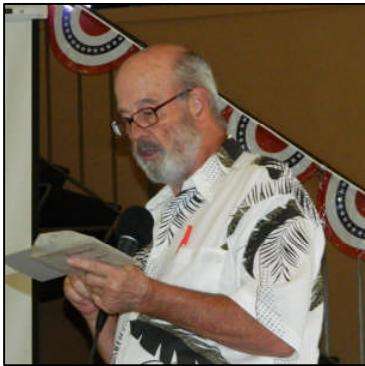


Tape Stains, Removable? Or How To Goop Your stamps

by Howard Grenzebach



This stamp is from a collection I won (raffle, auction?) at one of the meetings. It was, apparently, attached to an album page using a piece of Scotch (or other brand) tape that was rolled to form a circle of tape with the two ends attached to the stamp. Owing to the stain left, it likely spent several years attached to that page and came off when the adhesive, dried.

Is there any way to recover this stamp? I have run into this problem often and spent no small amount of time trying to clean the stamp. Usually, with little or no result. Efforts include lighter fluid and turpentine which is good for breaking down the adhesive but does little to clean the stain, and stain removers which can't get past the adhesive nor will it remove this type of stain.



While walking through a store I spotted a can of "Goop", a hand cleaning soap I once used after working on my car (many years ago, in my youth) to clean the grease grime from my skin. It worked quite well so I bought a can and took it home. I always used it on my hands but I noted that the top of the can said it could be used to lift stains from clothes and other things as well. Stamps are other things. I decided to give it a try.

I am using this stamp because it is a very common stamp that is badly stained and creased. Nothing to lose. The instructions on the can say, "Do not wet first. Rub the cleaner on your hands until clean and rinse in warm water." Easy enough.

I will try the process as suggested and whatever other process, using Goop, I can think of if this doesn't work and let you know the results in a future issue. I must admit, it looks promising.



OK, the process has been tried and the results are in. The stain has been substantially cleared from the front of the stamp and considerably reduced on the back. But, when tried on another stamp the ink was partially removed giving it a faded look. Bottom line is, try it but be cautious. It may affect the ink on the stamp if it is not stable. On the other hand, it will take that "ring-around-the-collar" out of your shirts and get that ground in grease off your hands.