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Today's Collector
New Opportunities

Why Are So Many Old Farts Stamp Collectors?



This is a 1/2 cover torn into two pieces.

Cancel from Altar in Sonora state now. Last used on the stampless and the 1856 issue period.

Bottom marking is for the city government in Altah.

I have this displayed because all the questions are unanswered.

I am going to take a different direction today because I came across a word in one of the publications I received in the mail this week. The word is 'curiosity'. So, the answer to the question in my title is: Curiosity. As I grow older, I have noticed that I spend more time on subjects related to the stamps I come across. With the vast number of our hobbyists who are stamp collectors and many of whom should be called Philatelists, there must be a reason that we still love this hobby. We pore through periodicals from various societies. We also love to see what is up for auction, whether we are in the buying mood or not. When we find a stamp that has philatelic questions behind it, we seem to have a good reason to ask one of our friends for a bit of help. Even though I have taken down the stamps I was listing on eBay, I still get questions from many of my old clients, whom I consider stamp friends. I am no different than any of you who love to look at old auction catalogs. I found myself deeply engrossed yesterday, looking over the lots sold last May at Schuyler Rumsey Auctions. Oh, how beautiful some of those stamps were; the centering was perfect on many, and these stamps and cover were making me wish I were the owner of many of them.



When the US Railroad no longer needed the Chinese worker, they expelled them from the country.

Many of these workers went to Northern Mexico and established businesses, got work and became a large part of the population in Northern Mexico.

The cover is from Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, now a popular vacation destination for both Mexicans and Americans.

When we have the opportunity to come across an interesting stamp, we old guys have a hard time letting the questions go unanswered. I had an email yesterday about a particular stamp that has been one of many questions over the years. I have written about it, but the questions still arise about what the real story behind it is. I then dug through my computer files and found some material I had previously discussed regarding this variety, as well as some of the emails I had saved from my friend in response to his inquiry. There is so much to think about, and some things that have sparked my interest in this subject again. What is this stamp? Just another freak, but a scarce and valuable one. When I have time, I will do another paper on it for my readers. What sparked my interest in discovering the history behind the early classic Mexican stamps? Curiosity on my friend's and my part was paramount; my age was my guide to learning more, finding answers, and exploring possibilities. If you are like me, the days are going faster, and for some reason, it makes me want to find out as much as I can before the lights finally go out. If I can only share the story with others to guide them on their trip through philately, I will have done my duty.

Enjoy!

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