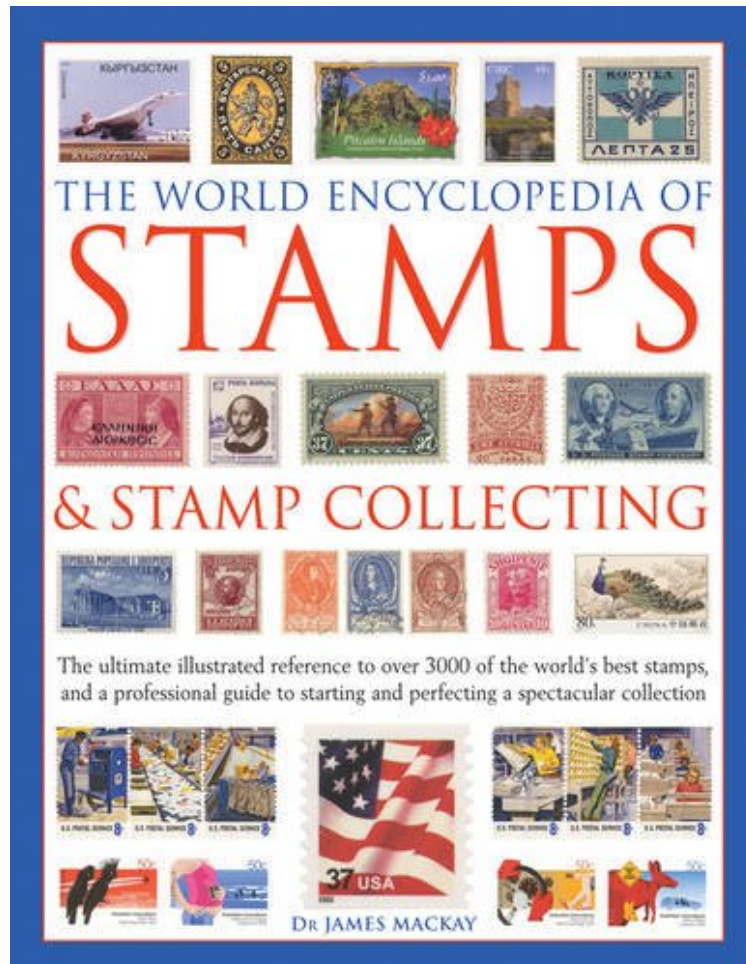


James Mackay

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This is the ultimate guide to getting the most out of the world's most popular hobby, with countless examples of rare, vivid and historical stamps spanning almost two centuries, plus advice on price and guidance about acquisition.An in-depth introduction traces the evolution of the postal services, from the Roman mail coaches rushing to the forefront of fighting to souvenir Zeppelin issues, and the advent of rail, boat and air as methods of mass delivery.The book dissects the modern-day adhesive stamp, to help collectors understand the value of their own collection and the importance of preserving stamps. Different methods of collecting, and the practical aspects of building and maintaining a collection, are covered in detail.There are also step-by-step instructions on how to retain the quality of stamps while mounting them for display, and guidance on entering the stamp buyer's marketplace, whether attending exhibitions and stamp fairs, or using an on-line auction site.A global directory of stamps from more than 200 countries will inspire readers to collect their own. Read some of the fascinating stories behind the world's most sought-after stamps, from the famous commemoratives of American presidents to issues from some of the most remotest post offices in the world.Stamps trace the character and history of the country from which they originate, and this encyclopedic visual directory, with 3000 images, is a valuable record of some of the most interesting, beautiful and bizarre examples ever created.A comprehensive directory of the world's greatest stamps, including photographs of over 3000 stamps from more than 200 countriesAn expert guide to understanding and acquiring wonderful stamps, by one of the world's foremost collectorsA thorough introduction to the evolution of the adhesive stamp and other philatelic material allows the beginner or experienced enthusiast to understand both the history and value of their collectionThe stories behind the flaws, incidents and propoganda that created some of the world's most collectable stampsDifferent methods of collecting stamps are explained, with tips on how to research, organize and extend a collection through contact with the stamp buyer's marketStep-by-step instructions on mounting, displaying and preserving stamps, with examples of useful tools and accessories

About the AuthorDr James Mackay was one of the foremost and most prolific authors on stamps and stamp collecting in the world. He wrote over 100 books and thousands of articles on the subject of stamps and other collectables such as coins, antiques and bronzes, and published Philatelic Terms Illustrated (Stanley Gibbons). He had one of the largest private collections of stamps and philatelic material in the world. James Mackay's published works include: Commemorative Medals (A Barker); Collectables (Macdonald); The Banknote Yearbook (Token Publishing); and Dictionary of Turn of the Century Antiques (Ward Lock).