

Fond Memories

How I Became a Bargain Basement Dealer

by Phil Fettig

I have been a collector since the age of 8 or 9 and have been involved in many aspects since. In fact, I married a young lady 60 years ago who also collected from childhood. In early 1979 I joined the CFSC, and later that same year became a member of the Florida Stamp Dealers' Association. In retrospect, becoming a dealer was not a goal to work on while still in the Navy, and later, working for the state. It was further complicated by my inability to say "no" and I ended up involved in show management and positions as a club officer.

In the meantime, Ann worked harder & smarter and ended up owning and operating a coin and stamp store. When she decided to join me in retirement in 2008, we ended up with all her stamps & supplies as well as a large amount of "stuff" I had accumulated. So, we decided to do a few local shows to dispose of the material. A major problem arose in that we realized we still really enjoyed doing shows.

Ann is neat and organized in her habits, two traits I lack at times. A pattern soon developed, especially for the larger 2- or 3-day shows. Her side of our 4 or 5 table booths would have neat rows of counter books, supplies and binders of sheets in order. On my two tables I would have box lots crammed with all sorts of U.S. and worldwide stuff, larger collection remainders and finally, individual country collections in tubs.

Something wonderful happened – the collectors loved the mix and a profitable plan developed. Soon I was making purchases to replace material. One of the best was a 32-volume set of worldwide albums. Ann reviewed them to determine CV and move some items to her counter books. She then stapled each country remainder into a plastic folder for me. I typed up a nice label with a description, assigned a price that was both fair and low before placing it a country collection tub. For several years we have enjoyed repeat single country collectors sitting at Ann's table and general types going through the tubs of collections and box lots at my end. Sometimes it was funny to have to explain to a customer that my bargain basement operation was part of the same booth as the nice lady with the neat and clean counter books at the other end! At times I also had to explain that when the store had been open, she was the owner and manager – I just was the weekend janitor.

Now that age is catching up with us, we still have fond memories of having great relationships with many of our long-time customers and wish everybody Philatelic Good Luck!

[Editor's note: Phil, Ann and I have been friends for a long time, even though he used to work on boats that sank on purpose.]

Questionable eBay, #41

Head Scratcher for Sure

by Francis Ferguson



The listing reads: “ERROR 1939 U.S. 2C PREXIE STAMPS PAIR GUIDE LINE #841 PLATE NUMBER ERROR MISCUOT.” A starting bid of \$97.95 is given with a discount coupon of 20% is available for use. Since I was following the listing, I received an offer of \$58.77 which was declined. Free shipping is given for this item.

This experienced seller fails to note the obvious scissor cut on the left side which of course impacts the collectable value tremendously. There is absolutely no evidence of the stated “plate number error miscut”. The plate number should it be evident on this pair, would have been on the top edge and as can be seen it is trimmed to tight to show any evidence of a plate number. While the value would have been around \$5.00 with 20% to 50% plate number – since this pair lacks any plate number and is damaged – the value is zero in my view.

What do you think?

An Appearance After 49 Years

by Norman Hinds, Jr.



Last week I was looking at a Kelleher sale to place some bids. There was a section on Canadian lots, so I looked.

The special delivery lot had a video. Now these go quick while someone turns the pages. I saw something quickly and said to myself, I need to see that again. So, starting over I hit pause after each lot. I watched it 3 times. What interested me is there were 2 of my sales sheets with the original stamps. Now that doesn't sound amazing, but they were from 1987-8, as I was still in New Hampshire and not

in Newburyport yet. So, they were at least 49 years old. This is the first time I have seen my pages from '87-'88 appears lately. I HAD to buy the lot and I did, paying probably \$50.00 too much. It arrived today and I'm proud to own two old friends again!

[Associate Editor's note: The philatelic ecosystem runs deep – and strange at times!]

In a Moment

Anonymous Ghost Writer

Let me tell you a story that involves doing something extraordinary. The Fall of 2025, a lot composed of classic U.S. material with a smattering of regular issues and commemoratives, crossed the auction block at a club meeting. The material sold at what was thought to be a reasonable price and the seller and buyer walked away contented with the transaction.

Some weeks ago, the buyer presented a stamp from the lot to the seller to determine if it was a rather rare and pricey variety. After a couple of hours of examination and cross checking, the seller determined the stamp in question to be a variety that is pricey – however it was recommended that the stamp be sent for expert opinion which would only burnish the price the stamp would realize. The stamp in question is MNH and has exceptional centering for this issue, thus making it a highly desirable addition to any collection. The stamp will be sent for an expert opinion and paper.

Here is the kicker – the buyer offered to return the item to the seller and/or compensate the seller accordingly. The seller was thunderstruck (or to use a British term gob smacked) by this turn of events.

The request was declined as it was a fair purchase and any lack of proper identification is firmly on the shoulders of the seller.

This is being publicly disclosed anonymously (on purpose) to demonstrate that stamp people are some of the best folks! Anyone of lesser integrity would have kept silent. This person's action shows a depth of character that is not found often.

What would you have done?



CFSC Distinguished Service Award 2025

Francis Ferguson



I had the privilege of presenting Mike Schumacher his much-deserved award for distinguished Service to the CFSC over the last decade. He joined the CFSC in February of 2016 and hit the ground running. His involvement included serving on the BoD of the CFSC and additional duties as President along with other posts. To add to his accomplishments, he served as the General Chairman of FLOREX for 4 years. Mike served as the CFSC Newsletter Editor for four years --- always delivered the monthly newsletter on time and full of interesting information for the readers. He also managed to be a highly awarded exhibitor at countless domestic APS and international shows. He was in constant motion!

The award was to be presented at the second meeting of January however Mike was not able to stay for the presentation and his extended travel to Minnesota in February further delayed the award -- until we met for lunch on 03.20.26.

We wish Mike all the best in his future and thank him for job(s) well done!

