

**ROBERT UTPADEL
NEW POSTMASTER AT
WHEELING**

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Grewe and his wife, Elsie, who served as clerk, retired from the Wheeling Post Office as of June 30, 1954 after 17 years of service.

New Postmaster stated that he and his assistants would appreciate it and it would expedite the mail if the patrons would use their box number in their correspondence.

(1954)

**SURPRISED DINNER FOR
AUGUST GREWE**

Northwestern Postmasters Association surprised August Grewe of Wheeling last Wednesday night with a dinner party. They presented him with a very beautiful wrist watch. His wife, Elsie, and his daughter, Marion Bitterman, were also invited as guests. Elsie and August both were called on for speeches and they had a very nice evening.

August Grewe was thus honored upon his retirement as Wheeling's Postmaster for the past 17 years.

(July 7, 1954)

**LIONS FETE LADIES AT
AT DINNER PARTY**

As part of the installation of officers ceremonies held Wed. of last week, the Wheeling Lions Club held a "Ladies Night" at which wives of the members were guests, with a corsage for each lady, entertainment, and a delicious steak dinner. Following the dinner, every one joined in community singing, after which the group was addressed by the Lion's District Governor,

Morris M. Benzuly, with his wife and sister-in-law, was an honored guest. International Chancellor and former District Governor, Cletus Day, with his wife, also honored guests, installed the officers.

Also honored at the event was August Grewe, Wheeling's former postmaster recently retired, and his wife Elsie. He was formally thanked by Fred Cargill, master of ceremonies, for his years of faithful service as the village postmaster.

(July 14, 1954)

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UNCLE SAM FINDS WOMEN MAKE GOOD POSTMASTERS

Mrs. Elsie Grewe
Wheeling Postoffice

(Oct. 19, 1945)

Mrs. Elsie Grewe, who is the lady at the window of the Wheeling postoffice may not be postmaster in name but she is in reality. The appointment is held by her husband, August Grewe. This is a case where the wife is doing a man's job. She holds the appointment as assistant postmaster and does an excellent job of it, say Wheeling people.

The Grewes took charge of the postoffice in 1937 when it went into third class. For the last five years it has had its own quarters and is on the verge of going into second class. Wheeling people look forward to the time when mail will be dropped from planes supplanting the present train service provided by the Soo Line which is far from adequate.

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Wheeling Post Office, August Grewe Postmaster from 1937-1954

During the year of 1937 about 100 families and a few business were served by the Wheeling Post Office. The office occupied the almost unbelievable roomy space of 8 feet by 10 ft. Its location was where the Grewe Restaurant now stands at 11 South Milwaukee. Into this small area and allowing for shelves & a bench, Mr. & Mrs Grewe sorted the mail. Mrs. Grewe, assistant Postmaster and clerk, would begin her work day as early as 4:30 a.m. Each family had a mail box in the tiny lobby and during the day they would meet their neighbors as they picked up their mail. The budget was too small to pay for the expense of a telephone, so when special delivery letters came in Mrs. Grewe would deliver them to the addressee. The typewriter used for correspondence was paid for by the postmaster. Materials to wash and clean the room came out of his pocket as the government paid only for the bare essentials.

The Soo Line Railroad, one mile to the west on Dundee Road hauled the mail in from Chicago. One dispatch a day was made and Mr. Ralph Taylor of Wills St. picked up the mail sacks from the depot and carried them to the post office in his car. This he did for some 30 years.

For 17 years Mr. Grewe was postmaster & working six days a week. Often Mrs. Grewe would make an extra trip after hours to a family to deliver an important letter and then working longer at the office to finish her clerical duties. Her salary was the magnificent sum of \$1.00 a day. The Postmaster received a yearly salary of \$ 1200.

UNCLE SAM FINDS WOMEN MAKE GOOD POSTMASTERS

MRS. ELSIE GREWE

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OCT. 19, 1945

Under the administration of Village President Edward Gieseke, Jr.

He established the new police reserve which now numbers 13 men.

He has added two regular police officers and modernized the department by adding radio and transmitter equipment.

He personally instituted the adult school patrol which affords greater safety for Wheeling children.

He has revised the village ordinances and placed the village code in book form which, for the first time, is available to the public.

He encouraged the formation of the planning commission which is so vital to our still growing community.

He was instrumental in the formation of the village electrical commission.

Under his leadership, Wheeling has seen the installation of a new sewer system; the construction of three beautiful subdivisions; the use of house numbers; the erection of new street signs; the construction of a new shopping center; house to house mail delivery; a medical center; the creation of separate village departments such as the water and building offices; the construction of new and valued industry... all this which makes Wheeling a better place in which to live.

Other apparent duplicates may be told apart by differences in the number of perforations, in shades of color, and in the kinds of paper on which they are printed. Lack of space makes it impossible for us to describe in detail the "shade" and "paper varieties," as they are called; and fortunately the beginning collector will seldom wish to bother with them. If you want more information about them, we suggest that you consult some experienced collector.

ADVENTURING WITH POSTAGE STAMPS

We have given above a brief outline of essential information for the beginning collector. There is of course a great deal more to know about stamps and stamp collecting and for further information we recommend that you consult your local public library.

"Every postage stamp tells a story" runs the saying. And truly, back of nearly every stamp that you acquire you will find some

interesting tale of adventure, a picturesque glimpse of far-away lands, or some stirring symbol of great historical events.

Here, in our opinion, lies one of the most fascinating aspects of the widespread hobby of stamp collecting. For postage stamps take you adventuring to all parts of the world. They show the scenes and cities, the natives, animals, and products, the prominent personages, of far-away lands. They will tell you how men live on the opposite sides of the world, and promote a better understanding of the ways of the world and its peoples.

With this quality of stamp collecting in mind, let your imagination roam as you turn the pages of your stamp album. For each stamp can become a little square of magic, a flying carpet able to transport you to the far-off places of the world, or backwards into the pages of history. And your travels, you may be sure, will always be delightful, as you go adventuring with postage stamps!

WORLD'S RAREST STAMP

The fabulous story of a postage stamp which is worth 5 million times the face value it had when issued in 1856



Value: \$50,000!

The story of the world's rarest stamp begins in 1873 in a dusty attic in British Guiana. An English schoolboy was looking through some old letters, searching for stamps for his collection, when he came upon a one-cent, black-on-magenta stamp of British Guiana, dated 1856. It had an ugly, insignificant appearance; the corners were missing; it was in poor condition; and there was no space for it in his album. Thinking he could find a better copy among the letters, anyway, the boy gladly sold the stamp to a fellow collector for \$1.50.

Within a few years the new owner disposed of his entire collection for \$600 through a dealer in Glasgow. The single stamp was next sold to the eccentric Austrian collector, Count Ferrary, for \$750 and was added to his great collection in Paris where it was to remain for forty-four years.

At the death of Count Ferrary in 1917, it was found that he had willed his collection to the Berlin Postal Museum. As he was an alien, however, the French government confiscated his property and sold it at public auction, crediting the proceeds to Germany's bill for reparations. In a series of fourteen great auctions held in Paris between 1921 and 1925, the vast stamp collection brought more than \$2,000,000.

At one of these auctions the late Arthur Hind, American millionaire collector, acquired the one-cent British Guiana rarity at a price of \$32,500 plus a government tax — in all, a small fortune of over \$38,000!







Mr. Hind presented the stamp to his wife shortly before his death in 1933, and for seven years it reposed in a bank vault in Utica, New York, honored with a catalog value of \$50,000. In 1940 it was sold privately to an anonymous buyer for an amount "in excess of \$40,000" — the highest price ever paid for a single postage stamp.

And that, briefly, is the story of the most valuable piece of paper in the world.

People often wonder how one little stamp can be worth such a large sum of money. The answer is found in those two simple factors which determine the price of everything: supply and demand. In all the seventy-odd years since the British Guiana stamp was first discovered, no other copy has turned up. Meanwhile, the world's stamp family has increased to a population of somewhere between five and ten million collectors and dealers, every one of whom would like to own this unique stamp. When only one copy of an article is in existence but millions of people want it, the price naturally rises to astonishing heights.

STAMP TREASURE HUNTING

Where and How to Search for Rare Old Stamps Worth Fortunes

 I. BRITISH GUIANA \$50,000	 II. MADRITIUS \$20,000	 III. SPAIN \$12,500	 IV. BRITISH GUIANA \$17,500	 V. SADEN \$11,000	 VI. HAWAII \$15,000
 VII. ALEXANDRIA, VA. \$15,000	 VIII. BOSCAWEN, N. H. \$6,000	 IX. BALTIMORE, MD. \$8,000	 X. ANNAPOLIS, MD. \$8,000		 XI. NEW HAVEN, \$10,000

Some famous stamps which have brought fortunes to lucky finders

One of the great thrills of stamp collecting is the constant possibility of discovering, in some unexpected place or manner, some rare old stamps that will bring the lucky finder hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Such discoveries are occurring, in a larger or smaller way, all the time, and there is no doubt that many more will occur in the future. We shall describe a few of the more sensational "finds" below.

STAMPS WORTH FORTUNES

Some years ago a colored porter at the Court House in Louisville, Kentucky, was told to dispose of some old boxes of correspondence. As he was throwing them into the furnace he noticed some curious-looking stamps on the envelopes. They were the famed St. Louis "bear" stamps. Many more were found in the remaining papers—stamps which today would be valued all together at about \$50,000.00! But the porter, not knowing their value, sold them for 25c to the janitor of the building, who knew something about stamp collecting!

In an office building in Boston, Mass., some twenty-five years ago, partitions were being torn out and boxes of old accumulated correspondence were being moved. A stamp collector, who happened to be passing by, saw several envelopes sticking out of the boxes, and on them the U. S. 10c 1847 stamp. He obtained permission from the firm to go over this old and unwanted correspondence. It took him two weeks to complete the task, but when he finished he had obtained over 500 stamps valued at about \$40,000!

In 1921 a young woman was sorting over some old correspondence which had been for many years in the possession of her mother. She tossed aside some envelopes with curious-looking labels on them to examine

later on, but did not bother with them again until 1930. The old envelopes were then found to include one of the rare Baltimore Postmasters' Provisional stamps, for which she received thousands of dollars.

A Philadelphia bank, about to move into new quarters, called in a waste paper dealer and sold him an accumulation of old and apparently worthless papers for \$15,000. Among these the dealer later found an enormous number of rare early United States stamps reportedly worth \$75,000.00!

A collector in California made the acquaintance, in connection with certain business matters, of a lady in whose family some old correspondence had been stored for several generations. The collector was particularly interested in this correspondence because some of it came from Brattleboro, Vermont. He persuaded the lady to let him examine these old letters in search of rare stamps, and they were finally rewarded by discovering three of the famous Brattleboro Postmaster's Provisional stamps — which are worth about \$2,000.00 apiece.

HOW A PRINTING ERROR BROUGHT A COLLECTOR \$15,000.00

Rarities are not exclusively confined to old stamps. An error in printing is liable to create a great rarity among current stamps.

Stamps which are printed in two colors have to be run twice through the printing press. Through an error, the paper is sometimes turned wrong side to, during the second run, which results in a sheet of stamps with one part of the design printed upside down — a situation which collectors describe by the phrase "inverted center."

A collector in Washington, D. C., went to the postoffice on the first day of issue of

HOW TO START A STAMP COLLECTION

One of the many advantages of the hobby of stamp collecting (or "philately," as it is often called) is the ease with which anyone may start a collection. All you need, in fact, are some stamps, a book to keep them in (preferably an illustrated album), and some stamp hinges with which to attach the stamps to your album pages. All of these things may be purchased for a very small sum of money—less than the cost of a box of candy, or a good seat at the theatre—and they will introduce you to a fascinating hobby which will yield many hours of recreation and pleasure.

WHERE AND HOW TO GET STAMPS

A few lucky people, from time to time, have the good fortune of being able to start their collections with a treasure hunt—by searching for stamps among old letters or correspondence stowed away in the attics or cellars of their homes. Other people have friends who work in banks and business houses, and who save for them the stamps on incoming mail. For the average person, however, there are two principal ways of acquiring stamps: first, by purchasing them from a dealer; and second, by exchanging duplicates with collector-friends.

When you come to buy stamps, remember that the best and least expensive beginning for your collection is to purchase what stamp dealers call a "World" or "General Variety" Packet. (Packets, by the way, are collections of all-different stamps conveniently packaged or "packeted" in envelopes.) They range in size from one hundred to several thousand varieties, and are priced accordingly. If you buy the largest general variety packet that you can afford, you will obtain—and at the lowest possible cost—a large number of stamps representing many different countries. And these will make an excellent foundation for your collection.

As you are mounting the stamps from the general variety packet in your album, you may find that some countries interest you especially. If so you can purchase, from your dealer, packets of the stamps of any countries you desire—such packets, for example, as 5 Abyssinia, 100 Austria, or 15 Uruguay. This is the quickest and most economical method of filling up your album pages of any particular country.

In addition to buying packets, and buying individual stamps from approval selections, most collectors also have a particular fondness for sets—a set being a series of sequences of stamps belonging to the same issue. Sets are extremely attractive and make a handsome appearance in an album. Some dealers send sets on approval, while others offer them for sale in their price lists.

APPROVAL SELECTIONS

In the philatelic (or stamp collectors') magazines, and on the stamp pages of the national juvenile magazines, you will see that many dealers are advertising especially attractive offers either free or at a very low price to "approval applicants." "Approvals"

are sheets or booklets in which stamps are mounted, marked with a selling price, and sent "on approval" to prospective customers.

If you answer any of these advertisements, you will receive not only the special offer but also a selection of stamps on approval. This method of merchandising has been used ever since stamp collecting started. You will find it an interesting proposition, for it will acquaint you with a great many stamps; both the ones you purchase for your own collection and those you return to the dealer.

Collectors receiving stamps on approval make it a point of honor to treat the dealer with every business courtesy: to handle his stamps carefully, and return them as soon as possible (and within ten days at the most) enclosing full payment for all the stamps that are retained. It is a remarkable tribute to stamp collecting that so much buying and selling, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, is transacted through the mails, on trust, by approval selections.

THE USEFUL ART OF SOAKING

Very old and rare stamps, such as are found once in a blue moon in old correspondence, are likely to be worth more if left on their original envelopes. But nearly all stamps—and especially those which the beginning collector is likely to acquire—should be cleanly separated from any attached paper before being mounted in your collection.

Submerge the stamps in cold or luke-warm (but not hot) water for five or ten minutes, and you will find that the paper peels off easily. Then place the stamp face down on a clean blotter, and let it dry thoroughly before you mount it in your album.

DUPLICATES AND HOW TO ENJOY THEM

A single copy of a stamp is quite enough for the average collector; but collectors in various ways always acquire several copies, or duplicates, of some of their stamps. To the beginner, what to do with duplicates sometimes looks like a difficult problem.

But far from being a problem, duplicates to most collectors are an almost unlimited source of pleasure. Other collectors have duplicates too. And nothing is more fun than to get together with collector-friends and swap duplicates. In this way each collector can dispose of his extra copies and acquire new stamps without cost.

Stamp trading is one of the most enjoyable pastimes—and makes an excellent common interest for the formation of a stamp club.

THE POSTAGE STAMP CATALOG

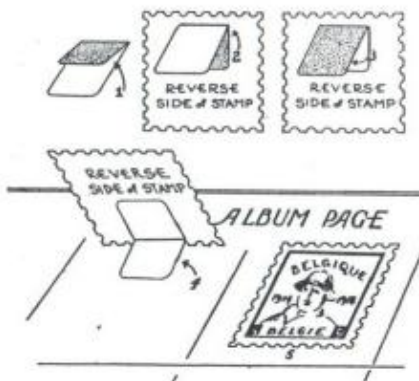
Every stamp in existence is illustrated, numbered, briefly described and priced in the "Standard Postage Stamp Catalog." This useful volume, which is revised and re-published every year to include new stamps and to record price changes in old ones, is frequently available at the local library, if you do not wish to buy a copy for yourself.

The terms "catalog numbers" and "catalog values"—so often used by stamp dealers—refer to the numbers and prices assigned to postage stamps in this Standard Catalog.

HOW TO USE STAMP HINGES

Many good stamps have been ruined because uninformed collectors have stuck them down permanently with glue or paste. Let it be said here, once and for all, that the only proper way to mount stamps in an album is with the little gummed slips of transparent paper that are called "stamp hinges." Hinges not only enable you to insert and remove stamps from your album with ease and efficiency, but also prevent damage to stamps and albums.

One picture is worth a thousand words in explaining the use of stamp hinges, so we refer to the diagram and notes below:



1. Bend back the top half of the hinge, and lightly moisten the gum as indicated by the shaded area in the drawing. (Most collectors moisten hinges by licking them, so that hinge manufacturers use a pure and almost tasteless gum.)

2. Attach the hinge to the back of the stamp, with the crease of the hinge about $\frac{1}{8}$ " below the perforations.

3. Moisten the other half of the hinge as indicated by the shaded area.

4. Now turn the stamp over and attach the hinge to the album page.

5. The stamp has now been pressed into place. Note that it is really "hinged" (in the usual sense of the word) and may be turned up and over for inspection. Many collectors make pencilled notations (of cost, catalog value, etc.) beneath their stamps, to which they turn for ready reference.

The great advantage of using hinges is that, when the hinges are dry, they may be easily peeled off both stamps and album pages, without damage to either. But — **WARNING** — never try to remove a hinge while it is still wet. Unless you allow plenty

of time for drying (about half an hour) the removal of a hinge may result in a torn stamp or a hole in your album page.

GAUGING PERFORATIONS

Most beginning collectors will neither need nor wish to bother with perforations, but we mention them here for reference and general information.

Perforations are the holes punched between the stamps on a sheet, to make them easy to separate. In the Stamp Catalog you will find various stamps described as "perf. 10," "perf. 15," etc. (or "imperf," which means that the stamp is imperforated or has straight edges). The numbers tell the number of perforation holes found along the edge of the stamp in a space of two centimeters. It sometimes happens that the perf. number (like the watermarking described below) is the only way of distinguishing between stamps that are identical in design and color but actually belong to different issues and are considered as different stamps.

It is not necessary to measure and count the perforations, however. They can be easily determined by the use of a perforation gauge, which is a rectangle of cardboard or metal on which all of the differently numbered perforations are represented by rows of dots. If you lay the stamp on this scale and move it up and down until a row of dots corresponds exactly to the perforations, you can read the desired perf. number direct from the gauge.

WATERMARK VARIETIES AND OTHER APPARENT DUPLICATES

It is a common experience for beginning collectors, especially when buying a packet guaranteed to contain "all-different" stamps, to come upon two stamps which appear to be identical, and to conclude at once that they are duplicates. In such a case it should be remembered that a number of stamps have "doubles" or other stamps which look almost exactly like them, but which actually were issued in different years and are therefore listed in the catalog, and considered by collectors, as distinctly different stamps.

The most common stamp doubles are "watermark varieties." Watermarks are the faint, almost invisible marks impressed into better-grade papers during the process of manufacture. (If you will hold a sheet of good writing or typewriter paper up to the light, you will see its watermark clearly.) The watermarks on stamps are difficult or impossible to see because of the printing, and collectors therefore employ a device known as a watermark detector.

A watermark detector is a small black tray made of lacquered tin, hard rubber, or glass. Any flat black surface will do just as well. Place the stamp face down on the surface, moisten it with a few drops of carbon tetrachloride (which may be purchased at any drug store), and the watermark (if the stamp has one) will show clearly on the wet paper. Now remove the stamp and the liquid will evaporate without harming it.

If you find that two otherwise identical stamps have different watermarks, you will know that they are not duplicates after all.

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