

Add \$8.2 Million & \$5 Million

...and what do you get? A lot of stamps running through the APS selling services. Imagine having access to an inventory of \$13.2 million — and these are the totals of the selling prices, not the catalogue values (which is in excess of \$25 million).

There are stamps of all kinds, and they are accessible only by members of the American Philatelic Society. The variety (mint, used, on cover, with special cancels, errors, blocks, high-value, low-value, and more), the sheer numbers (2–3 million in the sales books and more than 310,000 on StampStore), and value (the average asking price is around 50–55 percent of the catalogue value) are hard to match, particularly through the mail.

The stamps come from many different members (some 2,100) who want to sell through the APS, because we get the material in front of many *other* members (more than 6,600) who would appreciate the stamps and because it helps their So-

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ciety. So much of this material is not, and would not be, out on the market as individually identified items.

Sure, you can buy an accumulation that contains the type of material we have, but you would be hard pressed to find the items sold individually.

Escape to your own, self-controlled stamp-collecting world with an approval circuit for an evening, or spend an evening browsing StampStore online for items you need. Use the Circuit Request form inside the back mailing cover of this issue to begin your quest to fill album spaces through our approval circuits. AND visit Stampstore.org to find what you need.

Summer Saturday Hours-Reminder

Traveling this summer? While driving through central Pennsylvania, take a short detour south of Interstate 80 to visit us at the Match Factory. Spend some time in the Sales Division, browsing through sales books and through the donations that have been prepared by our volunteers for selling at low, low prices. We will be open for business on six Saturdays this summer: **June 6,**



June 20, July 18, August 1, August 15, and August 29 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our regular hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

June 20 is the weekend leading into our Summer Seminar and is the local club's stamp show. August 1 and August 15 are the weekends before and after Stamp-Show in Pittsburgh.

There are many other events coming up at the Match Factory the rest of this year; please visit our website at www.stamps.org for details.

Also, please let us know when you will be away from home, so we can route the circuits around your name on each circuit list while you are gone. An advance notice of two weeks or more is ideal.

Other Reminders

- The USPS postage rates increase this month.

- Effective July 1, 2009 the posting fees for items submitted to StampStore will be 10 cents per item.

How Did You Start Collecting Stamps?

We still receive letters from members on this subject. Here is one from Arnold Neuman:

In 1952, I was working in the Yorkville section of Manhattan, NY. This area had a Post Office on a street nearby where my associate would go to a certain window to obtain US plate blocks. The clerk would save the blocks for collectors in the neighborhood.

I accompanied my friend and got caught up in collecting. When the clerk, by mistake, gave me the 80¢ Air mail instead of the normal 3¢ block having the same coloring and not wanting to accept something that was wrong, I gave him the difference between the \$3.20 for the Air mail and 12¢ for the regular block. He thanked me for my

honesty. That started me collecting other kinds of stamps, too.

'5 For 10' Categories (Needs)

We need U.S. items, **except** U.S. First Day Covers, U.S. Mint post-1950, U.S. Used post-1950 and U.S. Plate Blocks post-1950. You can earn coupons for free blank books and mounts for every 10 completed books containing material from a set list of categories. (*Each group of 10 or more qualifying books must be received at the same time and the books must have at least \$50 per book. The coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving.*) Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Details are sent with blank sales book orders. You also may visit www.stamps.org/Services/ser_Sales5for10.htm. [NOTE: Single-country books usually have better sales.] Below are categories that are in short supply:

- U.S. 19th Century Covers
- U.S. Air Mails (stamps)
- U.S. Cut Squares

- U.S. Fancy Cancels
- Australian States
- British Africa (pre-independence)
- China
- Eastern Europe (single countries)
- Germany pre-1945
- Japan
- Spain
- Turkey

Collectible Postage

It is important that circuit members use collectible postage when forwarding circuits. The member receiving a circuit likes to have some used postage to add to his/her collection as a little payback, however minimal, for the cost of forwarding each circuit. Continue to ask the postal clerk for a meter stamp, even if it is for \$0, to indicate that the package was mailed through a clerk, giving it quicker passage through the postal system. Postage stamps and meter stamps are officially recognized as indicators that postage on a package has been prepaid. The proper mailing method must be used to forward circuits. Our main concern is for the circuit content.