

Indian Reservation Stamps



One of the more arcane U.S. collecting area is Indian Reservation stamps.

Owned and operated by an Indian tribal authority under the auspices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the reservations are outside of the administrative control of the state in which they are physically located, and often exempt from many of the state laws.

Since 1959, hunting, fishing, and conservation stamps have been issued by a number of tribes for the reservations they control. The stamps were often issued in very limited numbers. Some are quite valuable, although most sell at some

discount from catalog value.

The designs range from utilitarian typeset to beautiful illustrations of wildlife. The 2015 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers has a partial listing of some stamps, particularly those relating to the hunting of waterfowl, but at this point it is still a work in progress.

If you want to get serious about collecting this area, you should obtain a copy of *A Comprehensive Catalog of Indian Reservation Stamps* edited by Michael Jaffe.

If you just want a taste to see what it is like, the Pine Ridge (Oglala Sioux) Indian Reservation \$4 Canada Geese waterfowl stamp (Scott 3) might be a good place to start. The Scott Specialized U.S. catalog values the stamp in mint never-hinged condition at \$11, and it is a good buy around \$7. *Linn's Stamp News*, May 11, 2015, p. 42, "Stamp Market Tips"

Comments from John Walter: Looking in my 2011 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers*, I did find a section on Indian Reservations. I had no idea this section existed in the catalogue. The reservations listed in my 2011 issue are (with # of stamp issues): Cheyenne River (8), Colville (2), Crow (1), Crow Creek Sioux (89), Flathead (23) Fort Berthold (16), Fort Peck (4), Jicarilla Apache (1), Lake Traverse (Sisseton-Wahpeton) (15), Lower Brule (43), Pine Ridge (Oglala Sioux) (3 stamps in BKL pane), Rosebud (17) and Standing Rock (7).

The cheapest, in used condition, is \$3 from the Flathead Indian Reservation, and most expensive stamp was \$18,000 in MNH condition (\$4 black 1977) from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. For some issues there was the familiar (—) in the pricing column which means no information available or no price lists exist from dealers.

This statement in the catalogue makes me think more information will be coming - "Stamps for other reservations exist and will be listed after more information is received about them."

The stamp club members would enjoy a presentation on the topic. If anyone has any of the Indian Reservations stamps in their collection, it would make a great "Show And Tell."