

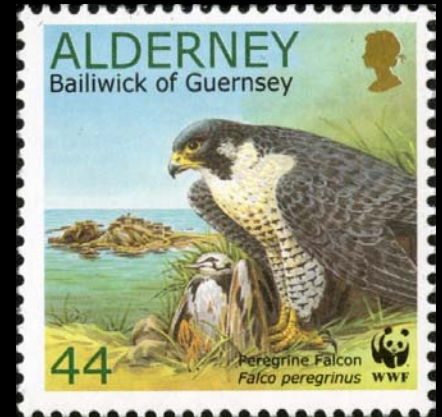


Learning About Stamps Online

A forum for collectors discussing all things philatelic.
Zoom with us on the third Tuesday of every month at 8 PM Eastern!
www.learningaboutstamps.org info@learningaboutstamps.org

Topical and Thematic Collecting (and Exhibiting)

Presented by Jean Wang
 October 15, 2024



Outline

- What is topical or thematic collecting
- Some tips about topical collecting
- Expanding a topical collection beyond stamps
- Topical vs Thematic

Ways to Collect

'Traditional'	Topical or Thematic
Focuses on the philatelic aspects of the material collected (stamp production and usage, rates, routes, markings, etc.)	Focuses on the images or subject depicted on the material
Organized according to philatelic aspects (country of issue, routes, etc.)	Organized according to the topic or theme
Collection may include stamps, postmarks, postal stationery, postal history	Collection may include stamps, postmarks, postal stationery, postal history

The scope of a topical or thematic collection is limited only by the collector's imagination!

Topical or Thematic Collecting

The subject can be as broad or narrow as you like

Flowers

Orchids



Birds

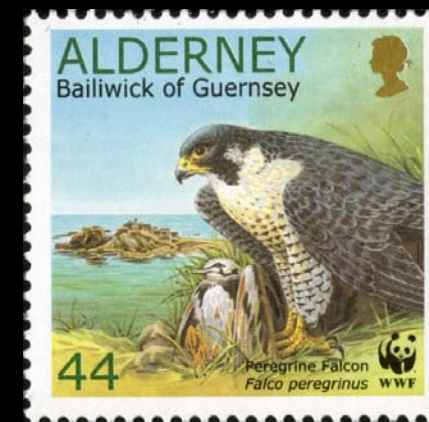
Loons



Owls



Birds of prey



Falcons

Peregrine falcons

Choosing a Topic

- Your job
- Other hobbies e.g. gardening, birding, sailing
- Places you have lived or visited
- A favourite food/sport/artist/author/holiday etc.
- Anything that tickles your fancy!

Choosing a Topic

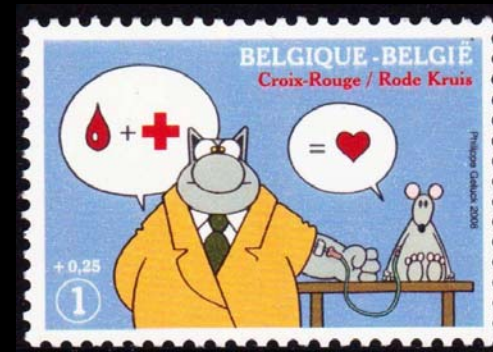
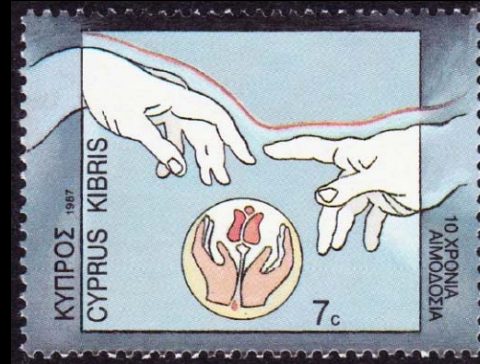
Work **Blood donation on stamps** **Play**



Starting a Topical Collection – Finding Stamps



First blood donation stamp, Hungary 1942



Topical Collecting – Things to Consider

Not all the stamps in a set may be relevant to your topic

75th anniversary
of Ethiopian Red
Cross Society



50th anniversary of
British National
Health Service (1998)



Topical Collecting – Things to Consider

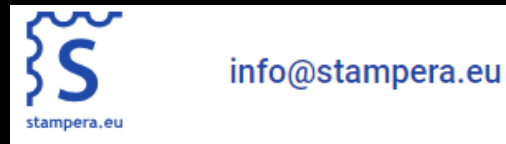
3 bird stamps in a wildlife set of 6



Set of 6 different bird stamps:
keep the set together or sort by species?



A Word of Caution – Agency Stamps



(formerly Stamperija)

Lithuania



New York

- philatelic agencies under contract to postal administrations of many different countries
- produce stamps sold directly to the new issue market targeting topical collectors
- the topics depicted on the stamps are often not relevant to the issuing country
- stamps generally are not available for postal use in the country for which they are issued (and often have high face value)
- although legal (listed in Scott), the stamps are considered “wallpaper” by many collectors

Expanding a Topical Collection Beyond Stamps

Postmarks and meters



GB (Northern Ireland) meter mark



Belgium meter mark



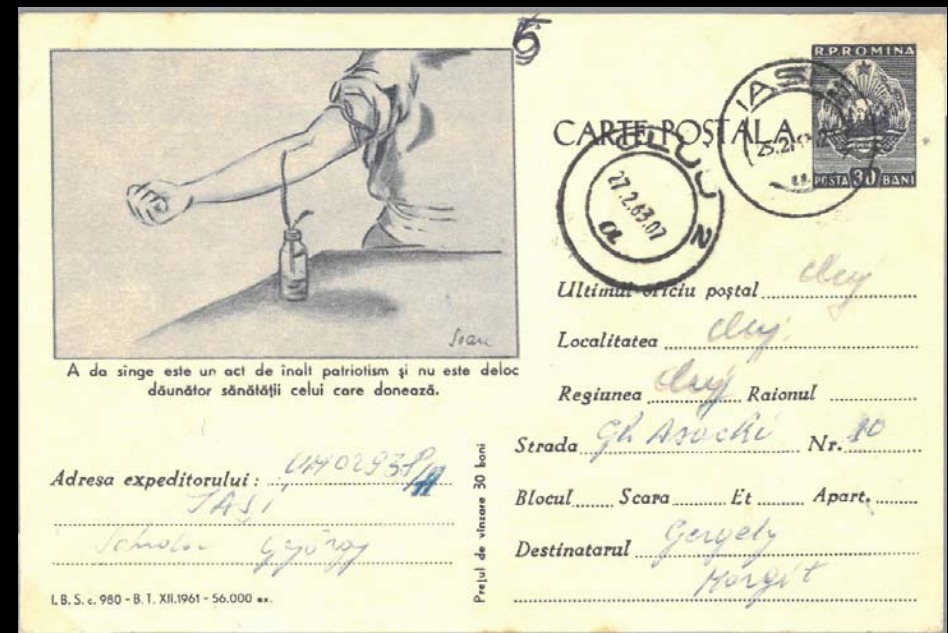
Allied Military Government, Free Territory of Trieste (1954)

Expanding a Topical Collection Beyond Stamps

Postal stationery



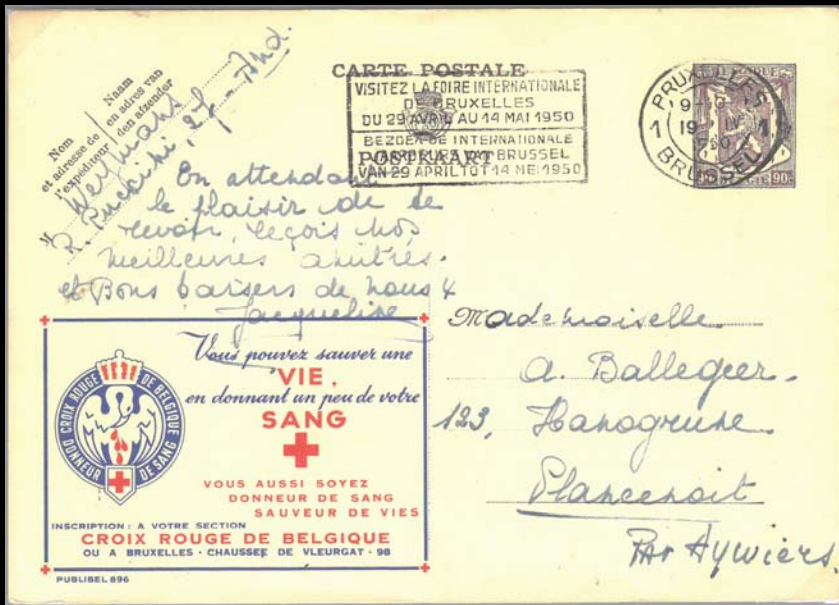
1961 Bulgaria postal stationery envelope, domestic use with Military Post cancel
 "Citizens, BECOME BLOOD DONORS!"



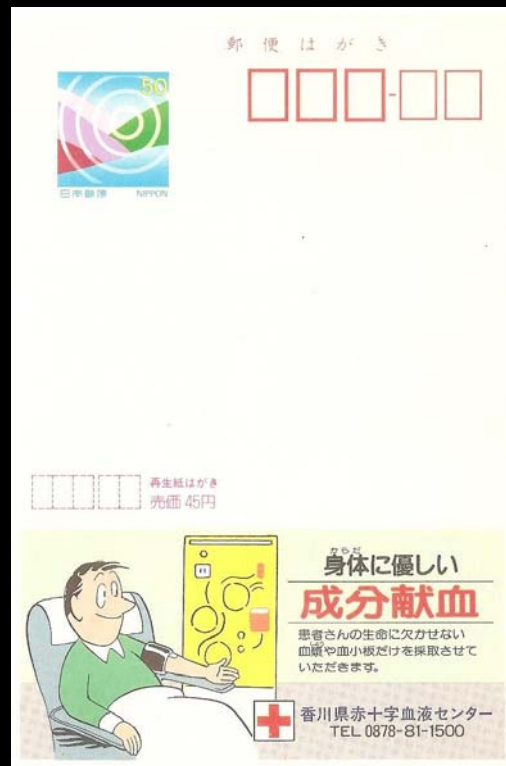
1961 Romania postal stationery card (from set of 6)
 "Giving blood is an act of high patriotism"

Expanding a Topical Collection Beyond Stamps

Advertising on postal stationery



Belgium Publibel: income from ads used for social services



Japan echo card: cost subsidized by the ad

Advertising on tabs



"for anemias"

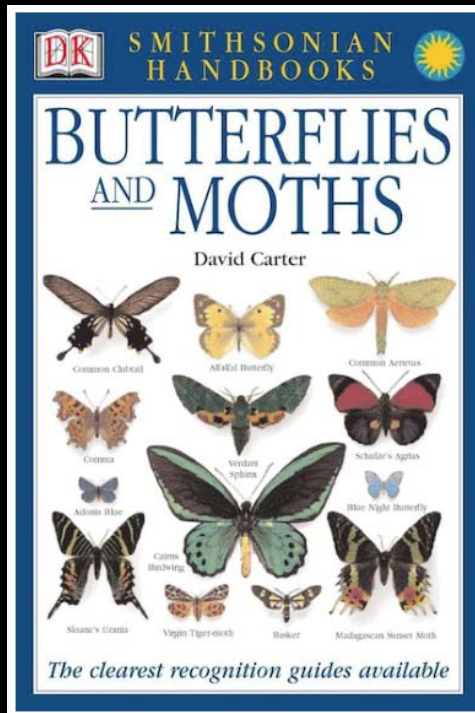
Does this item belong in a collection about blood donation and transfusion??

Topical collectors can collect the whole world of philately
Every collection is unique!

Topical versus Thematic

Topical

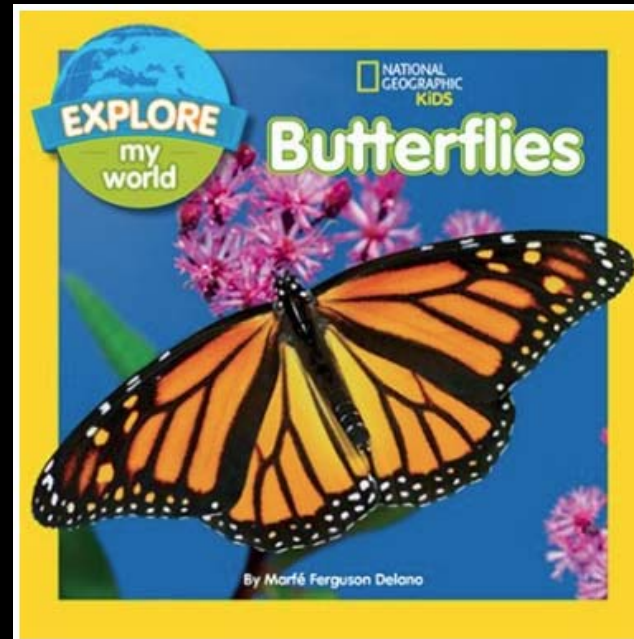
Every item depicts the topic



An illustrated catalogue

Thematic

Every item depicts the topic
or a related aspect of the topic



An illustrated storybook



Learn about the magical world of butterflies: their beauty, their importance to plant life, and their incredible metamorphosis and migration.

A COVID-19 Topical Collection



Iran – first COVID-19 stamp
18 March 2020



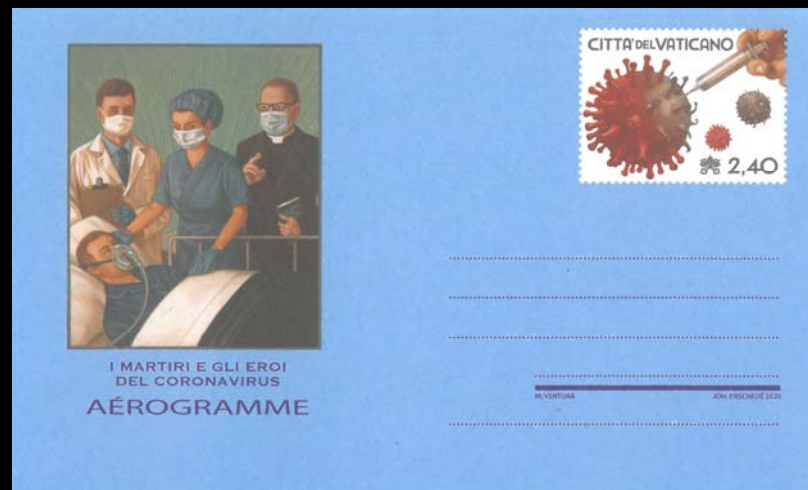
Germany ElsterPost
14 May 2020



Pictorial postmark
Zagreb, Croatia



Serbia, 30 Sept 2020



Vatican City aerogramme
10 Sept 2020



A COVID-19 Thematic Collection



Social distancing



Handwashing



Drive-through testing (ATM)



Social isolation



Facemasks (Unusual stamp)



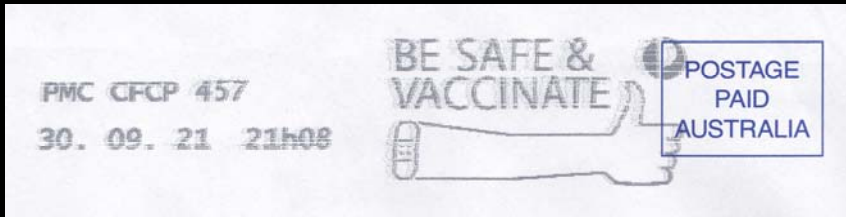
Essential workers



Vaccination

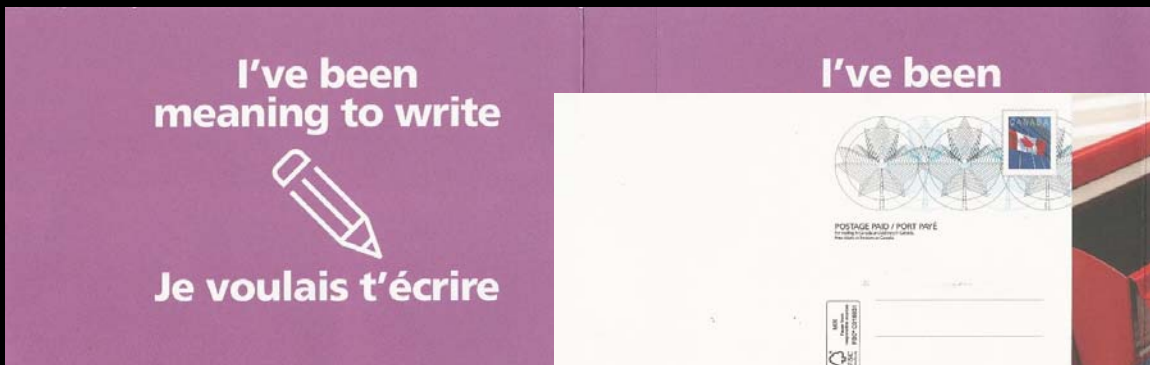
Expanding a COVID-19 Collection Beyond Stamps

Slogans and meters



Impfen =
vaccination

Postal stationery



Pictorial postmarks



Expanding a COVID-19 Collection Beyond Stamps

Postal History



Mail returned to sender due to suspension of service



Disinfected mail (China Post)



Mail delayed due to 'quarantine'

Expanding a COVID-19 Collection Beyond Stamps

Design errors

Poland, 15 July 2021

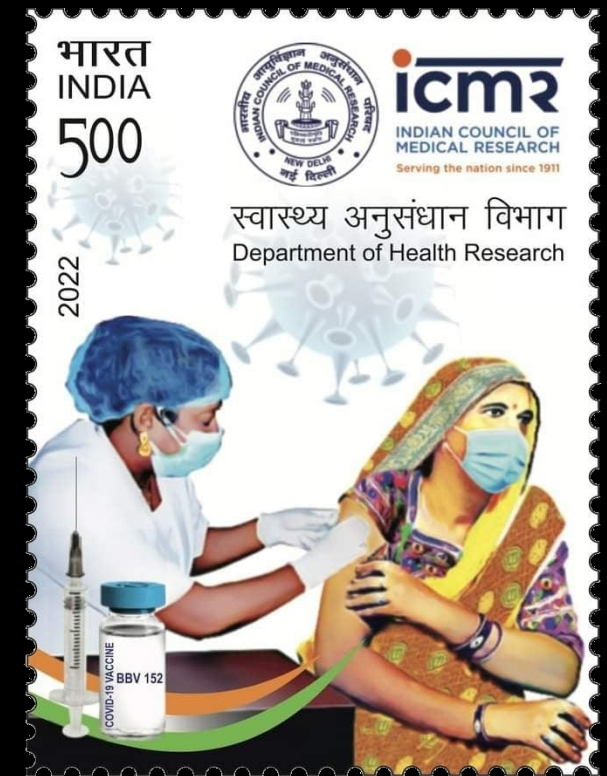


The final stretch!
#WeVaccinate

Korea, 2 August 2021

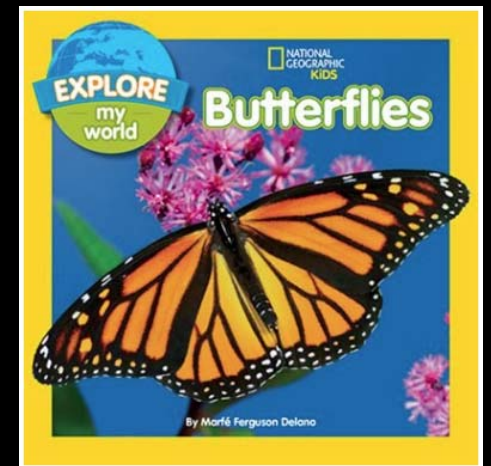


India, 16 January 2022



Evolution of a Thematic Collector

- Decide on a topic to collect
- Build a collection of stamps related to the topic
- Discover other types of philatelic elements related to the topic
- Organize the material around storylines (...exhibiting)



Ways to ~~Collect~~ Exhibit

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A thematic exhibit tells a *non-philatelic* story, illustrated by philatelic material

Start Small – One-Page Exhibits



My One-Page Exhibit! (not judged)
ataexhibits.com

americantopical.org/events
 October 26: Creating Your One-Page Exhibit



BTA One Page Virtual Competition
britishthematic.org.uk/bta-one-page-virtual-competition.htm

THE THATCHED ROOF Paul Daems

Thatch has been used as roofing material for centuries, especially on steep roofs of 45 degrees and more. **Annual reeds are used** because perennial reeds do not weather and sometimes show algae. Good quality straw thatch can last for more than 50 years when applied by a **skilled thatcher**.

↑ Booklet with reed binder / reed cutter at work
 Meter stamp as well as stamp show tools ↓

The thatch is **supported** by a rafter roof structure, on which round timber runs from the ridge to the lower end of the roof with horizontal reed battens. Material such as straw is **hammered** with twist irons or **screwed** by means of binding wire, has sufficient slope and is 28 tot 30 cm thick.

Conoa Belaa - Belaisch Conoa

Qualitative materials are dry, not spoiled and have a diameter of 5 to 8 mm. Thatch weights about 130 kg/m³, so that a roof of ± 30 cm weighs about 39 kg/m². With a thermal conductivity of 0,20 W/mK, reed of straw is a **good heat insulator**: warm in winter and cool in summer

Even when it rains, we can play Suys Jean-Pierre

- The idea starts in the Far East
- We play music in the shop
- In Europe kiosks became bandstands
- Let's play music on the bandstand

1. A kiosk has been a well-known phenomenon since the 13th century. They occurred in Persia, India and the Ottoman Empire. They were originally pavilions that were open on all sides. In the 18th century, the kiosk also became commonplace in Europe.

2. A kiosk is a small building. It can function as a shop, but also as an open round bandstand.

3. The bandstands actually originated from garden pavilions that were a regular occurrence in English parks in the 18th century and whose inspiration came from the Far East.

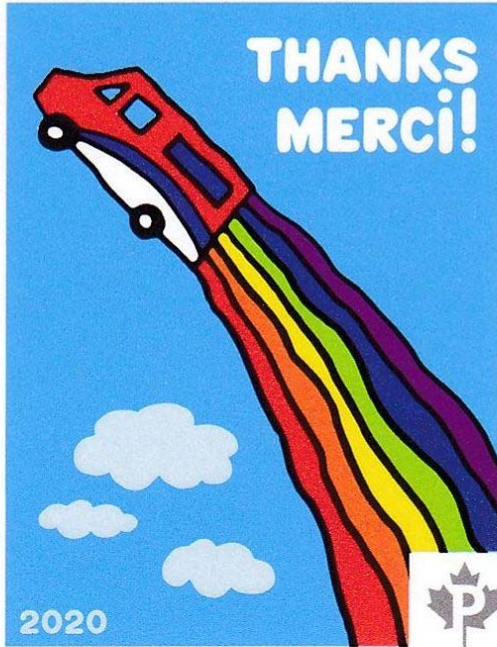
4. Bandstands has not stolen its name, because in spring and summer concerts are mainly given on the kiosk. Concerning on a kiosk has its advantages. The musicians are sheltered especially from the rain and the wind. They also sit higher and the audience can also see, see and hear almost everyone playing. Sometimes live broadcasts are also given from the kiosk.

There are kiosks not only in the English parks, but in almost all of Western Europe. Especially France also has a lot of them in the parks. As shown below in the garden of Orsay in Limoges.

20. LIMOGES - Jardin d'Orsay - Le kiosque de la musique

France - 1920 - postal stationery - Orsay garden and kiosk only 2 recorded cards

C A N A D A



2020

