



Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER



San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

April 10th 2024

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Poway Stamp Club Goals

To promote a closer social relationship among stamp collectors of Poway, San Diego, and vicinity, and to assist in spreading the knowledge of stamps and the pleasures derived from stamp collecting to those interested in philately.

Contact Us

Poway Stamp Club
12675 Danielson Ct #413,
Poway, CA 92064

Club E-mail

PSCphilately@gmail.com

PSC Website:

Powaystampclub.com



Next Club Meetings

The Wednesday, **April 10th** Program will be a philatelic presentation by:

“Pong”

&

Voice Sale & Member Trading

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by the member presentation and a “Club Voice Sale”. Following the sale and show and tell, the meeting will progress with Member trading and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring in interesting covers and stamps to show and tell as well as to bring other items for sale or trade with other club members. This is an opportunity for all our members to sell or trade with one another their duplicate stamps.

The Wednesday, **April 17th** Program will be a philatelic presentation by:

&

Voice Sale & Member Trading

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by the member presentation and a “Club Voice Sale”. Following the sale and show and tell, the meeting will progress with Member trading and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring in interesting covers and stamps to show and tell as well as to bring other items for sale or trade with other club members. This is an opportunity for all our members to sell or trade with one another their duplicate stamps.

Please remember to bring your badge.



Poway Stamp Club

2024 Club Meeting Schedule/Presentations:

The following is this year's meeting schedule; all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as Auctions.

2024 Club Board:

President: Art Berg
V President David Klauber
Treasurer: Bill Kolb
Secretary: Trice Klauber
Board (At Large) David Waller
Board (At Large) Jim Grundy
Prev. President Thor Strom
Program Dir. Bill Wacenske

2024 PSC Club Volunteers:

Club Registrar: Trice Klauber
Auctioneer: Jim Grundy
Club Librarian Scott Boyd
Newsletter Editor David Klauber
Letter Contributors Jon Schrag
 Bob McArthur
 Bill O'Connor
 Manny Marti
 Jim Grundy
 David Waller
Library Rep Neil Schneider
Opp. Drawing Scott Boyd
WebMaster David Klauber
Public Relations Valerie Merritt

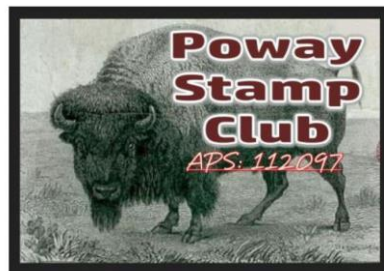
PSC Representatives:

Federal Rep: Bill O'Connor
S.D. Phil. Council: Nick Soroka
Rep (Alternate) Art Berg
Chapter 112097 APS Ambassador
 Trice Klauber
ATA Rep Bob McArthur

Cover Stamp ON PAGE 1

Is a superb used example of the \$2 Columbian (Scott #242) with a perfectly centered, socked on the nose, Chicago Worlds Fair Station circular date stamp. A rare item made even more so buy the quality of the stamp (extremely fine) and the perfect circular date stamp. This stamp is the recent acquisition of one of our members. SV ~\$4500

April	Apr	10, 2024	Pong – Presentation
	Apr	24, 2024	TBD – Presentation
May	May	8, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	May	22, 2024	John Richardson
June	Jun	12, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Jun	26, 2024	TBD – Presentation
July	Jul	10, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Jul	24, 2024	TBD – Presentation
August	Aug	14, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Aug	28, 2024	TBD – Presentation
September	Sep	11, 2024	Club Member Voice Sale
	Sep	25, 2024	TBD – Presentation
October	Oct	9, 2024	Ugly Stamp Contest
	Oct	23, 2024	TBD – Presentation
November	Nov	13, 2024	Richard Stern – 2 nd Bureau
	Nov	20, 2024	No Meeting
December	Dec	11, 2024	Holiday Dinner
	Dec	--	No Meeting
January	Jan	8, 2025	TBD – Presentation
	Jan	22, 2025	TBD – Presentation
February	Feb	12, 2025	TBD – Presentation
	Feb	26, 2025	TBD – Presentation
March	Mar	12, 2025	TBD – Presentation
	Mar	26, 2025	TBD – Presentation





APS

Many of our PSC club members are also members of the American Philatelic Society. The PSC is also a member of the APS. If 33% of our members are also members of the APS the club receives a free year's membership.

Meetings

Club meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November & December at:

Philatelic Library
12675 Danielson Ct #413,
Poway, CA 92064

Participation

All Stamp Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the monthly Club newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise should be shared. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at:

PSCphilately@gmail.com

Club Website

PowayStampClub.com

You will find our activities and affiliations, interesting links, and contact information including this Newsletter's current and previous versions! Give it a try!

You can use the Web site to introduce others to our Club.

Club Notes:

1. **Poway Stamp Club Meetings** - The Poway Stamp Club meets twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is so nice to see all our philatelic friends again. The Club will resume our 2024 regularly scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday in January.
2. **April Bid Boad** – Due potential conflicts with Westpex 2024, the next Poway Stamp Club Bid Board will start on April 20th and End May 4th 2024 at Noon.
3. **Local Show** (New shows this year!)

SANDIPEX 2024

Show Schedule

August 11

April 21 September 8

May 26 October 13

June 23 November 10

July 21 December 8

Free Admission! – Free Parking!

Doors open from 10 am – 4 pm

The show is located just 4 blocks to the north of the Philatelic Library on Poway Road. The show is held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, 13219 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064. Ph# 714-476-3698 Email: cbcbstamp@aol.com

4. **Club Participation** – Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the bi-monthly newsletter. Your participation is critical to our success as a Club. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at Indysmama@gmail.com.



Bid/Book Board Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs) :

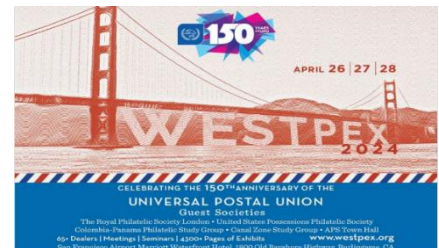
- You must be a paid member of PSC to buy or sell.
- You may join the PSC, contact PSCPhilately@gmail.com
- Ten percent of the sale price will go to support our club.
- Sellers may list ten items each session, Minimum bids must include local shipping.
- All unsold lots will automatically be relisted next session.
- The seller must notify us to remove a listing.
- Sellers must notify us to remove or change the listing price.
- Minimum prices of items must contain the cost to ship the item listed locally (i.e., San Diego County)
- Buyers outside of SD County are responsible for additional shipping charges.
- The Minimum prices listed on the Site are not updated, a list of the current bids will be posted "periodically" for buyers, this is not eBay.
- At the end of each session, Buyer-Sellers will be contacted and introduced via E-mail to allow the coordination of the payment and shipping.

<https://powaystampclub.com/bid-board>

5. **Quality Shows** — Stephen Pattillo, P.O. Box 604, Fullerton, CA 92836, Phone: 562-694-2828 email: number1banana@hotmail.com

9:30 AM to 4 PM
Free Admission, Parking & Appraisals
Buying & Selling

6. **WESTEX 2024** - The show will be held April 26, 27, 28, at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, the guest societies will be: Royal Philatelic Society London, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Colombia Panama Philatelic Study Group and Canal Zone Study Group



7. **2024 Great American Stamp Show** - Hartford
Aug 15-18. Connecticut Convention Center,



Hall AB. GASS is the nation's biggest philatelic event, hosted by the three largest philatelic organizations in the United States – the [American Philatelic Society](#), the [American Topical Association](#), and the [American First Day Cover Society](#). The show is sponsored by the [United States Postal Service](#), who will host a large retail area as well as multiple first day ceremonies. GASS will feature 80+ dealers selling stamps, covers, and other philatelic material; hundreds of frames of stamp exhibits and rarities; participation of 40+ national specialty societies; a youth area; and meetings and seminars.

8. **Club Member Auction** – On March 27th our club meeting was a great success, Club members submitted 6 lots each for sale. The Club raised \$198.90 and members sold many of their interesting and duplicate items.



March 27th Club Auction (Courtesy Bill Kolb)

9. **Tagging Omitted** – Tagging is an invisible Luminescent coating that is applied in the same way that visible ink is. Occasionally, tagging is unintentionally omitted. Tagging-omitted errors are not considered as color omitted errors, however, tagging is one of the elements of a properly prepared modern stamp, as such, the unintentional omission constitutes an EFO and are avidly collected by many.

10. **Encased Postage** – A postage stamp encased in coinlike metal token, with one side covered by a transparent material, such as mica, in order to reveal the stamp. Encased postage tokens were popular in the United States during the Civil War, when a coin shortage dried up most small change. Encased postage had been used from time to time in other foreign countries.





Member Spotlight!

By Newsletter Editor

The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Today's spotlight is on our newest member.



Natalie Zhang

We have 1 new member since our last newsletter. Membership has been granted to the following person(s):

#571 Natalie Zhang, San Diego County California

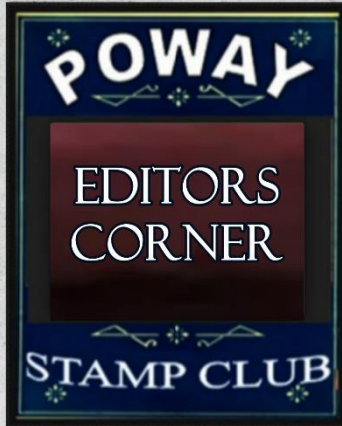
Natalie was presented for membership by Member Mike Zhang and was approved by Trice Klauber. We look forward to having Natalie continue to join us at meetings. Natalie is a new collector and has many new Stamp Collecting interests. Welcome aboard Natalie.

This brings our total membership to 146. We look forward to getting together at PSC meetings with our new members.

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Definitions

The following definition of EFO and other terms are here in support of the ongoing Editors Corner series on Varieties, EFO's and Counterfeits.

EFO is the shorthand for "Error, Freak, or Oddity". It's a term applied to philatelic items that were formed unintentionally abnormal.

Errors: Are usually "major" errors having catalog status where something in the process has gone entirely wrong. Examples of "errors" are consistent, unintentional deviations from the normal. Typically errors are stamps that are wrongly perforated, both between or completely imperforated, Full incorrect, shifted or omitted color(s), inverted centers or frames, multiple impressions, missing/inverted surcharges, missing or wrong watermarks or tagging and FULL stamps on either side of an interpane gutter, factually wrong or misspelled information etc.

Freaks: Also called "varieties", are generally defined as a lesser degree of production problem. Typically freaks have flaws that are not consistent or do not have catalog status.

Editors Corner

By David Klauber

SAN DIEGO'S PHILATELIC HISTORY

1870's



Postal covers to a historian are envelope(s), that have been used to hold a letter. Every cover tells a distinctive story. At a minimum a cover will identify the person, place, or residence/business address of the receiver. If you are fortunate, it will sometimes have a location and complete date of the cover's sender. Covers can also sometimes provide other information such as the name and address of the sender or a route that the cover took on its way to its final destination. Every marking and piece of information on the cover is of significance to the collector, including the rate charged for carrying the cover and even sometimes a stamp or other items that are affixed to the front or back. Postal history is not just the study of stamps but of all things postal including marks, rates, and routes. It can also pertain to the history and development of the postal service or the persons that have sent or received the cover. The subject of this article is an example of the subject of a cover, the early San Diego Pioneer, **Cave J. Coutts**.



The West Point Graduation photo of Lt. Col. CAVE J. COUTS,

Examples of freaks include ink smudges, off center perforation shifts, partially missing colors or partial/random color shifts, pre-printing paper folds, paper creases, over or under inked stamps, and so forth. Freaks often sell for less than their "error" counterparts. Printing plate cracks, wear and other flaws such as repairs or re-entries are freaks and not typically considered to be errors.

Oddities:

The catch-all category for anything that is left. Oddities can be subtle problems that do not have catalog status. Examples can be cancel and plate varieties, inverted USPS cancels, very minor perforation shifts, minor color shifts, etc. Most oddities are a curiosity and have lower EFO values.

There continues to be a debate about the definition of freaks vs oddities. This is one area where a classification can be a matter of personal opinion. Frequently the debate is over pre-printing paper folds and centers on how minor (odddity) or how major (freak) a fold is. As it turns out, one mans freak, is a another mans oddity.

Counterfeit, Forgery, or Fake.

Counterfeit: Fraudulent reproduction of a stamp meant to defraud the issuing authority. (Typically used as postage)

Forgery: Fraudulent reproduction or alteration of a stamp meant to defraud (not the issuing authority), In philately, forged stamps are altered to defraud the buyer.

Fakes: An imitation stamp, or reprint. There are many fakes on the market, typically sold as fakes they are rarely sold as genuine. In philately, fakes are an expression of art are not offered as genuine to defraud. (reprints may be considered fakes)

Cave Johnson Coutts was born near Springfield, Tennessee, November 11, 1821. His uncle, **Cave Johnson**, was [U.S. Postmaster General] and was able to have the young Cave appointed to West Point, where he graduated in 1843. After graduation he served on the frontier until after the Mexican War, and was then sent to Los Angeles, San Luis Rey, and *San Diego*.

Coutts came West in 1848 with Major Lawrence P. Graham's battalion. This battalion received orders in that year to march to the Pacific Coast to strengthen the forces of the United States in Alta California. **Major Graham** moved five hundred officers, soldiers and teamsters from Monterrey, Mexico to Los Angeles, California. The battalion drove across sixteen hundred miles of untrod and barren desert. The battalion was composed of two companies of the 1st Dragoons and two of the 2nd Dragoons. One of the lieutenants with the 1st Dragoons was **Cave Coutts**, who was leading his first command. Coutts and his company stayed at Los Angeles for three months and from there moved to San Luis Rey Mission with companies A and E, on May 27, 1849.

Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant Coutts received orders to march to San Diego to escort the United States Boundary Commission (Whipple Expedition). While in San Diego and awaiting the outfitting of the expedition by the Quartermaster, Coutts was invited to be a house guest of **Don Juan Lorenzo Bandini**. He was soon paying court to **Ysidora Bandini**, the Don's youngest daughter, reputed to be one of the most beautiful young ladies in California During this time.

On September 11, 1849, everything was ready for the expedition and Lieutenant Coutts rode out in charge of the escort for the Commission led by Lieutenant Amiel Whipple, who was to survey the boundary, locate the mouth of the Gila and Rio Colorado rivers and establish the eastern end of the straight line from that point to a point on the coast of the Pacific, one marine league south of the southernmost point of the post of San Diego. After the boundary survey was completed on December 1, 1849, Coutts wasted no time in getting back to more interesting pursuits in San Diego. He finished the much-needed map of the city on December 16th and assigned names to the streets, as they are known today.

More Important Definitions

Reissues

(A reprint of a currently available stamp)

Reprints

(Copies of the obsolete originals, or previously issued.

They are sold by the Government they are not classified as proofs and sometimes printed for collector's purposes only)

Special Printings

(Original plate stamps for non-postal use, while originals are still valid for postage)

Government issued

Reproductions

(Not printed from the original plates, not valid postage, considered likenesses.)

Examples US Scott 3-4

Se-tenant Pair

A planned pair, strip or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical), which were printed from the same plate and/or sheet. The stamps must be un-separated and deliberately different from each other by design, color, denomination or overprint.

Type-Variety/Combination

Pair – An unplanned pair, strip or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical).

The stamps must be un-severed and are different from each other by variety, meaning that at least one member of the pair/strip/block differs in some detail from the "normal" issue. The detail may or may not be an actual philatelic "error".

Couts was well liked by Don Juan Bandini and the two were soon entwined in a business venture. They sold horses and mules to desperate emigrants. Coutts bought the boat used by the Whipple party and for a short time ferried emigrants across the Colorado river. Bandini was glad to welcome Coutts as a son-in-law and gave his blessing for the marriage to his youngest daughter, Ysidora.

During the Garra Indian uprising in San Diego, in 1851, a company of California Volunteers was organized under Major E.F. Fitzgerald and Coutts was called into service. He was made a Captain and served until the uprising was put down. During the insurrection he served as adjutant, and at court martial was judge-advocate. He was a member of the first grand jury in September 1850 then after the Governor's Inauguration, on January 8, 1852, Governor John Bigler appointed Coutts an aide-de-camp. Later, in 1854, he was appointed Judge of the County Court. He also served in the positions of Judge of the Plains, Justice of the Peace, and other official posts including sub-agent for the San Luis Rey Indians.

On April 5, 1851, Coutts married Ysidora Bandini, of San Diego.



Cave Johnson Coutts



Ysidora Bandini

Abel Stearns, who was married to another Bandini daughter, presented them with a wedding present of the 2219-acre Rancho Guajome. Guajome (pronounced **wah-ho'-may**) comes from the Luiseño word "wakhavumi" which translated means frog pond. (1) A **Luiseño** Indian village associated with the Mission San Luis Rey with several ponds and a lake were located there during Spanish times.

Couts, to spare his new wife, the turmoil of military life, soon left his military commission in October of that same year and took up an active life in business and politics in San Diego County.



Guajome Rancho

In 1853 Coutts moved to the Guajome grant, again the wedding gift to his wife from her brother-in-law, Abel Stearns. As with all things, Coutts business affairs were managed with military precision, and he became one of the wealthiest men in Southern California. Later he purchased the San Marcos, Buena Vista, and La Jolla ranchos, and government land, amounting in all to about 20,000 acres.

The history and character of Cave Coutts is to say the least a conundrum, on one hand it is known that he was a typical southern gentleman and West Pointer who married to the daughter of a California Don. On the other hand, in his private life, Coutts was considered by some a hot tempered and impetuous man who faced the courts on an assortment of charges that ranged from assault to murder, although he was never convicted of these crimes, It is well known that he killed a man in San Diego in “self-defense” and was indicted by the grand jury for assault on two other separate occasions. He ruled his ranch with an iron fist and resented any invasion of his holdings and took strong measures against trespassers. He was undoubtedly a man of action and there were several occasions when he took the law into his own hands. His home was widely celebrated for its hospitality. It later entertained the famous author **Helen Hunt Jackson** while she was collecting materials for the book “Ramona”, and part of the story is supposed to have partly occurred at the Guajome rancho.

As Colonel Coutts's wealth consisted largely of cattle, the passage of the "no fence" law was a severe blow to him, stripping much of his wealth, from which he never fully financially recovered. **Cave J. Coutts** is revealed to us through historical records as a highly colorful early San Diego personality. A Military man, politician, judge, rancher husband, and father. On June 10, 1874, Cave died at age 53. He was buried in San Diego and received a few inches of obituary in the local newspaper. He was initially interred in the Immaculate Conception Church in 'Old Town' San Diego, California. In July 1878 he was reinterred at Calvary Cemetery.¹

From his Obituary June 11, 1874; **COUTS, of Guajome**, in this county, died at the **Horton House** shortly before twelve o'clock last night (June 10th). **Col. Coutts** had long suffered from aneurism of the aorta, and only recently visited San Francisco for medical counsel there. On his return to the city, some two weeks ago, he was attacked with a violent paroxysm of the disease and has been lying at the point of death ever since.¹ He was initially interred in the Immaculate Conception Church in 'Old Town' San Diego, California. In July 1878 he was reinterred at Calvary Cemetery.

The Cover

It's not every day you come across a philatelic cover with one of the names of San Diego's historic and/or legendary characters. Recently I purchased a cover online and noticed the image of the "Horton House" in San Diego.

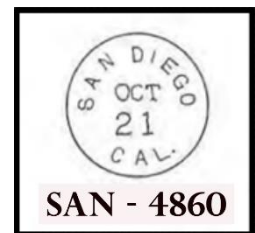


(Figure 1.) Cave J. Coutts Cover

The Horton House was built in New Town San Diego by the Father of San Diego “**Alonzo Horton**”. When I saw that it was addressed to **Cave J. Coutts** in Guajome San Diego Co. Cal., as a collector and *amateur* historian, I became very interested. Most Interesting to me was a handwritten note on the cover, reading; “To be left at San Luis Rey In Haste” and dated San Diego **June 12th**. A close examination of the Coutts "cover" (Figure 1) reveals it was mailed from San Diego to Guajome on June 12th but does not indicate the year sent. I propose that it was mailed sometime between 1874 - 77. Here is my logic.

History of San Diego Postal Marks 1870 – 1880 Process of Elimination

The **Postmark (3220) renumbered 4860** was used from 07 June 1870 – 21 Apr 1878. We know that the cover bears a Green SC# 158 Stamp whose printing starting on 09 July 1873 eliminating the years 1870-73 .



The postmark utilized on this cover is a 4860, 24.5mm in size with a 1c 8L mark pictured right.

June 1874 – 1878, 79* with 70-73 (eliminated by Stamp)

*No PM is known for this year.

The **Postmark (3225)** was used from 01 July 1879 – 16 Apr 1881. If the cover Postmark had been in June 1880 or a later, it would have born a different sized post mark 32.25mm numbered 3225 pictured right.³



June 1874-76, 79. 1880 → (eliminated)

So what are the Possibilities?

- 1.) The cover was **In 1874** The **HASTE** of delivery was because it was a notice of death to his family or his wife Yisadora in Guajome that Cave had died two nights before on June 10th in 1874 (a possibly)?
- 2.) Cover was sent **in 1875-78** The Hotel used an older stamp addressed to Cave himself (Dead, and perhaps the richest man at the time in San Diego) who had died in their hotel a few years earlier (proposterous)?
- 3.) The letter is from the Hotel to **Cave J. Coutts Jr.** in 1875-78 In “**Haste**” for some other reason.

The imagination runs wild! But it makes a decent argument for the possibility that this is a very historical known use, of the San Diego postmark 4860 to Cave Coutts himself.

David

Bibliography

- The City and County of San Diego, California T.S. Van Dyke, Leberthon and Taylor, San Diego, California 1888.
- Historic Ranchos of San Diego, Cecil Moyer, Union Tribune Publishing Co., San Diego, California, 1969
- "Cave Johnson Coutts and Rancho Guajome," Cloyd Sorenson, Jr. Brand Book Number Two, San Diego Corral of the Westerners, San Diego, California, 1971
- San Diego County Soldier-Pioneers, Ed Scott, County of San Diego, 1976.

References

1. <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~clement/genealogy/Calvary/Veterans/V39.htm>
2. History of San Diego, William Smythe, 1908, Smythe, William Ellsworth. , *1542-1908*. San Diego: History Co., . (pages 268-269)
3. Western Express, A Tale of Two Covers, October 1980, Page 16
4. Western Express, March 2002, Updates to California Postmarks San Diego County.

Western Express

April 1992

CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (through 1935)
by John Williams
887 Litchfield Ave.
Sebastopol CA 95472
Tel. (707) 823-7102

SAN-3205	M/S			8	AUG	49		3	OCT	52	6
SAN-3210	1C	32.5	9L	3	JUL	50		23	JUL	54	5
SAN-3215	1C	34.0	7L	9	JAN	62*		2	AUG	67	4
SAN-3220	1C	24.5	8L	21	OCT	77*		21	APR	78	3
SAN-3225	2C	29.5		1	JUL	79		16	APR	81	3

March 2002 update

SAN-4860	1C	24.5	8L					7	JUN	70		21	APR	78	3
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POSTAL HISTORY



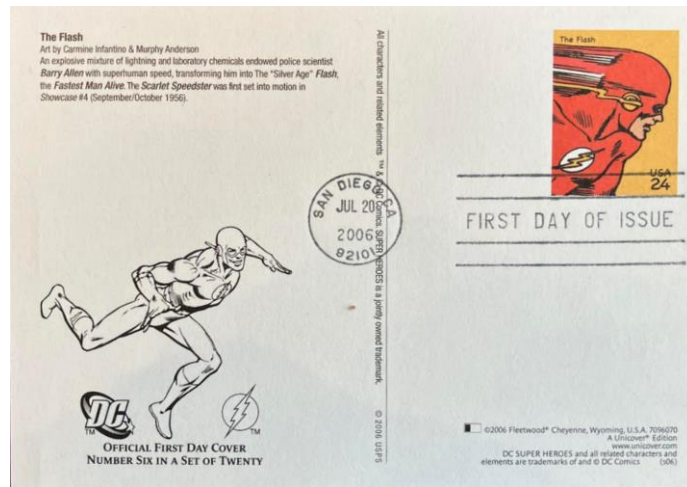
Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

Super Heros Come to San Diego



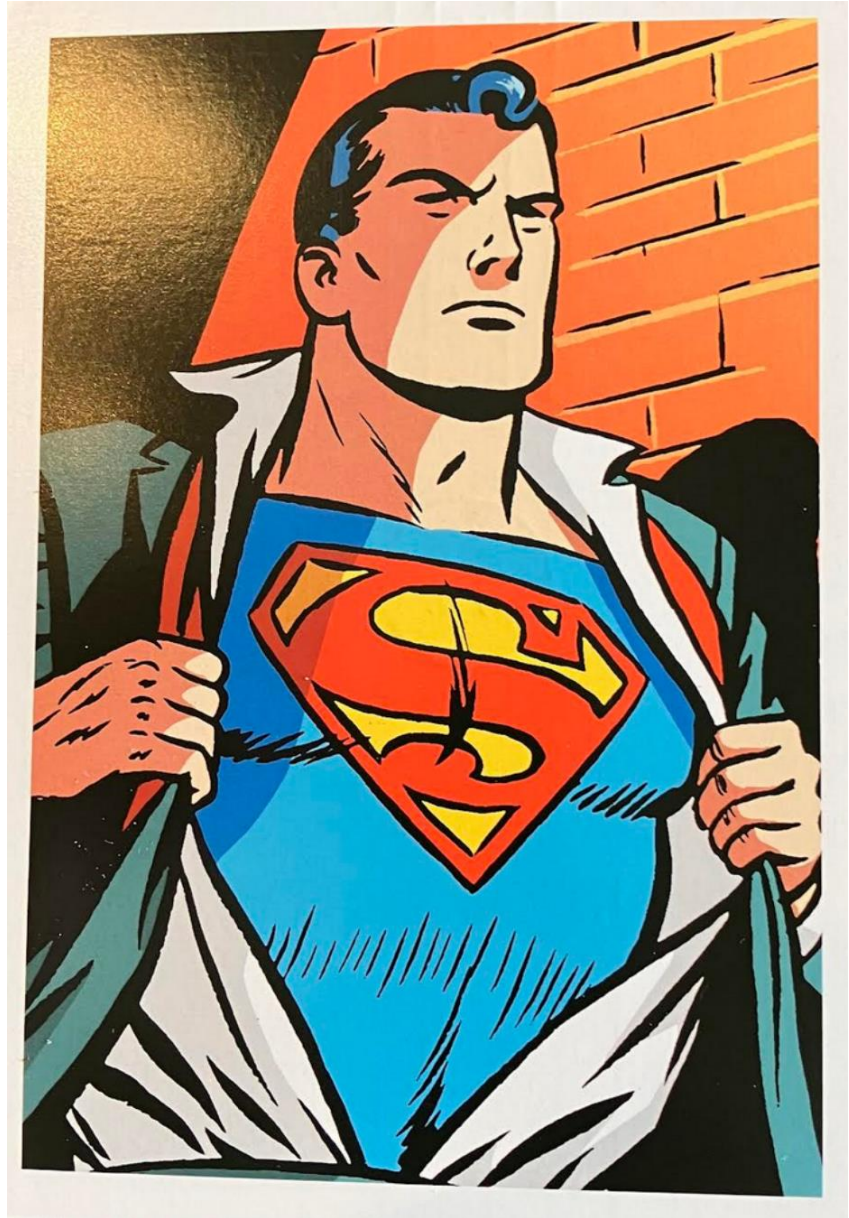
The United States Postal Service commemorated the DC Super Heroes from their comic book characters here in San Diego on July 20, 2006. A pane of 20, 39 cent stamps were issued as well as a set of 20 postcards with a 24 cent post card rate pre-printed on the back of each card.



I recently was able to purchase a complete set of First Day cancellations for the set of 20 cards at the SANDIPEX show here in Poway a short time ago. It is always wonderful to be able to purchase the complete set at one time. Due to the Comic-Con Convention at the time of the issuing of the stamps and cards a vast audience was available down town San Diego for the opening ceremonies.

Carl T. Herrman was the USPS designer for the stamps and cards. At the time a local resident of our county and a supporter of all things relating to stamp collecting; a supporter of the Boy Scout merit badge program, contributed many of his signed post office programs to the San Diego County Philatelic Library. He also did the Greta Garbo stramp that was a joint issue with Sweden.

To get a flavor of these incredible images from the DC comic books, I will only show the first five of the cards, and the postal side of the 6th card to give our readers a sense of the color and vibrancy of the artful images of these comic characters. Some of the characters go back over 80 years, and are an integral part of our American culture.



Card Number One; Superman

This card has one of the most recognizable images in American pop culture. The S of course refers to the man of steel, Superman.



Card Number Two; Green Lantern

The second card in the series has the Green Lantern, and this series also included the Green Arrow. Many contemporary issues of the era were addressed by the introduction of this interesting array of super heroes.



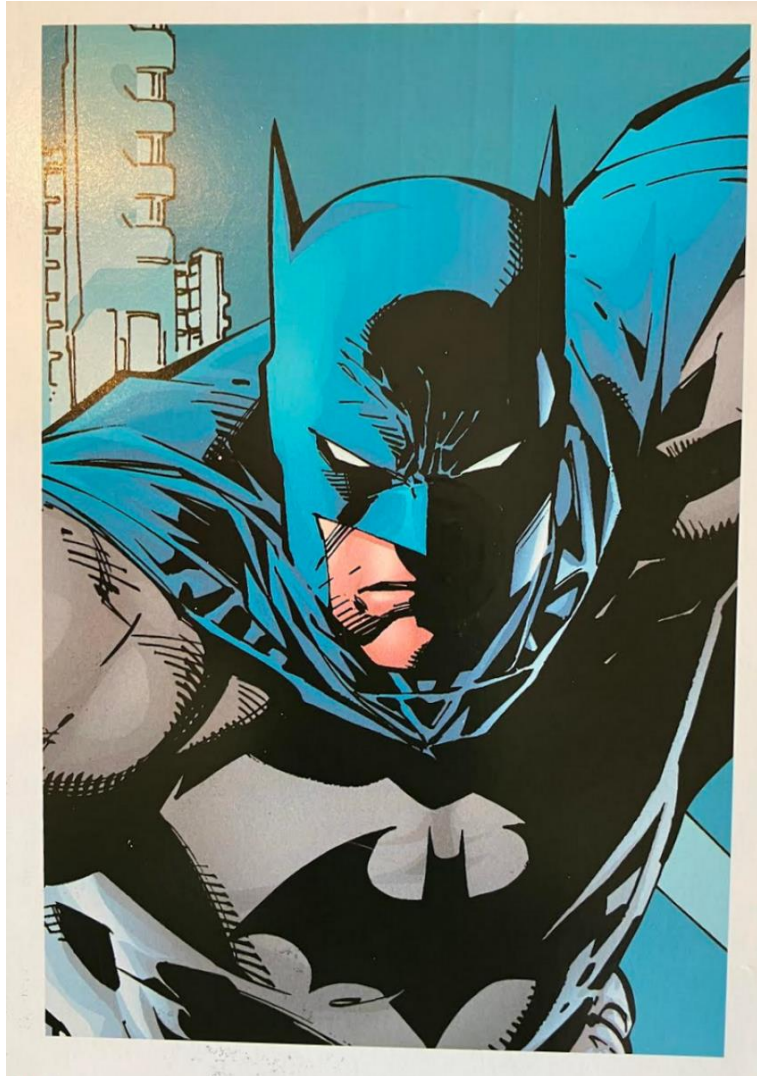
Card Number Three; Wonder Women

Wonder Women appeared in the early 1940s. According to the back of the card, she will always remain a figure of strength, beauty, and courage.



Card Number Four; Green Arrow

The Green Arrow was also known as the Emerald Archer first appeared in 1941. Like many comic characters, appearances on radio, in movies and television soon followed.



Card Number Five; Batman

Also known as Gotham city's Dark Knight, Batman epitomized the avenging hero of good over evil. You may recall that his parents were brutally murdered, so Bruce Wayne, Batman's true identity, became associated as the crusading crime fighter of Gotham City.

Regards,

Bill



Every Cover



Tells A Story

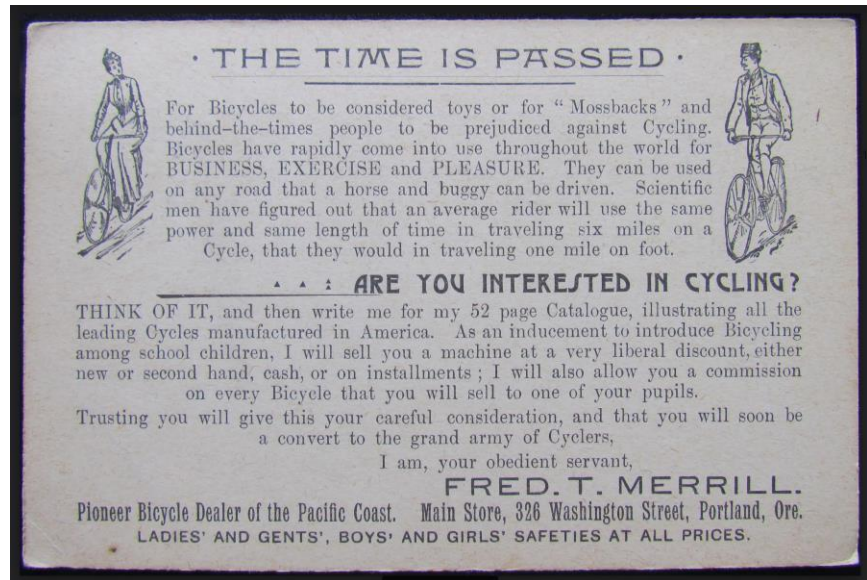
Member Article

By Jim Grundy

Every Cover Tells a Story



As you can see, I'm going to start mixing in some postal cards with the covers every now and then. Most of the postal cards will be from the late eighteen and early nineteen hundreds. They will be a mixture of advertising postcards as well as some picture postcards with interesting events or topics. In general, these postal cards will be from a company that sells a unique product or ones that are just trying to find new customers—much like junk mail of today.



1898 Postal Card Courtesy J. Grundy

This postal card is an 1898 advertising card sent from Portland, Oregon by Fred T. Merrill supposedly “The pioneer bicycle dealer of the Pacific Coast”. Merrill’s card exalts the benefits of owning one of the new model bicycles (Safeties). He offers a 52 page catalog and would give you a great deal on a new or used bicycle at a liberal discount just so that you could be in “the grand army of cyclers”.

Before I get to tell you about Fred Merrill, I will give you a brief history of bicycles. The first common type of bicycle had a wooden or metal frame with two uniform sized wooden wheels. You propelled this bicycle with your feet just like Fred Flintstone. Pedals were then added to the front wheel axle to make it easier to ride. The new bicycle was called a Velocipede, but they were more commonly called Boneshakers because of their rough ride. A variant of this model was developed in England that was called a High Wheeler. This type had a rear wheel that was small and a front wheel that was five to six feet in diameter. Getting on, riding, and getting off these bikes was difficult and often fatal. This bike, like the early Velocipedes, had pedals attached to the axle of the front wheel. The large front wheel made it difficult to keep your feet on the pedals, especially going downhill. A major redesign of bicycle mechanics produced the Safety Bike. This model was the forerunner of the modern bicycle. It was easy to ride and became popular during the mid-1890's.

How does Fred T. Merrill fit into the bicycle story? Shortly after Fred's birth in 1858, his family moved to the Boston area. In 1870, Fred's father purchased several Velocipedes from England and brought them to this country. The bicycles were so popular that his father opened an indoor bicycle track. Fred developed an interest in these bicycles and soon became one of the best trick riders in the Boston area. In 1873, the family moved to San Francisco. There, his fame as a trick rider spread. Even being only fifteen years old, he was making fifty dollars a week performing tricks on his Velocipede. The sight of seeing people riding these tall contraptions inspired Fred to organize six-day bicycle races. These races became so popular that the police had to be used as crowd control. Next came an event that changed his life, he moved from a performer to a promoter and businessman.

Word of mouth reached San Francisco that there was a man in Portland, Oregon who claimed to be the world's greatest Velocipede trick rider. Fred had to see just how good this man was. So, he soon took a boat to Portland. On the boat, he met and joined a traveling vaudeville show. After his first performance with the show in Portland, he challenged anyone in the audience to come forward to compete against him.

The man that Fred had come to challenge was in the audience and stepped forward to accept Fred's challenge for the following night. The challenger left Portland that night never to be seen again but Merrill stayed.

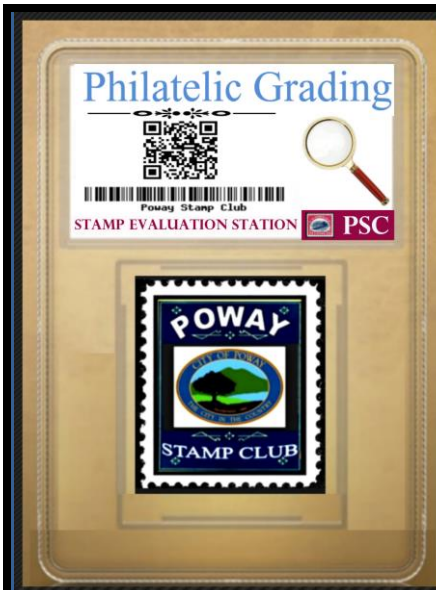
Fred T. Merrill became a fixture in Portland. In 1885, he started a bicycle store in a tent selling Velocipedes. When the new "Safety" bicycles came out in the early 1890's, he quickly started to sell them. Even though the new bicycles sold for \$100, both men and women wanted one because they found them easy and fun to ride. He said that he sold 52,000 bicycles in 20 years. Aside from selling bicycles, he promoted bicycle racing, prize fights, wrestling matches, and movie theaters. In 1898, he ran for City Council, won, and served until 1905. In the early 1900's, bicycle sales in Portland dropped dramatically. In a 1936 newspaper article, Merrill was asked if this decline was caused by the arrival of the automobile. He said that the decline was not caused by the automobile but by prostitutes. It seems that the local Madams and their "girls" liked to ride bicycles. They held indoor races where "gentlemen" in the audience could bet on their favorites. When business was slow, they rode the streets looking for male customers. This caused the proper ladies of Portland to abandon their bicycles because of the possibility of being mistaken for one of the "girls". The automobile did come to Portland and Fred Merrill sold the first 90 of them! He moved a building from the old site of the Lewis and Clark Exposition to his property East of Portland. The building was converted to a 28 room hotel with an exceptional restaurant and lounge plus a half mile horse and bicycle racetrack nearby. Later, the track was expanded for auto and motorcycle racing. Fred T. Merrill remained an important personality in Portland until his death on May 12, 1944, at the age of 84. The Portland Morning Oregonian wrote in his obituary "champion rider and seller of bicycles, promoter, and ballyhoo artist extraordinary, who in most of his 84 years did his best to keep Portland the "lively town" he thought it should be".

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Member Article

By David B. Waller

Yuh, Oh! Now What?



Last Month I printed Mr. Wallers' last article before his second to last one. As a correction, this month I have printed both articles in sequence, I hope this makes his thoughts more serial. My Apologies (Your Editor)

This is the third article in the series on my thoughts regarding what to do with my stamp collection when my collecting days are over. In this article, I discuss the option of bestowing my knowledge of stamp collecting to my family in the event they decide to sell the collection after I'm gone.

When I refer to myself as a "collector", that includes learning about the items I'm collecting, acquiring specimens, cataloging them, and yes, eventually disposing of them (*i.e.*, you can't take them with you!). In essence, it is a process. However, many of us, including myself, don't consider disposing of our collections as part of this process. In fact, most collectors have not even considered the possibility of divesting themselves of their collections. Figure 1 is a chart comparing the ideal process of collecting and how this process usually proceeds for a collector. Idealistically there are three stages: the initial stage when the collector decides what he or she intends to collect; the interim stages that involve collecting those items; and the final stage of getting rid of his or her collection. When a collector gets "stuck" in the interim stages of the process, the end result is leaving our families with the daunting task of having to deal with our collections. Along with this task comes thoughts of: if we get rid of Dad's collection are we losing a part of Dad's memory?; if we keep them for now then what do we do with them in the meantime?; if we decide to sell the collection, who do we contact?; and maybe we should just donate them to a museum or possibly a stamp club? In all that, there is that looming fear that if we make the wrong decision Dad will "roll-over" in his grave. I don't particularly want to leave this burden for my family, so, what should I do? After some

deliberation, the question of, what should I do? became “What can I do?”

Stages	Collecting Process		Comments
	A) Ideally	B) Reality	
Initial Stage			
	Select a topic	Select a topic	Area of interest to collector.
Interim Stages			
I	Search for and acquire stamps.	Search for and acquire stamps.	Primary focus of collectors.
II	Place stamps in album or stock book.	Search for and acquire stamps.	Optional for some collectors.
III	Catalog stamps collected.	Search for and acquire stamps.	Practice of obsessive-compulsive collectors.
Final Stage			
	Divesting of collection.	Repeat Interim Stages indefinitely.	Confusion as to the meaning of “Divesting”.

Figure 1: A) The collecting process, **B)** The collecting process as understood by the collector.

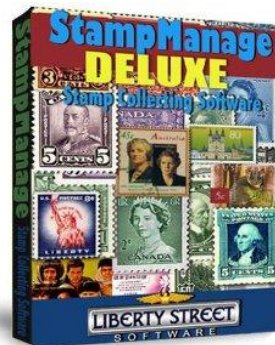
Well, if your family is interested in stamps, you really don't have a problem. They will be pleased to accept whatever you give to them. If the stamps are not in an area they currently collect, they will learn about the stamps and will make the decision to continue the collection or sell them and use the proceeds to continue their collections. They know the process. In this case, the collector can continue collecting to his heart's content knowing that his collection will be cared for by his family or the new owner when he/she is gone.

However, there are some of us who are lone collectors and bestowing our knowledge of stamp collecting to our families would be like asking them to watch grass grow or count sand grains on a beach. Figure 2 illustrates what I believe my son is seeing and hearing when I start talking about my collection. As my son often says, “Dad, there just stamps!” With a heavy heart, I realized that this is just the way it is. However, all is not lost, we all have special interests and stamp collecting just doesn't happen to be one that my family embraces. So, for individuals like me, what can we do?

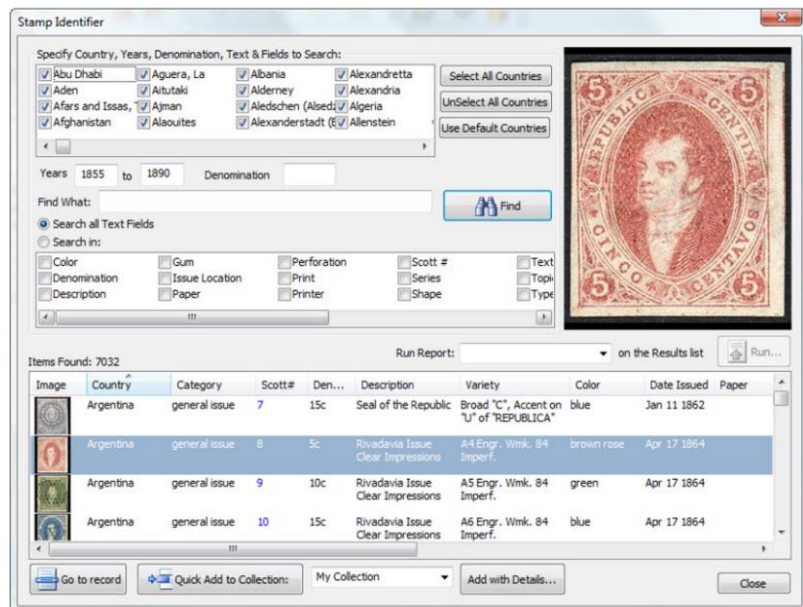


Figure 2: What I envision my son sees when we begin our discussion of what to do with my stamp collection when I'm gone. My collection instantly becomes the beach in the photo and our discussion begins with Yada... yada... yada..., he hears - "park here!" (yellow arrow) and Yada..., yada..., yada..., he hears - "start counting here!" (red arrow) and proceed in the direction of the blue arrow.

Since it is likely that my family will eventually sell my collection, assuming I am unable to do so before I leave this World, I began considering what would make this process easier for them to accomplish. I have always maintained a listing of my stamps, and this will help them in identifying and knowing what stamps are in the collection. My list was created as a simple Excel spreadsheet when there were few programs available for cataloging. However, today, there are specialized databases, such as Stampmanage by Liberty Street Software (Figure 3) that can be found online at: www.stampcollectingsoftware.com or EzStamp by SoftPro. The challenge is making sure that it is continually updated.



A



B

Figure 3: A) Image of the Stampmanage software packaging and B) an image of a login window for cataloging a stamp in the database.

Some of the fields that I use include Scott number, issue name, condition, comments for varieties or other unique information about a stamp, and amount paid for the stamp or stamps. This information is relatively static, and once it is logged into the database, it usually doesn't change. However, providing a current value for each stamp is problematic because they vary so significantly over time that any actual value could be meaningless. Ebay and Hipstamp are two internet auction platforms that list stamps regularly and are a terrific resource for determining current stamp prices. However, trying to find a stamp online with similar centering, color, and gum condition can be a daunting task for a collection of a thousand or more stamps. Also, consider that I am able to move through these internet auction programs quickly because I have been doing it for the past 15 years. If my family decided to use these forums, it would take some time for them to master the "ins and outs" of the program before they could utilize it effectively and efficiently.

Although my thoughts of teaching my family about stamps seemed to be an excellent idea at the time, it became quickly evident that this was not the answer. So, what is the best answer? My last article in this series will let you know what I think might be the perfect solution to my problem.

Last Article

You Can't Take Them with You



In my previous articles, I gave some insight into my investigations regarding the best way to divest myself of my collections. There are many options. My first article “Dad left me what?” discussed gifting my collection to a museum or dispersing them to family and friends. My second article “The Collector’s Catch-22” focused on donating portions of my collection to obtain the tax benefits while I’m still alive and in my third article “Uh Oh, Now What?” I discussed my idea of teaching my family about my collections so that they can more easily dispense with them when I’m gone. In this, my final article on this subject, I discuss what may be a perfect solution to this dilemma, gifting my collection to a stamp club.



No, No, No! You cannot take your stamps with you.

Figure 1: A cartoon by Mark Armstrong titled “St. Peter seems a little testy today” published July 10, 2023, modified to show a stamp collector arriving at the Pearly Gates with his collection.

If you are like me and none of your family is interested in collecting stamps or keeping your stamp collection, what do you do? Well, the old saying, “You can’t take them with you!” is a reality we all must face at some time in our lives (Figure 1). Considering all of my research, I recommend two options if you are not able to sell your collections before you leave this world: 1) devise the entire collection to a stamp club specifically designated as a non-profit organization in your will or trust and obtain a tax write-off against your estate or 2) devise the collection to your family with the intent to have them donate the stamps to a stamp club allowing them to take a write off on the value of these donations.

When considering **option 1**, it is important to know that the rules regarding charitable contributions are different for individuals than for estates and trusts(<https://farr.com/deducting-a-trusts-charitable-donations/>). For example,

- An estate or trust income tax charitable deduction is potentially unlimited, while the deduction for individuals is capped at 50 percent of an individual's adjusted gross income;
- Estates are afforded a deduction for amounts permanently set aside for charitable purposes. Individuals (and generally trusts) receive a deduction only for amounts actually paid to charities; and
- Estates can take deductions for donations to U.S. charities as well as to foreign charitable organizations. Individuals are permitted a charitable deduction only for donations to U.S. charities.

Understanding these differences is important. For example, there will be little benefit if the Executor/Executrix of your estate donates property to a charitable organization because you cannot itemize the donation on your final personal tax return, nor is it a deduction from the value of your assets for determining whether your estate owes estate taxes. However, if you state in your will or trust that you would like your collection donated to a named charity, then this will count as a deduction for the purposes of calculating any estate taxes that may be due.

Note: tax laws change on a regular basis so any consideration of the options provided here should be reviewed by a tax accountant before making any changes to your existing will or trust.



Figure 2: Image of a warehouse filled with stamps taken from Hipstamp shown by seller: bluemule22, ID: 52097702. A donation like this would provide a significant tax benefit for a trust estate whose terms specifically designate a charitable organization to receive this gift.

Option 2 allows your family to claim a tax deduction on the value of the stamps if they donate your collection to a charitable organization (e.g., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization). Of course, it would be best to let your family know which charitable organization you would like to receive your collection as well as the estimated value of that collection prior to your departure. The value for tax deduction purposes will be the value of the stamps as determined on the date of your death or the value given the collection by the Executor/Executrix when the estate assets are submitted for probate.

Charitable or non-profit organizations will often provide a letter recognizing the donation, which allows the donor to reduce their tax burden in the year that the items are donated. However, most will not assign a value to your donation, so it will be up to you and your heirs to make these determinations. The designated value of a given donation will determine whether an appraisal will be required under the U.S. Tax Code, see my article “The Collector’s Catch-22”. In addition, if the collection has a substantial value, then it may be best to make multiple donations over several years to maximize the tax benefits (Figure 2). At a minimum, a comprehensive listing of the items being donated at any given time should be prepared and maintained with the letter received from the charitable organization in the event the IRS requires additional information. I recommend creating and maintaining a listing for your loved one(s) in the event your departure occurs unexpectedly. In addition, it would be best to update the listing regularly and include either the current market value or the price you paid for each stamp. Maintain an electronic version of the listing on your computer and/or a hard copy of the listing in an easily accessed location. My listing is in a clearly marked file on my computer and I keep a printout (i.e., a currently updated printout) of the file next to my desk in a three-ring binder labeled “Collections”.

It is important to note that any donation that exceeds the value established by the IRS will require an appraisal from an IRS approved appraiser of stamps. The value may also be determined by an IRS registered appraiser provided in a written document that may be submitted to the IRS.

<https://kplawfirm.com/appraisal-requirements-for-donations-of-real-property-and-other-assets-to-section-501-c-3-organizations>).

In general:

1. You must file Form 8283 to report information about noncash charitable contributions for which you are claiming a tax deduction;
2. You must file a Form 8283 for each noncash contribution that is more than \$500; and
3. You must obtain a written appraisal from a qualified appraiser (see below) for an item, or group of items, exceeding \$5,000.00.

Note: this is a general summary of what may be required for donations of a specified value. It is highly recommended that you contact a certified tax accountant and have them review any documents before submitting them to the IRS.

What is a Qualified Appraisal?

The federal tax laws require that the: 1) appraisal be prepared by a qualified appraiser in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; 2) appraisal must be signed and dated by the qualified appraiser; and 3) appraiser must make a declaration on Form 8283 (Figure 3) prior to submission.

<p>Form 8283 (Rev. December 2021) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p>	<p>Noncash Charitable Contributions</p> <p>▶ Attach one or more Forms 8283 to your tax return if you claimed a total deduction of over \$500 for all contributed property.</p> <p>▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form8283 for instructions and the latest information.</p>	<p>OMB No. 1545-0074</p> <p>Attachment Sequence No. 155</p>				
Name(s) shown on your income tax return		Identifying number				
<p>Note: Figure the amount of your contribution deduction before completing this form. See your tax return instructions.</p> <p>Section A. Donated Property of \$5,000 or Less and Publicly Traded Securities—List in this section only an item (or a group of similar items) for which you claimed a deduction of \$5,000 or less. Also list publicly traded securities and certain other property even if the deduction is more than \$5,000. See instructions.</p>						
<p>Part I Information on Donated Property—If you need more space, attach a statement.</p>						
1	(a) Name and address of the donee organization	(b) If donated property is a vehicle (see instructions), check the box. Also enter the vehicle identification number (unless Form 1098-C is attached).				
A		<input type="checkbox"/>				
B		<input type="checkbox"/>				
C		<input type="checkbox"/>				
D		<input type="checkbox"/>				
E		<input type="checkbox"/>				
<p>Note: If the amount you claimed as a deduction for an item is \$500 or less, you do not have to complete columns (e), (f), and (g).</p>						
A	(d) Date of the contribution	(e) Date acquired by donor (mo., yr.)	(f) How acquired by donor	(g) Donor's cost or adjusted basis	(h) Fair market value (see instructions)	(i) Method used to determine the fair market value
B						
C						
D						
F						

Figure 3: Image of IRS form 8283 currently required when you claim a total deduction of over \$500 of noncash charitable contributions.

Note: Since the tax laws change regularly you should check with a tax accountant and have them review any documents before submitting them to the IRS.

Who is a Qualified Appraiser?



Figure 4: Illustration of an individual appraising a stamp collection. Image obtained over the Internet from National Today.

A qualified appraiser (Figure 4) is an individual who meets all the following criteria:

1. The individual either:

A. has earned a recognized appraiser designation from a recognized professional appraiser organization for demonstrated competency in valuing the type of property being appraised,
OR

B. has met certain minimum education requirements and has two or more years of experience in valuing the type of property being appraised. To meet the minimum education requirements, the individual must have successfully completed professional or college-level coursework in valuing the type of property and the education must be from:

- i. a professional or college-level educational organization,
- ii. a recognized professional trade or appraiser organization that regularly offers educational programs, or

2. an employer as part of an employee apprenticeship or education program similar to professional or college-level courses. The appraiser regularly prepares appraisals for which he/she is paid;

3. The appraiser specifies his/her education and experience in appraising the type of property being valued in the appraisal; AND
4. The appraiser makes a declaration in the appraisal that, because of his/her experience and education, he/she is qualified to make appraisals of the type of property being valued.

It is also important to note that: 1) a party to the transaction, one who is benefitting from the transaction for which the appraisal is being prepared, is not qualified to sign the declaration; 2) if you fail to disclose or misrepresent facts that cause the appraiser to misstate the value of the property being donated, then the appraisal will not be accepted as a “qualified appraisal”; and 3) the appraisal fees cannot be based on a percentage of the appraised value.

The remaining and most important determination is which charitable organization would be best to receive your stamp collection. Personally, I want my collection to go to an organization that supports philatelic research, promotes stamp collecting and disseminates knowledge about stamps and stamp collecting to the public. I would also like my stamps to be enjoyed by as many collectors as possible; meaning I would like them to be distributed to other collectors. Consequently, selecting an organization that meets these goals would be perfect. For me, the American Philatelic Society is one such organization.

My decision to retain my collection during my lifetime is part of my nature as a collector. The feeling that my stamps will be distributed to other collectors who will enjoy them for years to come provides me comfort in knowing they will be taken care of and cherished when I am gone. Either of the options above will allow me to satisfy this desire and obtain a financial benefit for my family either personally or through my estate.

I hope that you have enjoyed this series of articles and that the information provided is helpful in making future decisions regarding your stamp collection.

David



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For Sale: Collections started but not finished. Plate Blocks stamps with White Ace pages for Liberty Series, 1938 Prexies, Airmail, and Prominent Americans. Contact me by email for listings/prices. oceanbert2003@yahoo.com

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Wanted:

Wanted: U.S. Columbian issue stamps with fancy cancels. Top prices paid. Contact West Virginia Bob McArthur at rmatsukasa@gmail.com or 1-858-486-9932.

Wanted: All Vietnam. Stamps and covers. Ready to trade or buy outright? Contact: jschrag1@san.rr.com

Wanted: Puerto Rico Town cancels. Bring to a meeting. Will trade or buy? See member M. Marti PSC # 410.

Wanted: Used/New Scott's Specialized Color Guide for United States Stamps, Spiral-bound with color chips. Will trade or buy? See member D. Klauber PSC #454

STAMP NEWS



U.S. Postal
Service Reveals
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Stamp News 2024



The 2024 stamp program features a broad range of subjects and designs. These miniature works of art highlight our unique American culture and offer a broad selection for those looking to collect stamps or send their mail around the nation or the world” .

USPS March 2024 Stamp Releases!

Underground Railroad Forever Stamps (Issue date - March 9), **Bluegrass** Forever Stamp (Issue date - March 15), **Garden Delights** Forever Stamps (Issue date - March 16), **Celebration Blooms** Forever Stamp (Issue date - March 22), **Wedding Blooms** Forever Stamp (Issue date - March 22), **Save Manatees** Forever Stamp (Issue date - March 27).



Postal Products

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