

Fun with Stamps – 18

Learn the Right Way

DON'T

- keep your stamps with your socks!

HANDY HINT

Stamp 'stockbooks' can be used to keep your extra stamps or stamps waiting to be mounted in your album.

DO

- care for it!

You need to take care to keep your stamps in fine condition.

Stamp sheets have rows of holes, called perforations, to make it easy to tear off individual stamps.

If the perforations remaining on the edges of a stamp are not all intact, the stamp is no longer recognised as a mint or a complete stamp.

For this reason it is no longer of interest to the serious collectors, many of whom measure stamp perforations using a tool called a perforation gauge.

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DON'T

- give your stamps a haircut!

HANDY HINTS

You can buy a stamp perforation gauge from a stamp dealer.

If you handle stamps carefully, using blunt-nosed tweezers, you will be unlikely to damage the perforations.



DO

- visit a stamp dealer.

Stamp dealers are people who buy and sell stamps. Many of them deal in both stamps and coins.

Stamp dealers keep stamp issues long after they have vanished from post offices.

They also buy and sell stamps from overseas countries and search for stamps required by customers.

Most stamp dealers also sell the tools of stamp collecting such as stamp albums, stockbooks, tweezers, perforation gauges and stamp catalogues.

DON'T

- ask to swap your 'elephant stamp'.

HANDY HINT

Stamp dealers can sell stamps on behalf of collectors and can also provide an idea of how much collections are worth for those thinking of selling or insuring their stamp collections.

You can find your closest stamp dealer by looking in the Yellow Pages.

