

By : Thurston "Bubba" Bland

oobubba@icloud.com

Today's Collector
New Opportunities

Picking a New Adventure in Philately
(Originally posted tcn II 22 January 4, 2024)



Dominican Republic Airmail issues

Some of my previous messages were about seeking a new adventure in Philately, so in that spirit, I will offer some tips on what to look for today. I already know you may have some good ideas, but let me share a story that all MEPSI members know. During World War II, the Elmhurst Stamp Club devised a new idea for its members. They decided that each member would form a collection from the same country. They had a committee to search for a country that was well-known, had attractive examples, had types and varieties to collect for specialties, and had strong interest from all members, as well as other criteria for the collectors. What did they do? They picked the exact opposite with one of the Caribbean Islands, the Dominican Republic, which had limited issues at the time. It was expensive for many older items compared to the common stamps available. As likely, this would not satisfy the membership, and that is what happened. The committee met again and selected Mexico, a much larger country with a rich philatelic history and many challenges that would satisfy the full membership. And it was satisfying to all the members, who used this as their second collection effort and made it their favorite. When other people collecting Mexico found out that the Elmhurst Philatelic Society's small journal featured special articles on Mexican Philately, they wished to join the club. Eventually, EPS changed its Name to Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society, International, and became the largest single-country society in the world.



1856 Dos Reales of Mexico L with the double transfer at bottom, Center with Blueish Green, R from Chihuahua
Different colors, varieties, and districts

This story about selecting stamps shows what happens when the first selection is wrong and a good search finds the right fit. This is why finding that new adventure is so important. Sometimes, it is unnecessary to be all-important and only an addition to what you may collect. I started collecting the Dos Real, the first design in Mexico, for its colors. I quickly ran out of colors and even the plates. As I accumulate more and more of the district, I add this to my collection. Then the cancels looked inviting, and they, too, were added to my collection. Now, instead of a hundred or fewer varieties, I had thousands to collect. This was expansion collecting. If that is your forte, see what you can do with the present collection you are missing out on. Seek out other things that would make your collection tell a better story. Items like covers, proofs, errors, and anything that fits into your collection will add much more depth to what you already have.



100 Peso, Precious Metals (Metales Preciosos) Mexican Revenue

The next route may be what the EPS, now MEPSI, learned. You can find something completely different from your major collecting efforts. I can almost bet you have some other project you once had your eye on somewhere in your stamp room, but you set it aside. It may be a BOB (Back of Book) issue. When I collected the USA, my Scott National album had about everything the USA and even the CSA included. Most likely, a lot of these pages went empty. I know hundreds of collectors with Mexican collections, but many have never developed other BOB issues, such as Officials,

Revenues, and other items, as an alternate collection. Then there is the extreme of adding another collection totally different from your normal collection. Finding one that will be a good fit for you will take effort. The new collection needs to leave time for your number one collection. A good fit will be a collection that fits your budget, inspires a story, and gives you enjoyment. Collecting is what it is all about, and a new addition or a totally new collection should make a big difference in the enjoyment you receive from being a collector.

Good luck, and give it a try to find a new adventure.

Enjoy!

Bubba Bland

oobubba@icloud.com

MEPSI #2795

APS #198784, USPCS #4060,

Western Cover Soc. #1423, UPSS #6670,

CCNY #7864 and Royal Philatelic Society of London