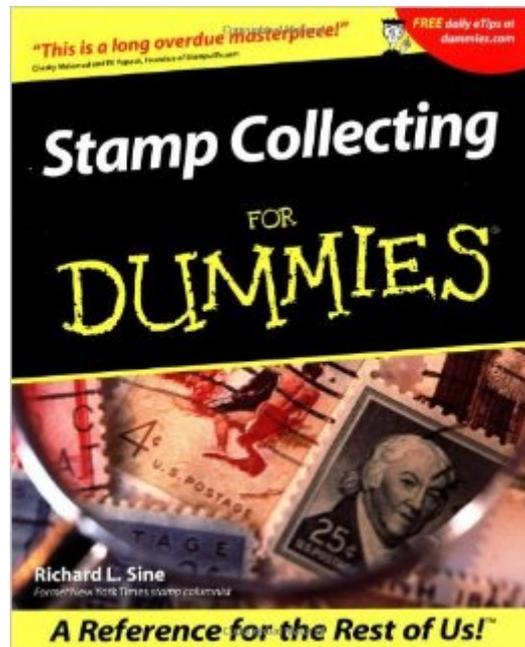


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# Stamp Collecting For Dummies



## Synopsis

Postage stamps have evolved quite a bit since Great Britain's 1840 Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp. From simple designs featuring the monarch to works of art literally condensed to postage stamp size, hundreds of thousands of different stamps have been issued in the past 164 years—and the great majority of them remain reasonably priced for collectors. With so many stamps to collect from so many countries, a philatelist's choices are virtually unlimited—which can be both a blessing and a curse, especially if you're a newcomer to the art of stamp collecting. Interested in starting a stamp collection, but not sure where to begin? This is the guide for you. Expert Richard Sine fills you in on everything you need to know about selecting, finding, buying, presenting and caring for stamps. An internationally recognized collector and author on stamp collecting (he used to write the New York Times stamp column) he also has much wisdom to impart to collectors who've been at it for a while. A gold mine of expert advice and guidance, *Stamp Collecting For Dummies* is on how to: Start or diversify your collection Decide what to collect Catalog and organize your collection Handle, protect, store, and display stamps Identify rare and valuable stamps Buy stamps online and through auction houses Unlike most authors on the subject who tend to be pretty stuffy—to put it politely—expert Richard Sine focuses on the side of stamp collecting that's enjoyable, educational, and fun. With humor, tons of interesting anecdotes about stamps and the men and women who love them, and loads of insider tips, he covers all the bases, including: Getting the biggest bang for your stamp-collecting buck Researching, locating and buying stamps through traditional sources and online Showing off your collection at exhibits Customizing your collection Housing your stamps and protecting them against the elements The ten keys to identifying and authenticating stamps *Stamp Collecting For Dummies* is your total guide to starting and building on a really cool stamp collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have always thought the Dummies series of books were some of the best-written "How To" books on the market. This one lives up to that reputation. Mr. Sine has produced a well-written, clear guidebook for both new and experienced collectors. He manages to cover the subject without getting bogged down in the jargon of the hobby. His style and wit are welcome in a hobby whose literature can at times be very dry. This is a good guide to a great hobby.

When you are American and want to start a collection of American stamps, this is the book for you. The book contains some really nice tips e.g. how to set up a reference collection. However, I would have liked to see some more technical stuff e.g. on how to identify watermarks (and especially when it's not straightforward). It also is a pity that the author spends a lot of time on American stamps (and I am not American :)), askPhil and the fact that you can also start a thematic collection. In so many pages the author could and should have covered a lot more ground. So definitely not a book for intermediate level collectors or people interested in the world outside the USA.

This volume in the 'Dummies' series is written with a humorous light touch that makes it especially attractive to the Dummy who knows he is one and doesn't need to be reminded that he is one by being frog-marched through impenetrable jargon. In addition, Richard Sine or his editor have had the foresight to break the topics he treats up into very small sections and subsections. The result is a light-hearted but content-rich introduction to the topic, one that this reviewer is only beginning to explore. I cannot imagine a more effective starting point for the would-be stamp collector or - like me - the person who needs to know before he invests time and treasure whether this is something he's going to be able to manage.

I have always thought the Dummies series of books were some of the best-written "How To" books on the market. This one lives up to that reputation. Mr. Sine has produced a well-written, clear guidebook for both new and experienced collectors. He manages to cover the subject without getting bogged down in the jargon of the hobby. His style and wit are welcome in a hobby whose literature can at times be very dry. This is a good guide to a great hobby.

This book is a little dated because it was written about 11 years ago- the statistics are old and the info about web sites info is not up to date. The suggestions about getting stamps from family and friends (Chapters 7 & 8) are no longer possible for most Americans, and the info about finding local stamp dealers is no longer valid - but just about everything else is correct and accurate. And, there are a few errors - see if you can find two mis-labeled photos of stamps in chapter 11. This book has much that is a big help to beginners and even intermediate collectors, and is written in a style that is easy to read. Very helpful and informative. After 53 years of stamp collecting, even I learned a couple new things! Well worth adding to your library, even if you have been collecting for a long time and think you know it all! Robert W. Martin, Life Member American Philatelic Society

I feel it was a very good book to start learning about stamp collecting. I wanted to find out if any stamps in my postcard collection were with more than the 25 cents for the card. I am learning a lot. But feel I will need to go on to a more updated version of stamp collecting.

But where is there an informative explanation of the story behind each stamp? The stories would be very educational for every collector about American history and culture. Each stamp is an honor to its pictured subject---a story made more easy to visualize, remember and study as deeply as one's curiosity selects.

I myself love collecting stamp since I was in grade school. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book because not only is it written humorously, it also provides us great detail about this hobby. I would definitely recommend this book, even to those who do not collect stamp as a hobby. It's a great read.

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