

# My Stamp Collection - Contents

## Command Bar Functions

{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, open.bmp} [Open Stamp Catalog](#)  
{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, add.bmp} [Add New Stamps](#)  
{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, edit.bmp} [Edit Stamps](#)  
{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, delete.bmp} [Remove Stamp Catalog](#)  
{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, find.bmp} [Find a Stamp](#)  
{ew1 MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, print.bmp} [Print Stamp Collection](#)

## Stamp Collecting Info

[What Determines Stamp Prices ?](#)  
[Categories](#)

## Registration

[Why Should I Register ?](#)  
[How to Register](#)

## **Open Stamp Catalog**

The **Open** command will prompt you for an existing Stamp Catalog filename. If you don't have one then select NO , this will allow you to enter a new Stamp Catalog of your choosing. None of the other commands will be available to you until a Catalog has been opened.

## **Add New Stamps**

The **Add** command will bring up a blank record for you to fill in. Many of the fields have drop-down selection boxes to choose from such as the Stamp Color field. Remember this is your Stamp Collection so try and fill in as much info as you can. After entering the information you can then choose:

Add Another

Abort Add

All Done

## **Edit Stamps**

The **Edit** command will allow you to browse through your Stamp Catalog changing individual fields as you see fit. You can't however *Add* stamps when in edit mode. When you are done editing your stamps you can make the following choices:

Abort Edit

All Done

## **Remove Stamp Catalog**

The **Remove** command will allow you to delete a full Stamp Catalog. If you don't want your entire Catalog removed from disk then please don't select this. If you have a single stamp or group of stamps which are no longer part of your collection, then as you *Add* new stamps use the *Edit Stamps* command to edit over the ones you no longer have in your collection.

## Find a Stamp

The **Find** command will bring up an additional selection window. In this window you have the option of searching for a stamp by the *Title, Scott #, Year Issued, Face Value or DateAdded*. Once you select an option the list box next to your selection will show the available stamps in your collection. Just *double-click* with your mouse on the one that you want to find and it will take you there.

**TIP:** If you don't know what stamp exactly your looking for then use the *Edit Stamps* command. From there use can browse back and forth through your Catalog.

## **Print Stamp Collection**

The **Print** command will bring up an additional window that has many functions besides printing your stamp catalog. It is important to point out that there are three main options *View Catalog*, *Print Catalog* and *Return to Main Menu*. The *View Catalog* will display your entire collection on screen in a columnar format. The *Print Catalog* will dump the same information as *View*, but to your designated windows printer (if you have one setup). *Return* will take you back where you came from. One other item of interest is the *Graph Button*. Pressing that button will result in displaying a colorful 3D comparison graph of your stamp catalogs' total face value and estimated collector's value.

## **Add Another Stamp**

By selecting this option you will be able to enter another stamp. Be sure that all of the information that your adding is correct before selecting this or any other option, otherwise you will have to *Edit* it later.



**Abort Add**

This option will negate the current stamp that you were trying to *Add* and will return you to the command bar.

## **All Done**

This option is the same for both *Add* and *Edit* commands. It will take whatever updates you have done and save them to your stamp catalog.

**Abort Edit**

This option will negate any changes that you were attempting to make to any of the stamps in your catalog.

## **What Determines Stamp Prices**

There are many factors involved in the *Estimated Value* of a given stamp. Ultimately the value is determined by how much an interested collector (Philatelist) is willing to pay for it. However, there are a number of factors which directly affect the value of any stamp. Listed below are just a few of them.

**Category**

**Centering**

**Gum Quality**

**Cancellation Mark**

**Care of Stamp**

There are other things which affect a stamps' value, but the ones listed above have a larger impact.

## Why Should I Register ?

Good Question. Well, first of all you have 30 days to try this product out if you don't like it then get rid of it and don't use it. However, if you do like it, I can promise you will be personally notified of any future upgrades. This shareware version is not crippled so that you can enjoy the full use of this program.

When registering this product I will send you your personalized version of *My Stamp Collection* along with more country flags and my sincere thanks ! Any suggestions for subsequent versions will much appreciated.

## How to Register

This is the easy part ! Send me a check or money order **\$15.00** to the address listed below. As soon as I have received payment your new *Personalized* copy of **My Stamp Collection** will be on its way. Please provide me with the name to use when personalizing your copy. Thanks !

**David J. Taber**  
P. O. BOX 761  
PLAINVILLE, CT 06062

## Stamp Categories

The following is a basic list of categories used by most Philatelist (Stamp Collectors):

**Mint** - The perfect stamp. Nothing is wrong with the centering, gum, etc.

**Unused** - This stamp has not been post marked but may have been hinged at one time or may have some of its gum missing.

**Used** - This is your basic stamp which has passed through Uncle Sam's Post Office and bears the postal mark and is generally not in very good shape.

**Cancelled to Order** - These stamps have not passed through the postal system but have been *pre-cancelled*. These type of stamps are generally undesirable to collectors.

## Stamp Centering

The centering of the image on the stamp is commonly broken down into five basic categories, and they are:

- Average** - The image cuts into the perforations of the stamp.
- Fine** - The image does not touch the perforations, but is very much off center.
- Very Fine** - The image is slightly off center.
- Extra Fine** - The image is off center, but barely detectable. Almost Perfect.
- Superb** - The image is perfectly centered and the borders are of equal size.



## Stamp Gum Quality

The quality of the stamp gum is on which matters most when dealing with *Mint* and *Unused* stamp categories. There are three basic categories for stamp gum along with if the stamp was hinged at any time and how badly it was hinged. They are listed below:

**Original Gum** - The gum is as good as the day it was issued.

**Regummed** - The stamp will have had new gum placed on its backing. This will not make the stamp worth any more than one without its gum.

**No Gum** - For on reason or another the stamp has had its gum removed. Possibly due to soaking the stamp to remove it from its envelope.

**Hinged** - This further breaks down into *Never Hinged*, *Lightly Hinged* or *Heavily Hinged*. In most stamp collecting price books, this affect the overall price of the stamp by as much as 10 to 30 percent.

## Stamp Cancellation Mark

On used stamps the cancellation mark is very important. The lighter the mark the better. There are basically three categories to describe the cancellation mark and they are:

**Light Cancel** - The mark is barely discernible and does not interfere with the stamp image.

**Normal Cancel** - The mark is clearly noticeable but does not detract from the overall appearance of the stamp.

**Heavy Cancel** - The mark has been placed on with a bold heavy ink and a good portion of the stamp image can not be seen through the mark. This is very common on stamps in the early 1900's.

## **Proper Care of Stamps**

Much can be said on this topic, but we don't really need to. Most important it how you store and handle your stamps. Stamps should be stored in special stamp collectors albums and should not be *Hinged*. This will detract from the value of the stamp. Make sure that the album you are storing them in has separator sheets between each and every page to protect the stamps. When handling your stamps use a pair of flat nose tweezers to move the stamp around. Try not to handle them with you fingers. For close inspection of your stamps, I suggest picking up a 3 to 4x magnifying glass. If you can't find any of these supplies in a local store, try contacting a Stamp Wholesaler/Retailer or hobby shop in your area. I'm sure that they will have what you need.

