

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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Don't Use U.S. Mail

In the past couple years an interesting phenomenon has been occurring. Some recipients have requested that they be removed from the mailing list, with the reason being stated that it was a waste of money to buy postage for mailing. This newsletter has always been mailed to recipients using the U.S. mail. In fact, First Class mailings have always been used, even though we qualify for a far cheaper non-profit organization rate. Most (over 90%) if the recipients also have an email address on file. So why has The PhilateliKid been using First Class U.S. mail? The answer to that lies in this question: What do stamp collectors collect? --- Stamps! (Plus a lot of other philatelic items such as First Day Covers, Postal History, and stamp-related items such as selvedge.)

A second question then arises: If a stamp collector wants to collect stamps, where can they be found? Stamps today are not placed on 99% of all non-philatelic mail. You can just round that off to NOTHING being mailed, except by those of us who want to support the hobby by: (1) Talking about stamp collecting, (2) writing about stamp collecting, and (3) USING STAMPS ON MAIL. (Especially to a recipient who is interested in our hobby.)

An interesting, and true story. A couple years ago a school librarian told me that her 18-year-old son asked her the following question: Where can a person purchase a stamp?

The quick and easy answer is: At the Post Office. (That is, of course, true, but nowhere close to the WHOLE truth.)

What is the Whole truth? Let's look at where stamps are purchased. Post offices normally have available for sale, IF REQUESTED, some recent commemorative stamps, definitive stamps, and possibly some high denomination stamps for Priority Mail, Express Mail, and packages. However, unless requested, almost every transaction at a post office that involves purchasing postage is done by the clerks printing postage labels.

Where else can postage stamps be purchased? Locally, some grocery stores and other retail stores sell booklets of stamps, but little, or nothing, else.

It used to be that small retail stores and pharmacies would have a hobby section, including packets of stamps from the U.S. and foreign countries. I have not seen that in many decades.

That leaves the internet, and mail order stamp companies, stamp dealers at stamp shows, and stamp clubs. This makes finding postage stamps not a very easy task for beginners. So... use stamps on your mail, and use mail!

In the May 2022 issue of *The Philatelist*, we began brief descriptions of various "Back of the Book" ("BOB") listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter "B," "C," "CE," "CL," "CM," "CB," "CO," "E," "D," "F," "FA," "J," "K," "L," "LO," "O," "PR," "PN," "PS," "WS," "BK," "Q," "JQ," "QE," "CVP," "WX," "QI," and "#X." This month we will look at the prefix "REA."

Stamps Beginning with the prefix "REA"



Scott REA 20 --- Issued 1871

This stamp has it all! Super engraving. Beautiful two colors.

Weird amount (12 ½ cents)!

Weird amount of beer (1/8th barrel)

**In case this engraving of Andrew Jackson looks familiar-
check out the \$20 bill in your wallet.**

**A little mystery here. In the middle it says Engraved and
Printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, but at the
bottom it says National Bank Note Company, New York.**

What?

**Turns out the CENTER of the stamp is printed by the Bureau,
and the FRAME of the stamp is printed by the
National Bank Note Company.**

The prefix REA is given to Beer Stamps. They were first issued in 1866 and were last issued in 1951. Many of the early issues have catalog values over \$100 and are collected with small faults because the paper that was used was very fragile. Many Beer Stamps are quite ornate. At left is one of my favorite stamps in my entire collection. It sells for about \$100, so it is not cheap, however quite beautiful. It has an incredible amount of ornate engraving, which is not visible in this scan. If you can see a real one of these, you will be amazed.

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 or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.

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