

The Raffle - Some Interesting "Stuff"

by John Walter

At each stamp club meeting enough material is donated by the members so there are 10 raffle prizes, sometimes a bonus prize, plus the 50-50 money prize on the last draw of a ticket. The price to enter is 3-tickets for a dollar. Most of the attendees participate and fun is had by the entire group.

At the February 14 meeting I purchased my usual 3 tickets and waited for the fun to start. One of my ticket numbers was pulled from the jug on the third draw. This means I had 8 choices (out of 10 prizes) to choose from on the raffle table. Below is the "stuff" I won on this day.



This Calvin Coolidge \$5 used stamp (#834) caught my eye in one of the glassine envelopes. Other than being a little off-center, I thought the stamp was perfect to add to my used U.S. collection. The colors are vivid and the cancel does not take away from the stamp image. In my 5-year old Scott catalogue the value is \$3.00.

Included in a large envelope were a number of glassines stuffed with mostly foreign stamps. I provide a summary below in a chart. There was one unused cut square (U659) from the 39¢ Ben Franklin envelope. A special event cover with cachet and a Reno cancel for the 1989 International Special Olympics was found unaddressed, and two entires (U429, U429f) with manuscript address. Since I collect postal stationery, all these items were

added to my personal collection.

In a glassine marked U.S. there were 72 used off-paper and 45 on-paper that would need soaking. About half the U.S. stamps were commemoratives and the other half definitives. There were no self-stick recent stamps.

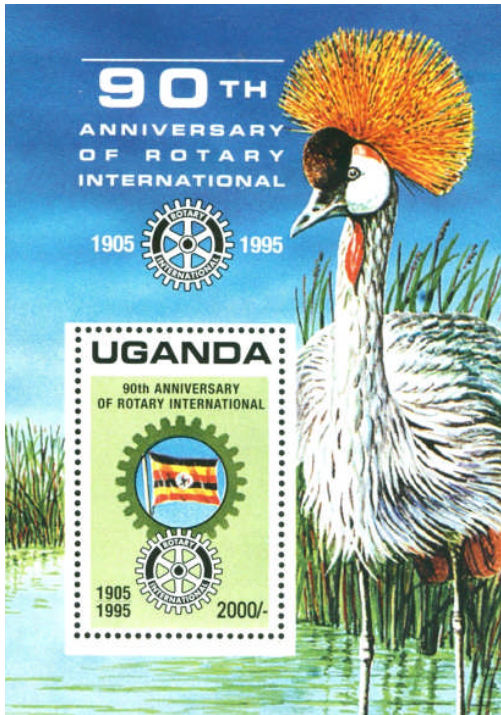


This strip of five, from Mongolia, also caught my eye. The Scott catalogue number is 2473 in a horizontal strip of five issued in 2000. The stamps picture Mongolian Queens: Oulen, Borteujin, Turakana, Caymish, and Chinbay. This is also a keeper for me. My old catalogue (2007) had its value at \$2.75.

A large envelope with foreign stamps, which included the above, contained 55 Italy used, 50 North Korea MNH (more research is needed for these items), 19 Spain MNH, and 491 worldwide with 60 unused with gum (some previously hinged) and 431 used. There were also 50 used WW on paper.

A large baggie stuffed with stamps was in my pile of "stuff." This baggie had 971 off-paper foreign and 47 U.S. stamps. Sixty additional WW stamps were on paper and needed to be soaked.

All was not positive: the first large envelope had 46 faulty stamps (missing pieces, deep creases, tears, large thins, etc.). The stuffed baggie had 26 faulty stamps. All these stamps went into my "faulty stamp" shoebox. Not sure what I will do with my shoebox of faulty stamps, but might be material for another article. In any case my shoebox is pretty full right now.



This colorful souvenir sheet (MNH) also caught my eye. It was issued by Uganda in 1995 for the 90th Anniversary of the Rotary International. In my many overseas trips there was always a Rotarian in the group and his request was to visit the local Rotarian office. I would think a lot of Rotarians also collect stamps and anything to do with the Rotary.

The Volume 6 Scott catalogue number is 1316 and the price is \$4.50 (2007 catalogue).

Since my raffle "stuff" was a small pile, I'm sure the other winners had equal or more items they added to their collections. At the February 14 meeting there was also a "Bonus Prize" valued at \$30. The raffle generated \$14 both for the club and the final winner - David Pointon, one of our newest members.

And, one last item in my "pile" was a hard-bound copy of the 1987 edition of *The Scott Stamp Atlas*. This is a 4½ x 6½" book with 356 pages, of which, the first 98 pages are maps of the stamp issuing countries. One caveat is "... they often differ from political maps of territorial units." This is another keeper for my philatelic library.

One might ask "What do you do with all those extra stamps?" That's easy to answer. The penny box is always in need of new material, especially off-paper stamps. One can always trade stamps of a country not collected for stamps of a country collected.

I had a lot of fun sorting through "my pile" and picking interesting items and then writing this short article.

I would encourage other winners of raffle prizes to do the same. I know some material is regularly placed back on the raffle table. That is fine, since at one point someone will find an interesting item and add it to their personal collection.

In summary, for the one dollar "investment," I added some interesting items to my personal collection and philatelic library, had a couple of hours of fun separating the material, used my old Scott catalogues learning about the illustrated items, and can donate material to the penny box and back to the raffle table. Don't forget the last two activities earn auction bucks and of course some auction bucks for this article. I just hope all the raffle prize winners have as much fun as I did.

Summary of my raffle winnings

	Unused	Used off-paper	On-paper
U.S. stamps		119	45
U.S. stationery	1	2	
Italy		55	
Spain	19		
North Korea	50		
General Foreign	60	1401	110
Faulty/defective		74	
Book: <i>The Scott Stamp Atlas</i> ©1987			