

## American Philatelic Research Library created list of e-books

I mentioned in my Aug. 5, 2013, *Linn's* column that there was no comprehensive listing of free e-books about stamp collecting.

That's no longer true, as Tara Murray and Larry Nix from the American Philatelic Research Library have compiled such a reference list with 56 items.

This list, titled Philatelic Literature, is on the website of HathiTrust Digital Library, a partnership of major research institutions and libraries working to ensure that the cultural record is preserved and accessible long into the future.

The list can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/kulkdqo>. The HathiTrust Digital Library web-site is [www.hathitrust.org](http://www.hathitrust.org).

You can find the 1925 81st edition of Scott's *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* here. This catalog, which lists worldwide stamps, is 1,600 pages long; it sold for \$2 in a clothbound edition. The minimum catalog value for a stamp was 1¢.

Only partial illustrations are shown for United States stamps in the 1925 catalog. The \$5 Columbian stamp (Scott 245) was listed at \$12 mint and \$10 used.

The APRL also hosts a site called the Philatelic Union Catalog, where you can search for online documents and physical books from several philatelic libraries.

This site is online at <http://catalog.stampli-brary.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx>.

To search for online documents only, specify "Online" in your list of libraries.

Use a keyword, such as a country name, in the top search box to find items that fit the category you are hunting for.

I located two items when searching for "Australia," 96 when searching for "United States," and two for "coil."

Under coils, I selected "full display" for the second item, an exhibit by Bill McMurray of U.S. Flag and Transportation coil issues of 1981. This took me to a page with additional information, including a URL link to an American Philatelic Society listing of 10 exhibits with McMurray's exhibit featured. I could then view any of the exhibit pages..

In addition to e-books, the Google Books site at <http://books.google.com> includes compilations of early issues of stamp magazines.

You can find volumes 1 through 12 of *Stamp Collector Magazine* covering the years 1863 to 1874; *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* volumes 27 to 33 for 1913 through 1919; and volumes 1 through 12 spanning 1888 to 1906 of the *American Journal of Philately*, published by Scott Stamp and Coin Co.

Once you have located an item at Google Books, you will see related books listed below your selection.

For example, books related to the *American Journal of Philately* are shown nearby..

Other publications are available through the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>. Early volumes of the *American Philatelist* can be found here.

One interesting book is *Paper Chase, The Amenities of Stamp Collecting*, by Alvin F. Harlow, published in 1940.

Most of these publications are old and are considered public domain documents; they are no longer protected by copyright.

They can be read online, and most can be downloaded in various formats and read without an Internet connection.

You can also find a 12-minute film at the Internet Archive site, *The World Through Stamps: The Stories Behind Postage Stamps*. You can tell this is an old film; not only is it in black-and-white, but Robert Trout, the announcer, mentions the value of the Inverted Jenny stamp as \$4,000.

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