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## Editors Corner

By D. Klauber

### The Poway Stamp Club's Favorite



## U.S. Philatelic Books

**What's in Your Library** - When it comes to Philately most every collector utilizes the best stamp books in order to become knowledgeable. Having the right information on hand when you need it can make collecting or working on your collection easier and much more interesting. You may also wish to use this list to build your own home philatelic reference library. The list was prepared from the many recommendations of your fellow PSC club members. Each respondent was asked to provide a list of their 5 favorite and/or most utilized U.S. Philatelic books. While there are many other books out there on Topical and Worldwide stamp collecting, most all our Club Members either solely collect U.S. stamps or consecutively collect them along with one or more other nation(s) or topical interests. Thus, I have included the list of the best and/or most referenced stamp books specifically for U.S. collectors as recommended by your fellow PSC members.

Despite our clubs listed book preferences, there are an additional 3 book sets recommended by APS experts that every U.S. stamp collector should have in their private library, they are.

**Brookman's *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century***, either the two-volume set or the three-volume set.

Second is ***Johl's United States Postage Stamps 1902-1935***, Quarterman reprint. Johl comes in a four-volume set.

Lastly is, ***Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting* by Rodney Juell and Steven Rod**, these for the price are probably the best investment a beginning to intermediate U.S. collector could make assuming you read them.

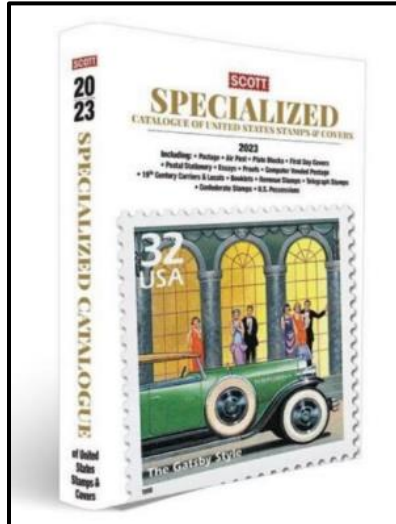
**The following pages contains the PSC members recommended list of U.S. related books in priori order.**



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## #1. Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers, 2023 & Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue \*\*\*\*\*

*By Amos Media,*



This is the Holy Grail for collectors specializing in United States stamps. It contains every stamp issued by the United States Postal Service, starting in 1847. The Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers is one of the essential volumes of the Scott Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps and is the definitive source of values and listings for the United States region. It offers the most comprehensive look at the United States region. The U.S. Specialized also happens to be our top selling stamp catalog, due to the depth and

breadth of detailed listings for the popular United States region and its stamp issues. Scott Catalogues, in publication since 1868, are updated annually by the expert team of philatelists at Scott. The team scours the globe hunting down all new issues and obtaining stamps from prior periods, across all the countries of the world where stamps are issued. They then catalog each stamp, (scanning a high-resolution image of it using state-of-the-art scanning technology), assign it a Scott Number and then the Scott valuing analysts research its value. The resulting value is included alongside the listing.

Not only does it contain detailed listings of United States stamps, but you also get listings for:

- Postal stationery
- Revenue stamps
- Hunting permit (duck) stamps
- Essays
- Trial color
- Die and plate proofs.
- Confederate States of America
- U.S. possessions and territories
- and United Nations stamp

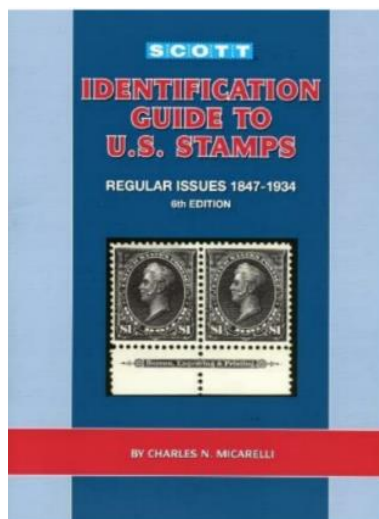
Each of these sections of the catalog are separate items within a larger library of the Volume's contents (postage, airmail, postage due, etc.). You'll find it easy to navigate them all with the digital catalog interface. All U.S. collectors agree and refer to the number assignment provided by this book.



#1137-112097

## #2. The Marcarelli Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps: Regular Issues 1847-1934 Stamps, 6th Edition \*\*\*

By Charles Micarelli



I recommend only the 6<sup>th</sup> version of this book as the previous releases have a significant number of errors that can frustrate the collector. The 6<sup>th</sup> version of this text is amazing and is probably this collectors most referenced U.S. related philatelic text. This book dives deeply into the classic stamps issued between 1847-1862. Stamps in this era have several variations in their design that helps distinguish their assigned catalogue number (Scott's). Many of the early issues have tiny differences or secret marks that affect their rarity. The Sixth Edition of the Scott Identification

Guide by Charles Marcarelli has been thoroughly updated to reflect all the changes made in the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. Using charts and illustrations get the vital information you need to make confident identification of classic and early 20th century U.S. regular issues. Each of the nine chapters features the latest research in recognizing the subtle differences that can mean thousands of dollars between stamps with similar designs. This easy-to-use book is arranged by stamp design and denomination, so you have the entire history of a definitive series right at your fingertips. A "must-have" reference for any serious U.S. collector, this work picks up where the U.S. Specialized leaves off.

**Marcarelli New Edition 7 December 2022**

SCOTT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE OF US REGULAR ISSUE STAMPS  
1847-1934

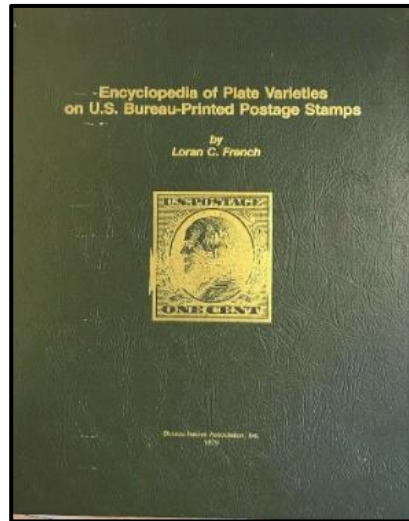
The seventh edition of the Scott Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps by Charles N. Marcarelli and the Scott catalog editors has been thoroughly updated to reflect all the changes made since publication of the sixth edition in 2013, as well as changes and updates in the annual Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. Each of the nine chapters features detailed illustrations and summary tables for each issue that help you recognize subtle differences that can mean thousands of dollars between stamps with similar designs. A "must-have" reference for any serious U.S. collector, the Scott Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps picks up where the U.S. Specialized catalog leaves off. (Illustrated in Color)



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### #3. Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps \*\*

by Loran C. French, 1979



This book is one of the few good sources about identifying plate varieties. It was the editor's second favorite book. There are of course a few other books that offer some modicum of this type of insight. But this is perhaps the book that is most useful when identifying plate varieties is Loran "Cloudy" French's Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau Printed Postage Stamps, Bureau Issues

Association 1979, 338 pp.

My copy is well loved, drab green, well-worn embossing, w/o any hint of a dust jacket. French's book identifies the "True" PLATE VARIETIES which change the appearance of the postage stamp. One of the best features of the book is that French seeks to identify the original source of the variation (i.e., who first identified it) as well as the plate(s) it is found on and if available he will even identify the stamp varieties position on the plate(s).

French identifies the list of types of plate varieties: Die Flaws, Engravers Errors, Relief Breaks, Extraneous Transfers, Layout Dots/Lines/Arcs, Foreign Transfers, Dropped Transfers, Double Transfers, Triple Transfers, Short Transfers, Twisted Double Transfers, False Start Double Transfers, Shifted Transfers, Inverted Plate Numbers, Double Punch Marks, Cracks, Gripper Cracks, Tension Cracks, Scratches/Gouges/Plate Damage, Chrome Stains, Recutting, Stoned/Burnished, Worn Plates, Re-Entries.

This book shatters the notion that all plate varieties are recorded in the specialized catalogs. The book is indeed an encyclopedia with hundreds of illustrations and systematically catalogued plate varieties.





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#### #4. The Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps Vol 1-4 R.H. White \*\*

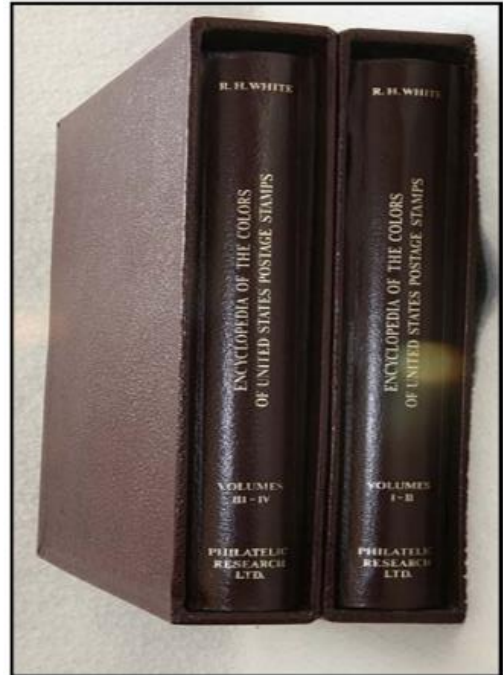
Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps by R. H. White. The set covers the 1847 - 1918 issues, The standard work on the colors, papers, and gum of US stamps.

White's color charts are very useable stamp identification aids. The Encyclopedia of Colors of United States Postage Stamps by R.H. White contains four volumes that cover U.S. postage stamps from 1847 to 1917, and a fifth volume that covers postage due issues from 1879 to 1916.

The color plates are professionally and accurately done. White's probably the best reference that exists for the specific stamps it

covers. An article published with the plates also provides critical information about the dates of appearance of the various colors.

Warning: These books are not cheap, but every philatelist who looks at U.S. 19th century, Washington-Franklins, and early postage dues, would benefit from using them.



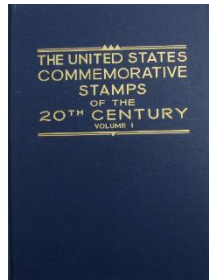
is

- 1981, Vol 1-4, 4 Parts in 2 binders within one or two slip cases, enquire before ordering,
  - Vol 1-2, 1847-1868 and 1869-1893
  - Vol 3-4, 1894-1907 and 1908-1918
- 1986, Vol 1-6 less Vol 5, in 4 binders
  - Vol 5, Postage Due Issues 1879-1916,
  - Vol 6, Paper, and Gums of 1847-1909,
- 1986, Supplement to the above,
  - Preservation of United States Stamps, 1847-1893, 59 pages
  - Preservation of United States Stamps, 1894-1918, 52 pages
  - Glass Slide containing paper samples.



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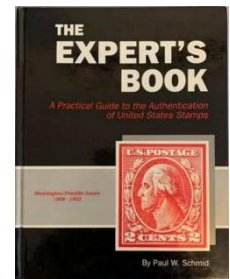
## #5. The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century 4 volume set 1901-1935 and 1935-1947 \* by Max G. Johl New York: H. L. Lindquist, 1947.



Colonel Max G. Johl of Connecticut, was an American philatelist who specialized in the collecting of, and writing philatelic literature on, United States postage stamps. Johl was an expert on the 20th century issues of the United States. He was co-author, with Beverly S. King, of Volume 1 (1932) and Volume 2 (1934) of The United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century and sole author of Volume 3 (1935), Volume 4 (1938), and Volume 1- Revised and Enlarged (1937). Johl also wrote The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century, 1902-1947 (two vols., 1947). He received the Crawford Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1938 for these works.

## #6. The Expert's Book – A Practical Guide to The Authentication of United States Stamps Washington/Franklin Issues 1908-1923 \*\*\* By Paul W. Schmid, 210 Pages

While this book title may be a mouth full, it's considered the best guide into what is known as the most troublesome area in United States stamp collecting. The so-called *Washington Franklin Issues*. While at first glance the stamps from this era look the same, there are minuscule differences between them that can mean the difference of junk to treasure. This stamp collecting book goes into detail how to distinguish the differences between authentic varieties and the thousands of counterfeits that flood the market. The book is useful for the collecting focus on the famous Washington/Franklin postage stamps issues 1908 - 1923 when using Scott numbering system . It covers most of the important facts to know about the stamp variants and especially ways how to easily authenticate and distinguish each issue. One goal of the text is to warn collectors about the faked rarer stamps that can be produced from their more common variants. The book contains more detailed typology of 2 cents and 3 cents stamps and recommendations on how to distinguish similar types. There are useful notes including: "Detection of Design Alterations" and "Determination of Printing Methods". This is a very good book but be wary of paying too much. Many dealers will sell this book for manifold times its original price. Don't take this wrong, this is a good book, but the volume of information it contains does probably not warrant the increased price.



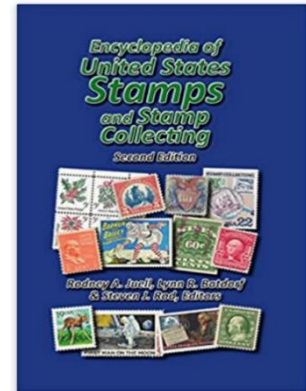


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## #7. *States Stamps and Stamp Collecting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* \*

by Rodney A. Juell, Lynn R. Batdorf, and Steven J. Rod

A comprehensive introduction to United States stamp collecting. The *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting, Second Edition*, (2016) introduces the collector to the full scope of United States stamps and stamp collecting. Beginning with an introduction to; stampless covers; (letters mailed before the introduction of postage stamps), it then introduces the many stamps issued from their inception with the 1845 Postmasters' Provisionals through the stamps of 2016. Other chapters deal with the host of stamps known to collectors as; back-of-the-book; issues, including stamps issued for air mail, special delivery, U.S. possessions, revenue purposes, and postal stationery.



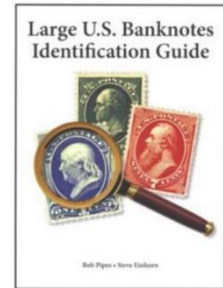
The history of the Postal Service and the various stamp printers, including the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is explored. A section of the Encyclopedia highlights the technological innovations of stamp production, the history of the movement of the mails, markings applied to envelopes, and meters and machine generated postage. While a book about U.S. stamps and stamp collecting, in a larger sense it is a history of American politics, culture, values and technology seen through the prism of the nation's postage stamps and postal service. Each of the sixty-three chapters employs a similar format, wherein an introductory article is followed by practical tips on collecting; an almanac of chronological dates to orient the reader within each historical era; a selection of quotes, both contemporaneous and modern, to provide context; examples of postal usage; and a compilation of references to which the reader can turn for more information. While the Encyclopedia will be welcomed by many advanced stamp collectors, it was written with the beginning collector in mind. It assumes no prior experience with collecting and includes a comprehensive glossary of philatelic terms. The full color, hard bound, 769-page book is generously illustrated with stamps, covers and related material.



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## #8. U.S. Large Banknotes Identification Guide: Strategies and Methods of Identification, Revised Edition \*\* by Stephen Einhorn and Robert Pipes (2010), American Philatelic Society.

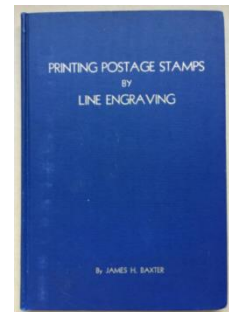
The book aims to help the collector identify these stamps and includes large illustrations and a summary of the information and methods used to distinguish between soft and hard paper, which is crucial in correctly identifying the stamps in a series. ISBN #9780933580770. Pipes, Bob & Einhorn, Steve. Large U.S. Banknotes Identification Guide. . Published 2010. Card. 25p. American Philatelic Society. Enlarged illus. Shows secret marks, guide to use of color and paper in identification.



## #9. Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving \*\*

by James H. Baxter, (1981), Quarterman Pub. [reprint of 1939 edition by the APS]. Publisher: Quarterman Publications, USA, 1981, originally published in 1939.

Baxter's book provides a detailed explanation of the process from die creation to perforation. Baxter originally wrote a series of articles in *The American Philatelist* entitled *Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving* during 1937 and 1938, and Baxter was awarded the APS Literary Prize in 1938 for the series. In 1939 Baxter collected the articles into "Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving." The book was reprinted in B&W in 1981. Baxter was also editor of the *Postal History Journal* from 1958 to 1985." *Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving* is written in three Parts: Engraving, Plate Making and Printing. Each is supported by individual chapters that develop sequentially within. Baxter's book describes some of the varieties that were a direct function of printing and the processing steps to finish a stamp including the 2¢ Columbian "broken hat," coil fakes, double impressions, sheet and coil waste, flat v. rotary output, precancel plates, and listed catalog "types" among others. Some use his book to distinguish flat from rotary plate printings of Wash-Frank coils printed on the Stickney press. It is not surprising that this book made our top 10. Baxter was elected to the APS Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame in 1986. One year after his death, he was named to the APS Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to the advancement of philately.<sup>1</sup>



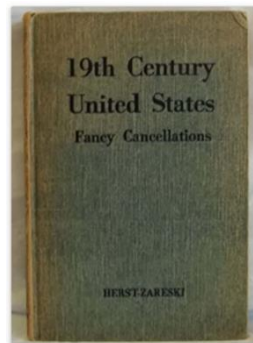




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## #10. 19th Century United States Fancy Cancellations

Jan 1, 1951\* by *Michael Zareski*; Herman Herst, Jr.

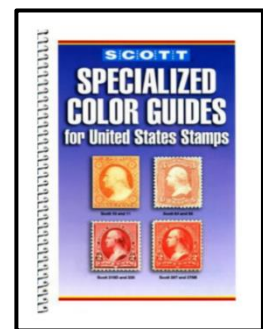


A remarkable work on the interesting cancellations of 19th century US stamps. Original work written in French and translated and published by Herman Herst. 19th Century United States Fancy Cancellations by Michel Zareski & Herman Herst Contains historic postage stamp cancellations and descriptions. The book is an excellent resource for people who collect the nineteenth century fancy cancels on US stamps. Recommended it for all collectors of US Fancy Cancels as these can be collected on stamps and covers. Finding out more about their origin and use will show why often they are often quite expensive and difficult to find on cover.

Herst was—until the day he passed away was not only the hobby's greatest storyteller, but also its Number One Cheerleader. He wrote articles and columns in nearly every American stamp periodical and spread “the gospel” of philately wherever and whenever he could. He was also a lifelong member of the ASDA and one of its early supporters. In his heyday, which would have been the period of the 1930s-50s, he had a booth at nearly every major stamp show in the country—from Oklahoma and Texas to New England and Southern California. His many, many friends were legion.

## #11. Scott Specialized Color Guides for U.S. Stamps, rev. ed. 2005, by Richard M. Morris \*\*

When color is essential for proper identification, this is the color guide to use. The handmade guide sets the standard for hard-to-identify colors, by combining the knowledge of leading experts with actual color chips from the Munsell Book of Color. The guide offers the specialized collector a simple and easy-to-use method of distinguishing the subtle shades of color needed to make the proper identification for Scott 10,11.

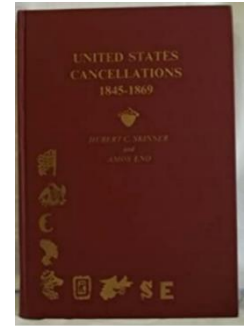


The Scott (Amos) Publishing Company chose not to publish a universal color guide that was tied to its catalogs, it did publish a very useful color guide for U.S. stamps, “Scott Specialized Color Guides for United States Stamps” (G3701 .C719 M877p 2005). Covers the 3¢ 1851-57, 3¢ 1861-68, 2¢ 1890 and 2¢ 1895-1903, The two editions are quite similar as to color identification however the text differs. Most readers prefer the original edition as the chips are mounted on a non-surfaced paper and you do not get paper glare.



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## #12. United States Cancellations 1845-1869 (Aps Handbook)\* *Hubert C. Skinner & Amos Eno*



The original work, compiled by Hubert Skinner and Amos Eno and published by the American Philatelic Society in 1980, was the culmination of a combined 65 years of research of the “many striking, ingenious, and unusual cancellations devised by nineteenth century postmasters to ‘kill’ or ‘cancel’ the early adhesive stamps.”

The United States Philatelic Classics Society is offering an online update of a classic work of American philatelic literature, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*. The society said, “This update to the original 1980 publication is a living digital document that will be regularly updated to include new information and discoveries.” Because there has been over 40 years since the handbook was originally published, there have been numerous discoveries in the field of fancy cancellations. The virtual handbook project exists which was spearheaded by Charles Souder and Ed Jatho (1948-2018), who added and revised hundreds of new cancellations. Souder is continuing the project and managing the webpage. In addition to new tracings (vastly improving upon those in the original book), there are also illustrations of stamps and covers with the various markings, making identification easier. Additional chapters will be added over time.

In conclusion, probably the fastest way to learn about a new philatelic interest is to join one of the many specialty societies or clubs. Why is this? For the cost of dues, you can usually expect a newsletter or perhaps a journal and access to the other members who share your same interests. Many clubs and organizations provide digital archives of their back issue journals, one example of one which I personally use is at the Poway Stamp Club

[www.powaystampclub.com](http://www.powaystampclub.com), as well as the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. These sites contain articles and much more including access to some items for those who are not even members yet.

If you do not know if there is a specialty society for your particular interest, you may search by “collecting subject” on the American Philatelic Society's web site. An excellent way to look for useful literature is by searching the philatelic library databases in the Global Philatelic Library at <http://globalphilateliclibrary.org>.<sup>2</sup>

1. NPL, Book Reports, Jan. – Feb. 2015 Volume 12, Issue 1 Book Review: Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving by Charles Neyhart,
2. Tips for building your own philatelic reference Library at home, Linns Insights June 24, 2013, [www.linns.com/Insights](http://www.linns.com/Insights)