

ASSCO INFO-SHEET NO. 6

MORE ABOUT ALBUMS

Albums come in all shapes and sizes, and there are in fact various **TYPES** of albums also. It is important that you choose the right one for your collection.

In the early stages of your collection, one of the biggest problems you will face is that of rapid growth. So you need to be able to arrange your stamps so that when you get more of one country, or you receive some stamps that were missing from a set, you don't have to spend a lot of time re-arranging lots of other stamps you have already mounted in the album.

We strongly suggest that the type of album that needs hinges (those little strips of gummed transparent paper) is **NOT** the best album to start with. Look at — instead — an album which has long strips of clear cellophane acting like a lot of pockets, into which you can slide stamps from the top. Then re-arranging things when you add to your collection doesn't become hard work.

And remember — the more often you handle a stamp, the grubbier it can become. That's why adult collectors use tongs — or tweezers — to move their stamps. (But we will talk about tweezers in another issue.)

To put your stamps into this type of album, make yourself a little "lever" out of very light card, which you can slide in first. Without bending the piece of card upwards, you will find that a stamp will slide in beside it much easier, because the thickness of the card has raised the cellophane very slightly away from the page. To make your collection interesting to others, as well as to remind yourself about anything to do with the stamp you have found out, cut neatly a small piece of paper about the size of a stamp, and write on the details. Then slide the paper in beside the stamp.

Another way of getting the same protection for your stamps — better in fact — is the use of "mounts". These are sticky backed strips or shapes with a clear front which you stick into the album, then insert the stamp. The type of album you would use then can have either plain pages on which you can write stories about the stamps, or even pre-printed descriptions.

A few **DON'TS** about albums . . .

Don't under any circumstances use sticky tape or the edging off sheets of stamps, or glue, or clag, to mount stamps.

Don't **FORCE** the cellophane pocket of an album page, as it tears easily.

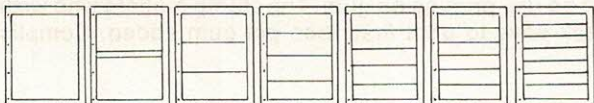
Don't mount stamps in your album which still have backing paper on them. Looks untidy, and isn't good for the stamps, besides!

It doesn't matter what type of album you use; in Australia's very hot and very cold weather, it is important to clean the air in your stamp album every few months.

Clean the air? How? and Why?

Well, between every page, air gathers as you turn the pages over to look at your collection, and when you place your new stamps, there could be a tiny little bit of moisture — so small you can't see it — trapped between the pages. Seen brown spots on stamps which spoil the appearance? These are caused by rust. **SO FLIP OVER EVERY PAGE EACH 3 MONTHS TO "CLEAN" IT.**

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In **ASSCO INFO-SHEET No. 3** we gave you a list of some of the special words used in stamp collecting, with their meanings.

Here are some more philatelic terms:—

PRECANCELLED STAMPS come from many countries but mostly from Belgium, France, Canada and U.S.A. They are stamps which have been cancelled in bulk before sale with the name of a town, sometimes a year date, but sometimes only a code number or name. They are sold to specially permitted users (mainly large firms) who affix them to their mail in the usual way. When posted, time is saved because they do not have to be postmarked after posting. They can make an interesting page for your album. Got any?

PUNCTURED STAMPS are found with initial punched in the paper in a series of small holes. Sometimes this is done by a large firm to prevent theft, but it is also done in some countries to indicate that the stamp is for official use. [Examples — Australia (initials O.S., N.S.W., etc.), Canada (O.H.M.S.)]. Another name for these is **PERFINS**.

THEMATIC COLLECTING (also known as Topical Collecting). It consists of collecting stamps not so much by countries as by the subjects which are depicted upon them. Popular subjects are **Sport, Transport** (Engines, Ships, Planes), **Flowers** (some collectors include floral border designs), **Animals and Birds** (a favourite subject), **Religion** (Saints, Religious personages and Holy Places), **Maps** and many others. The choice of subjects is very large, and you may find it very interesting to decide on a subject and form an additional collection, including if possible newspaper cuttings and other scraps of information to give added interest. Talk to your club leader about thematics.

KEY-TYPES refer to stamps of a common design used by a number of colonies. You will find these in particular amongst the earlier French Colonial stamps, most of the Portuguese Colonies, the old German Colonies and very many of the British Commonwealth countries. These stamps differ from territory to territory only in the name of the colony and figure of value inserted in panels in the design. In later years, there have been special issues by many British Commonwealth areas, with the same theme, such as UPU, Coronation, etc. These are called **OMNIBUS** issues.

REPRINTS. These are “stamps” which are printed by the same process and from the same plates as used for the originals, either by the issuing Government or by private individuals or firms who have come into possession of the plates. **REPRINTS** are more often found of older stamps, and it is unusual to find modern issues reprinted. Most countries now take great care that the printing plates are defaced or completely destroyed when no longer needed.

There were even some countries which used to **sell** their stamp printing plates after issue to stamp dealers, who promptly printed lots more. This made the value of many other stamps go lower.

A STAMP HAS A BACK AS WELL AS A FACE!

Many Spanish stamps of earlier years have numbers printed on the back — have a look for yourself.

There are also more modern stamps of other countries which have descriptions of the image on the back, too. But this is hard to arrange. Most countries print their stamps on gummed paper. When collectors soak them off envelopes the gum disappears. So it's no use printing on gum. The stamp makers who wish to put a story or number on the back have to print first, then get gum added. Complicated!