

Flag Over Porch reference guide

by John Walter



With 15 different varieties with major Scott catalogue numbers and one minor number, the 32¢ Flag Over Porch stamp first issued in 1995 can present a special challenge for collectors of United States stamps. Sold in sheet, coil, and booklet formats, the stamps arguably comprised what was at the time the most complex U.S. issue since the Washington-Franklin heads of the early 20th century.

Thankfully, a collector in Germany, Roland Klinger, has put together a [Flag Over Porch website](#), with information and images on all the varieties, as well as a dummy stamp (a stamp with no postal validity) sold with refrigerator magnet stamp dispensers in 1999. Roland's website is a useful resource for any collector trying to sort through the Flag Over Porch stamps.

Todd R. Uebele, Sr. also has an [excellent website](#) on these stamps.

Free Stuff for Stamp Collectors

It seems as though there is an endless supply of stamp-related reference material available on the Internet. You might be surprised to find 19th-century books and magazines on Google Books (<https://books.google.com>).

Type the name of what you are seeking, whether it is a book title, author's name or a subject about which you wish to find more information.

The first few suggestions on the list are usually of a commercial nature, and they are marked with a yellow box that says "Ad." The books that are available to read at no cost will be marked "READ" in blue type.

Some books are marked "PREVIEW," which means you get to read a few pages or a chapter or two, but then you would have to buy the book to finish reading. If you want free books, keep looking for those marked "READ."

The Royal Philatelic Society London has videotaped many of its monthly programs. Watch for free at www.rpsl.org.uk/events.asp.

The Collectors Club in New York City has filmed a number of programs given by philately's most knowledgeable collectors. Watch them at www.collectorsclub.org/Meeting_Schedules_and_Event.shtml.

Tired of reading and viewing videos about collecting? You can listen to <http://www.wsRadio.com>'s "APS Stamp Talk," hosted by Nancy Clark at www.wsradio.com/category/entertainment-radio/aps-stamp-talk/. Listen to the archived programs or listen live.

The newly revised 7th edition of the [APS Judging Manual](#) (65 pages) is now free online. It was approved at the August 2016 Portland Summer Show.

Just remember that the more you learn about your hobby, the more you will enjoy it, and so much of the learning is available for free.

John Walter collects used postal stationery, Japan, People's Republic of China, U.S., and U.N. He currently serves as President of the NSSS, webmaster, and Editor of the newsletter.