

So Many Stamps, So Little Time by Michael Rogers

I'm a lucky guy. I live on the beach and collect stamps. If that sounds like an oxymoron, believe me, I thought it out real hard on how to avoid moisture. I found a cabinet maker who built virtually air tight cabinets, placed my albums in slipcases, and tossed packets of silica gel on each shelf. The air conditioning is always running at a crisp 70 degrees. So far (knock wood!), no problem.



Read my columns and it comes as no surprise that I love collecting. Check for a heartbeat if you hear I've stopped collecting.

I wasn't the best student at Oglethorpe University but I did graduate in four years. In those days, I most looked forward to one evening each week at the Atlanta Stamp Club. Outstanding philatelists were members. One week, Cliff Cole passed around his page of US 1901 Pan American inverts so we could see them up close.

Henry Harper Rogers, author of *A Century of Liberian Philately*, introduced himself. Though we weren't related, he took a shine to me and even came to my dormitory. Imagine a military correct, white haired Southern gentleman coming to my dorm room. After we chatted about stamps and he left, the dorm proctor wanted to know what was going on. "Oh, I'm being interviewed for the CIA." A joke! But when Monday rolled around, my history professor took me aside to ask about my credentials for government service. I eased out of it, saying I needed to graduate.

I very much enjoy collecting Liberia. As a dealer, I understand the disparity between what someone wants and what something is worth. With Liberia, there are lots of contrived errors that seem to be everywhere. And forgeries await the careless. So I'm patient. It's a beautiful highly specialized collection in seven volumes.

The collecting bug hit me hard in 1999 when a complicated consignment of Jordan and Yemen came to my company, Michael Rogers Inc. The problem was, the consignment wasn't written up as a collection. Rather, cumbersome bags and bolts and loose stamps and sheets and covers were enclosed in envelopes. In order to make sense, and achieve good prices, we needed to reach out for a describer. I had pretty good resources so I found Alex McDonald who was a Yemen collector. (It fell to Larry Gibson on staff to do the minor Jordan.) Alex charted, plated and translated the Yemen. Because of the diligent work he did -- I ended up buying a significant portion. Without his input, I would not have had the confidence.

Now forward to 2014. I sold my company and knew I would be moving down to Pompano Beach. Alex had a mind to sell his Yemen. Who to? Well that would be me -- so I purchased Alex's magnificent Yemen collection and am merging it with my own. Slowly.

I collect Yemen with a blind eye to their politics. I collect because it's difficult. Only recently did Scott Catalogue list and price many gaudy sets. Michel Catalogue lists far more than Scott. Alex attempted to acquire one of every Michel listed variety, and then some plus much postal history. My take is similar: if it's different, I want it. If a catalogue doesn't explain it, I'll find a study group or go on the internet.

And just in case I run out of things to do, I just ordered from Subway Stamp Shop, the G & K 1840-1940 album in 14 volumes. Printed on 55 pound paper, the 5100 album pages won't easily pull out of the album. Now I can put the packs of Dennison stamp hinges that I have been accumulating to good use!

[Editor's Note; Michael Rogers is a long time member of the Central Florida Stamp Club and holds the second lowest active membership number on our roster of 118. For many years Mike supported the club directly and indirectly through his company that was headquartered in Winter Park. The CFSC appreciates all of Mike's efforts over the years.]

The Dealer's Corner by Phil Fettig

U. S. REISSUES			
1861,	2c mint	(103)	\$18.00
	3c no gum	(104)	24.00
	5c mint	(105)	21.00
	19c no gum	(106)	16.00
	12c no gum	(107)	18.00
	24c mint	(109)	45.00
1869,	2c no gum	(124)	4.00
	3c part gum	(125)	21.00
	6c no gum	(126)	6.00
	10c no gum	(127)	8.00
	12c mint	(128)	13.50
	15c no gum	(129)	9.00
	24c no gum	(130)	8.00
	30c no gum	(131)	12.00
	90c mint	(132)	30.00

EUGENE KLEIN
200 South 13th St. Philadelphia, Pa.

Eugene Klein (1878 – 1944) was a major force among early U.S. Stamp Dealers. He accomplished the difficult task of achieving success as both a prominent dealer and collector. His greatest philatelic fame came from his May 20, 1918 purchase of the unique full sheet of the 24-cent “inverted Jenny airmail stamp from William Robey, the collector who discovered the sheet. The purchase was made with financing from one of his best clients, Col. E.H. Green, a famous collector in his own right. Earlier Klein helped organize the first U.S. International philatelic exhibition in 1913 as well as the later 1926 and 1936 shows. As further proof of his dedication as both a dealer and collector, Klein was an early founding member of the American Stamp Dealer's Association and, from 1935 – 1937, the president of the American Philatelic Society, a rare combination. In 1935, Klein founded the American

Philatelic Congress, an organization that still annually publishes a book containing important papers on philatelic subjects. **Figure (1)** shows a Klein ad from the January 21st, 1933 issue of Stamps Magazine (H. L. Lindquist). The first item lists a mint Scott 103 for \$18.00. Today, if you could find one, with a 2016 cv of \$3,500, you might have to pay a bit more! **Figure (2)** shows the back of a registered letter that probably contained something nice being mailed to a 1920 customer in



Germany. (Thanks to the American Stamp Dealer & Collector Publication for the biographical information on Eugene Klein)

[Note from Phil: This is the first of an unscheduled series of small articles that result from finding something I think you might find interesting – Let me know what you think!]