

My Wife's Sable

by Robert Martin

A sable is not seen very often where we now live (Hawaii) so I was more than a little surprised to hear from my wife that she had a sable. In case you are not familiar with a sable, it is a coat made from the fur of a small animal indigenous to Siberia. Today, a full length sable coat costs about \$100,000. Many of you know that Linda is a quilter. As all self-respecting quilters do, she has acquired lots of fabric over the years, which is stored by basic colors, to be used when she desires a particular shade or pattern for a quilt she is making.



The name that quilters use for their collection of fabrics is “My stash.” Stashes can be quite large, and may be worth in the tens of thousands of dollars. Even though portions of stashes are regularly used, the shopping urge seems to result in trips to fabric stores with more and more fabric being added every month. (Sound familiar, stamp collectors?) Stashes are carefully protected from sunlight, dampness, infestations, etc. pretty much like how we stamp collectors protect our stamp collections.

This stamp portrays a sable. It is on a Soviet Union stamp issued in 1984. Scott No. 5286. (Scott for some reason never got around to listing the Soviet Union as a country, and still to this day lists stamps from the Soviet Union under “Russia.”) We stamp collectors know that Russia was only one of the “republics” in the Soviet Union. The full name for the Soviet Union was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and is abbreviated on their stamps with “СССР.” The Soviet Union was created in 1917 and

broke up in 1991.

Linda’s sable is actually an acronym, not the animal or the coat made from its fur. S.A.B.L.E. stands for “Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy.” (ED: *That also sounds like what stamp collectors have.*)

© **Robert Martin** is a member of the NSSS with an interest in educating children about our favorite hobby. He currently lives in Hawaii. This article appeared in the November issue of *The PhilateliKid*. It is reprinted with his permission. He publishes *The PhilateliKid* newsletter and maintains the website:

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