

## Coins and Stamps: A Favorite for Collectors

People have different hobbies because people have different interests. There are people interested in sports, in arts, in crafts or even in games. What matters in choosing a hobby is that it keeps you interested. It makes idle time worthwhile. It tells a lot about the passions of a person. That is why most people are interest in collecting, collecting stamps and collecting coins.

### What Is Stamp Collecting?

Stamp collecting is all about gathering stamps and anything related to it like the mails and the envelope. Stamps through the years have showcased more than mere pictures and illustrations. Important figures, historical and cultural events and artworks as well are featured in the stamp. It gives the hobby more relevance and significance to the collector.

Stamp collecting however is often associated with philately. This two must be differentiated for the latter is concerned mainly in the study of stamps and anything related to it. Collecting stamps does not necessarily entail the study of it and vise versa.

### What is Coin Collecting?

Coin collecting is concerned with the study and collection of coins. It can also involve paper money bearing the official design of the country and the monetary value. Coin collecting is also known as numismatics, taking from the Greek word nomisma, meaning coin.

In the past centuries, coins have very high value. They do not only represent a value of money, they have their own value. Each coin contains an amount of gold or silver. This is one aspect that makes the hobby extra expensive, especially if it concerns old coins.

However, the trend now in most nations is to replace the old coins with new ones made of inexpensive metals. Coins today have no intrinsic value anymore.

This hobby requires caution. It is not all about collecting coins that will come your way. It has to be a genuine coin. It is part of the coin collecting hobby to physically examine the coin to know the grade, see the problems and make sure that it is authentic. This way, the value of the coin can be easily evaluated.

It is important to identify the coin. It is important to know which country it came from and what is its face value. It must have a denomination, or else that

coin must be a mere token. The authenticity of the coin will often require the opinion of an expert. Frauds have taken opportunity of many coin collectors before. Thus, before purchasing a valuable coin, it is a must to seek the help of an expert.

The grade of a coin is the summary of its overall condition. The market value of the coin depends a lot in the grade. Cleaning is an important aspect of the hobby. A used coin will often be scratched, holed, altered, dinged or corroded. This is not pleasing to the eye. The coin should be kept clean and made attractive.

What Is at Stake for Both?

Stamp collecting and coin collecting, just like any hobby will require the effort and dedication of the collector. They both have to inquire into necessary information to get the worth of their money when purchasing. There is the danger of getting into fraudulent transactions. This must be avoided as much as possible.

Both stamp collecting and coin collecting require particularity with the details as this will determine a lot the value of a piece for the collection. Both kinds of collectors refer to a catalogue to guide them through the different aspects of the collection.

For the stamp collector, a stamp catalogue will provide the price details, date of issuance, country of origin, material and even the historical background of the stamp. This way the stamp collector will easily know which of the stamps should be included in the collection. This is also a good resource to know the price to bargain for in purchasing a stamp.

For the coin collector, the coin catalogue will definitely help in ascertaining the price of the coin. The market value will also be influenced by the condition of the coin. The catalogue will also be a good resource to learn more information about coin collecting.

The Collector and the Modern Technology

Computer technology also helped the endeavors of the stamp and coin collectors. Collectors would often rely on database programs and spreadsheet templates to make an inventory of their collection. They also use it to list out the things they want and aim to collect. The computer software can also be used to print out albums with all the important details included.

The internet also proves to be a haven to most collectors. They can meet fellow

collectors and enthusiasts online. There are web sites available also that will provide information, updates and offers that stamp collectors and coin collectors will enjoy.

The perseverance and dedication that a stamp collector and coin collector can showcase can be very amazing. That is why collecting is more than just a habit-forming hobby. Collecting can also teach values. That gives more worth to the money and to the collection.