

Flyspecking Or A “Disease”

By Stan Cronwall

You have indulged me in my rants, and this could be the last at least on this subject.

An article in the “Stamp Collecting Round-Up” from November 2010 hints that philatelic flyspecking may be more than just examining your own naval looking for any accumulation of lint.

The New Zealand newspaper *Nanawatu-Standard* has a website piece which says, “Stalking stamps probably won’t qualify as heart-pumping excitement for most people. But there is a certain group of people for whom philately in all its associated manifestations creates palpitations that range from mild interest to full-blown obsession.”

The article goes on to interview a “compulsive” collector who has an album filled with stamps which to the “un-philatelic eye” all look identical. Apparently his father amassed these – 55,000 of them. Reportedly, there is a flaw in every 120 stamps.

This collection consists of one stamp from the New Zealand 1946 “Peace Issue” set which has 11 different stamps. (Scott 247-257)



It is not stated which single stamp has been amassed.

The original collector’s son is pictured in the article. The photo shows him with a greatly enlarged photocopy of a much earlier stamp from 1898 (Scott 71)

I wonder why he is shown with the photocopy of a much earlier stamp? Was this an editorial error, or done purposely to dissuade possible theft?

Now, you tell me whether this amassing is

flyspecking in the extreme, or a “disease”?

http://stampsnz.com/1946_peace.html

Stan Cronwall is a member and his collecting interests include Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collects U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards; Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA); U.S Naval Covers; DDR stamps; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.