

# The PhilateliKid

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

**Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)**

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)    March 1, 2022

## **Happy St. Patrick's Day**



March 17<sup>th</sup> is a very busy day for taverns, and Irish owned or themed restaurants.

This month March 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Thursday, and will be a very busy day for taverns and restaurants. Being served will be traditional Irish beverages and foods, namely, Irish whisky, corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, and green beer.

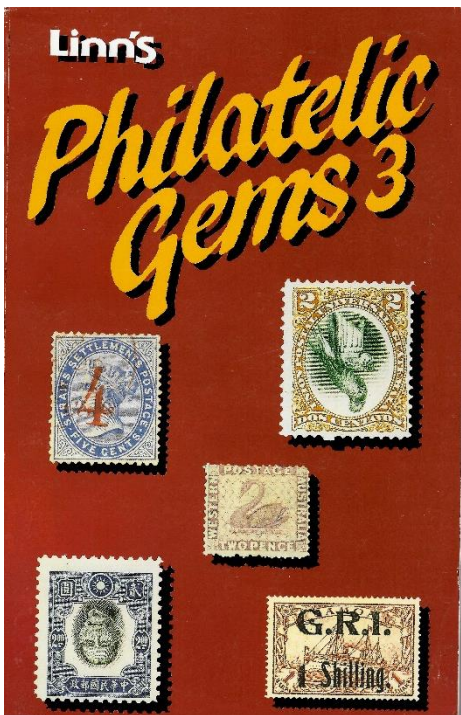
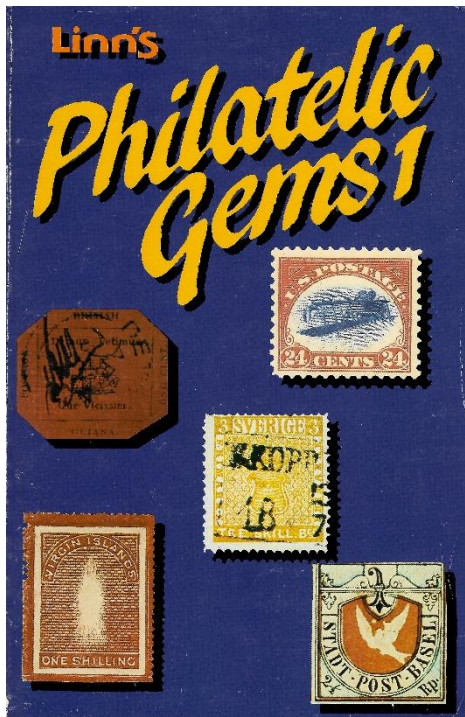
Traditionally the **color green** is worn.

In the United States a person's birth is commemorated, but St. Patrick's Day commemorates the death of St. Patrick on March 17, 461. The exact date is uncertain, but this date is widely

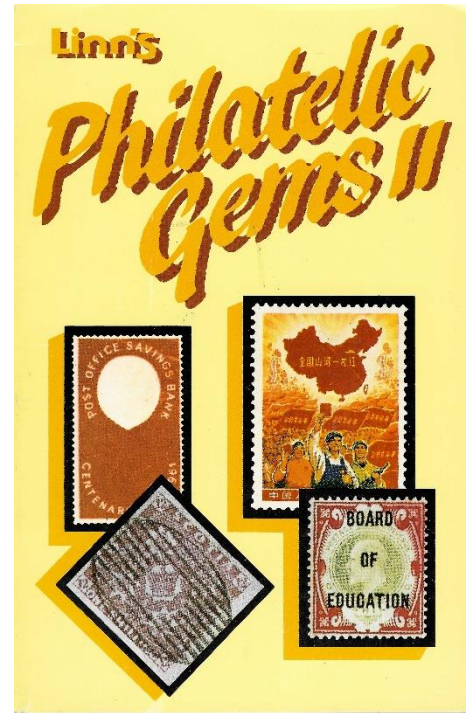
accepted. St. Patrick is attributed as having brought Christianity to Ireland.

### **Books that are fun to read**

Amos Press, Inc owns and publishes Linn's Stamp News, on a weekly basis, as well as publishing annually Scott Catalogues. Between 1985 and 1987 Donna O'Keefe wrote a series of three books, published by Amos Press. The titles are Linn's Philatelic Gems 1, Linn's Philatelic Gems II, and Linn's Philatelic Gems III and are each from 168 to 174 pages long. They are fun and informative. In philately, "gem" is used two ways: to describe a beautiful condition of a stamp, or to identify a particular stamp as a really special, rare stamp. "Philatelic gems" are individual stamps or covers.



A "philatelic gem" is in the eye of the beholder, and many modern collectors would not want them in their collections, even if they cost only one cent, because they have unattractive cancellations, or feature a person, place or item that is not of current interest. However, "gems" are not cheap stamps. The best definition of a "gem" is a stamp that costs so much that it is beyond the ability of over 99% of all stamp collectors to purchase it. Sometimes the gem is unique, or one of just a few known, and sell in hundreds of thousands of dollars. Sometimes there are dozens, or even hundreds of a particular stamp still existing, but they are often found in very poor condition. No matter what way you look at it, a gem is expensive, probably costing at least \$20,000 in today's money.



Many gems have a very humble beginning, and these of books, which are easy to find for sale on the internet at reasonable prices, ranging from \$5 to \$30 each, make interesting reading. The books go through the various owners of these rare stamps. The covers of these books are bright and in full color, but the contents are only black and white. Maybe someday an updated version of these three books will be made with color illustrations, and more recent information. I understand that there are more Linn's Philatelic Gems books

(4, and 5) but I have not seen them, so I do not know if they too are in black and white. Try one, and you will want more.

**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) or [www.yummystampcollecting.org](http://www.yummystampcollecting.org) which redirects you to the same website.

