

Pederson Postscripts

The newsletter of Pederson Stamps

Volume 3, Number 1, August 2019



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Pederson Patter by Richard Pederson



This is the third edition of the Pederson Stamps newsletter, *Pederson Postscripts*. It has been 10 years since we last did a newsletter, but we thought the time was right to start publishing them again. Much has changed over the last 10 years. We are no longer a part time dealer that primarily sells on bidStart (now HipStamp). Pederson Stamps is now a full time business that sells at shows, does mail orders, and has on-line stores on eBay and HipStamp, in addition to our main

on-line store located on our web site at www.pedersonstamps.com. In addition to being a dealer member of the National Stamp Dealers Association (NSDA), I am also now a dealer member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA). Much like 10 years ago, we still have a focus on United States stamps, but have also greatly increased our sales of U.S. and worldwide postal history.

Perhaps the single most significant recent change in Pederson Stamps has been the development of our new web site using the Wix® web site development environment. The web site now has a modern look and feel, is easier to navigate, and includes our on-line store from which we hope to eventually make much of our stock available to customers. Low cost items that were not cost effective to sell with the markups required for eBay and HipStamp can now be offered. As before, there is still a wide variety of philatelic resources available for both our customers and others who choose to make use of them. The article starting on page 3 provides more information about our new web site and on-line store.

In this issue, we are continuing with our series of articles on the Presidential issue of 1938, the "Prexies". This issue's article is on the 1¢ value depicting George Washington, our first President.

Our Events column details our experiences at the recent Asheville Stamp and Post Card Show and this issue's Stamp Collecting Tips deals with collecting stamps or postal history on a limited budget.

For my editorial comment, I will be discussing the future of stamp collecting. This is a topic I have written about before in *NSDA News*, the newsletter of the NSDA, which I edit. I hear many long-time dealers bemoan the lower attendances at shows/bourses and talk about the aging collecting base and how it has affected membership in most organized philatelic groups, such as the APS, and resulted in the closing of most retail stamp stores. While it is true that the philatelic world is changing around us, I don't necessarily agree that it foreshadows the demise of the hobby we care about so much.

Many of those that foresee doom and gloom are also the same ones who have failed to change with the times and adapt to the current reality, which is philately on the internet. As many older collectors pass on, they are replaced with newer ones (not necessarily younger) who not only make all or most of their purchases on-line, but also research their collections the same way. As a dealer, to me the challenge is to not only adapt how I sell (i.e., place more emphasis on internet sales and less on shows), but also figure out how to get some of those internet-only buyers to see the benefits of getting involved in organized philately and, possibly, attending shows. To me, there are significant benefits a collector derives from attending stamp club meetings, attending shows, or pursuing other activities where you interact directly with dealers and/or other collectors. First, you have the opportunity to turn a solitary activity into a social one where you have the opportunity to make new friends who you can trade with, bounce collecting ideas off of, and pick their brains about various areas of philately that you have questions about. Secondly, if you build a relationship with a dealer, he/she is likely to go out of the way to locate items for your collection that you could never find on your own. Finally, although the internet is a great tool to use when seeking items for your collection, it is still no substitute for examining items in person as you can at a show or when trading with other members at a stamp club meeting. I am sure that most of those reading this have purchased items on-line only to discover that, once received, they don't appear the same as in the on-line pictures.

I am certainly not trying to discourage anyone from buying on-line. I do it all the time and consider the internet an invaluable tool in pursuing my collecting and dealing interests. I only suggest that those who only buy on-line are not exhausting the opportunities available to them to fully enjoy the hobby.

To me a greater threat to the hobby than the evolution of the internet and the increased emphasis on buying and researching on-line is the declining use of the mails in our everyday lives. Not only do people communicate with others via E-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and other on-line forms of communication, now there are also electronic means to conduct most financial transactions rather than sending checks in the mail. As the need for stamps becomes less and less, it is only a matter of time before some stamp issuing entities either reduce or cease production of stamps. Granted, it may be awhile before this happens as selling stamps, primarily

intended for collectors, is a major source of income for many countries, especially smaller ones. Nevertheless, at some point, the cost savings associated with doing away with stamps will more than offset the income received from stamp sales. Then what will happen? It's anyone's guess, but I believe there will still be room for stamp collecting. So many billions of (often unnecessary) stamps have been produced during recent decades that it will probably take hundreds of years before there is any shortage for collectors. Who knows, it might even make collecting more enticing as it will no longer be necessary to spend tremendous sums each year to buy the new issues needed to just keep up. Collectors could collect single countries and spend their money on the earlier issues that they couldn't previously afford because all their hobby funds were going to the new issues. It is also possible that people could lose interest in stamps without the new issues, but stamps and postal history are a passion so I choose to believe in the more optimistic scenario. I would certainly be interested in hearing what you think about the future of philately.

Introducing Our Updated Web Site With On-Line Store

Ten years ago, Pederson Stamps celebrated its first anniversary by bringing up its first on-line store on bidstart.com. Since then, BidStart was acquired by Stanley Gibbons, reacquired by its original developer, and then replaced with HipStamp. We still maintain a HipStamp store, which currently has over 400 listings.

Several years ago, Pederson Stamps added an eBay store, which also has over 200 items but, for the most part, those items are also listed on HipStamp. The difference between the eBay and HipStamp stores is that all our auction offerings are on eBay and there are more low-priced items on HipStamp.

As of August 2019, we now have an on-line store directly on our web site. There are currently well over 300 items listed, including stamps, postal history, reference material, and supplies. New items will be added weekly, with the goal of eventually doing a majority of our on-line business from our own site, www.pedersonstamps.com. We will continue to operate HipStamp and eBay stores, and links to those stores are included on our homepage. Auction lots will still be offered exclusively on eBay, although unsold auction lots may be moved to our own on-line store and listed as fixed price items. We have also retained all the collector information that was on our previous web site. The only difference is that the information now is in a much more attractive and easy-to-navigate format. Our store items (under "Postal History" and "Stamps"), "Publications", "Prexie Census Data", and "About" page are all listed on the main menu bar. Other information, such as "Collector Information", "Newsletter", and "Supplies" are accessible from the "More" menu bar drop down menu. Our "Blog", "Contact" information, and other items are also accessible under the "More" menu bar item. If, after navigating our site, you have improvement suggestions or other things you would like to see added, please let us know

Pictured at the top of the following page is a portion of our pedersonstamps.com homepage.



Pederson Stamps

Stamps and Worldwide Postal History



U.S. Stamps & Postal History

Postal History

Stamps

Publications

Prexie Census Data

More



Mixture of Approximately
1,000 Off-Paper India
Including States

\$19.00



Mixture of Approximately
1,000 Off-Paper Germany
Dating From 1860s

\$45.00



Mixture of Approximately
250 Off-Paper British
Regular Issues Dating From
1800s

\$7.00



Mixture of Approximately
800 Off-Paper Netherlands
Dating From the 1800s

\$12.00

Welcome to Pederson Stamps! We want to be your source for U.S. Stamps and worldwide postal history. Pederson Stamps has been in business for over 10 years and is a member of all the major dealer organizations in the U.S. This assures you that you can purchase items with confidence that Pederson Stamps stands behind each item it sells. Contact us at:

rich@pedersonstamps.com

We also maintain on-line stores on eBay and HiioStamp:

New Collections & Accumulations



VISIT OUR

The Prexies by Richard Pederson

After a lengthy delay, this is the third in our series of articles about the Presidential series of 1938, which is popularly called the "Prexies" by many stamp collectors. Since the series is being presented in order, starting with the lowest value and continuing through the highest value, this article will discuss the 1¢ value honoring George Washington. Previous articles discussing the Prexie series, in general, and the ½¢ value picturing Benjamin Franklin, can be found using the "Newsletters" entry under the "More" menu bar item on our web site "Home" page.

The 1¢ stamp was issued in four different formats, sheet stamp, booklet format, horizontal coil, and vertical coil. Each of those varieties is pictured in Figure 1 on the following page.



Figure 1. 1¢ Prexie picturing George Washington in (from left to right) sheet, booklet, horizontal coil, and vertical coil formats.

Because of his significant role in the country's fight for independence and establishment of our democracy as our first President, Washington has been depicted on more U.S. stamps than any other subject. Starting with the first stamps issued by the U.S. in 1847 through the Prominent Americans issue of 1965, he appeared on every regular issue series of stamps produced by the U.S. On just the Washington-Franklin issues of 1908 thru 1921, he appeared on 148 different major, Scott-listed stamps. He has also appeared on numerous U.S. commemoratives, including the 12 stamp Washington Bicentennial issue of 1932.

The various versions of the 1¢ Washington stamp were used from the first day of issue for the sheet stamp, on April 25, 1938, until into the 1960s. In total, over 27 billion 1¢ stamps were issued. Solo uses of the 1¢ Washington can be found on Certificates of Mailing, local covers at non-carrier post offices, paying the minimum per piece bulk rate, and, most commonly, on post cards. Examples of some solo uses are shown in Figures 1 through 4.

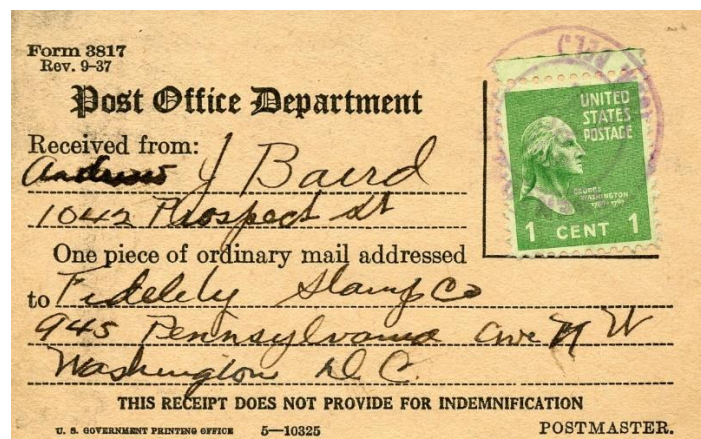


Figure 1. Certificate of Mailing.

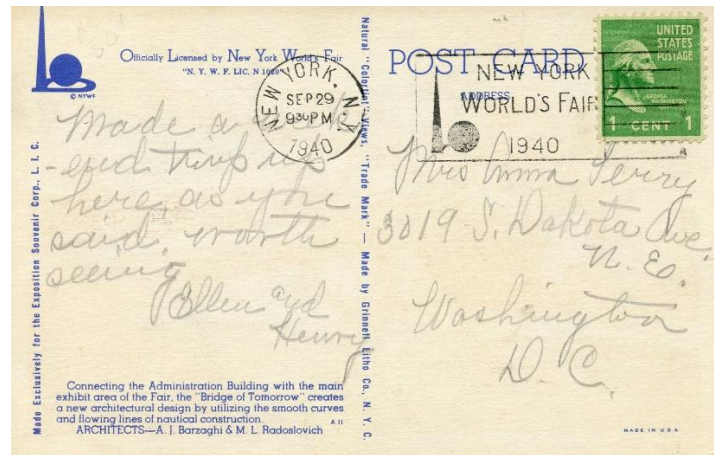


Figure 2. Post card rate.



Figure 3. Local drop rate.

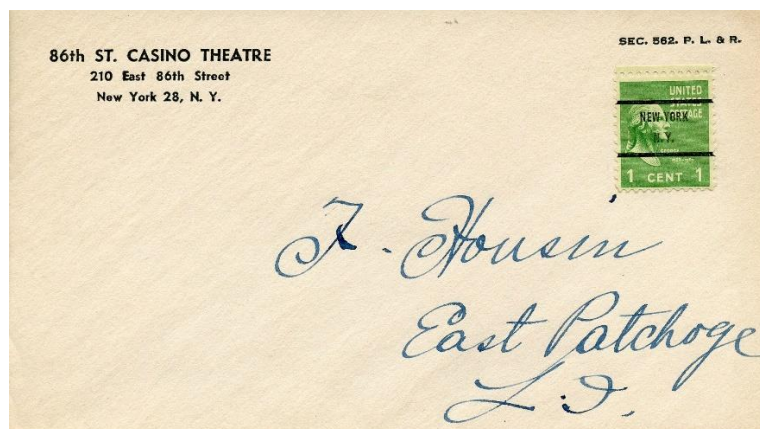


Figure 4. Minimum per piece bulk.

The 1¢ Prexie was also used in multiples or in combination with other stamps, to pay many other domestic and international rates and post office fees, including air mail, registry service, postage due, insurance, delivery confirmation, and special delivery. Figures 5 through 7 picture multiples of the one cent paying the then current air mail rate, surface rate, and surface rate with special delivery fee. Figure 8 shows a one cent paying the postage due on an international post card from Austria.

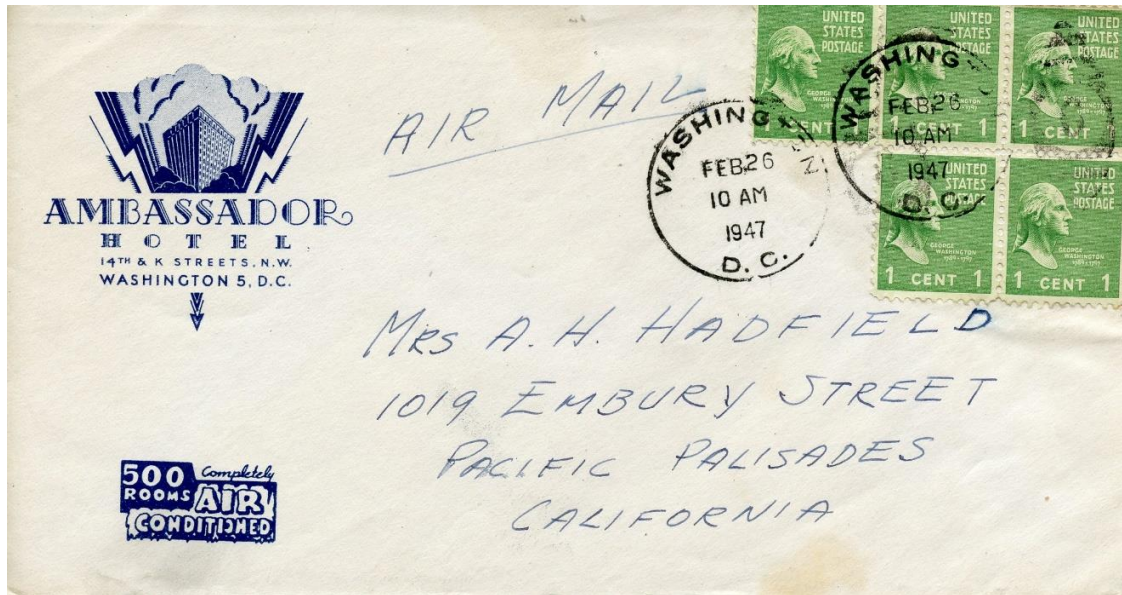


Figure 5. Air mail rate.

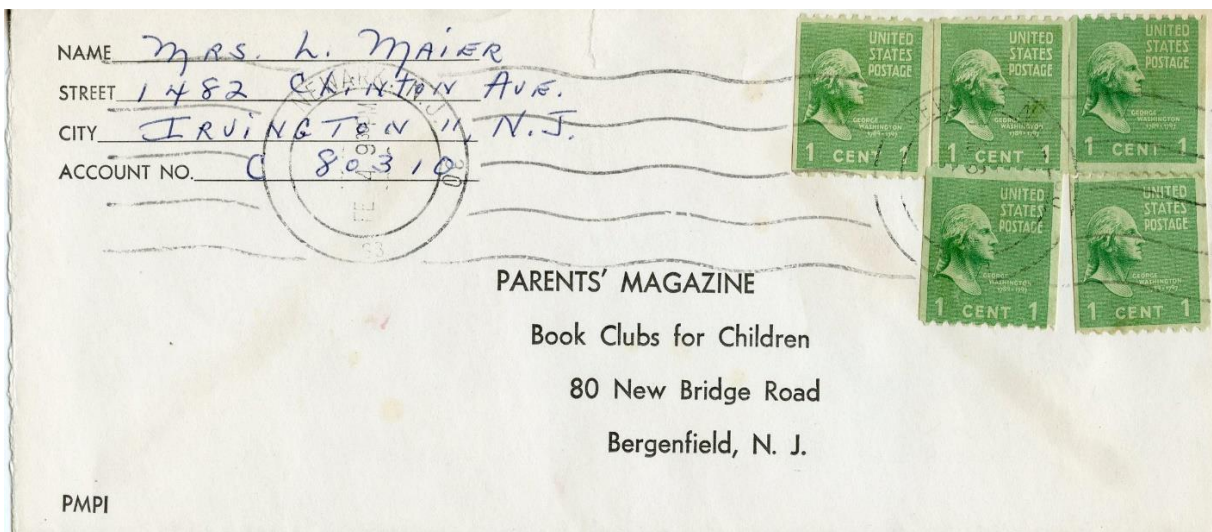


Figure 6. First class surface rate



Figure 7. Surface rate plus special delivery.



Figure 8. Postage due on post card from Austria.

Events

The final weekend in June, Pederson Stamps had a booth at the Asheville Stamp and Post Card Show held several times a year in Asheville, North Carolina. We have done this show several times before and will do so again as it is within easy driving distance of our residence in Clemson, South Carolina, it is a fun place to visit with many nice restaurants, and there is a very active local club, the Asheville Stamp Club, which produces a nice club newsletter titled *The Smokey Mountain Philatelist*. Because club members often attend the show, there are usually sufficient attendees to make the show well worth the trip. This show was no different as we had one of our best shows, although attendance was quite uneven with most of the customers coming Saturday morning and very little activity on Saturday afternoon or Sunday. The weekend of the show, there

was heavy rain Saturday afternoon, which I am sure discouraged potential attendees and the weather Sunday was beautiful, which encouraged people to do things outside rather than attend a show. Before going home on Saturday evening, we had dinner at our favorite Italian restaurant in Asheville, Vinnies, which made for a very nice end to what had been a good day.

Offerings and Specials

Any existing customer placing orders with Pederson Stamps new on-line store (www.pedersonstamps.com) on or before September 30, 2019 will be given a 20% discount on any total order of \$50 or more. All previous customers, for whom we have a valid E-mail address, will be sent a coupon code to be used at checkout. If you have previously purchased from Pederson Stamps via mail order, at a show, or on eBay or HipStamp, and do not receive an E-mail, either call or text us at (703) 626-5599 or E-mail us at rich@pedersonstamps.com and request a coupon code.

Stamp Collecting Tips by Richard Pederson

In previous editions, I discussed choosing a way of storing and displaying your philatelic items and mounting stamps, covers, or collateral material in an album. This time, I will discuss ways of collecting on a limited budget.

One of the many benefits of stamp collecting is that it is a hobby where you can spend as little or as much on the hobby as you want and still have fun and experience collecting challenges. If you have a limited budget, one of the best ways of collecting is to collect postally used stamps. Not only are used stamps less expensive (and sometimes free), the cost of properly mounting or displaying them can be much less. Used stamps also have the benefit that, unlike mint stamps (those in the same condition as purchased from the post office), they were mailed and paid for the service for which they were intended. Following, I will discuss both the acquisition and mounting of a collection of used stamps.

There are a variety of ways that you can acquire used stamps at a reasonable cost. Below are some of the ways:

- Save stamps from incoming personal or business mail. Although far fewer stamps are used on mail these days, this is still a way of obtaining current stamps at no cost. Keep in mind that it is often better to leave the stamps on the original envelope as certain stamps and usages are more desirable if left on an intact envelope. These include most commemoratives, higher denomination stamps such as Express and Priority Mail, and mail with auxiliary markings including postage due, forwarded mail, insured mail, certified mail, and return receipt requested, especially if stamps are used to pay the fees.
- Purchase on or off paper unsorted mixtures. Many dealers sell mixtures that come in many different sizes and some are confined to a specific country or area. In most cases,

the cost per stamp is quite low, especially for on paper mixtures where more of the work is placed on the collector.

- Buy large auction lots. Frequently, auction houses will have large lots of used stamps or stamps on cover, including those with more desirable stamps. Bid what you can afford and you might get lucky and acquire some hidden gems at a very reasonable price.
- Acquire collections and collection remainders. Often dealers and auction houses will sell off collections and collection remainders at a low price once they have extracted the items they wish to sell individually.
- Purchase used stamps from sales circuits. The APS and other collector organizations offer sales circuits that allow their members to dispose of duplicates by offering them in sales books to other members. Those sales books are circulated to other members who sign up based on their specific collecting interests. Using this method, you can acquire stamps for a specified country (e.g., Canada, Germany, China), topic or theme (e.g., transportation, animals, medicine), or stamp type (e.g., air mail, postage due, special delivery).
- Purchase stamp packets. Once a very popular way for beginners to acquire stamps, packets used to be sold in dime and drug stores, hobby shops, or other places. Although those sources are rarely available today, some large dealers, such as Mystic Stamp Company and H. E. Harris, still offer low-priced stamp packets for sale.

If you employ the methods listed above, you can build a country, topical, or worldwide collection at a very reasonable price yet still find enough stamps to more than occupy your collecting time.

Now that I have discussed acquiring used stamps, I will address the display, storage, and organization of those stamps. Following are two methods that you can employ to save the used stamps you collect so that they will be protected yet be easy to view and arrange in an organized manner. In each instance, I have only considered options that would appeal to the budget-minded collector.

- Mount stamps on printed album pages. This is the traditional way of collecting and organizing stamps. If you choose this approach, use stamp hinges to mount your stamps. Stamp hinges are available in packages of 1,000 at a low price. Hinges are small pieces of glassine that have adhesive on one side that is activated by moisture. You simply fold the hinge approximately one-third of the way from the top, lick the top portion of that third, and then place it in the center of the stamp slightly below the top edge. Next, lick the bottom portion of the bottom two-thirds of the hinge and then place the stamp in the desired space in the album. With some practice, this will take very little time. A word of caution. Although modern stamp hinges are advertised as peelable, that is not always the case, so exercise caution when removing a hinged stamp from the album to avoid damage to the stamp or album. I would recommend removing the stamp from the album page first, as you can always soak the hinge off the stamp to avoid damage to the stamp. Another factor to consider when using album pages is the cost of the pages. Many of the albums produced by companies such as Amos Press (Minkus and Scott), Lighthouse,

Stanley Gibbons, and others are quite expensive and the annual supplements for those albums can be an expensive recurring cost. If you are interested in keeping your costs low, there are two approaches and the one you choose will likely be dictated by what you collect. The first approach is to use free downloadable pages that are available from several sources. If you go to the "Collector Information" page of the Pederson Stamps web site (found under the "More" menu bar entry) you will see a link titled "Album Pages". Click on that link and it will take you to a page with links to several sources for free downloadable album pages that you can print on your own printer. If those free pages don't meet your needs, the other approach is to design your own pages which can be designed using a variety of applications including Microsoft Word and Excel. If you decide to print your own album pages, make sure you use light card stock rather than standard 20-weight paper. If you are concerned about long term storage, it is also wise to obtain card stock that is of archival quality.

- Store stamps using stock pages. Many collectors choose to organize and display their collections using stock books or pages. Both come in a large variety of choices. Typically, the pages have anywhere from one to a dozen pockets on each page in which you can slide stamps (or covers). The pockets are made up of acid-free glassine, vinyl, or cardboard strips that are attached to the page at the sides and bottom with a slit to insert the stamps at the top. The page itself is usually made of lightweight acid-free cardboard or vinyl stock. The least expensive solution is manila stock pages which are completely constructed with light manila-colored acid-free cardboard. In addition to being inexpensive, manila stock pages have the advantage that you can easily use a pencil to write catalog numbers and other information directly on the pages. The disadvantages of these pages are that you can only see the portion of the stamp above the insertion slot and the stamps are not fully protected as the top portions of the stamps are exposed to wear and tear. Stock pages with acid free vinyl pockets, which come in a variety of slot sizes, have the advantage that they allow you to insert the entire stamp within the pocket yet still see the whole stamp. Although they are more expensive than the manila pages, they also offer much greater protection and provide a more attractive display. Stock pages with glassine pockets offer a compromise between the manila and vinyl pockets as they allow some visibility of the entire stamps enclosed in the pockets. For the storage and display of stamps, my personal preference is individual vinyl pages rather than a bound stock book. Individual vinyl pages provide an attractive display, allow stamps to be fully protected and seen in their entirety, are easily mixed and matched so that the collection can be arranged in a logical sequence, and allow you to select from a large variety of binders and, if you choose, slip covers. Bound stock books are often attractive and offer adequate protection but are not flexible as they typically come in a single pocket size with a set number of pages.

In addition to the methods discussed above, there are a myriad of other ways collectors choose to store their stamps and covers. These include glassine envelopes, boxes, file folders, standard envelopes, and many more. It is also often possible to purchase previously used albums, stock

books, and stock pages on the internet and from dealers. Some dealers will either give customers used supplies taken from collections they have purchased or sell customers those supplies at a greatly reduced price. In that case, both parties benefit as the dealer gets rid of items he/she has no room to store and the collector gets supplies they need at little or no cost. The important thing is that you select a method that is affordable and allows you to enjoy what you collect. For those desiring to purchase new supplies, there are many sources available including vendors such as Amos Press and Subway Stamp Shop.