Scott U.S. Stamp Collectors Database 2000

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Scott U.S. Stamp Collectors Database 2000. From Scott Publishing Co., P.O. Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365. Pricing varies: New purchaser - $69.95; Upgrade from first version - $34.95. 20 percent discount for *Scott Stamp Monthly* subscribers. Shipping cost varies with how much buyer pays for the product. Refund only if package unopened or if disc is faulty. Phone: (800) 572-6885; Web site: <www.scottonline.com>; E-mail: <doder@scottonline.com>.

System Requirements:
Windows 95 (or better) or Macintosh System 7.1 (or better), 16Mb RAM, 8-bit color display, CD-ROM drive. Install routine asks for 16.2Mb HD space to be available. Packaged in a heavy duty cardstock folder along with a 20-page 4-3/4in. square Users Manual.

Overview
In late 1998, when Scott released the first version of their "U.S. Stamp Collector's Database" on a CD-ROM disc, many U.S. collectors were disappointed because it was not what they expected it to be. That is, it was not the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* in electronic form. It was only a portion of the U.S. information that appears in the Volume 1 of the *Standard Catalogue*. There was a lot missing, but it was a start. (See Al Gore's review published in *The Compulatelist* for October 1998 and posted on the PCSG Web site.)

Denise Oder at Scott Publishing was the recipient of all the complaints and comments and suggestions for improvement. Fortunately, she and her colleagues paid attention to the users. This second edition does include a lot of what was missing. However, there is still a lot more not included: No postal stationery, for instance, or Confederate issues, Officials, Carriers, Postal Savings, Newspapers, Territories, former U.S. Possessions, etc.

Installation and operation.
The Scott 2000 (an easier short name that I will use

here) program will let you install it on any logical drive and in any folder that you may desire. The installation goes very rapidly. It installed on my 300MHz Pentium II system running Windows 95c with128Mb RAM, 32X CD-RW drive in just a few seconds. The images remain on the CD-ROM. The Scott 2000 program was written using Claris FileMaker Pro 3.0. Thus the program's writers, Architechnology Inc., were again able to create a program for Scott that is usable by both Windows and Macintosh computers.

The program continues to ask for a 640x480 screen resolution at 256 colors (8-bit) and strongly recommends your screen be degraded to that level. I run my Viewsonic 17" monitor routinely at 1024x 768 resolution and 16-bit color. I declined to go with their suggestions because I do not want to have to rearrange the icons on my desktop every time I finished using the program. (At least Scott's did not behave in the same manner as the program from New Zealand Post and refuse to run at all unless you do change to those values.)

The 2000 FIP Web Site evaluation

The results of the 2000 FIP Philatelic Web Site Evaluation were announced at the España 2000 Palmares banquet held on 14 October in Madrid. They have been published on the PCSG web site and also on the FIP web site at <www.f-i-p.ch>.

The evaluation was completed by a team of seven accredited literature jurors from six countries in Europe and North America under the leadership of Francis Kiddle, vice-president (now president) of the FIP Literature Commission. The evaluation teams were: Team 1 - Francis Kiddle (UK) and Toke Norby (Denmark); Team 2 - Robert de Violini (USA) and Charles Verge (Canada); Team 3 - Odd Harald Johannessen (Norway) and Juhani Olamo (Finland). Charles Peterson (USA) served as the Senior Consultant. Kiddle, Peterson and Teams 2 and 3 served on the initial FIP evaluation panel in 1999. Each team was assigned a varied group of sites to visit and evaluate, but were expected to also visit the other sites so they would have some familiarity with all the entries. After each team had submitted their rankings, the group of "Top 5%" candidates were submitted to the full panel to see how other panelists saw them, and to also choose a single one from the group as the overall FIP Best Philatelic Web Site.

This year there were 49 sites entered, from 19 countries. Eight countries were represented for the first time. Last year there were 66 entries from 21 countries. The percentage of entries that received a 3-star rating this year was higher than last year – 40% vs. 26%, and a lower percentage of 2-star sites – 45% vs. 56% last year. There were seven sites entered in both years, and three of those received a higher ranking this year. Written critiques will be sent to each entrant.

The web site from the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) received the Best of the Philatelic Web Sites Award. Sites in Singapore, India and the USA ranked in the Top 5% group. Those are Francis Chan's Stamps Resource site, which also received the Felicitations of the Judges, India's Dakshina Kannada Philatelic Association site and the Post Office in Paradise site covering all aspects of Hawaiian stamps and postal stationery.

Twenty other sites received the FIP three-star award and 22 sites received the FIP two-star award. Three sites did not meet the minimum criteria for a two-star award.

The full awards listing follows, and is also available with hot links for the URLs on the PCSG web site. The URLs that are given here were still good in late-September. I have not gone to every one of them to verify them again for this article - but if you find a bad one, I would appreciate hearing about it.

The web site evaluation guidelines are modified from the APS' philatelic literature judging guidelines. They have been adjusted to meet the differing content and requirements of a web site as compared to printed philatelic literature. They are reprinted in an adjacent article.

It is planned that this event will be repeated next year. Francis Kiddle, <franciskiddle@talk21.com>, will lead the 2001 evaluation. ✉

The results . . .

The sites are listed alphabetically within each award section. Their home country is given along with the URL. An asterisk indicates site also entered last year.

FIP Best Philatelic Web Site –
Authorized to display this logo:
  Predominant colors:
    gold and red
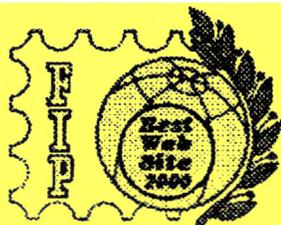
Scouts on Stamps Society
  International (USA)
    <www.sossi.org>   *

Top 5% Sites – These three sites are authorized to display this logo:
  Predominant color - red

Francis Chan's Stamps Resource
  (Singapore) *With Felicitations*
    <www.stamp2.com>
Post Office in Paradise (USA)
    <www.hawaiianstamps.com>
Dakshina Kannada Philatelic Association (India)
    <www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa>

3-Star-Sites – These 20 sites are authorized to display this logo:
  Predominant color - blue

51 GU (China)
    <www.51gu.com>
American Topical Assn. (Canada)
    <home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata>
Arts on Stamps (Switzerland)
    <www.values.ch>   *
Associação Filatélica Alentejo Algarve (AFAL)   (Portugal)
    <www.pasta-aberta.pt/web/afal>
Icelandic Stamps (Iceland)
    <www.frimerki.is/vipenglish>
Italian Center for Resistance Philately (Italy)
    <www.cifr.it>   *
Italian Federation (Italy)
    <www.fsfi.it>
Japhila Philatelic e-zine (Czech Republic)
    <www.japhila.cz>
Les Maximaphiles Francais (France)
    <www.maximaphiles-francais.org>
Ned. Bond van Filatelisten Verenigingen   (The Netherlands)
    <www.nbfv.nl>
The New Zealand Dependencies (Canada)
    <home.prcn.org/~pauld>
New Zealand Philatelic Federation (New Zealand)

OPERA - A Philatelic History (Canada)
  <home.prcn.org/~pauld/opera>
Po & Po (The Netherlands)
  <www.po-en-po.com> *
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (Canada)
  <www.interlog.com/~rpsc>
Timbres Suisses (Switzerland)
  <www.timbressuisses.ch>
Tulagi (Br Solomon Islands) (USA)
  <www.tulagi.com>
United States Stamp Society (USA)
  <www.usstamps.org>
Vaccari (Italy)
  <www.vaccari.it>
The Virtual Stamp Club (USA)
  <www.virtualstampclub.com>

2-Star Sites – These 22 sites are authorized to display this
logo:
  Predominant color: green

American Air Mail Society (USA)
<ourworld.compuserve.com/
        homepages/aams/> *
Astrophilatelie (Switzerland)
  <www.samaplast.ch/gwp>
Centro Filatélico Numismático Ituzaingó (Argentina)
  <fly.to/cefini>
The Collectors Page (Brazil)
  <www.colecionismo.com.br> *
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (UK)
  <www.cpsgb.freeserve.co.uk/index.htm>
Faroe Stamp Site (USA)
  <www.faroestampsite.com>
FND Tabor Maribot (Slovenia)
  <home.amis.net/ivanusaa/fnd-tabor>
Ghonegger (Switzerland)
  <www.ghonegger.ch>
Indepex Asiana- 2000 (India)
  <www.indepexasiana2000.com>

Kurland 1944/45 (Germany)
  <www.pbb.de/wvanloo> *
Ned Ver van Postzegelverz (The Netherlands)
  <www.nvpv.nl>
Philatelic Study Group of Former USSR (USA)
  <www0.delphi.com/fsustamps>
Rossica Society (USA)
  <www.rossica.org>
The Society, El Salvador (El Salvador)
  <www.geocities.com/thetropics/shores/7536/sfes.htm>
Society for Hungarian Philately (USA)
  <home.sprintmail.com/~aahoover/shp/shphome.htm>
Soren Andersson Stamps (Sweden)
  <www.sastamps.se>
Stamp Net (China)
  <www.stamp.net.cn>
Stanley Gibbons (UK)
  <www.stanleygibbons.com>
Topical Philately (USA)
  <www.topicalphilately.com>
UK Philately (UK)
  <www.ukphilately.org.uk>
Ukrainian Electronic Stamp Album (Canada)
  <www.compusmart.ab.ca/vesna/index.htm>
USSR Postal Stationery (Sweden)
  <www.algonet.se/~bert/ussrps/index.html>

These three sites fell below the criteria for a 2-star site:

New Zealand First Day Covers (USA)
  <www.teleport.com/~cne>
Philnet (France)
  <www.philnet.fr>
Web Forum, El Salvador (El Salvador)
  <clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/sociedadfilatelicaelsalvador>

This program will be continued in 2001. Contact Francis
Kiddle for further information.

Web Evaluation guidelines

The guidelines published for use of the evaluation panel generally follow the guidelines for judging philatelic literature as published in the *APS Manual for Judges*, Fourth Edition.

The form asks for the evaluator's initial response to the opening screen: "Is it 'friendly' with information about the site and what's on it, does it have navigational assistance right there; or do you need to do something else to access the site's real first page? Is there a puzzle of what to do to access any real information; are you greeted by a dazzling display of confusing and distracting animations?"

In the body of the form, there are four sections, each with an elaboration concerning their application to an electronic presentation. As follows:

Treatment of contents - 40%
Authorship: How well is the material presented? How clear and well-expressed? Are the different sections easy to find? Can one navigate easily from one main section to another? Are graphics used well? How suitable is the technology – not how fancy it is, but rather how well it is suited to the content? Is the site user-friendly? How useful are the links?

**Originality, significance,
          depth of research - 40%**
Philatelic Content: How significant is this site philatelically? What is its usefulness as a reference, or as a specialty guide, or for teaching/training? Is the material original? Is it kept up to date? If the site were no longer available, how greatly would it be missed?

Technical matters - 15%
Editing: Is the identification and e-mail address of the webmaster easy to find? How easily can one tell who actually sponsors the site? Are the links up to date? If material has been copied from somewhere else, is there proper attribution? How well is the material laid out? Is there a prominent indication of when the site or specific sections were last updated?

Presentation - 5%
Publishing: Overall esthetic appeal. Is this an excessively bloated, slow loading site? Are there frequent interruptions and "clutter" due to advertising by the site's host?