



Displaying Stamps

By Doug Files

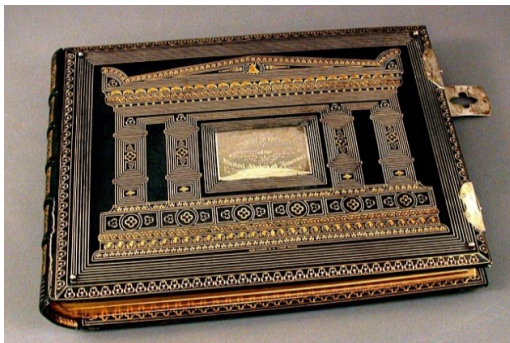
How should you display your stamps? As with many things in our hobby, the answer is, "It depends". We will consider here the factors which can play into your decision. Another potential answer to the question is that you can display your stamps however you want to. Before deciding readers may want to know more about the potential advantages and disadvantages of the different ways of presenting stamps.

Albums

The most typical way to display stamps is in an album. Albums are the main method most non-collectors are familiar with. Albums are probably also the most common way philatelists display stamps they are proud of. In other words albums often house collectors' prize possessions.

Stamp albums have been sold in the retail market since 1862. Most U.S. albums list stamps in chronological order except that airmail stamps, revenues and postage dues are listed separately at the back. These kind

of stamps are even referred to by collectors as "back-of-book" issues. Many stamp catalogues are organized in this same way. Originally albums were hard bound, like books, but now most of them are sold in a loose-leaf format which allows collectors to add in more pages. Many brands and types of albums are available from dealers or on-line. They are also advertised in stamp magazines. More expensive albums tend to come with slipcovers or boxes to place the album in, for added protection. Many albums offer spaces for the stamps of just one country, but worldwide albums are also commonly available.



A fancy 19th century Boutwell stamp album. Image from the National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/albums>

Some collectors make their own albums. King George VI of England used 328 custom-made red leather binders to house his large collection. Most regular collectors will not custom-order albums, however.

One key aspect of a person's stamp album is how personal it is. It reflects a person's preferences and years of work they have spent building their collection. Thus you may want to avoid criticizing a collector's al-

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Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

2026

MAY

May 4, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom **AUCTION #3 - Club CASH Auction**
May 8-9, Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) Spring Gathering, McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagle Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave. NW, Canton OH, HRS Fri:9am-9am and Sat: 9am-9pm, contact Bill Latchie or Marty Adams—martyprecancel@gmail.com.

May 11, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

May 18, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Pre-1900 US Stamps DSC Member Speaker—Rick Clark

JUNE

Jun 1, **AUCTION #4—Regular Member Auction**

Jun 8, Board meeting

Jun 15, ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Topical Collecting and Exhibits DSC Member Speaker—Joe Shearer

JULY

JUL 6, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, My Other Hobby, Member Participation 4-6 minutes

Jul 13, Board meeting

Jul 11-12, MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show. Midwest Dealers Association, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 Franklin Rd., Lawrence IN. website: msdastampshow.com.

Jul 20, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell, Trade

AUGUST

Aug 3, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, **AUCTION #5—Regular Member Auction**

Aug 3-8; PSS 105th Convention; Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI, res: 888-745-2032.

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Gas station fandom meets modern postal history in Ohio

BUC-EE'S SELLS LOCATION SPECIFIC POSTCARD

It is not a new post office that drew the crowds to Huber Heights, Ohio, in early April, but a gas station.

That distinction matters. The opening of Buc-ee's first Ohio location on April 6 was less about fuel and more about phenomenon. With a devoted following, the Texas-based chain turned a routine retail debut into a regional event. By the end of day one, sales reportedly exceeded \$1 million, nearby hotels were full, and thousands of visitors passed through what is, at its core, a 24-hour travel center.

And yet, for postal historians, the most interesting byproduct of this spectacle may be a postcard sold on site.

Buc-ee's locations offer city-specific postcards, effectively creating a modern series of place-based souvenirs. The example shown here, mailed April 10, just days after the Huber Heights opening, represents an early usage tied directly to the debut of a single lo-



Sprayed-on machine cancel from Columbus, Ohio, ties this April 10 Buc-ee's postcard to the region's processing hub during opening week.



cation. It is not an officially sanctioned postal event, but it carries many of the same qualities collectors seek in event-related mail.

The card bears a sprayed-on machine cancel from Columbus, the nearest major processing facility. Like most modern mail, the postmark reflects a centralized network, tying the piece to its processing hub rather than its local origin.

Used within the first week of the store's opening, the postcard becomes an inadvertent commemorative, capturing a moment when public attention and the mailstream briefly align.

To many serious postcard collec-

tors, the most surprising aspect may be what is missing: space for a message. The card is almost entirely consumed by bold graphics and branding, leaving little room for traditional correspondence and reinforcing its role as a souvenir first, postal artifact second.

Once postmarked and delivered, however, it enters the same continuum as any other piece of mail.

A sprayed cancel from Columbus and a date within days of a record-setting opening transform this postcard into a small but telling document of contemporary postal history. — reprint from *Linn's Stamp News* May 4, 2026

BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO

May 23-30, 2026

at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

A Mystical Message From Mystic Stamps:

A Crash Course on

United States Stamp Categories

Mystic's stamp expert gives a quick explanation of ten different categories of U.S. stamps. It references definitives, commemoratives, airmails, postage due, revenues, official stamps, and much more. To watch the following website address: stampaware.weebly.com/video.html. On your computer watch on YouTube: <https://info.mysticstamp.com/videos-2/>



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bum. They might interpret your comments as a personal attack.

Advantages of albums: Albums are good for displaying stamps over time, protecting them to some degree and allowing a collector to pull out stamps and replace them.

Disadvantages of albums: Depending on what kind of album you use, they can be relatively expensive. Also, stamps can only be viewed when you pull out the album and look through it.

Stock books

Stockbooks are books for collectors to store stamps in. Their pages often allow for easy viewing of the items within. The pages are often fairly thick and stiff to protect stamps. Some stockbooks have transparent plastic

to store stamps behind. Others use glassine paper or manila folder paper which covers the lower half of each stamp. Stockbooks normally range from 4 to 32 double-sided pages. If a vendor advertises a 16-page stockbook, it probably has 8 double-sided pages.

Keep in mind that some collectors use stockbooks to house stamps temporarily and others use them for permanent storage.

Advantages of stockbooks: As a collector acquires more stamps, pages can be added to some books. On the other hand, you may need to shift dozens of stamps

albums. In stockbooks there is no need to have a lot of gaps, as you might in an album. For example, you might have a lot of spaces among rare stamp series.

Disadvantages of stockbooks: Stockbooks do not show you



Stamp stockbook Image by Lerdsuwa - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=251906>

which stamp should go where. Depending on your goals, this may be good or bad. There is often nowhere in the stockbook to write notes, but if you want to you can write on small pieces of paper and

place them in the pockets of the pages along with the stamps. The process of creating the little papers can be tedious. Additionally, stamps can move around or fall out of the pockets if the stockbook is moved around.

Glassine envelopes

Some collectors save their stamps in glassine envelopes. Glassine is a transparent, smooth, glossy paper which is partially resistant to water and grease. It is relatively inexpensive material which does a good job of protecting postage stamps under normal conditions. Glassine is produced by



Inside a 19th century Boutwell stamp album for revenue stamps. Image from the National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/albums>

around to make room for a new item. No hinges or mounts are needed since stamps in a stockbook usually remain in place in the pockets that the pages form. This means that never hinged stamps are still mint never hinged after you remove them from the book. Stockbooks are also often cheaper than

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MAY Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

May 4, — Auction #3 Club CASH Auction

7:30 pm Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

May 11 — 7:00 pm Board meeting

May 18 — 7:00 pm Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

Pre-1900 United States Stamps—DSC Member Speake Rick Clark

Contemplating Selling a Stamp Collection?



WAYNE YOUNGBLOOD

MAR 29, 2026

It doesn't matter whether it's your own or one you inherited, here are

some basics you should know (from a dealer's perspective) as you begin the process. Before wading any deeper into this many-headed hydra of a subject, there is one extremely important single bottom-line fact that anyone handling stamps should always keep in mind:

There is no inherent value — of any kind — to any stamp, cover or other related collectible, regardless of its rarity. The value of stamps, which is only a perception, relies entirely upon an ever-changing set of variables; the perceived value of any of these items is based wholly upon demand at the time it is either bought or sold.

There, now you know everything there is to know about stamp collecting and this amazing hobby we call philately.

That having been said, we all know that most collections have some sort of cash market value when it comes time to sell either our own collection or one we have inherited, but how do you know what is either a “fair” or decent offer or what approach to take?

Let's first take a brief look at the three main ways to sell a collection:

1. direct sale to a dealer or collector
2. selling at auction
3. selling on consignment

No matter which approach you choose, there will necessarily always be some level of trust extended to those with whom you are dealing. Watching for “red flags” and being guided by your gut feelings will always be beneficial.

With this installment we'll take a look at the first of these. I'll follow up with the others in future articles.

Selling directly to a dealer or collector

This may either be the most profitable or riskiest approach to selling a collection, as there are both honest and dishonest individuals in the ranks of both. Just because an individual is a member of a professional organization or stamp club doesn't automatically make him or her have the best intentions.

If you know your way around the hobby, you may be able to negotiate these waters successfully; if you do

not know anything about stamps, proceed cautiously, but it can be a satisfying experience. Again, a certain amount of trust is necessary, but your gut should be able to inform you well.

Perhaps the first and biggest red flag encountered by a non-collector with a collection to sell is when either a dealer or collector asks “How much do you want?” Of course you don't know how much you want; you don't know the material. It is not unreasonable to ask for a quick assessment and fair offer, and if that request is rejected or even balked at, it's a good time to go elsewhere.



If you are at a stamp show, it is not unreasonable to take your collection to another dealer for a second independent opinion (without telling the second dealer what the first one offered). If the first dealer pressures you with the threat that his or her offer may or may not be valid when you come back, you probably don't want to deal with that individual. This is unfair to you and the second offer will likely be higher anyway. As I mentioned, do not tell the second dealer

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Figures of the American Revolution

Special Dedication 11 a.m., Friday May 29



In order to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary, on **April 10, 2026**, the USPS will issue a pane of 25 stamps, honoring notable Figures of the American Revolution. The stamps capture portraits of twenty-five men and women whose vision, leadership, and sacrifices guided the colonies' path during the American Revolution. Those honored range from the well-known, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, to those less-known, including Agwalongdongwas, Lemuel Haynes, and Mercy Otis Warren. The twenty-five patriots noted in the stamp set are only a few of those who contributed to the birth of our nation. The block of 25 stamps rests against a background that features the Declaration of Independence. The Figures of the American Revolution stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps.

May 5th — Route 66 — Forever 78c — 8 designs, pane of 16

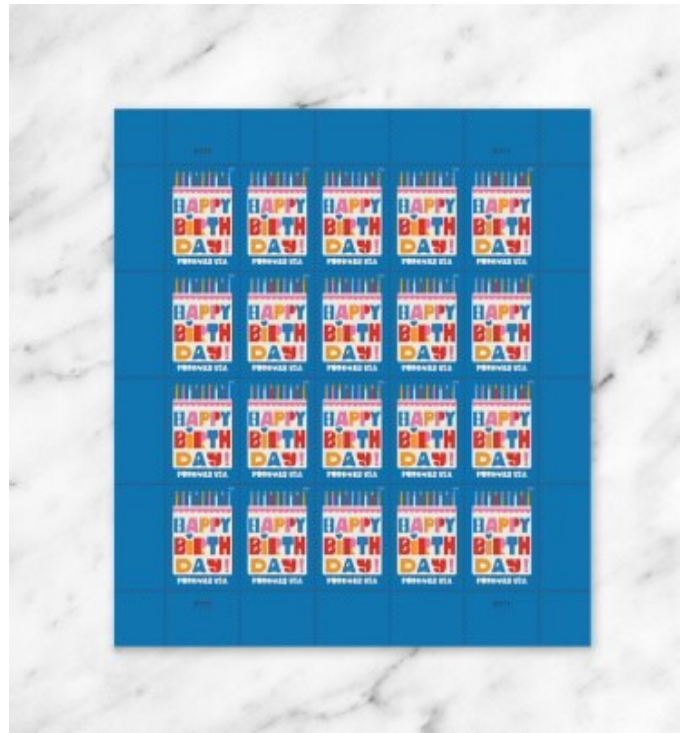


May 14, Bald Eagle: Hatching to Adult, Forever 78c — 5 designs — pane of 20

USPS April and May 2026 New Issues



**May 25—American Bison,
Forever 78c, pane of 16**



**April 18, Happy Birthday Stamps, sheet of 20,
Forever (78c)**

**May 23
Treasures of the
Revolutionary Era,
10 Designs, Forever
78c Booklet,
double-sided pane
of 20**



April 24, A Day at the Beach, booklet of 20, four designs, Forever (78c)

(Continued from page 3)

orienting paper fibers in parallel and then pressing the paper through steel-covered and fabric-covered rollers to make it denser. Incidentally, stamp hinges are usually made of glassine paper with adhesive on it.

Advantages of glassine envelopes: You can store a lot of stamps in one envelope. Glassine protects stamps fairly well. Storing stamps in envelopes takes up less space than albums or stockbooks.

Disadvantages of glassine envelopes: Glassine is semi-transparent but it can be difficult to see exactly what is in each envelope. Glassine can be resistant to pencil and ink markings so it is difficult to write on the envelopes. If you need lots of new envelopes they can get expensive. Also, the material is not really archival. After 20 or 30 years glassine turns brown and can mildly stain stamps.

Exhibition frames

Collectors who exhibit stamps often save their prime material on exhibiting pages. If you have not seen exhibits, you are encouraged to view some and examine the format. Frames which hold exhibit pages commonly accept 16 pages on each side of each frame. Some smaller frames only accept 9 pages, however. Normally the pages are only placed into frames for shows. At other times the 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages are kept in a binder or a manila envelope.

Mint sheet storage

Sheets of stamps can be stored

in large books with plastic or glassine pages to separate sheets from each other. Large plate blocks can also be stored and displayed this way.

Advantages of mint sheet books: Mint sheet books are one of the few ways to keep sheets of stamps from getting damaged at the edges. The pages in between protect the sheets from sticking to each other.

Disadvantages of mint sheet books: Even inside of sheet books corners of sheets can get folded over.

Cover sheets

Collectors often call envelopes with stamps "covers". This term goes back to the early 1800s when a letter was covered with a piece of paper wrapped around it to protect it.

Covers

Covers of many kinds are so much thicker than stamps that they can be awkward to display in an album. Affixing whole envelopes into an album is also more challenging than with stamps. Cover albums exist where you place covers into a plastic sheath and each cover can be displayed. Still, some collectors just keep covers in a box and not in any display album or stockbook. If you want to protect individual covers in a box you can purchase plastic sheaths to cover each item. Then just place them in a shoebox or a similar con-

tainer.

Overview

Again, you can display and keep your collection as you like. Most collectors employ a variety of the methods we have discussed here, for different types of items. More valued items may be placed into an album whereas cheaper stamps and doubles may be kept in glassine envelopes. You can decide how to save mint sheets or covers, which present different challenges than individual stamps. In a future article we will cover hinges and types of mounts in more detail.

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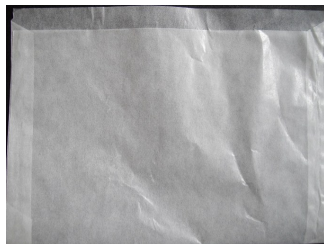
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Glassine envelope Image by Eigenes Werk - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11686657>



Stamp Exhibit Frames — used to display exhibits at stamp shows



**May 27—International Peace,
Forever 78c single design. pane of 20,**



**May 28—North American Soccer;
Forever 78c, one design, pane of 20**



The U.S. Postal Service today announced the stamp issues that will be premiered at the Boston 2026 World Exposition, the 12th international philatelic exhibition of the United States.

The expo will run from May 23-30 and will feature a USPS first-day-of-issue ceremony on most days of the show. Parties interested in attending any of the first-day-of-issue events at the Boston 2026 World Exposition should RSVP at this link usps.com/worldstampshow.

Parties interested in attending any of the first-day-of-issue events at the Boston 2026 World Exposition should RSVP at this link usps.com/worldstampshow.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through The Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at select Post Office locations nationwide.

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Aug 10, Board meeting, AIRPEX Review
Aug 17, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britain DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger

Aug 7 & 8, CINPEX 2026 hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society will be held on Fri: August 7; noon - 4 PM and on Sat: August 8 from 10 AM - 4 PM. Stamp Show is on the ground level of the Monfort Heights Methodist Church, 3682 West Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247. Free admission and parking. Easy access. Good mix of stamp, cover, and postcard dealers.

Aug 21-22, Dayton Stamp Club — AIRPEX 2026 @ Emerge Center (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm), 2960 W.Enon Rd., Xenia OH 45385

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7, NO MEETING, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—CHURCH CLOSED

Sept 12, TUSCOPEX 2026, Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, q61 Tuscora Ave, NW, New Philadelphia email: slwors-ham@frontier.com.

Sep 18-20, INDYPEX 2026. Indiana Stamp Club, Hendricks County Fairgrounds & Exhibition Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville IN, website: indianastampclub.org.

Sep 21, ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom — TBD

OCTOBER

Oct 5, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom **AUCTION #6—Regular Member Auction**

Oct 12. 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Oct 19, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Member Bourse & Club Open House—[Buy. Sell. Trade](#)

NOVEMBER

Nov 2, **>>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<<** Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Santa Claus on Stamps and Seals, DSC Member—Susan Kolze

Nov 7, Dutch Study Group in The Netherlands, for more info contact Mike Molle (mickeymolle@hotmail.com)

Nov 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Set 2026 Calendar & Budget Review

Nov 16, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom -Club Election for 2026



USPS Stamp Encore Issue – Sunday, May 24, 2026

To celebrate the US Postal Service's 250th anniversary and gear up to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary, the USPS invited the public to help select a stamp pane from the past for re-printing as part of the 2026 stamp program. The postal service chose 25 stamp panes from some of its bestselling and most popular releases of the recent past. The Postal Service plans to announce the winning stamp design in May 2026 at the Boston 2026 World Expo philatelic show to coincide with America's 250th anniversary celebrations. Until then, the results will be a secret. The Stamp Encore issue is exclusive to the Boston 2026 World Exposition during the show but will be available at usps.com and Post Office locations nationwide starting June 1



FIRST-CLASS MAIL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

May 26—Postcrossing

These stamps recognize Postcrossing for highlighting the fun of receiving real, personalized mail and promoting greater understanding across countries and cultures.

Since 2005, Postcrossing has inspired more than 805,000 people in more than 200 countries and territories to send more than 85 million postcards to eager recipients around the world.

These stamps may be used to send a postcard or letter from the United States to any country to which First-Class Mail International service is available.

These stamps will have a postage value equivalent to the price of the single-piece First-Class Mail International first-ounce machinable letter at the time of use. Issued in panes of eight, and triangular stamps' colorful illustrations

(Continued from page 4)

what the first dealer offered. It is a simple matter for a dealer to know that if Mr. X offered \$2,500, it would be safe to offer \$2,700 and still be profitable.

There are also those dealers and collectors who lie in wait for a “newbie” to show up and offer a pittance of what a collection is actually worth, in hopes the offer will be accepted with none the wiser, except the buyer. This is an ugly truth of any market: there are those who are quite happy to take advantage of those who know less about a collectible.

However, there are very valid reasons why an honest dealer may offer a disappointing amount for a collection or even individual items.

For example, at a recent show two collectors came to my table (at different times) with several stamps that were in decent shape and had a high catalog value. I informed each collector that I would be interested in purchasing the stamps, but that my offer would be well below market value. Why?

In this case, I already had a strong stock of the particular stamps he had (in this case Zeppelin airmails) and that I really didn't need any more in my stock right now unless I bought them at a low enough price I couldn't turn them down. Otherwise, I'd be using my limited capital to purchase stamps that would tie up my money for an unknown amount of time. The first collector thanked me for my honesty and went on to another dealer for a better offer. The second collector also appreciated my honesty and stated he'd hang onto the stamps until I “needed” them and could offer more.

Similarly, there are many stamps in an intermediate collection with catalog values ranging anywhere from \$10-\$50 or more. If a dealer has multiple examples in his or her stock, there's no reason to pay top dollar

for extensively duplicated material. It just doesn't make sense. This is why a collection with a catalog value of, say \$3,000 may be worth only a couple of hundred dollars to a dealer on a given day. If, on the other hand, there is either scarce material (not even necessarily costly, but scarce), or stamps he or she needs for stock, a dealer will likely be more inclined to offer a higher price. This, too, is why a second opinion is important.

Either way, allowing a collector or dealer to “cherry pick” your collection is the fastest way to significantly reduce the value of your collection. Most any collector or dealer would love to buy only the few most valuable or most attractive stamps in a collection and leave the rest, but there's little incentive for anyone else to want what's left behind. You may get paid handsomely for a few stamps, but then find that there's little interest or value in what's left.

Why aren't you getting as offer closer to catalog value?

First, unless a stamp is nearly perfect in every way, it cannot expect to receive an offer anywhere near that number. There are many reasons for this, but here are a couple of the big ones.

1. A professional dealer relies on stamp sales to support his or her family. There must be room for a decent profit. This is their business and there is much overhead that eats into any potential profit, including show fees, online fees, transportation, lodging, certification fees, advertising and promotion and, of course, taxes.

2. Depending upon how labor-intensive a collection is to break down (yes, it will be broken down), a dealer may have to invest a significant amount of time to remove stamps from albums, examine their true condition and prepare them for sale. All this must be figured into an offer.

Finally, it may seem a little unfair that the fellow sitting behind the table is able to offer what you may feel is a low price for the collection your father so carefully curated over the years. But please remember, that same individual behind the table has spent many years of his life studying stamps and building expertise in this particular area.

Selling a lifelong collection or one that belonged to a cherished family member can be a very emotional and frustrating experience, but heading into it armed with a bit of knowledge and common sense can make it a very satisfying experience as well.

I like to think that none of us really own what we collect anyway; we're just stewards. That Penny Black from 1840 that's in my collection has no doubt been in many different collections before it ever landed in my album.



The Great American Stamp Show 2027



August 19-22nd, 2027

The Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

USPS proposes letter and postcard increase for July 2026



In an April 9 press release, the United States Postal Service announced that it filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission for price changes to its mail-

ing services that are to take effect July 12, 2026.

The proposed changes have been approved by the Postal Service's board of governors.

"In the midst of the severe financial crisis facing the Postal Service and continued rising operational costs, the Postal Service is using all available tools, including available regulatory pric-

ing authority, to ensure we can continue to fulfill our universal service obligation and serve the American public," the USPS said. "Notwithstanding the adjustment, the Postal Service's mailing prices remain among the most affordable in the world."

The Postal Regulatory Commission will review the proposed changes before they go into effect.

"The proposed adjustments, approved by the governors of the Postal Service, would raise mailing services product prices approximately 4.8 percent," the USPS said.

Under the proposed changes, a first-class letter weighing less than or equal to 1 ounce would rise from 78¢ to 82¢; a metered letter (up to and equaling 1 ounce) from 74¢ to 78¢; domestic postcards from 61¢ to 65¢; international postcards from \$1.70 to \$1.75; and an international letter (up to and equaling 1 ounce) from \$1.70 to \$1.75.

Price tables are available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2026/0409-usps-recommends-new-prices-for-july.htm

—reprint from *Linn's Stamp News* May 4, 2026

AIRPEX 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 and SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

DAYTON STAMP SHOW



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250 Years in the Making...



The largest stamp show in the world!

BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO

May 23-30, 2026 FREE Admission!
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

- Hundreds of presentations and meetings
- 60,000+ pages of stamp exhibits, many rare
- Over 100 dealer stands selling and buying
- Daily First Day of Issue ceremonies
- Postcrossing get-togethers
- Dozens of overseas postal administrations

Plus...

Post cards, philatelic literature, auctions,
ephemera exhibits, paper money,
manuscripts, historical documents,
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