



Philatelic Tools

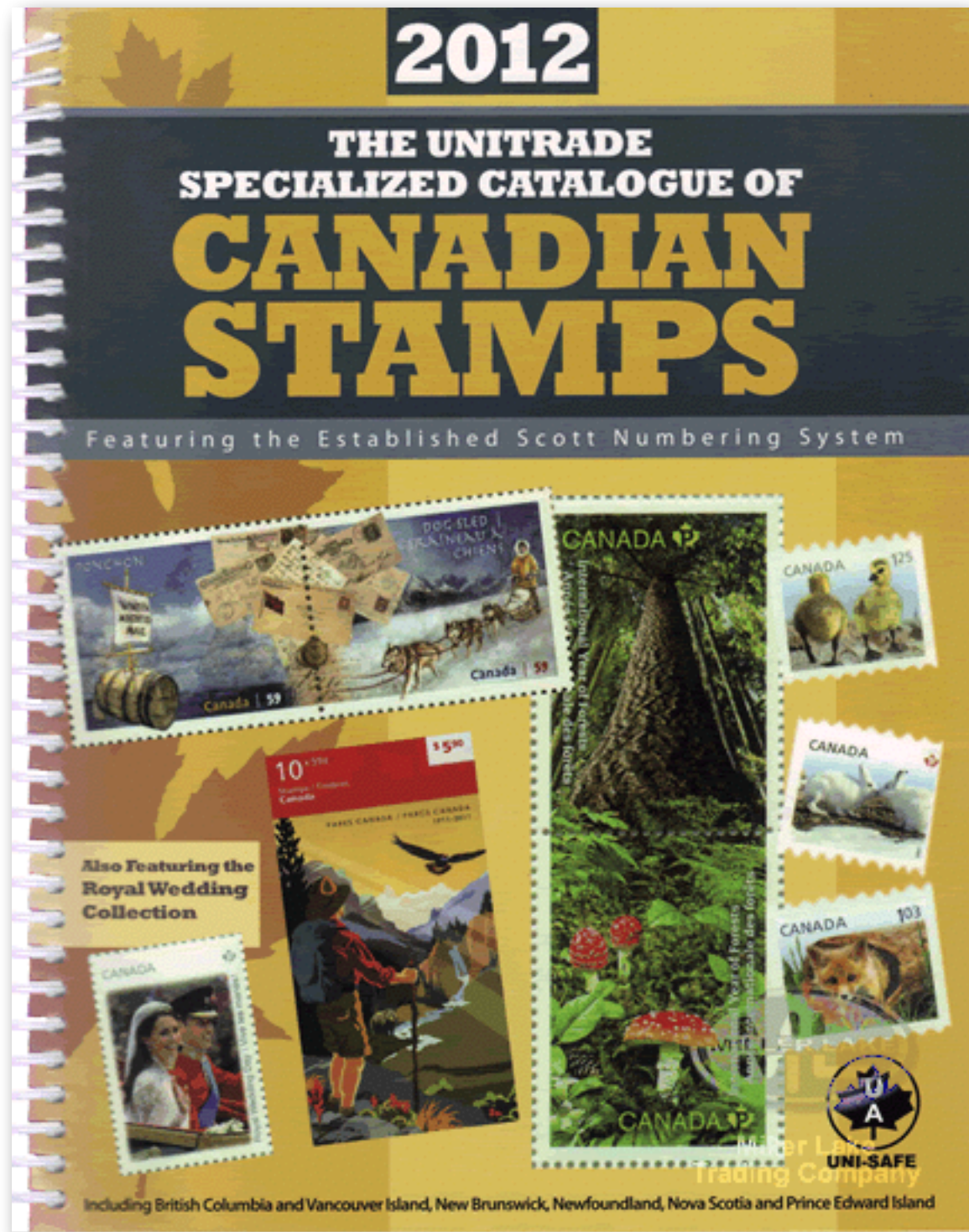
What stamp collectors use to safely handle and identify stamps

The stamp catalogue: a basic philatelic tool*



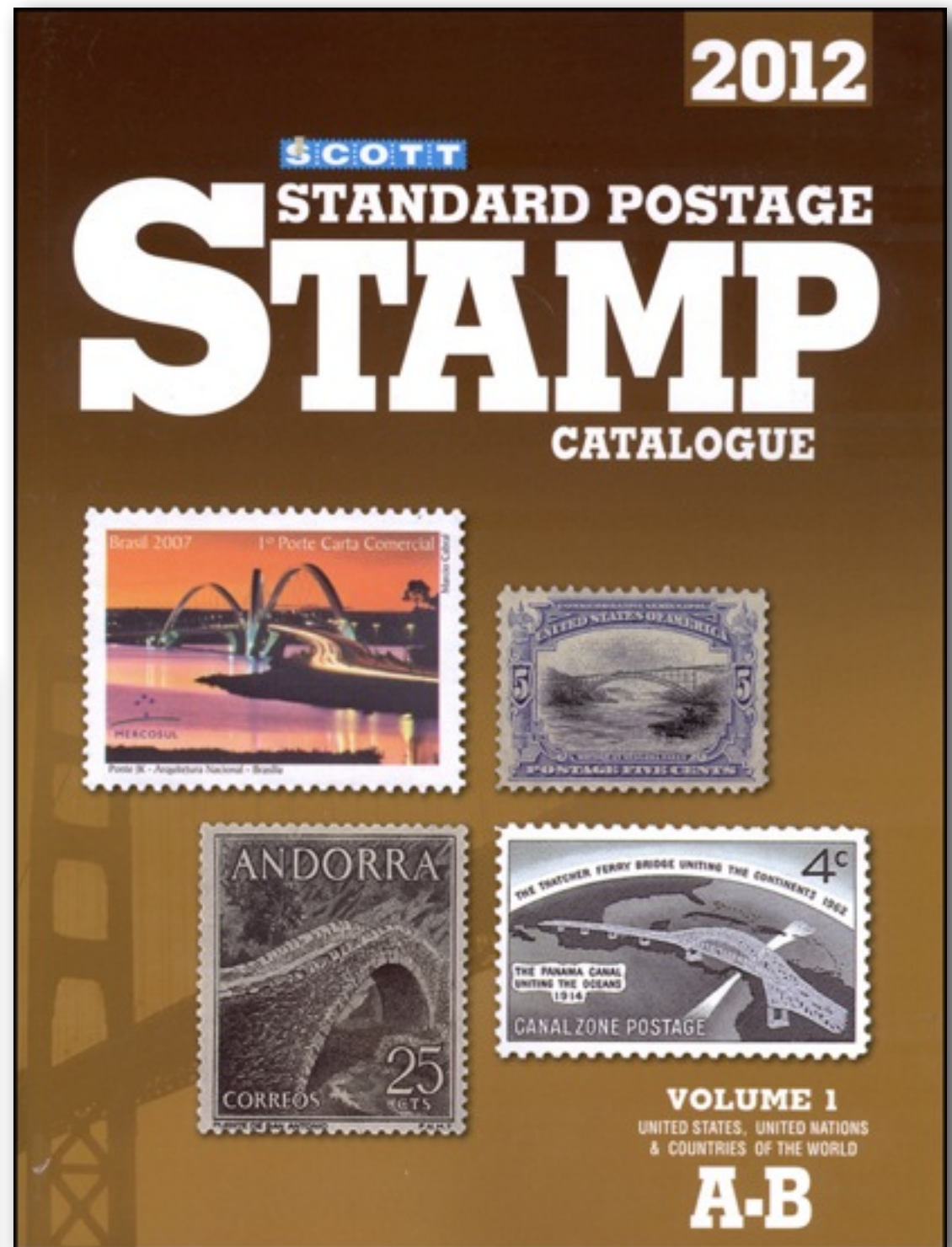
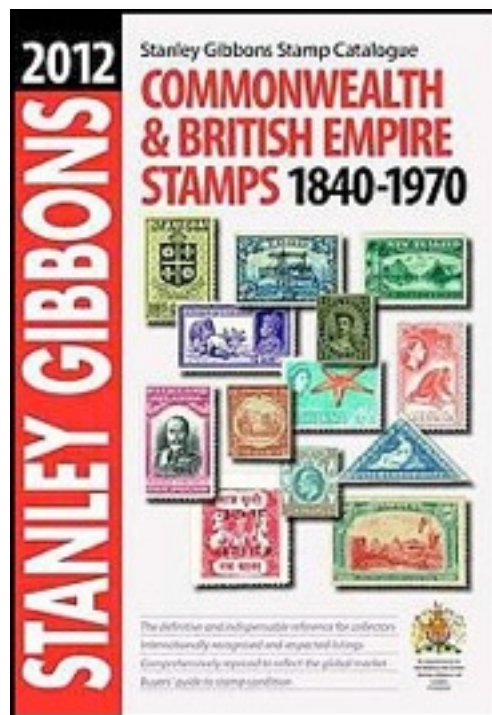
* Tool: Anything used as a means of accomplishing a task or purpose. Ergo, a stamp catalogue, used for the purpose of identifying and evaluating stamps, is a tool.

The Unitrade
Specialized
Catalogue of
Canadian
Stamps:
the “Gold
Standard” of
Canadian stamp
collecting.



In North America,
the *Scott Standard Postage
Stamp Catalogue* is king.

In the rest of
the English-speaking
world, Stanley-Gibbons
catalogues, published
in Great Britain, are more
common.



A brief introduction to the 1840-1940 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue

University Issue
Common Design Types


1951, Feb. 16 Engr. Perf. 14x14½

141 CD310 3c choc & purple .55 1.50
142 CD311 10c choc & green .85 .85



Mahogany Cutting
A22

Seal of Colony A29



Seal of Colony
A29

1938	Perf. 11x11½, 11½x11
115 A15 1c green & violet	.25 1.75
116 A16 2c car & black	.25 1.25
a. Perf. 12 (47)	2.75 1.25
117 A17 3c brown & dk vio	.50 1.00
118 A18 4c green & black	.50 .90
119 A19 5c slate bl & red	1.10 1.00
vio	
120 A20 10c brown & yellow	1.25 .80
121 A21 15c blue & brown	2.25 .90
122 A22 25c green & ultra	1.75 1.50
123 A23 50c dk vio & blk	9.00 4.25
124 A24 51 ct green & car	17.50 12.00
125 A25 52 rose lake & ind	21.00 22.50
126 A26 55-brn & carmine	22.50 36.00
Nos. 115-126 (12)	77.85 83.85
Set, never hinged	175.00

Issued: 3c-5c, 1/12; 1c, 2c, 10c-50c, 2/14, 5/18, 2/28.

Catalogue values for unused stamps in this section, from this point to the end of the section, are for Never Hinged Items.

Peace Issue
Common Design Type

Perf. 12½x14

1946, Sept. 9 Engr. Wmk. 4

127 CD303 3c brown .20 .30
128 CD303 5c deep blue .20 .30

Silver Wedding Issue
Common Design Types

1948, Oct. 1 Photo. Perf. 14x14½

129 CD304 4c dark green .20 .70

Engraved: Name Typographed
Perf. 11½x11

130 CD305 55 light brown 21.00 52.50



St. George's
Cay — A27



H.M.S.
Merlin — A28

1949, Jan. 10 Engr. Perf. 12½

131 A27 1c green & ultra .20 1.25
132 A27 3c yellow & dk blue .20 1.50
133 A27 4c purple & brn ol .20 1.75
134 A28 5c dk blue & brown 1.75 .75
135 A28 10c vio brn & blue gm 1.75 .45
136 A28 15c ultra & emerald 1.75 .45
Nos. 131-136 (6) 5.85 6.15

Set of St. George's Cay, 15th anniv.

UPU Issue
Common Design Types

Perf. 13½, 11x11½

1949, Oct. 10 Engr. Wmk. 4

137 CD306 4c blue green .40 .40
138 CD307 5c indigo 1.75 .60
139 CD308 10c chocolate .55 3.00
140 CD309 25c blue 1.25 1.00
Nos. 137-140 (4) 3.95 5.00

CANADA
1c-no-1c

LOCATION — Northern part of North American continent, except for Alaska.

GOVT. — Self-governing dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

AREA — 3,851,809 sq. m.

POP. — 24,907,100 (est. 1983)

CAPITAL — Ottawa

Included in the dominion are British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, all of which formerly issued stamps.

12 Pence = 1 Shilling
100 Cents = 1 Dollar (1859)

Catalogue values for unused stamps in this country are for Never Hinged Items, beginning with Scott 268 in the regular postage section, Scott C9 in the air post section, Scott C93 in the air post special delivery section, Scott C01 in the air post official section, Scott E01 in the special delivery official section, Scott J15 in the postage due section, and Scott O1 in the official section.

Values for unused stamps of #1-33 are for examples with partial original gum. Stamps without gum often trade at prices very close to those of stamps with partial gum. Examples with full original gum and lightly hinged are extremely scarce and generally sell for substantially more than the values listed.

Very fine examples of the perforated issues between Nos. 11-20 will have perforations touching the design or frame line on at least one side due to the narrow spacing of the stamps on the plates. Stamps with perfs clear of the designs on all four sides are extremely scarce and will command much higher prices.


PRE-STAMP POSTAL MARKINGS

Crown Circle Handstamp
Crowned Circle handstamp type II is pictured in the Crowned Circle Handstamps and Great Britain Used Abroad section.

1842-51
A1 II "Quebec" crowned circle handstamp in red, on cover 200.

Crown Circle handstamps exist also from Amherst, Nova Scotia, and St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia, and St. John's, Newfoundland. These are listed under Nova Scotia and Newfoundland respectively.

POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL
New Carlisle, Gaspe



E1

ENVELOPE

1851, Apr.
1X1 E1 3p black, entire

Only one example of No. 1X1 is recorded, an entire postmarked April 7, 1851, in Toronto.

SEMI-POSTAL STAMPS

Regular issue of 1921-29
Surcharged in Black or Red




1932 Wmk. 4 Perf. 14

B1 A14 1c + 1c green 1.75 12.00
B2 A14 2c + 2c rose red 1.75 12.00
B3 A14 3c + 3c orange 2.50 25.00
B4 A14 4c + 4c gray (R) 13.00 27.50
B5 A14 5c + 5c ultra 7.50 75.00
Nos. B1-B5 (5) 26.50 91.50

The surtax was for a fund to aid sufferers from the destruction of the city of Delize by a hurricane in Sept. 1931.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

Catalogue values for unused stamps in this section are for Never Hinged Items.



O1

1923-64 Typo. Wmk. 4 Perf. 14

J1 O1 1c black, ('56) 1.00 26.00
On cover 165.00
a. 1c black, ('54) 37.50 45.00
b. 1c black, ('20) 2.75 27.00

J2 O1 2c black, ('56) 1.00 22.50
On cover 165.00
a. 2c black, ('20) 2.75 12.00
J3 O1 4c black, ('56) 2.00 19.00
On cover 275.00
a. 4c black, ('20) 1.75 9.50
Nos. J1-J3 (3) 4.00 67.50
Nos. J1b, J2a, J3a, overprinted "SPECIMEN" 70.00

On cover values are for properly franked commercial covers. Philatelic usages also exist and sell for less.

WAR TAX STAMPS

Nos. 65, 75 and 77 Overprinted



WAR

1916-17 Wmk. 3 Perf. 14

With Moire Overprint

MR1 A11 1c green .80 2.50
a. "WAR" inverted 300.00 300.00

Without Moire Overprint

MR2 A11 1c green ('17) 1.75 6.50
MR3 A11 3c orange ('17) 5.50 9.50
a. Double overprint 425.00 425.00
Nos. MR1-MR3 (3) 8.05 17.50

Nos. 75 and 77 Overprinted



WAR

1918

MR4 A11 1c green .20 .40
MR5 A11 3c orange 1.00 3.00

Province of Canada

Beaver A1



Beaver
A1

Prince Albert A2



Prince
Albert
A2

Queen Victoria — A3



Queen Victoria — A3

1851 Unwmk. Engr. Imperf. Laid Paper

1 A1 3p red 30,000 1,000.
No gum 21,000 1,800
On cover 2,700 3,250
a. 3p orange vermilion 30,000 1,000.
No gum 21,000 1,800
On cover 2,700 3,100

2 A2 6p slate violet 26,000 1,750.
No gum 24,000 3,100
a. Diagonal half used as 3p on cover 32,500 3,500
No gum 22,500 1,750

3 A3 12p black 160,000 140,000
No gum 80,000 300,000
On cover 80,000 300,000

On some stamps the last lines of Nos. 1-3 are practically invisible.

No. 1 double transfer position 47 shows extensive doubling of "EE PEN" above and below "POS." in and below "ANADA TRILL" and in all four numerals. Plate A is the upper pane.

1852-57 Wove Paper

4 A1 3p red 1,400 225.
No gum 1,150 460
On cover 460 480
Double transfer (pos. 47, pane A) 4,250 750
No gum 2,700 1,600
On cover 1,600 2,500

a. 3p brown red ('53) 1,800 250.
No gum 1,450 500
On cover 500 500

b. Diagonal half used as 1 1/2p on cover 32,500 3,400
No gum 2,700 3,400
On cover 3,400 3,400

c. Plain paper 1,500 225.
No gum 1,350 480
On cover 480 480

5 A2 6p slate gray ('55) 27,500 1,500.
No gum 21,000 1,800
On cover 1,800 2,000

a. 6p brownish gray 36,000 2,000.
No gum 29,000 2,500
On cover 2,500 2,500

b. 6p greenish gray 27,500 1,500.
No gum 21,000 1,800
On cover 1,800 1,900

c. Diagonal half used as 3p on cover 17,500 17,500
a. Thick hand paper (gray) 27,500 3,000.
No gum 23,000 3,500.
On cover 3,500 3,500

See note after No. 3 for characteristics of double transfer pos. 47 on Nos. 4. Pos. 47 is considered the most prominent double transfer, but many others exist. The double transfers exist on all shades and papers; values are for the most common shade and paper.

Most authorities believe the 12p black does not exist on wove paper.

1855

7 A4 10p blue 9,000 1,750.
No gum 6,500 3,600.
On cover 3,600 3,600.

Jacques Cartier — A4



Jacques Cartier — A4

Detail of first page from the *Scott Classic* catalogue listing for Canada

Province of Canada



Beaver
A1



Prince
Albert
A2



Queen Victoria — A3

	1851	Unwmk.	Engr.	<i>Imperf.</i>
		Laid Paper		
1	A1	3p red	30,000.	1,000.
		No gum	21,000.	
		On cover		1,900.
		Double transfer (pos. 47, pane A)		2,700.
		On cover		3,250.
a.		3p orange vermilion	30,000.	1,000.
		No gum	21,000.	
		On cover		1,900.
2	A2	6p slate violet	35,000.	1,750.
		No gum	24,000.	
		On cover		3,100.
a.		Diagonal half used as 3p on cover		32,500.
b.		6p grayish purple	35,000.	1,750.
		No gum	22,500.	
		On cover		3,100.
3	A3	12p black	160,000.	140,000.
		No gum	80,000.	
		On cover		300,000.

On some stamps the laid lines of Nos. 1-3 are practically invisible.

No. 1 double transfer position 47 shows extensive doubling of "EE PEN," above and below "POS," in and below "ANADA THR" and in all four numerals. Pane A is the upper pane.

Understanding Scott catalogue listings

SCOTT NUMBER 1

ILLUS. NUMBER 2

PAPER COLOR 3

LISTING STYLES 4 MAJORS MINORS



A6



King George VI
A7

1938-44		Engr.	Perf. 12½	
54	A6	½p green	.20	2.00
54A	A6	½p dk brown ('42)	.20	2.25
55	A6	1p dark brown	1.75	.35
55A	A6	1p green ('42)	.20	1.75
56	A6	1½p dark carmine	3.75	5.50
56A	A6	1½p gray ('42)	.20	5.75
57	A6	2p gray	4.75	1.25
57A	A6	2p dark car ('42)	.20	2.00
58	A6	3p blue	.60	1.00
59	A6	4p rose lilac	1.60	1.75
60	A6	6p dark violet	2.00	1.75
61	A6	9p olive bister	2.00	3.25
62	A6	1sh orange & blk	2.10	2.75

Typo.
Perf. 14
Chalky Paper

63	A7	2sh ultra & dl vio, <i>bl</i>	7.00	15.00
64	A7	2sh6p red & blk, <i>bl</i>	8.00	17.50
65	A7	5sh red & grn, <i>yel</i>	30.00	27.50
a.		5sh dk red & dp grn, <i>yel</i> ('44)	55.00	125.00
66	A7	10sh red & grn, <i>grn</i>	35.00	45.00

Wmk. 3

67	A7	£1 blk & vio, red	29.00	40.00
Nos. 54-67 (18)			128.55	177.10
Set, never hinged			220.00	

5 BASIC INFORMATION ON STAMP OR SET

6 DENOMINATION

7 COLOR OR OTHER DESCRIPTION

8 YEAR OF ISSUE

UNUSED
USED 9 CATALOGUE VALUES

10 CHANGES IN BASIC SET INFORMATION

11 TOTAL VALUE OF SET

We philatelists need lots of things. We need stamp tongs and stamp catalogues. Perf gauges and watermark detectors. Trimmers and UV lamps and magnifying glasses. We can live without some of these things if we have to, but one thing we can't live without is **LIGHT!**



The sunlight of mid-day is best, but unreliable and often doesn't work with our schedule.



The Colour of Light

The colour temperature of light can affect the way we see color.

Under incandescent lamps, these Small Queens would appear to be reddish orange rather than their true orange.

Choose your “stamp lighting” carefully. Full-spectrum lamps mimic sunlight and are best for revealing true stamp colours.



See

the

Light!



And you need to

magnify

things!

Sometimes you want both light *and* magnification...



This circular, fluorescent lamp clamps to a table edge and incorporates a large magnifying glass.



ROUND AND RECTANGULAR
ASPHERIC MAGNIFIERS



Traditional magnifying glasses



Two pocket magnifying glasses



A 10X loupe*



* La loupe is French for magnifying glass

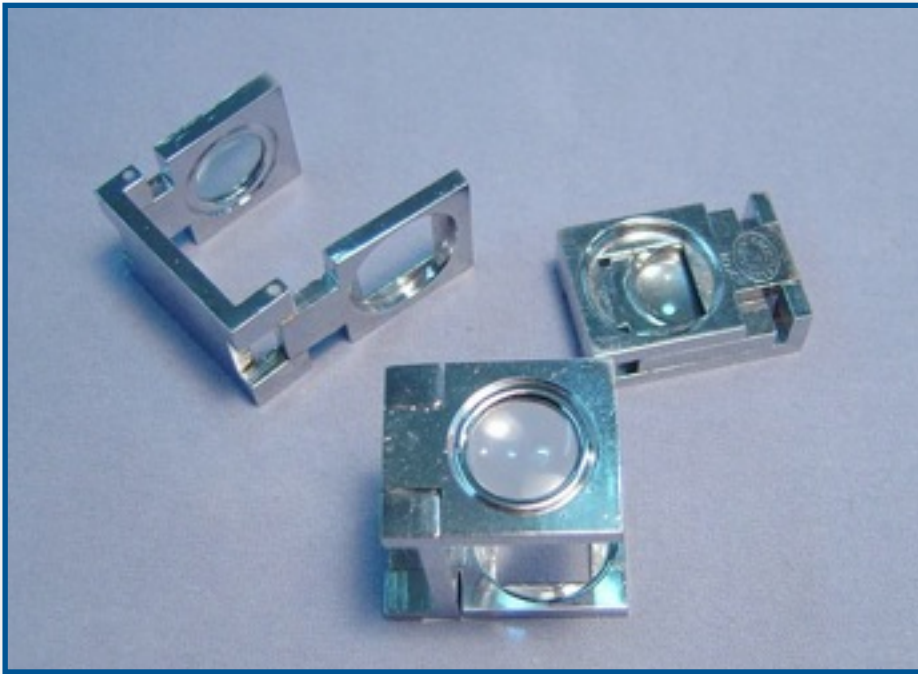
Another loupe



And a loupe with a light:



Linens testers



A 30-power pocket microscope*



* About 30 years old
and no longer
produced.



Eyeglass magnifiers



A digital microscope



A computer plus a flatbed scanner plus a stamp equals ...



+



+

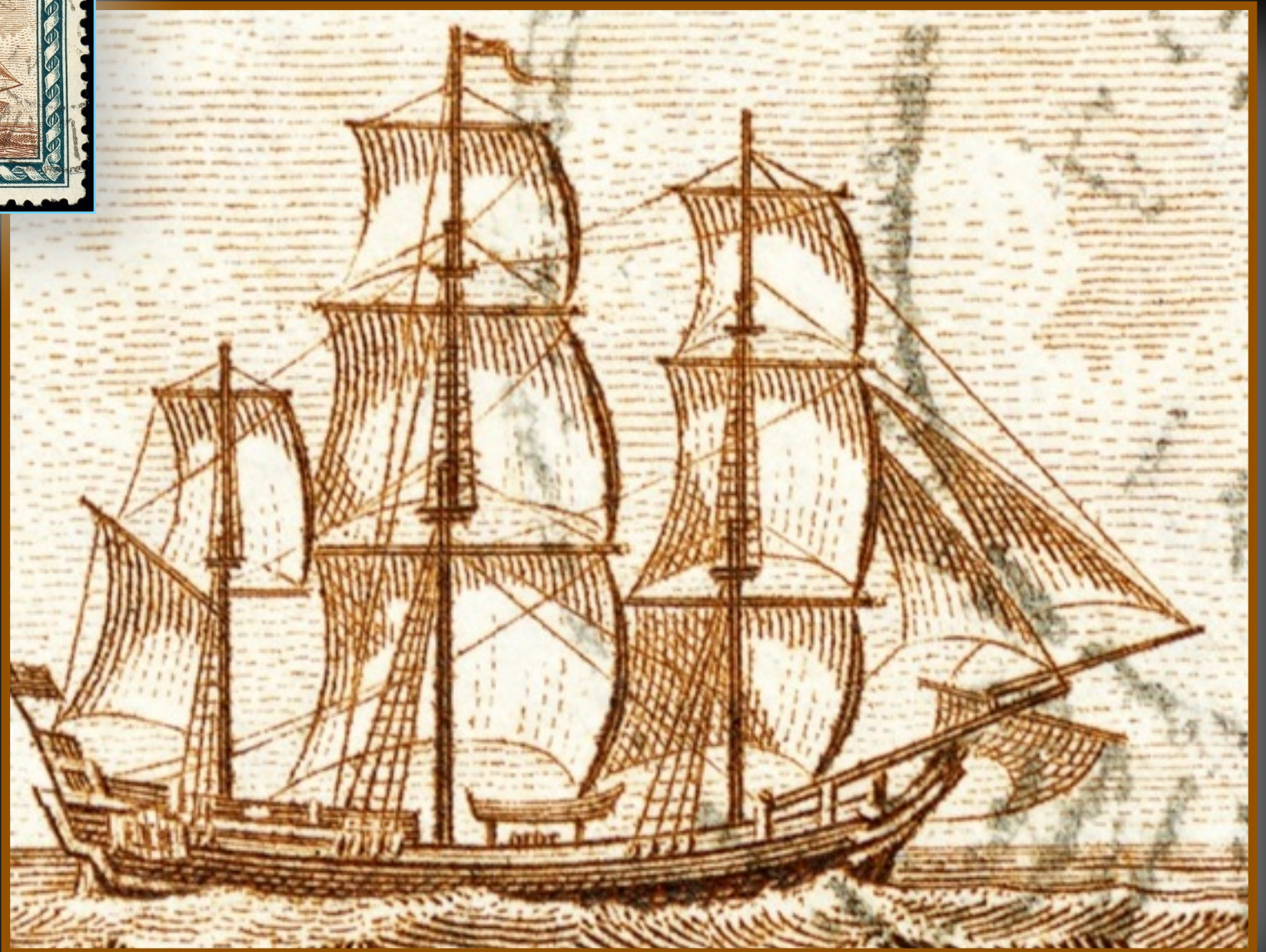


=

...a big image of the stamp!



Even greater detail:



And still
greater:



And
greater
still:



Many types of scanners are available. Here's one to put in a (big) pocket ...



Back to light
(of another kind):

ULTRAVIOLET (UV) LIGHT

Ultraviolet lamps and the stamp collector

Ultraviolet light consists of electromagnetic waves with frequencies higher than those of the colour violet, and invisible to humans. UV lamps cause fluorescent materials to glow with visible light.

Stamp collectors use UV lamps to identify paper types, to identify look-alike stamps through tagging, and to see secret marks and evidence of forgery.

Stamps of some countries require long-wave lamps to reveal fluorescent dies; others require short-wave lamps. Some lamps can switch between short- and long-wave modes.



Ultraviolet lamps and the stamp collector

Long-wave UV lamps detect fluorescence in the spectrum of long-wave UV light with maximum radiation at 366 nm. Suitable for the modern stamps of Canada as well as the stamps of France, Mexico, Portugal and China.

As seen under normal daylight



As seen under long-wave UV light



Ultraviolet lamps and the stamp collector

Three Canadian definitive stamps, each with a different form of taggant revealed by long-wave UV light.



Under normal light



Winnipeg tag



General OP-4 tag
* (migrates)



General OP-2 tag

* General OP-4 taggant easily migrates through paper and will contaminate other stamps it comes in contact with.

Ultraviolet lamps and the stamp collector

Short-wave UV lamps detect fluorescence in the short-wave spectrum of ultraviolet light with maximum radiation at 256 nm. Suitable for Great Britain, Israel and the United States.

Great Britain “Machin” definitives as seen under normal daylight conditions



Great Britain “Machin” definitives as seen under short-wave UV light, showing taggant bars used to orient envelopes in facer-canceller machines. (Note: these images show simulated views of the stamps' tagging.)



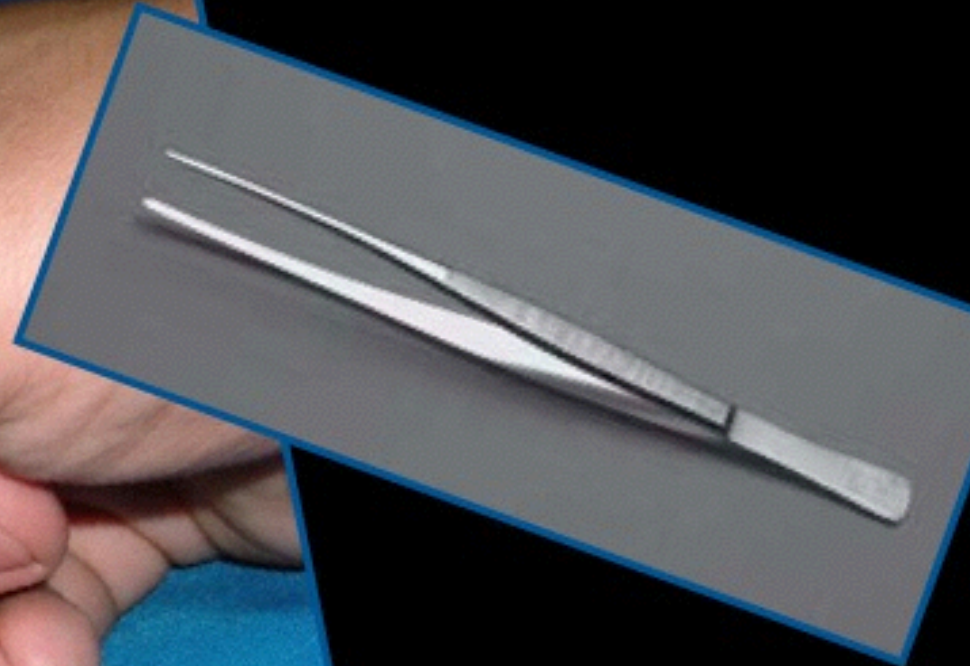
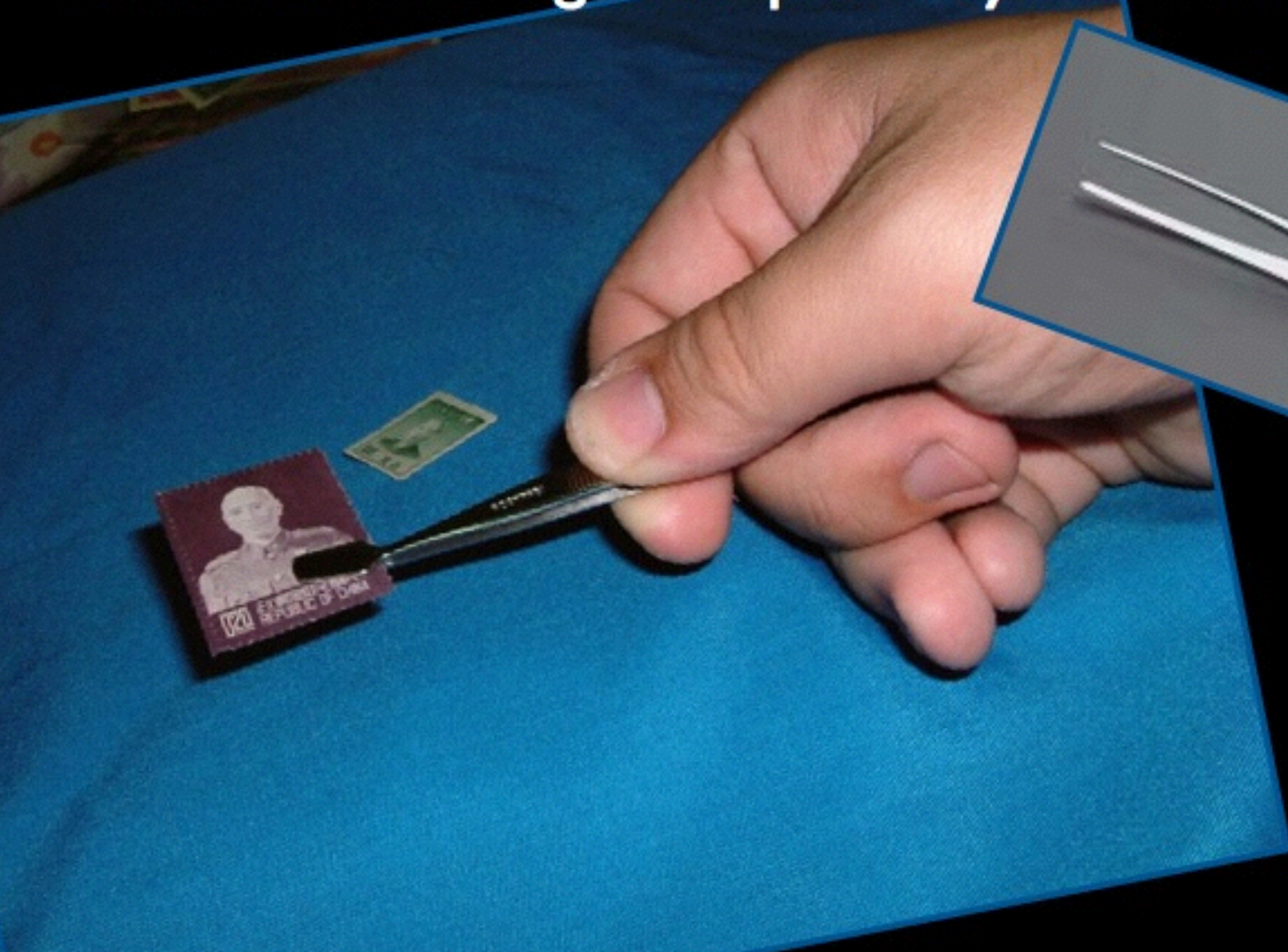
**Keep
your
dirty paws
off
my stamps!**

***Please use tongs**

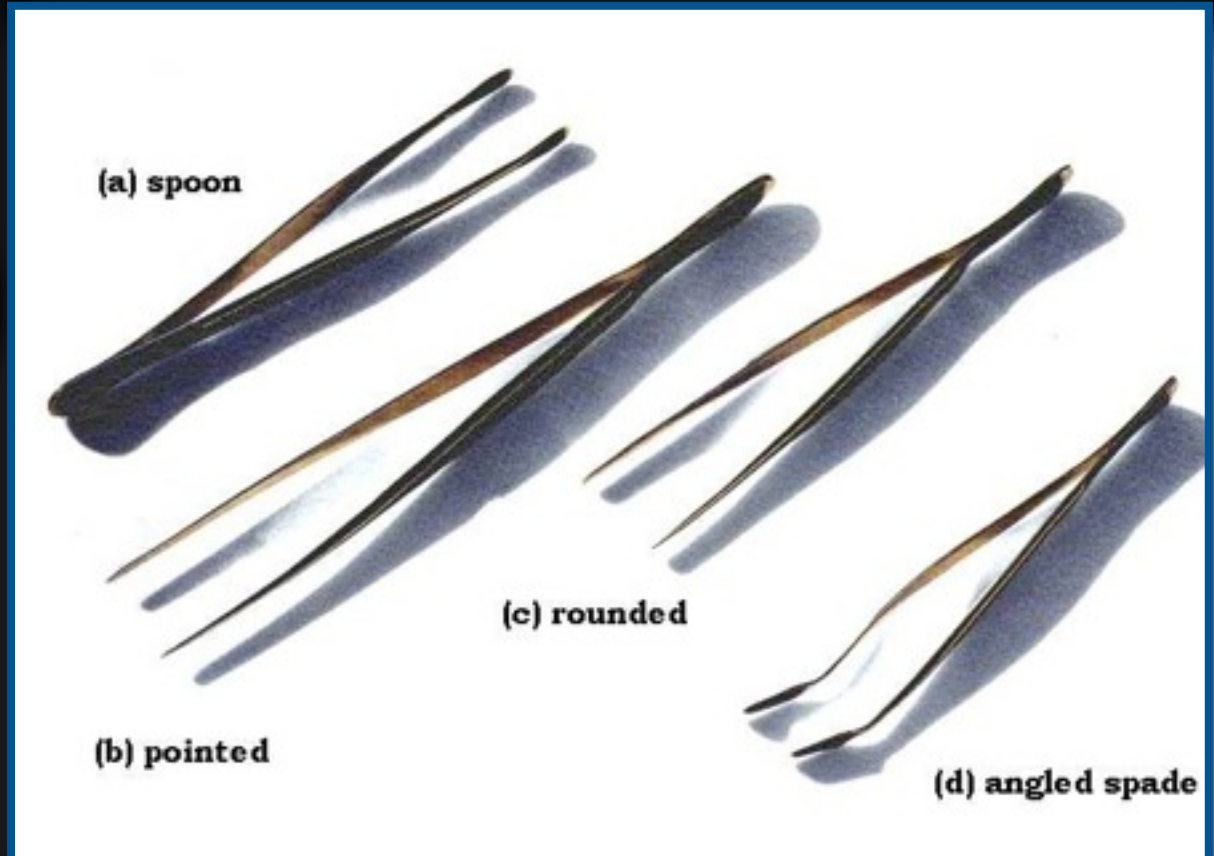
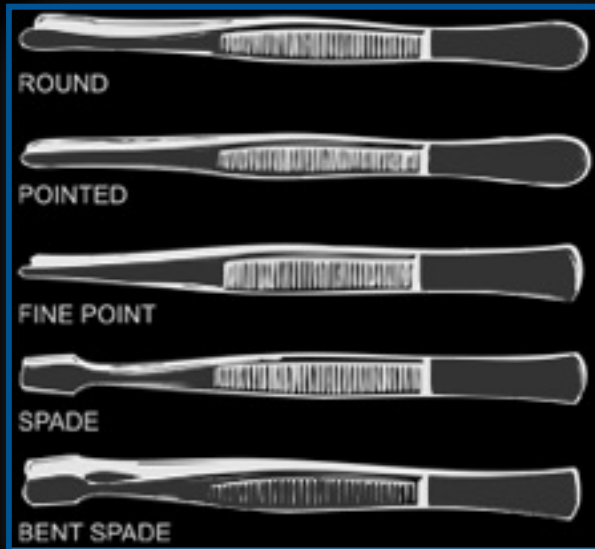


Stamp tongs

Whenever possible use stamp tongs to handle stamps. Stamp tongs look like tweezers, but have smooth surfaces which won't damage stamps if they are handled properly.



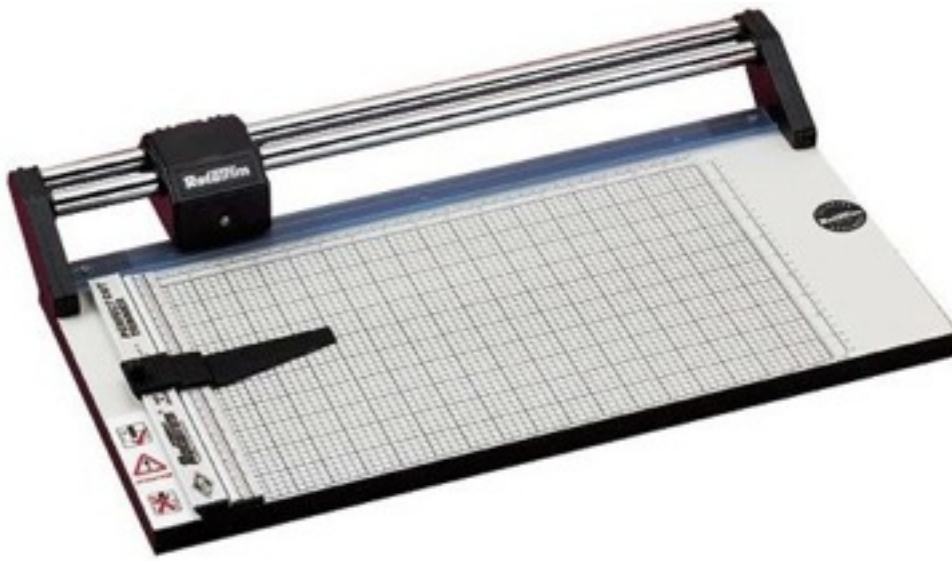
Tongs for every taste



Lethal tongs

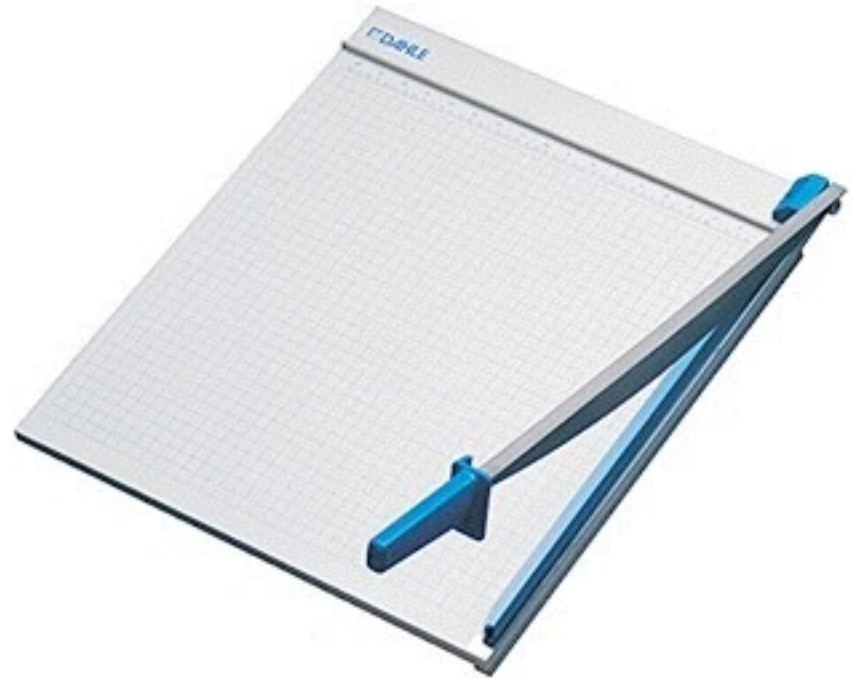
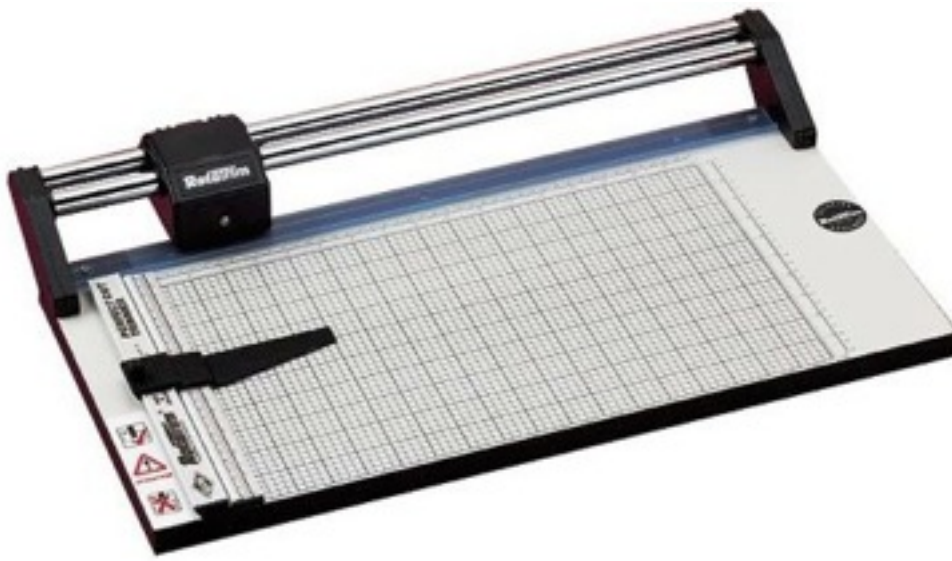


Tools that cut *



* Not stamps, but images for use in albums and exhibits, stamp mounts, etc.

**You can use scissors,
but why would you?***



*** If you do, never run with them.**

Scissors won't work
with plastic stamp mounts,
but this
small guillotine
cutter does.



About watermark Identification



Watermark : a design, letter or word impressed in the paper during the manufacture of the paper; when found on a stamp is very helpful for identification purposes



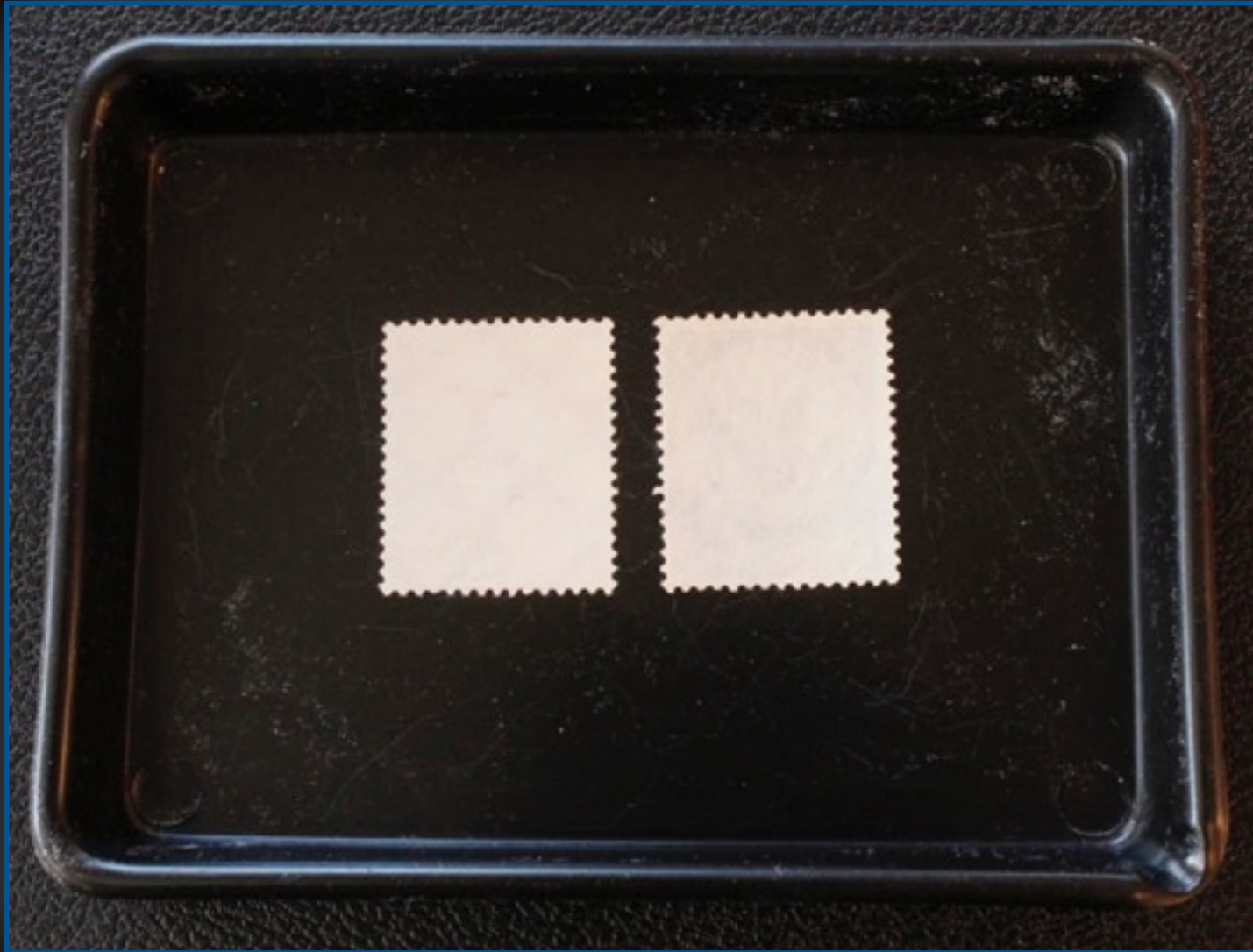
Method:

Select stamps to check for watermarks. These pre-WWII German stamps picture Paul von Hindenburg, second president of Germany (1925-1934), and unloved by Hitler, who became chancellor in 1933.

The 12pf stamp on the left was only issued in deep orange in 1932. The 3pf bistre stamp on the right was issued in 1933 and again in 1934, with a different watermark. Which issue is represented by the 3pf stamp?



**Turn stamps face down
in watermark tray.**



Ensure that
you have
good
ventilation.

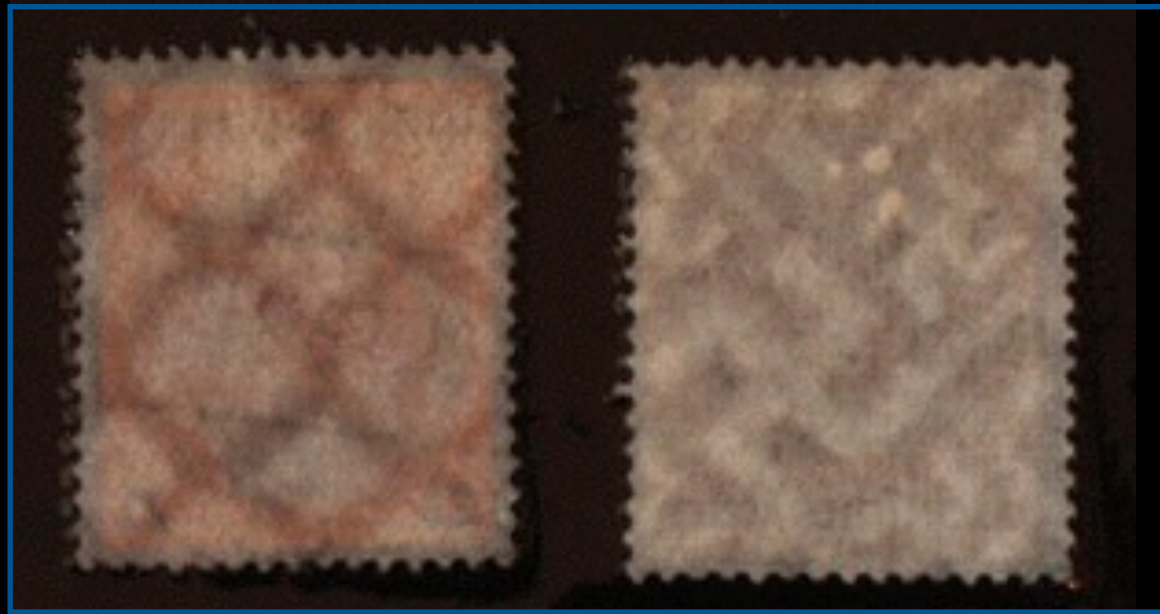
Add enough
lighter fluid (or
proprietary
watermark fluid)
to cover stamps.



Voila!



The watermark of the 12pf stamp on the left (#126, “Network,”) proves what we already knew, that it is Scott #393, issued in 1932. The stamp on the right, with Wmk. 237, “Swastikas,” identifies it as Scott 416, issued in 1934.



It would be interesting to know if Hindenberg, who deplored Hitler, was ever aware of the change in watermark.

Two watermark detectors



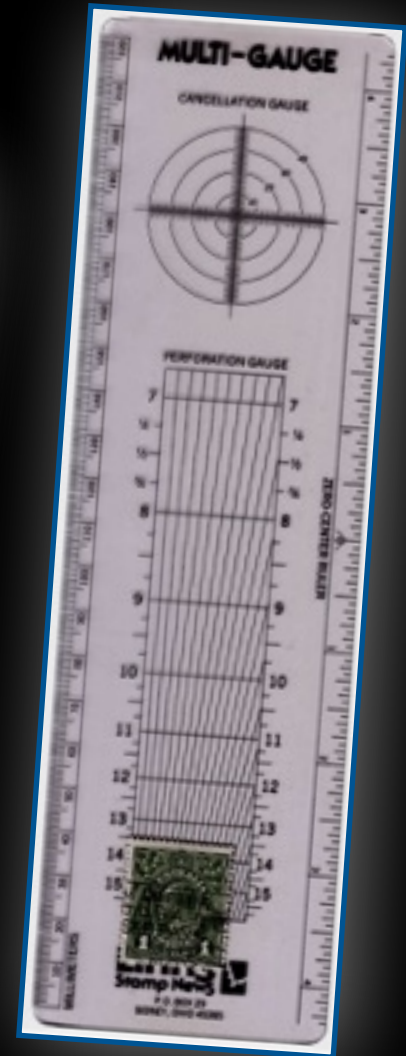
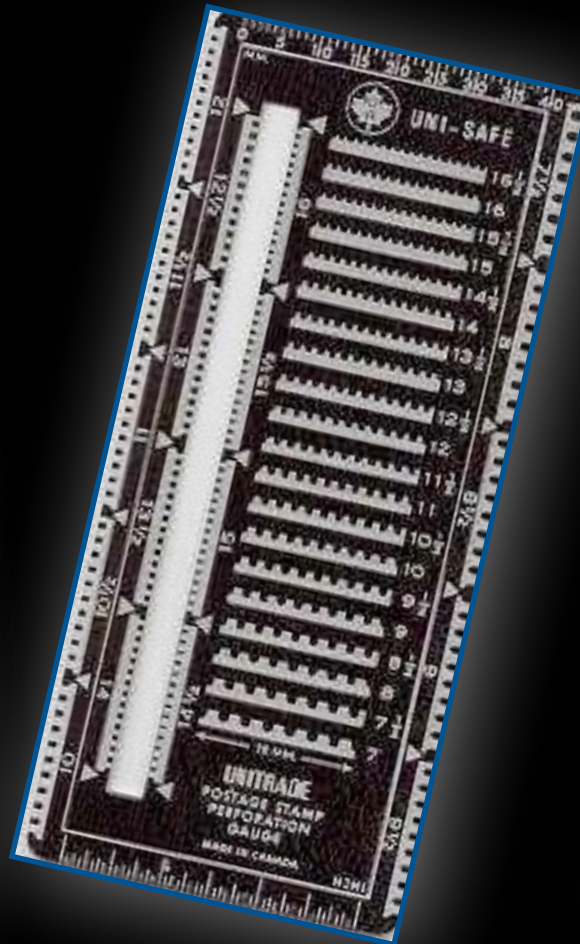
About checking



perforations*

*The small holes punched between stamps to allow separation. Identical-appearing stamps can actually be considered different stamps if they have differing perforation measurements. Perf. measurements are determined by counting the number of holes in 2 cm.

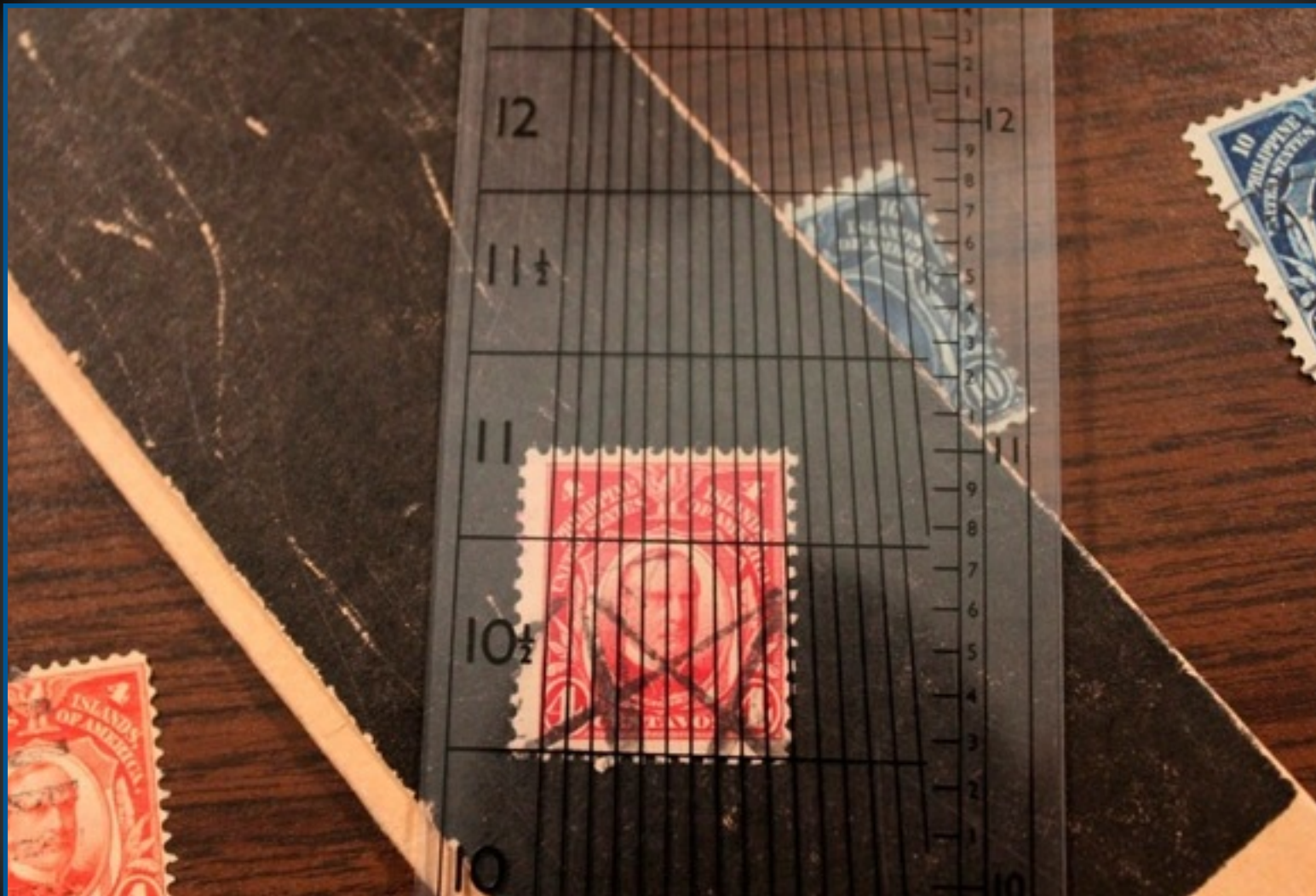
Common perforation gauges



Method:
Place stamp on a
dark surface.



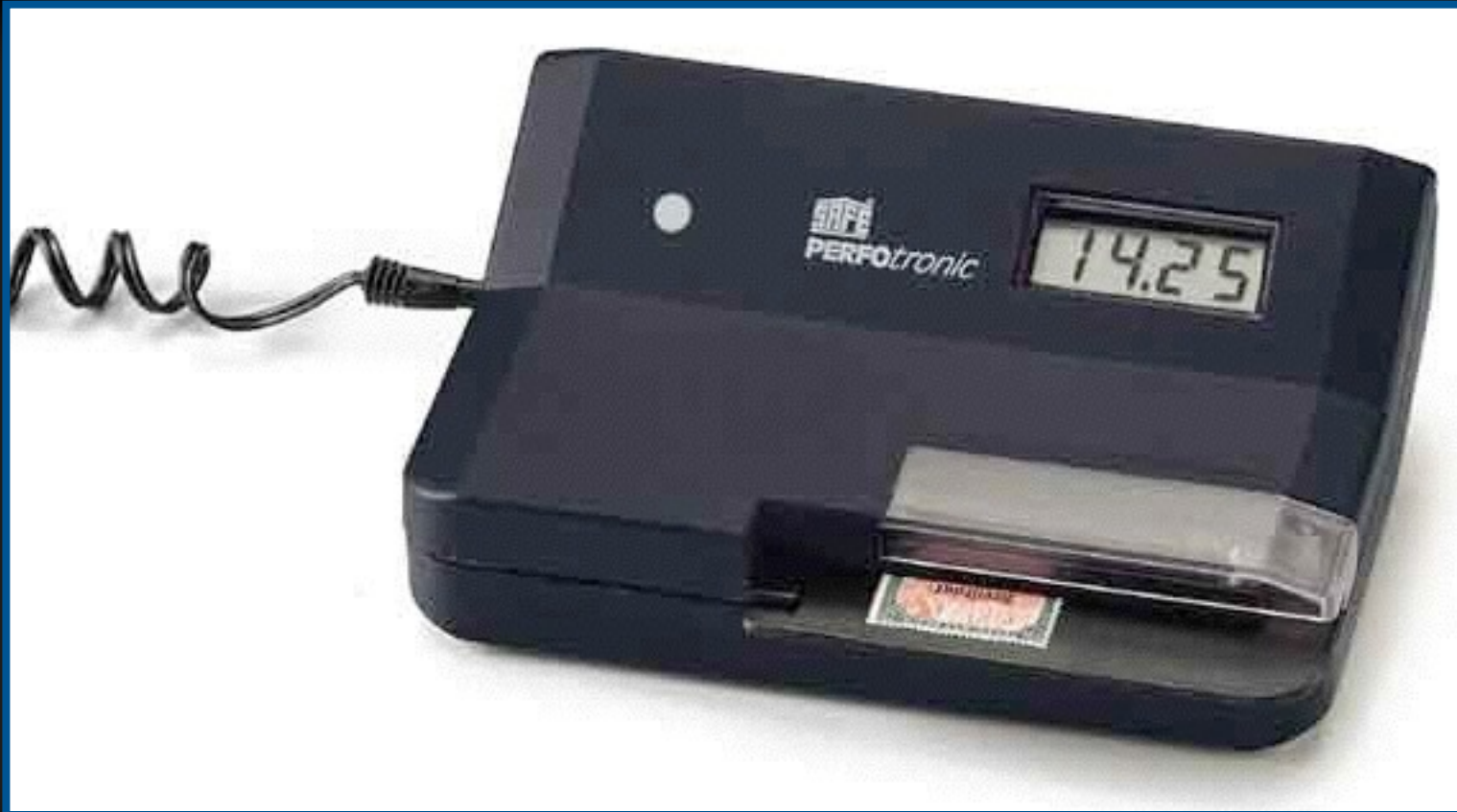
Place perforation gauge over stamp, aligning the converging lines with the centre of perforation teeth. The measurement is shown in increments of 1/10th perforation on the right side of the gauge.



Careful measurement shows that this Philippines stamp measures perf. 11.1.



An electronic perforation reader, the “Perfotronic”



Almost the

END

A colour chart



To assist in identification of stamps with subtly different shades, some collectors use colour charts. Most collectors consider them a waste of money. Some collectors create their own reference collections with which to compare new stamps.

The

END

Really!