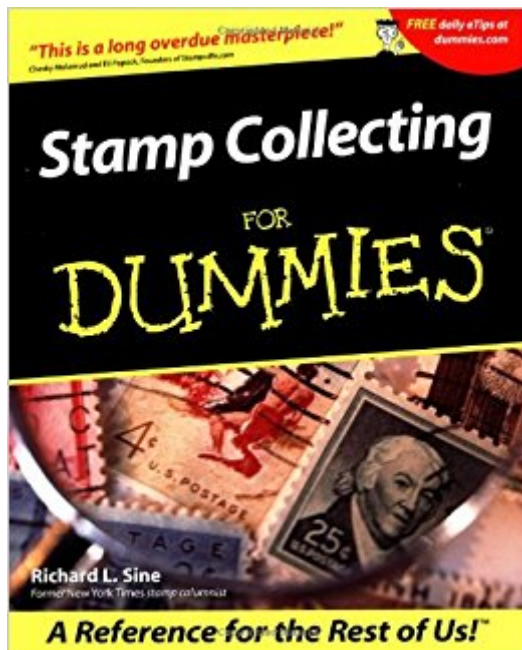


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# Stamp Collecting For Dummies



## 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

"...this fun and informative guide to selecting, finding, buying, presenting and caring for stamps is a must-read for every collector..." (Stamp & Coin Mart, January 2007)

"Dick Sine has had some of the best writing jobs in stamp collecting, and this book shows why: A thorough knowledge of philately and good writing, mixed with humor and style." —Lloyd A. de Vrise, The Virtual Stamp Club "With his deep insight into the 160-year old pastime of stamp collecting, Dick Sine proves that philately is not only the hobby for the 21st century, but one that can be easily and inexpensively enjoyed by everyone! The world's stamp depict life on Planet Earth — from the tiniest microbe to world famous athletes. This book will make understanding and collecting them a joy!" —Randy L. Neil, author and former President of the American Philatelic Society Stamp Collecting For Dummies is great for removing so many of the issues a newcomer to our hobby has, allowing instant enjoyment. Stamp collecting can be a complex hobby, and this cuts right through." —Hugh M. Goldberg, Subway Stamp Shop, Inc. "This is a long overdue masterpiece, which will surely facilitate the expansion of this royal hobby by allowing everybody the ability to understand the complexities and the beauty of stamp collecting. The breadth of knowledge in this book spans by answering all the initial questions that might arise for the beginner collector, to details for the avid philatelist. A wonderful job by Mr. Sine." —Chesky Malamud and Eli Popack, Founders of Stampville.com (the online Stamp portal) "Dick Sine has produced a solid and practical introduction to the world's greatest pastime, stamp collecting. His work is not only invaluable to beginners but also of great value to intermediate collectors, especially with his Internet-savvy advice." —Gene Mierzejewski, Editor, The Flint Journal

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.

Good

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.

Very nice and informative.....

good book for beginners/intermediate collectors

Very nice book. Love it. Gives great detail about stamp collecting for those of us who don't know much about stamps.

Very helpful

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