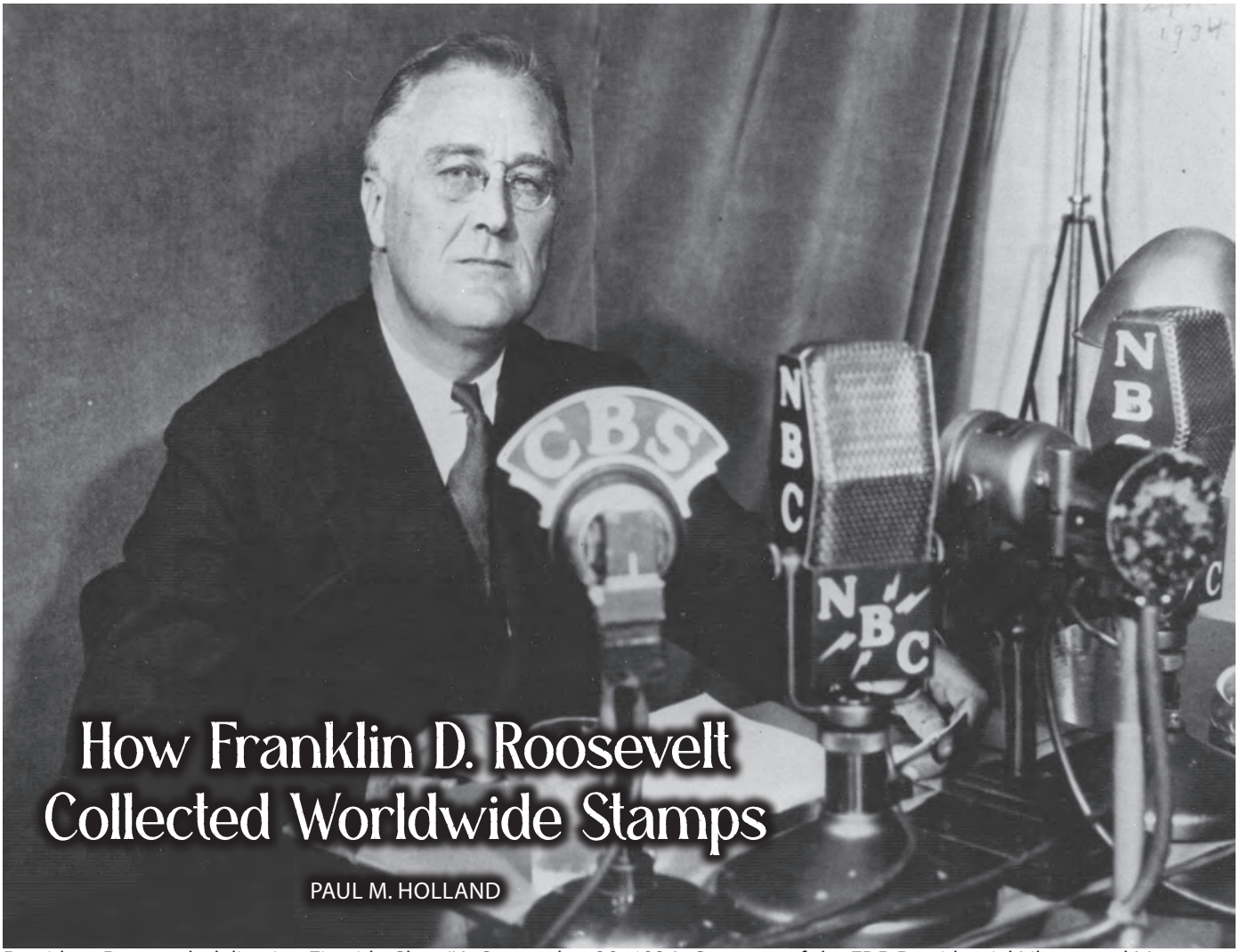


How Franklin D. Roosevelt Collected Worldwide Stamps

PAUL M. HOLLAND

President Roosevelt delivering Fireside Chat #6, September 30, 1934. Courtesy of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) was one of the most famous stamp collectors of all time and a fellow member of the American Philatelic Society (member No. 11590).

When FDR ran for president in 1932, the front cover of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* proclaimed "A Million Stamp Collectors Want a Stamp Collector for President." Magazine founder George Linn backed this up by producing special labels and cacheted envelopes that supported FDR's presidential campaign. Roosevelt (1882-1945) won, and having an avid stamp collector in the White House greatly enhanced the popularity of stamp collecting during the 1930s and 1940s.

My focus in this article is on how Roosevelt collected worldwide stamps based on careful study of the more than 300 intact original album pages and more than 5,000 stamps personally mounted by FDR that are now in my reference collection.

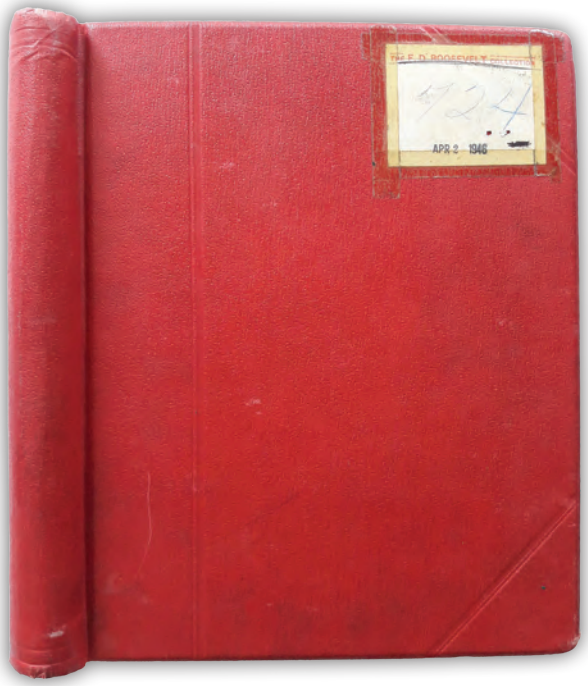
FDR did not use pre-printed albums, instead arranging his stamps on blank quadrille pages designed for use in "springback" albums. Springback albums are loose-leaf binders in which the hinged part of the pages at the spine are "captured" by bending the album covers back to open a large "spring" mechanism, allowing album pages to be sorted, stacked at the edge of a table and then loaded in a single action.

I'm fortunate in having one of FDR's original springback albums from the April 1946 sale of his stamp collection. This is shown in Figure 1 along with a photograph of FDR in the White House with his stamp collection and the signature on his APS membership application.

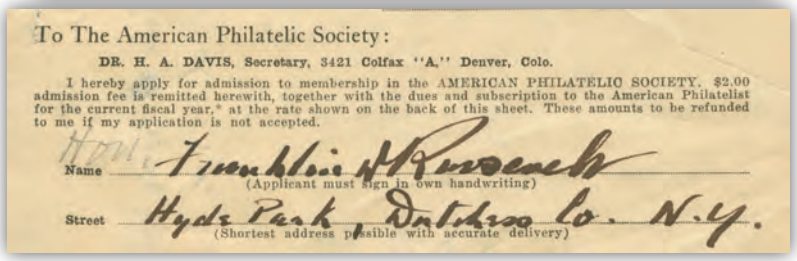
Stamp collecting was an integral part of FDR's life and perhaps his primary means of relaxation after being crippled by polio in 1921. In fact, according to his White House Physician Admiral Ross McIntire, "Roosevelt spent well over two thousand hours while he was president tending to his collection."

FDR was an avid worldwide stamp collector, and in May 1943, British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill recalls watching him, "with much interest and in silence for perhaps half an hour as he stuck them in, each in its proper place, and so forgot the cares of State." Regarding United States stamps issued during his presidency, FDR was personally involved in reviewing each design and sometimes sketched out his own ideas for stamps, but this is beyond the scope of the present article.

Franklin Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia in April 1945, only a few months after beginning his fourth






To The American Philatelic Society:

DR. H. A. DAVIS, Secretary, 3421 Colfax "A," Denver, Colo.

I hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. $2.00 admission fee is remitted herewith, together with the dues and subscription to the American Philatelist for the current fiscal year,* at the rate shown on the back of this sheet. These amounts to be refunded to me if my application is not accepted.

Name Franklin D. Roosevelt
(Applicant must sign in own handwriting)

Street Hyde Park, Dutchess Co. N.Y.
(Shortest address possible with accurate delivery)

Figure 1. One of Franklin D. Roosevelt's original springback stamp albums, FDR's signature on his APS membership application, and the president in the White House with his stamp collection. (Author's collection and courtesy of the American Philatelic Society).

term as president. While FDR's collections of books, naval prints and other items have been carefully preserved at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum at Hyde Park, New York, his stamp collection was sold in 1946 in a series of H.R. Harmer auctions. As a result, it has been very widely dispersed and only limited material is available in institutional collections, with a virtually complete absence of examples of FDR's original stamp album pages.

Fortunately, the sale of FDR's collection is well documented by H.R. Harmer sale catalogs. These provide especially important and detailed information relevant in understanding how FDR collected stamps. Furthermore, H.R. Harmer had the foresight to offer (optional) authentication backstamps to the buyers, making it easier to identify specific items. An article written by George B. Sloane, the official appraiser of FDR's stamp collection, also is very helpful. Together these provide insight into what FDR's collection was like at the time of his death, and how it was subsequently broken down into auction lots for sale.

While FDR's overall collection was enormous with numerous rare proofs, presentation collections of worldwide stamps from foreign governments and philatelic societies, and a great many covers, my focus here is limited to FDR's personal worldwide stamp collection that he organized and mounted himself using stamp hinges. These pages are listed in the H.R. Harmer catalog under the heading of "The President's General Collection." Fortunately, the sale catalog clearly distinguishes between pages from FDR's personal "General Collection" and various "Presentation Collections" that were mounted by others.

FDR's personal collection was almost entirely mounted on blank quadrille pages in loose leaf springback albums, and this format allowed individual album pages to be easily removed from the binders and sorted into auction lots by country at the time of the 1946 sale. After the springback binders from FDR's collection were removed, they were then grouped in lots of four to eight binders and sold separately (more on that later).

As for the album pages themselves, their full size measures 11 by 11 inches, including the flexible linen hinge, with an 8½-inch-by-11-inch area available for mounting stamps. For the auction, H.R. Harmer auction cover sheets of 11 inches by 11 inches were added to the top of each album page lot. As a result of this process, virtually none of FDR's original stamp albums have remained intact.

Furthermore, it is well known that stamp dealers who acquired these lots of album pages often further broke them up, removing individual stamps or cutting off portions of pages for separate sale as "souvenirs." This has resulted in much of the context of the original stamp collection being lost to posterity, making it especially difficult to ascertain how FDR collected worldwide stamps.

My collecting goal for some time now has been to find and preserve as much of FDR's stamp collecting legacy as possible. In this, I've been very fortunate, as I now have more than 300 original album pages from FDR's personal worldwide stamp collection. Furthermore, the majority of these include the original Harmer auction lot cover sheets and even include the original 11-inch-by-11-inch glassines between individual album pages, suggesting that they have remained largely intact after some 80 years. Many have notations in FDR's own hand, providing valuable clues to how he organized his collection. This has made it possible



Figure 2. Abyssinia album pages from FDR's collection.

for me to examine literally thousands of FDR's worldwide stamps exactly as he mounted them.

So where to begin? Since I have the bulk of FDR's collection for Abyssinia (Ethiopia), including the auction cover sheet, let's start at the beginning of the alphabet.

In Figure 2, I show three of my 15 FDR album pages for Abyssinia, including closeup images that show "Abyssinia 1894," the Harmer auction catalog description, and a penciled notation "120" at the upper right of the second page. The country name is written in ink in FDR's own hand and the date below in pencil, with FDR's penciled notation "120" at the right being the initial Scott catalog number for the set issued in 1919 shown on the middle page, with blocks of four of the 1929 airmails with inverted overprints mentioned in the auction lot description.

Shown in Figure 3 are three more album pages. On the left is the first page from FDR's Antigua collection. Also shown are two densely packed album pages from Bermuda out of my 10 pages of 1922-43 stamps, including the Harmer cover sheet from April lot 501. Note how much extra space FDR has provided for 1863-67 stamps of Antigua (Scott 2-4).

Unlike typical worldwide stamp collectors using preprinted albums, FDR's approach to collecting was not limited to "one of each" but allowed him to include multiple examples of both mint and used stamps on the same page.

This was FDR's personal collection. He did not exhibit his stamps and clearly wanted to leave plenty of room for additional specimens. In the case of Antigua, closeup images show Antigua written in ink in FDR's own hand at the top. The stamps include an unused example of Scott 2, a used pair of Scott 3 and, curiously, an apparently imperforate example of Scott 4. This is the middle green 6-pence stamp in the closeup that shows a clear trace of the postage stamp above with no perforations visible in the other three narrow margins. While I've seen another apparently imperforate single in the Tapling Collection at the British Library, Scott 4b is listed as existing as a "pair, imperforate between" so perhaps this stamp is from such a severed pair.

The Bermuda stamps are mostly on piece from incoming State Department mail franked with foreign stamps. These items were provided weekly to FDR once he became president. That they were personally mounted on these album pages by FDR himself is demonstrated by the penciled notation "81 etc" at the upper right margin of the album page on the left.

Among the half-dozen countries from FDR's collection for which I have unusually good coverage are Chile (1901-1940), Columbia (1901-1938), and Cuba (1899-1943), all with original Harmer action cover sheets.









Figure 3. Antigua and Bermuda album pages, with closeup images.

In Figure 4, I show two of my 52 original FDR album pages for Chile, two of my 41 album pages of Columbian stamps, and two of 51 original album pages from FDR's Cuba collection. Harmer auction descriptions are shown for Chile, Columbia, and Cuba.

For Chile, my album pages include 1905-09 stamps with the country name written in ink in FDR's own hand at the top, along with FDR's collection of official seals from Chile with "Officially Sealed" written in pencil in FDR's own hand. Together, these reveal how FDR often mounted multiples of the same basic stamp in rows on his album pages and the wide range of his philatelic interests, including unusual items, such as official seals, which are outside of mainstream collecting. I should point out that as an autograph collector, I've studied FDR's handwriting and note here how he characteristically prints the lower case letter "e" as the Greek letter epsilon "ε".

I've found it to be especially instructive to study details of FDR's handwritten annotations on his album pages. A selection of these from his Chile collection are shown in the closeups in Figure 5.

Besides occasionally writing the country name and dates, FDR often penciled in Scott catalog numbers for the first stamp mounted on each page in the upper right margin, a very useful approach for someone collecting stamps using blank quadrille album pages. This is often seen on these pages, demonstrating that the president arranged his personal worldwide stamp collection according to the *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, then published by the Scott Stamp & Coin Company.

651 **1901–40, coll.** of 600 stamps, 50 used, balance mostly o. g., incl. #57a, 91–94, 109–12, 86–97, O4, 11, 14 with many shades, dups, also incl. 23 flown covers (110 stamps), 6 addressed to the President, interesting lot, fine to very fine, on album pages 80.00

655 **1901–38, coll.** of 710 stamps, 495 used, balance unused or o. g., incl. #324, 47, 48, 66, 67, over 140 Air Post stamps used, incl. San. #65–77, 79 (San. $13.20) also 11 covers or fronts with 37 stamps, 3 addressed to the President; also incl. 90 Official stamps, interesting lot; very good to very fine, on album pages 63.00



669 **1899–1943, coll.** of 525 stamps, 320 used, balance mostly o. g., incl. #261 o. g., #262 o. g., SE, #273 o. g., #317–40, 1938 Authors and Artists compl. issues, #E1(3), also incl. #198; 36 covers or fronts with many flown covers, 30 of which are addressed to the President, also incl. 45 Revenues; very interesting and fine lot, on album pages ..... 95.00+

Figure 4. Chile, Columbia, and Cuba album pages.

However, from a forensic point of view, it should also be realized that Scott catalog numbers changed dramatically beginning in the 1940 edition by adding new "back of the book" categories for semipostal stamps, airmails, postage dues, officials, etc.

Previously, the Scott numbering system simply left number "gaps" between the different types, but as the number of stamps issued continued to increase, a crisis point was eventually reached. This occurred at a time while FDR was actively collecting stamps. It can be seen in Figure 5 that the



Figure 5. Closeups of FDR's annotations on his stamp album pages for Chile.

Scott numbers penciled in by FDR for regular issue stamps of Chile – 51, 58, 68, and 83 – match up with current Scott numbers.

The brown Acknowledgment of Receipt stamp (Scott H1, in the second row) also matches up, but the number 501 also appears, either partially erased or very lightly written. However, this number shows up clearly when digitally enhanced, as shown. Fortunately, I also have a collection of worldwide Scott catalogs dating from the late 1800s, where the same Acknowledgment of Receipt stamp is listed as number 501 in my 1938 edition. Postage dues J19 and J43 also are shown, both with detailed notations by FDR, who entered the updated catalog numbers in his own hand. Finally, I show a closeup of FDR's penciled notation, "Officially Sealed 1900," along with the digitally enhanced number 501.

Columbia is another country where I'm fortunate to have substantial number of FDR's original album pages. This includes 41 album pages of 1901-1938 stamps along with the cover sheet from lot 655 of the Harmer February sale, with two examples as shown earlier in Figure 4. The first has FDR's penciled notation "Regular Issues 1902" with the Scott number 266. The second has FDR's notation for Scott number 318. Note on this page that the number 324 adjacent to the bottom 100-peso stamp (specifically mentioned in the auction lot description) is in a different hand, apparently added later.

On my various stamp album pages for Columbia, FDR has penciled in notations as shown by the closeups in Figure 6. These include Barranquilla issues, regular issues, and the country name "Columbia," with dates and Scott catalog numbers. The Scott catalog number of 184 for the first Barranquilla Issue correctly penciled in by FDR is now Scott 194.

It is especially interesting to examine the jagged outline of the penciled letter "O" by FDR for the official stamps O1 and O10. This would have been written during the 1940s as FDR's health began to decline. For example, when Harry Truman visited FDR at the White House in August 1944 after being nominated as FDR's running mate for the 1944 election, he was surprised to see how much FDR's hand shook while pouring cream for his coffee.

Finally, I should point out that FDR had a strong interest in stamp cancellations and I show one of the real curiosities from FDR's Columbia collection, a vertical strip of four of Scott 200 (formerly 191) that he carefully mounted onto a rectangle of black paper on his album page, thereby highlighting it. This shows an overseas Port-Said-Caire cancellation on March 15, 1905 from the entrance of the Suez Canal.

I'm also fortunate in having 51 original album pages of 1899-1943 stamps from FDR's Cuba collection, including the original Harmer auction cover sheet. Two of these



Figure 6. Closeups of FDR's annotations on his stamp album pages for Columbia, plus an unusual strip of four.

pages from 1899 were shown earlier in Figure 4. My first 1899 Cuba page from FDR's collection shows United States stamps overprinted for Cuba, the other the first stamps of Cuba printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP).

Both pages show penciled notations in FDR's own hand of the date 1899, with the Scott catalog numbers of the first stamp on each page, 221 and 227, respectively. Note the long tails on the 9s of the date, a distinctive characteristic of FDR's handwriting that are shown in the closeups in Figure 7.

Also shown are closeups of FDR's annotations in pencil, including the country name Cuba and dates. Not shown here, are my album pages with FDR's complete 1938 set of Authors and Artists stamps, mentioned specifically in the auction lot description. It is interesting to speculate whether these stamps may have helped provide inspiration for the 1940 Famous Americans series.

In Figure 8, I show my FDR album pages from Germany, Japan, Panama, South Africa and Switzerland.

The one from Germany shows early inflation-era overprinted stamps and comes from the Miscellaneous collection of FDR's stamps mounted in my red Rapkin springback binder shown in Figure 1. From careful study of the Harmer auction catalog, this lot appears to be one of the very few offering an intact album from FDR's personal stamp collection. It is described as having "over 2,400 foreign stamps in singles, strips and blks" plus other items as shown. At the time I acquired the album it was being broken up for sale by a stamp dealer, but I do have 44 of the original pages, which together with further digital images, provides me access to some 85 of the estimated 100 pages originally present in the album.

These G.F. Rapkin "Capacity Album" pages are the same size as other pages from FDR's collection, but are of distinctly lower quality, having paper rather than linen hinges. The stamps themselves are mostly from European countries.

Based on a study of stamp cancellations in this well-worn worldwide album, it appears to have been used by FDR up until sometime during 1930. My pages include 12 Bavarian stamps and nine with German stamps, including the example shown here. As an aside, the Harmer auction catalog also reveals another intact FDR Rapkin "Ideal" album housing a collection of more than 900 U.S. stamps of 1875-1925.

My single page of Japanese revenues and seals from FDR's worldwide collection illustrates FDR's wide range of interest in stamps of all types. This includes the row of four Japanese seals near the bottom, all of which are very scarce, especially the pink Japanese Imperial Cabinet seal at the left which is unlisted, even in the Shimomura catalog.

Regarding the black, gold-imprinted springback binders used for housing pages from FDR's worldwide stamp collection, these were sold separately in groupings of four to eight empty binders near the end of both the February and April sales. There are a total of 77 of these listed, with those of special interest to me being the ones labeled Bermuda, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Panama and Uruguay 1, 2, 3. I have



Figure 7. Album page notations by FDR on his Cuba collection.

never seen one of these.

Also in Figure 8, I show two of my 12 album pages from FDR's collection of Panama airmail stamps. These show blocks of 1930 airmail stamps, and a 1938 souvenir sheet for the fourth Central American Caribbean Games with another set mailed to FDR on cover. Together, these illustrate how FDR liked to mount blocks, cancelled items on piece, souvenir sheets and cover fronts on his album pages.

The pages from South Africa and Switzerland in Figure 8 are from the April auction sale. The South Africa page, one of 13 in my collection, shows George V stamps issued for the 1936 Silver Jubilee and for George VI's 1937 coronation, including a set on a cover front, plus a few others. My Swiss FDR page shows stamps that were issued for the 1939 Swiss National Exhibition. These stamps were issued in the three official languages of Switzerland: French, German, and Italian.

Unusually, the authentication stamp on this full page is from the FL Stamp Company in New York City. I also have three other partial pages of Swiss stamps from them.

Closeups from some of my other FDR album pages for South Africa and Switzerland are shown in Figure 9. Note the penciled inscription "Union of South Africa" in FDR's own hand from one of these pages. A portion of yet another page shows FDR's 1933-36 semipostal stamps (now B1-B3), with his penciled number "201" in the margin that interestingly was the original Scott catalog number before the 1940 Scott catalog renumbering. This clearly demonstrates that FDR would have mounted this page of stamps during the 1930s.

Also shown is a closeup of Swiss Allegory stamps from the year 1900, that would also have been part of Harmer's April auction. This is from the bottom right of one of FDR's Switzerland, Scott Stamp & Coin company quadrille album pages.

Shown in Figure 10 are my FDR stamp album pages from Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela and White Russia. FDR had three pages of Ukraine stamps in his collection. I have all three, with the first one shown here.

All were inscribed "Ukrainia" in FDR's own hand. His inscriptions for the other two pages are shown in closeups. The stamps on the first album page of these are mostly imperforate. Although some Ukrainian stamps are no longer listed in Scott, they certainly were while FDR was alive, and so he collected them.

I'm fortunate in having 65 intact album pages from FDR's very substantial Uruguay collection, including the Harmer cover pages. Together, these span the years 1901 to 1938, plus FDR's airmail collection for Uruguay. The first of my three Uruguay pages shown here includes 1908 rouletted stamps depicting the cruiser Montevideo.

Next is a large pane of 50 of the 1919 Statue of Liberty stamps (mounted sidewise) celebrating the end of World War I. FDR clearly liked large blocks and multiples and this is the largest one mounted on an album page that I've yet seen in his collection. The final Uruguay page shown is FDR's album page with stamps of the 1934 set celebrating the Three Constitutions marking the first year of the new republic.

Finally, FDR album pages from Venezuela and White Russia are shown. The page for Venezuela (one of two in my collection), shows 1911 stamps depicting Francisco de Miranda, Rafael Urdaneta, and Simon Bolivar. On the right is FDR's complete single-page collection for White Russia labeled by him in ink, "White Russia 1920." Imperforate stamp sets are shown at the top, perforated stamps below. As is the case with some early stamps of Ukraine, these are no longer listed in Scott, but since they were listed while FDR was alive he collected them.

The important role that worldwide stamp collecting played in FDR's life cannot be emphasized enough.

The frontispiece in the 1946 H.R. Harmer auction catalog of the Roosevelt collection (Figure 11) shows a pho-



Figure 8. Franklin Roosevelt's Germany, Japan, Panama, South Africa, and Switzerland album pages.

tograph of FDR with his stamp collection and the quote, "I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting." This quote is from December 21, 1932. Once he became president, stamp collecting offered FDR both relaxation and solace while leading the country through the Great Depression and then the Allies to victory in World War II.

During the war, FDR's military advisors were often surprised by the depth of his knowledge about the geography of remote regions in the Pacific Ocean, something FDR attributed to his lifelong interest in stamp collecting. As president, FDR did much of his work in the Oval Study at the White House and during frequent visits by top military men, such as Admiral Ernest King and General George C. Marshall, they grew accustomed to seeing the president with his stamp collection.

What about specialization? While FDR's worldwide stamp collecting interests seemed to know no bounds, as he collected almost everything, including cinderellas and various seals, there were a few countries where his personal collection was more comprehensive. This is revealed by careful examination of the Harmer auction catalog in which FDR's General Collection of Hong Kong, described as FDR's "favorite country," shows 80 lots. Latin American countries listed under his General Collection include the Dominican Republic, with 55 lots; Uruguay, 54 lots; and Haiti, 37 lots.

So where did FDR stand among the world's most famous stamp collectors?

In his 1936 book, *Stamp Collecting: The King of Hobbies*



Figure 9. Closeups from album pages from FDR's South Africa and Switzerland collections.

and the Hobby of Kings, Stanley J. Phillips begins his chapter on "Leading Stamp Collectors of the World" with Franklin D. Roosevelt, followed by King George V. Of these two collections, only the Royal Philatelic Collection remains intact today.

Phillips was himself renowned in the philatelic world, being an inaugural 1921 signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, along with King George V, and Phillips had personally known nearly all of the great stamp collectors of the past. He recalls visiting FDR as part of a delegation to invite him to join the Collectors Club of New York. FDR did, and I saw his original signed membership application when visiting the club in September 2019.

Nonetheless, FDR always considered himself to be much more "a stamp collector" than a philatelist. For him, stamp collecting was primarily a relaxing personal activity. However, FDR's great popularity while president and the widely publicized fact that he avidly collected stamps, helped lead to a Golden Age of Stamp Collecting in the United States and around the world.

Outside of the scope of this article are my original stamp album pages from two of the presentation collections given to FDR by fellow philatelists. This includes 25 pages of Argentine stamps from a three-volume collection given to FDR on the occasion of his visit to Buenos Aires in 1936 for the Pan American Conference by the Philatelists of Argentina. These are mounted on loose-leaf standard size Rapkin "Facile" album pages.

I also have five pages of Venezuelan stamps from a seven-volume presentation collection given to FDR in 1944 by the Philatelic Society of Venezuela. These are mounted on Elbe loose leaf album pages designed for a springback album.

Not surprisingly, these presentation collection pages are more carefully mounted and arranged than those in FDR's personal collection, which was much more a work in progress.

While a number of presentation collections given to FDR by foreign governments are now held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, there seems to be a virtually complete absence of original examples of FDR's loose leaf stamp album pages from his personal stamp collection at the FDR Library, the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, or the American Philatelic Research Library. This makes documentation and preservation of such material especially important for posterity.

Despite the vast literature devoted to Roosevelt and nearly all aspects of his life and times, the story of FDR as a stamp collector has been largely neglected by historians, offering opportunity for new insight and discovery. My goal in this article has been to provide a fresh and accurate picture of how Roosevelt collected worldwide stamps. This is based on careful study and analysis of my more than 300 intact, original stamp album pages with more than 5,000 stamps from FDR's personal worldwide stamp collection that he arranged and mounted himself.

Regarding the pages themselves, the majority of those in FDR's collection are Scott Stamp & Coin Co. pages with linen hinges and glassine interleaving designed for use in springback binders. Although there is no guarantee that these loose-leaf pages have remained in the order that FDR left them in or that individual pages and stamps are not missing, they seem to be arranged in Scott catalog order.

Altogether, these pages reveal FDR's approach in collecting and arranging his collection. Overall, the collection was clearly organized based on the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* and mounted on blank quadrille pages. These often show that FDR penciled in the Scott catalog number for the



Figure 10. Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, and White Russia album pages from FDR's collection.

first stamp on each page in the upper right margin. He basically collected everything listed in the catalog and more, freely mixing mint and used stamps, items on piece, multiples and even cover fronts on the same page, according to his own lights.

Although an avid stamp collector, FDR collected primarily for his own enjoyment and relaxation, and does not seem to have been a "completist," with a special focus on rarities, although there are some very desirable stamps in his collection. Since the collection was for his personal use and he knew his stamps well, there is not a lot of annotation, at least not on the pages than I've been able to examine. While some of FDR's album pages are quite sparsely populated, on others he mounted more than one copy of the same basic stamp arranged in rows. FDR's collecting approach seems not to simply complete pages of stamps and then move on, but rather to allow space for adding additional examples that he might acquire in the future.

As for myself, I've greatly enjoyed getting to know FDR as a stamp collector by studying his personal collection. My own collecting interests have been especially focused on finding items from FDR's collection, as well as collecting related autograph material, including hundreds of original signed letters on official government stationery from the FDR White House, members of his cabinet, and especially, Post Office Department officials, such as his postmasters general. In this pursuit, I've been very fortunate. Besides the original albums pages from FDR's personal collection described in this article and album pages from presentation collections given to FDR, I've been able to acquire nearly 1,000 covers sent to FDR from more than 50 countries. When combined with my own representative 1840-1945-plus worldwide stamp collection, covering the years that FDR himself collected, this provides me with valuable philatelic context, including numerous examples of worldwide postal history from the FDR era.

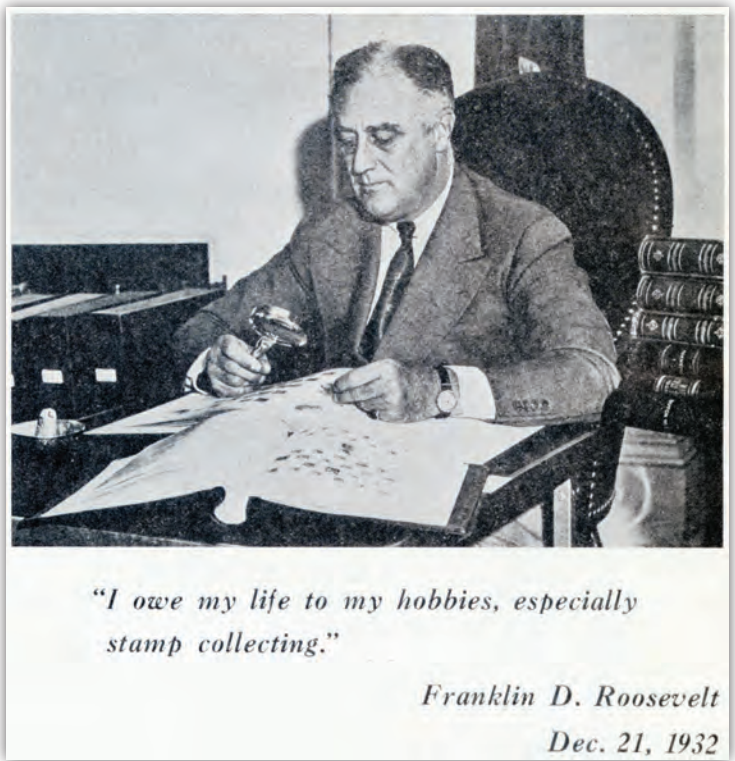


Figure 11. The frontispiece showing FDR with his stamps from the 1946 H.R. Harmer auction catalog.

Resources

Holland, Paul M. "A Stamp Collector for President: George Linn, FDR and the 1932 Election," *The American Philatelist* (May 2016).

Holland, Paul M. "Franklin D. Roosevelt as a Stamp Collector," *The American Philatelist* (October 2020).

H.R. Harmer, Inc. The President Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection, parts one through four (New York: H.R. Harmer, Inc., February, April, July and December 1946).

Phillips, Stanley J. and H.L. Lindquist. *Stamp Collecting: The King of Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings* (New York: 1936).

Sloane, George B. "The Franklin D. Roosevelt Stamp Collection," *Kelleher's Collectors Connection* (reprint; Nov.-Dec. 2015).

The Author

Dr. Paul M. Holland, a retired scientist from Santa Barbara, California, is a specialist collector of the Franklin D. Roosevelt era, broadly defined. He also maintains a representative worldwide stamp collection from 1840-1945, designed to reflect the "Golden Age of Stamp Collecting."

