

STAMPS

& 8 Best Reasons to Collect Them



Look inside to discover stamp collecting...

A WORD FROM LIFELONG COLLECTOR AND RETIRED MYSTIC PRESIDENT DON SUNDMAN



Don Sundman
Mystic Stamp Company

The Sundman boys learning the fun of stamp collecting with dad, Maynard.

Hi, I'm Don Sundman, retired president of Mystic Stamp Company and lifelong collector. When I was a kid, my dad showed me how meaningful and important stamps are... the rest is history! Stamp collecting opened up a whole new world for me and became my lifelong passion. I love looking at my stamp albums. It's like visiting a miniature art *and* history museum at home. Stamp collecting has made me a better person and kept my life interesting and exciting. I'm never bored because there's always more to learn!

One of my favorite things is to share the joy of stamp collecting with others like me. That's why I made this booklet! So sit back, relax, and let me take you on an introductory tour of the wonderful world of stamp collecting.

"These are my two favorite stamps I've ever owned – the 1¢ Z Grill and Inverted Jenny Plate Block. They just so happen to be some of the world's rarest, too! I feel lucky to have been part of their histories." – Don





Mystic colleagues and I had a great time at the 2016 NY Stamp Show. We made these jumbo replicas of stamp rarities for collectors to take pictures with – it was a lot of fun!

#1 STAMPS ARE FUN

Stamp collecting is fun because it's a totally personal experience. There's no right or wrong way to do it. *You* decide what stamps you want to collect. They might be from a specific country or picture a certain topic you enjoy. The most important thing is to collect what you like. And that may change the longer you're in the hobby!

Some days you might feel like organizing or rearranging your stamps, while other times you might want to simply flip through your album. You might decide to catch up on mounting your stamps or shop new ones from your wish list. You can even chat with fellow stamp collectors online or at a local stamp club meeting!



US #1569 commemorates the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project of 1975. It was the first joint space operation between American and Russian astronauts – amazing considering Cold War tensions of the time!

#2 STAMPS ARE HISTORY

Stamps are windows into the past and history you can hold in your hands. When we collect stamps, we're preserving history for ourselves *and* future generations. That's because stamps showcase the heritage and customs of a nation, what was important to them during different time periods, and more. It's like crafting your own history museum.

Every time you open your album, your stamps will take you wherever and whenever you want to go. Visit the plains of the American West during the days of cowboys and gunslingers, the streets of New York City after our World War II victory was announced, the surface of the Moon with Apollo 11, and much more.



US # 230 is a beloved US stamp over 130 years old, yet it carries a price tag that makes it easy for anyone to own.

#3

STAMPS ARE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

Anyone can be a stamp collector. You don't have to have thousands of dollars of disposable income. In fact, you don't need to spend any money at all to get started! You can simply begin removing the stamps from mail you receive.

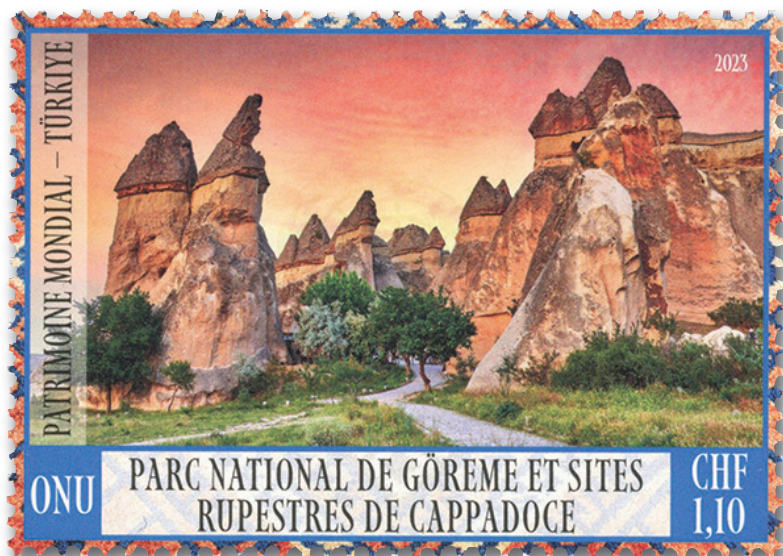
If you do decide to shop for stamps, you might be surprised to find that many older stamps are quite affordable. In fact, an 1893 1¢ Columbus in Sight of Land stamp (pictured above) can be yours in postally used condition for as little as 45¢! There are many others just as affordable, too. Stamp collecting may be the hobby of kings and queens, but it's also the hobby of everyday people like you and me.



Countless stamps send positive messages and will lift the spirits of both the sender and receiver of the mail they carry. US #5919 is one cheerful example.

#4 STAMPS IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Did you know there are health benefits to stamp collecting? A long-term *Nature Medicine* study of people 65 and older found that “Compared with people who didn’t have hobbies, those who did reported better health, more happiness, fewer symptoms of depression, and higher life satisfaction.” Hobbies exercise our minds, an important practice especially as we get older. Stamp collecting allows us to discover the world around us, broaden our horizons, and, most importantly, step away from our electronics. I love sitting down with my stamps, even if it’s just to flip through my album for a few minutes. I’ve found it really helps me unwind and relax after a busy day.



This United Nations stamp takes you to Goreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia in Turkey. It was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985 and is known for its stunning rocky landscapes that have been eroded by the elements over thousands of years.

#5 STAMPS LET US TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH EASE

Stamps allow us to travel anywhere we want without needing a plane ticket or passport. We can go on an African safari in Kenya, peep snow-capped mountains in Switzerland, explore the dense jungles of the Amazon, or finally see Big Ben up close.

There's no limit to the places stamps can take us. In addition to traveling the globe, stamps can also take us through time. We can become eye witnesses to important events such as discovering the Pacific Ocean, the first transatlantic flight, our first steps on the Moon, and more. Or, we can look to the future and imagine what technological wonders we might see one day!



Mystic's catalog is a handy reference or collectors of all experience levels!

HOW TO GET STARTED

Visit [MysticStamp.com](https://www.mysticstamp.com). You'll see over 100,000 stamps in a range of formats, starting as low as 35¢! You can shop by country, year, topic, and more. And, there are plenty of tips and tricks to help you along the way, plus all the supplies you need to keep your collection safe and organized for years to come. The "Deals" section is a great place to start. Explore dozens of money-saving offers to help build your collection. There's something for everyone, whether you're interested in US or worldwide stamps. You might even see a coin or two! We're always updating, so check back often.

Order *Mystic's U.S. Stamp Catalog* and choose exactly the stamps you want for your collection. Our FREE catalog showcases over 6,000 different US stamps issued from 1847 to present, in mint or canceled condition – that's nearly every stamp America has ever made! It's over 160 pages and full of stamp stories, tips, and supplies to make collecting more fun. Visit [MysticStamp.com](https://www.mysticstamp.com) to get your FREE copy today.

Remember, collecting is all about what you want. There's no right way or wrong way to get started, and Mystic will be there to help you every step of the way!

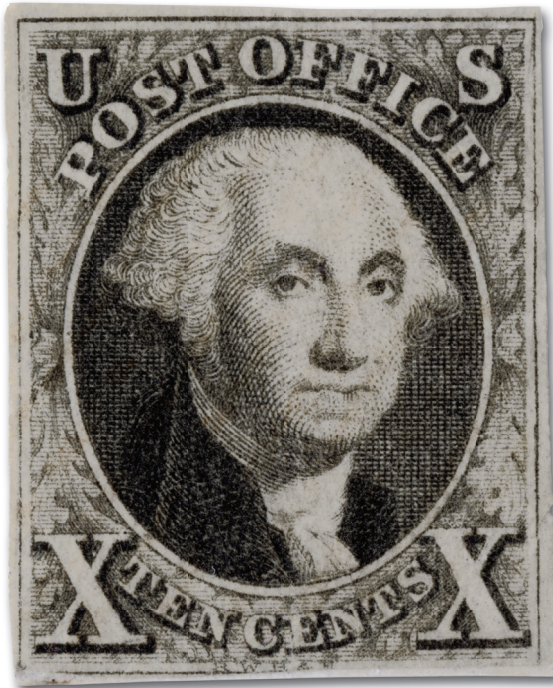


US #4919 pictures the painting “Sunset” by American artist Frederic Edwin Church. It’s one of countless US postage stamps honoring great works of art.

#6 STAMPS ARE ART

Collecting stamps is like cultivating a miniature art museum in your own home. Many older US stamps are masterpieces of the engraver’s art, while modern stamps use innovative printing techniques to create dazzling effects. For example, lenticular printing can make an image appear to move when you tilt the stamp. Other modern printing methods include foil stamping, flexographic, and more. Foil stamping adds shimmering metallic highlights to designs that make them really pop. Flexographic can create a variety of effects, including giving stamps a textured surface.

Of course, plenty of postage stamps also picture works by renowned artists like Norman Rockwell, Georgia O’Keeffe, Leonardo DaVinci, Vincent Van Gogh, and many others. If you love art, there’s a good chance you’ll enjoy stamp collecting, too.



Low print quantity, age, and demand are just a few factors that determine how difficult it is to own a particular stamp. US #2 can be tough to get – but not impossible for the determined collector!

#7

STAMPS GIVE US THE THRILL OF THE CHASE

While many postage stamps are easy enough to get, there are a small handful that will take you some time (and occasionally a little luck) to add to your collection. It can be a real thrill to hunt down a stamp you've had on your wish list for a while. When you do finally get your hands on it, it's a feeling like no other – satisfaction, pride, and excitement that your hard work paid off. And that feeling isn't just for rare, expensive stamps. You can experience it when you complete a popular set or series, complete your collection of a certain topical category, and more.



#8 STAMPS CONNECT US WITH OTHER PEOPLE

You may have heard that stamp collecting is a solo hobby, but I'm here to tell you that doesn't have to be the case! There are countless opportunities to connect with other people through stamp collecting. You can join a local club, an online forum or chatroom, or even talk about your hobby with friends and family. And, if you like to travel, there's always an upcoming stamp show you can check out and meet fellow collectors in person. You never know how many new friends you might make! I've always liked sharing stamps with young people in my life. They're often surprised to hear how much neat history a tiny piece of paper holds. It's a great bonding experience and is one more way of passing history and knowledge on to future generations.



Me with Mystic's Confederate stamp printing press and lithography stones – priceless pieces of history.

Bonus

STAMPS ARE IMPORTANT

We can't forget the obvious reason people started collecting stamps all those years ago – they're important! Postage stamps made history by facilitating communication across the globe for hundreds of years. They brought news to far flung communities and helped families and friends stay in touch over great distances. Today, communication methods have advanced by leaps and bounds and we don't use stamps as often as we once did. However, the fact remains that stamps are pieces of history you can hold in your hands. They represent centuries of human progress and our bright hopes for the future. By collecting stamps, you'll play an important part in preserving US and world history for generations to come. And that's something to be proud of!



ABOUT MYSTIC

Many folks are surprised to learn Mystic Stamp Company is based in a small village in upstate New York. We've been helping our customers build the collections of their dreams since 1923. We became America's leading stamp dealer by creating lots of fun ways to collect and by treating people the way we like to be treated: with honesty, respect, and friendliness. We're proud of our hometown values, our spotless reputation, and our great customer service. It's how we've stayed in business for over 100 years!

At Mystic we love stamps and stamp collectors. We're thrilled to have introduced the joys of the hobby to thousands of new collectors over the years. We love our jobs and firmly believe stamp collectors make the world a better place. We can't wait to help you enjoy the world's greatest hobby, too. So from me, Don Sundman, and the rest of us here at Mystic, we wish you happy collecting!



Mystic Stamp Company
America's Leading Stamp Dealer

9700 Mill Street, Camden, New York 13316

Toll Free 1-800-433-7811 Weekdays, 8:30 am to 5 pm EST.

www.MysticStamp.com