

Philatelic Literature: **New Scott Specialized**

by Dr. Everett L. Parker

One of the highlights of the philatelic year for many collectors is the completion of the six volume set of annual **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues**.

But in reality, there's even more for the U.S. collector and those specializing in the first century of postage stamps.

Each year, Scott also publishes a specialized catalogue for U.S. collectors, and the 2013 **U.S. Specialized Catalogue** is now at hand. Coming later this fall is the **Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue**, covering world postage from 1840-1940.

A number of editorial advances have been made in the new specialized catalogue, as well as 7,800 value changes, according to Scott catalogue editor Charles Snee.

For the first time, Scott is recognizing the "I" grills from the 1870-71 Bank Note issues as new major catalogue numbers. These new listings appear in their own section immediately following Scott #144.

In a special feature article, Bank Note expert Ronald A. Burns explained the history behind the initial grouping of the "H" and "I" grills. In his article, he cited his more than 20 years of methodical research to conclusively demonstrate that the "H" and "I" grills belong to two different families, "just as the 1867-68 grills belong to distinct grill frames." Furthermore, recent discoveries and auction realizations clearly show that stamps with "I" grills are noticeably scarcer than their "H" grill counterparts. In light of these findings, it is logical to elevate the "I" grills to major number status, Snee said.

The second major editorial advance in the new specialized catalogue is the introduction of a section dealing with postal counterfeits, specifically stamps and postal stationery



items fraudulently produced to defraud the postal service of revenue.

Snee said the new listings have been almost a decade in the making. Each counterfeit is identified by the Scott number assigned to the genuine stamp, with the suffix “CF” added to indicate that it is a counterfeit. The listings are in standard Scott format, and values are provided. In most cases, a genuine example is pictured alongside the respective counterfeit. Detailed notes explain how to identify each counterfeit, and each listing concludes with a summary of the characteristics of the genuine stamp.

Error collectors will be pleased to note the addition of 30 new errors in the postage section. The earliest new listing is the 10¢ World Peace issue with all colors omitted. New double and triple impression errors have been listed in postal stationery. Four new errors appear in the revenue section, and three new errors are listed in the U.S. possessions sections, including two new double-impression errors on Hawaii envelopes.

Eight new essays are listed for the first time, along with a substantial number of new illustrations. A number of essay design descriptions now include additional information not previously available. And there are some fascinating new listings and illustrations under the test stamps section.

This is, without question, the most comprehensive catalogue on U.S. philately you will find anywhere. There is full color throughout in the 1,257 page book, nicely printed on coated stock paper. Many of us have problems identifying what some call “flyspeck” varieties on older U.S. stamps, and the section titled “Identifier of Definitive Issues” will be of tremendous help. There is a plethora of useful collector information in addition to comprehensive listings.

The book is priced at \$99.99 plus shipping. It should be available through your favorite dealer, or contact Scott Publishing Co., P.O. Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365. There is information at the website www.amosadvantage.com.

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That's it for this time. Remember that review copies of books, monographs, society journals and other philatelic literature are solicited. Send publications to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906. Email is eparker@hughes.net.

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