

# The PhilateliKid

*The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)*

*Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)*

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

December 1, 2018

## **A Few Observations**

Philately has been in decline as a hobby for over 50 years.

Decline can be measured in many ways, including the number of people who are actively collecting stamps, the number of publications issued weekly or monthly, the number of store front dealers, the number of stamp clubs, youth attendance and activities, and attendance at stamp shows. In every one of these ways, our hobby has been in steady decline.

The hobby cannot sustain itself by expecting new stamp collectors to be created by their noticing stamps that are used on mail that they receive.

Grade school children love stamp collecting, but there are few people willing to take the hobby to them.

Kids drawing pictures of imaginary stamps is not stamp collecting.

The two major publications in the United States for stamp collectors are Linns, and The Philatelist (the American Philatelic Society monthly magazine.) Very little in Linns or The Philatelist is aimed for youth or beginner stamp collectors.

A lot of what is written about in Linns is prices for very expensive stamps for sale or sold at auction.

Our hobby has lots of abbreviations, such as RPO, EFO, and EKV, NH and many special terms such as Washington-Franklins and Penny Blacks that need to be explained to newcomers.

60 years ago there were **many different albums** available for beginner stamp collectors that showed stamps from countries around the world, available very inexpensively. Now there are none.

If a person is to become a stamp collector, that person needs to learn how to use tongs, and own a pair of tongs.

Catalogues, such as Scotts, are very expensive, and it unrealistic to expect a beginner to purchase a set of catalogues.

Public libraries today carry very little for stamp collectors.

Barnes and Noble does not even carry Linns for sale. (Coin World is available, though.)

The amount of attention spent by Philatelic organizations, such as the APS, can be measured by how much of **the budget** and how much of **the time** during board meetings is spent on how to service youth, beginner stamp collectors, and the future of the hobby.

If a church does not have a Sunday School for its children (teach them), and organized activities for youth (fun), that church will not last for long. (Check out the Shakers.)--- Then, check out philately.

The concept of non-profit is not understood well by many board members of Philatelic non-profit organizations, who are often very focused on making a profit at events.

It is better to have more philatelic events, than to have fewer.

Most philatelic events where there are exhibits, have a big party for the exhibitors.

Most philatelic shows are financed on the back of stamp dealers.

Stamp dealers are important to our hobby, and they are becoming scarcer.

Very few stamp dealers carry "modern Issues."

Minor differences in stamps ("fly-specking") used to be very popular in the olden days, when not many different stamps were available to collect.

Although stamp collecting includes such non-stamp collecting items such as stampless covers, most stamp collectors are interested in stamps.

Most stamp collectors today do not see "research" as the main reason to collect stamps.

Many adults who say they are very supportive of helping youth get started in stamp collecting have no children or grandchildren who are interested in the hobby.

Most people in the hobby do not see the hobby as competitive, and do not collect stamps to win trophies.

People who collect stamps as an "investment" are more often than not very disappointed to learn how badly their "investment" has turned out.

Beginner stamp collectors are not worried about the backs of stamps.

I do not know how much longer the Boy Scouts will be offering Stamp Collecting merit badge. In very large metropolitan centers, where there are thousands of Scouts, I see the merit badge being offered at day long events, and a very small handful of Scouts participate.

In a metropolitan center where there are over 100 schools, a stamp club for kids with less than 50 active members is not much to brag about. One or two stamp clubs for kids with less than a dozen active members, in a large metropolitan center, is something we should be ashamed about.

A tiny fraction of 1% of stamp collectors cares about a huge philatelic library.

Girls love stamp collecting.

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Wonderful Season to All !**

**Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - [www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)**