebooks as well as one room ringed by shelves covered with Scott International 1840-2015, 100+ volumes, counting 16,000 pages, covering 200,000+ stamps. Awesome!

In my Winter Park Stamp Shop, I'd suggest a loose leaf United States or Worldwide stamp album of no great cost to introduce philately to a youngster or adult. With an outlay of \$20 to \$30, and a few months time, more than a few turned into real stamp collectors. It was delightful seeing the transition, a feeling of real accomplishment. The stamp shop had a 29 year run.

I'm in south Florida, in a high rise facing the ocean. As I went on the road trips for auction consignments and such, it occurred to me that I would like to try my hand in collecting US/WW 1840-1940. I sure don't have the room for all those volumes beyond a certain point.

I gave a talk at the Orlando Stamp Club once where an objection was made to the inclusion of a menu on an adjacent album page. It depicted the food that was on a stamp in my album. "My collection, my rule.", I replied. And that's the way I collect. If it's made out of paper and will fit on a page, I will collect it.

Problem was finding the right album. Obvious choice was the two volume Scott International of which I bought a tidy collection to study and get a feel for. Nope, I don't like two sided pages. I knew I could use glassine interleaving, but why bother? I'd rather find single sided pages.

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I have been buying clean country collections, preferably specialized material. Paraguay, Central Lithuania, Greece, Guatemala, Canada, Bulgaria, US Revenues, and lots more. Having a great time. When in business, we would take into account the time needed to separate stamps from their mounts. Now that I don't have to think about overhead anymore, a collection displayed with old fashioned mounts doesn't faze me.

Past couple of weeks, I have been dismounting a Paraguay collection in which the previous collector used a clear plastic mount that is closed on all four sides. It's a time consuming process to take apart each mount. Cool!

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