



HEIR'S GUIDE SERIES

The "Pocket" Glossary

Companion resource for *Treasure or Trash? The Stamp Heir's Guide*

Use this quick glossary to identify common philatelic terms you may encounter when reviewing an inherited collection.

Catalog Value (CV)

Theoretical retail reference. Actual market value may fluctuate depending on the material, venue, timing, and demand.

Condition

The physical state of the stamp. Often, the most important factor in price.

Foxing

Brownish age spots/fungus on paper- a defect.

Mint

A stamp that has never been used (no postmark).

MNH (Mint Never Hinged)

An unused stamp with gum that appears undisturbed.

Hinge

A small, gummed sticker used to mount stamps. Often reduces value compared to "MNH".

Mount

A black or clear plastic sleeve used to protect stamps -a sign of a serious collector.

Stockbook

A book with horizontal pockets to hold stamps without glue.

Cover

An entire envelope with stamps and postmarks intact.

Postcard

A card sent through the mail without an envelope. In philately, we look for 'Postal Stationery' (where the stamp is pre-printed on the card or added) or cards with rare cancellations.

Bulk accumulation

Mixed or duplicate-heavy material often stored loosely or with limited organization. Usually low priority from a resale perspective.

Organized collection

Material housed neatly in albums, stockbooks, or mounts and arranged with care. Often worth closer review.

Exhibited collection

A specialized, research-driven collection prepared for competition or advanced study, often accompanied by medals, certificates, or write-up pages.