

Clump up your Cupboard with a Stamp Collection!



What kind of stamps can I collect?

By nature human beings are hoarders, we don't like throwing things away, we enjoy collecting and keeping stuff. Open your drawer and you'll find different things that you've collected even before you started school. Most of the time we collect items because it's fun to have a collection and collecting keeps us busy. Stamp collectors are not different from other collectors, they also collect because they enjoy it and because they have a wide choice of what to collect. The examples given below are not a complete list of what stamp collectors collect, there are many more collectibles.



First day covers (FDCs) or commemorative covers:

In stamp terms, a cover is an envelope with a stamp. FDC's are envelopes with stamps that have been cancelled on the first day on which the stamp was issued. The covers usually have a design that is related to the stamp issue. FDC's are also often bought as souvenirs.



Commemorative stamps:

These are special stamps often issued to commemorate a significant event or anniversary; honour a prominent person or just show case the beauty of the land, its people, culture, sport and fauna and flora. In South Africa about ten to twelve commemorative stamps are issued every year and are sold for limited periods only.

Definitive stamps:

These are the day-to-day postage stamps that cover a wide range of postal rates. Definitive stamps remain in circulation for an extended period. The current South African definitive series, the 7th definitive, was first issued in 2000. Definitive stamps are reprinted on a regular basis whenever the need arises. Collectors of definitive stamps like the fact that reprints have subtle differences, for example, on some of the stamps, South Africa is written in languages other than English, which is the language we usually use on South African stamps.



Cancellers and Cancelled to Order stamps:

A stamp is cancelled with a date stamp to show that it has gone through the post and it may thereafter not be re-used. When commemorative stamps are issued, they are issued with a canceller of a similar theme. Some collectors collect cancellers or stamps that have been cancelled with special cancellers. Such stamps are called Cancelled to Order stamps.



Mint stamps:

Mint stamps are stamps that are newly issued and have never been used or cancelled, they are fresh from the printers and still have their gum or backing paper if they are self adhesive.

Miniature sheet:

A miniature sheet is usually made up of a small sheet containing either one or two stamps that form a picture or part of the overall design. A miniature sheet may be used for postage but it is usually issued for collectors.

Used stamps:

Some people, especially beginners, prefer to collect used stamps; they rummage through the post to find envelopes with stamps. This is a very interesting and cheap way of collecting.



Post Office



We deliver, whatever it takes.

For more information on stamps and stamp collecting contact:
The Youth Activities Officer, Philatelic Services, SA Post Office Ltd,
Private Bag X 505, Pretoria 0001
Tel: 012 845 2907, Fax: 0866 875 172

Control blocks or strips:

They are stamps found on the margins of stamp sheets bearing information on the printing of the stamps.

Postal stationery:

This is writing material issued by the Post Office and includes postcards, aerogrammes and envelopes with imprinted stamps.

What you collect is entirely up to you! Collect a theme you like! Make your collection tell a story, it's up to you!