

## Collecting the “Columbus” Topical



I started collecting “Columbus” stamps in 1972. Most of these stamps (between 1892 and 1972) had *topical relevance* with respect to the issuing countries. ...meaning that the topic or theme of the stamp had cultural, physical or historical significance to the issuing country.

For example, some of these “Columbus” stamps were from the *Old World* countries that influenced Columbus from birth to manhood (Italy & Spain). More stamps were issued from the lands Columbus sailed among and discovered (the Caribbean nations, Central America and northern South America).

Other Columbus issues were from countries where the Spanish heritage became imbedded culturally and historically because of Columbus’ travels (Latin America and North America). These countries had a legitimate historical or cultural relationship to the Columbus topic!

A “Columbus” collection formed by using the criterion of “topical relevance” means that the collection is guided by historical fact and not by the whims of stamp-issuing entities that have little or no connection with Columbus.

Since 1972, a multitude of countries have issued “Columbus” related stamps. By using *topical relevance* as a guide, a collector can narrow down his selection without having to buy *every* issue.

To further reduce a collecting area within the Columbus topic, it is best to collect what you *like*. Specialize by collecting only certain countries, time periods, topics or themes within the Columbus sphere. Such subtopics include Spain, the landfalls of Columbus, ships, maps, portraits, statues, Ferdinand & Isabella, First Day Covers, etc.

Most important, *collect what interests you!* ...David Nye