Synopsis of "Beyond-the-Catalog: Expanding Your Collection with Books"
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I read the article "Beyond-the-Catalog: An Introduction to Expanding Your Collection," by Jeff Hayward, in the March-April 2026 issue of *Topical Time*. The article talks about collecting non-philatelic items and philatelic items not listed in stamp catalogs that relate to your topic. This article resonated with me as I have gone beyond the catalog in building my various topical collections.

In that article, Mr. Hayward wrote, "In upcoming issues of *Topical Time*, we will take a look at different types of things you might consider collecting, hopefully, things you may not have thought of including in your collection." My intent in writing this article was to give a look at books as an adjunct to a topical stamp collection, and to share my interest in the uncommon topical of horror on stamps.

I had developed an interest in horror in 1979 when I read my first Stephen King book. I have since read a lot of horror novels and stories and have even written some. I like horror movies as well. Therefore, it was only natural that I would start a collection of horror on stamps.

I have hundreds of horror novels and stories in my library, but those that I consider fitting for my topical collection are the literature that has been commemorated on stamps. Covered in the article are two classic horror novels, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, and *Dracula*, by Bram Stoker; the Washington Irving short story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"; the Charles Dickens short story "A Christmas Carol"; and Greenland ghost stories.

The research I did for this article included reading the books that are covered in the article, reading numerous other books and articles about this literature, doing internet research, and checking Scott catalog listings. I have been writing about horror literature and horror stamps for years, so I have a large catalog of my own writings, to which I also referred.

The graphics are all images of stamps and covers in my collection as well as books in my library.