

By : Thurston "Bubba" Bland

oobubba@icloud.com

Today's Collector
New Opportunities

Old Farts Looking for Information



Cuauhtémoc
Monument — A85

1923	Unwmk.	Rouletted 14 1/2
634 A79	2c scarlet	2.00 .25
635 A80	3c bistre brn	2.00 .25
636 A81	4c green	2.50 .75
637 A82	5c orange	5.00 .25
638 A83	10c brown	3.75 .25
639 A85	10c claret	3.50 .25
640 A84	20c dk blue	52.50 1.75
641 A85	30c dk green	52.50 2.00
Nos. 634-641 (8)		123.75 5.75
Set, never hinged		300.00

See Nos. 642-646, 650-657, 688-692, 727A, 735A-736. For overprints see Nos.

This is a detail of one of the Mexican Issues that carried over into other types.

But the basic stamps are shown here with the 1923 issue date.

If you are like me, you might have started in philately as a child, only interested in finding a stamp to put in your minimal album. Gosh, those stamps were so pretty to our eyes, with all kinds of colors, pictures, and funny words used to mark their origin. Then we had numerous duplicates of the small stamps with images of people; we had little idea who they might be. Then there were ugly stamps with buildings on them from the Eastern European countries. But the stamp bug had bitten us, and we were going whole hog in our attempts to find more and more. Then, if you are like me, the bug was still with me many years later when I opened the album I had been working on when I last added any stamps — a Scott National for specialized issues of the United States of America. My first interest was to fill more of the leftover empty spaces. In doing so, I became more interested in just a few of the early issues. What beauty they had, so many colors, so interesting postmarks, covers with town sent and town sent to. The stamp bug was biting me again. I wanted to know more.



These are a couple of 1857 issues I collected for their color, plate and positions in my early days of Specialized collecting US 3c Issues.

We collectors are like that, as we turn from rational adults into Old Farts, charging forward ahead into knowing everything about everything. I am nearly 50 when I turned into the crazy guy trying to learn everything at once and standing under a waterfall of stamps and covers. No, we cannot know everything about our stamps, but some key steps will be helpful beyond measure. Below is a list of approaches you can use to develop a well-rounded idea of what you may be interested in learning about your assets.



This is a good example of looking and collecting different colors, seen on these early 5-cent issues.

- The first thing to do when you find something in philately is to open a catalog and see what is listed about the item.
- This may not tell you much more than why the item was issued, along with dates, a standard color, and a supposed value. Sometimes this will have additional information, such as if there were reprints or even how to tell the item apart from something similar.
- When the item is not just a stamp but a cover sent with accompanying things that may give you a lot of information. Date sent, stamp or other thing used to pay, who sent the cover, and to whom it was sent. Cancellation and postal marking, along with other stuff like corner cards, and of course, if there is correspondence included

- . Getting deeper into your search, look for names to see if you can identify the sender and the receiver. I have Googled names and places, and I'm surprised by how much you can find. Check for historical information on people and what might have been happening in their lives, such as wars or political changes.
- The most important thing is to connect with other collectors to gather ideas. I recently had a stamp with an unusual postmark, which another collector pointed out was from a different country and was cancelled because it was in transit.
- If you are having trouble telling the story of a stamp, cover, or postal artifact, do not give up, but put it aside to try another day.

I so often run across items I never finished searching for, and with fresh eyes I either find something great or, sadly, discover they're not very interesting at all. Remember, 'Knowledge is King' and a great deal of information on all sorts of things can be found in things like stamp periodicals, journals, and from other collectors.

Enjoy!

Bubba Bland

oobubba@icloud.com

MEPSI #2795

APS #198784, USPCS #4060,

Western Cover Soc. #1423, UPSS #6670,

CCNY #7864 and Royal Philatelic Society of London