

Rick and Mary Lou Lang

Re:2010-2443 Chilliwack RCMP-Constable Gafka -604-792-4611

Date of theft: January 25, 2010

Identifying stolen stamps:

We had started organizing into Scott International blue albums and had approximately 20 of those -four of which were left behind by the thief -so there will be approximately 16 in the stolen lot. These were interspersed with specialty albums of various brands, including Scott, Minkus, Lindner, Schaubeck and possibly others. We had labelled the spines of the Scott albums with the country name labels provided by Harris for use on blank pages, which were taped on.

We had begun our organizing with "z" and working toward the front of the alphabet. We were currently working on Italy at the time of the theft, so with the exception of Japan which we had set aside awaiting recently purchased specialty albums for both us and a granddaughter, from Ivory Coast to Tahiti completed pages in albums are missing. Ivory Coast is in an uncompleted album into which further pages completed would have been placed. We can't remember all the breaks in labeling of the 16 albums. In all albums, including specialty, if current pages were not available, Harris pages were cut to fit, repunched and placed in the albums.

Completed specialty albums that were stolen included:

1) Israel: In 3 black 3-hole binders with black stock pages -included most of 1948 to approximately 1994, with scattered issues after that date, including 2000 year set. We had Scott #'s 7,8,9 untabbed mnh (2007 cv \$382.50) and a pair of the camel #25 cv \$225 each. Included in the collection for all issues were mint tabbed and untabbed and used tabbed and untabbed, grouped by catalog number with cut out color copies from a Scott catalog of each set numbers, pictures, and values. We did have a file for Israel of things awaiting to be placed in the binders which included a group of fdc's. We had also begun purchasing all new issues including tabbed issues along with souvenir and mini sheets and had obtained all of 2009 issues, which were packaged with other countries' 2009 stamps purchased from the same source in two envelopes and placed in the file cabinet which was stolen-these complete 2009 issues also included Czech Republic, Slovakia and Russia-none had been put into albums.

2) Bohemia & Moravia: In a home-made binder album with special pages designed for Bohemia and Moravia. The collection included mint in clear sleeves on one side and used on the facing page.

3) Czechoslovakia: In 3 Scott albums at least the current one a specialty album, separated by years -I believe the first was to 1940, the second into the 1970's, and the third including Czech Republic... the pages went through 2007. The early album had a number of pages which were put in as purchased which basically could be described as "studies" of the Hradcany castles (SC#'s 1-53), and many more early stamps, especially Masaryk issues. The stamps in these albums were also mint on the right, used on the left facing pages or subsequent pages. Slovakia may have been placed at the end of the third album -memory fails. Also with these albums was an old folder containing the music sheets (SC#200-201 valued at \$650) and a binder with printed information on differences in some of the Czech stamps. Early issues included: 43a -\$19; 45a \$77.50; 47a -\$190; 61a -\$19; 65a -\$150; 61 used -\$15; 66a -\$110 for a total of \$580 for those. In 1966, the used Indian was missing, however there were fdc's of that and a sheet of mint stamps (no great value there, just an identifier).

4) Greece: Scott Specialty Album -Early stamps included: 8 -\$55; 11 -\$80; 12 -\$35; 13 -\$47.50; 13a -\$140; 13b -\$67.50; 15 -\$60; 16 -\$32.50; 16a -\$65; 35 -\$52.50; 42 -\$32.50; 65 -\$70: total \$760 for those.

5) Mexico: Minkus Specialty Album beginning to approx. 2004

6) Scandinavian: Scott Specialty Album included Finland (which had some stamps, but had not been worked on yet) and completed Norway to approximately 2002.

7) Poland: 1972 -approx. 2000 Minkus

Partially completed specialty albums stolen: (lots of stamps in them)

1) Canada: 3 Unity albums to 2007, 2 for mint; also one other with used stamps, souvenir and mini sheets in it. We also had two additional Canadian albums (brand forgotten) with lots of stamps in all albums.

2) Australia & States: Scott Specialty

3) DDR: not sure of brand

4) Germany: Minkus

5) German States: Kabe Album

6) India: Homemade 3-post binder

7) Japan: 2 Scott Specialty, one empty or nearly so

Further information: In the beginning we were using black mounts, specifically on stamps of \$10 or more catalog value, but had been using enclosed clear ones for the past year or so -occasionally, especially on newer inexpensive mnh stamps, we used scraps of the black.

All stamps were hand numbered unless the Scott page had numbers included on the pictures. While some souvenir and mini sheets, fdc's, sheets of stamps, covers, and other items of interest were placed on pages, many were placed in full page plastic sleeves, usually with colored background paper. As mentioned before, Harris pages were often used -cut to fit and repunched. Some cutting and pasting to make the pages face properly was done on Scott pages also.

Interleaving was used between any pages with stamps facing each other to protect the stamps.

Stamps, etc. for A-I and Japan (countries not yet addressed) were placed in legal sized file folders with hand-written country names on the folders. These, as well as any stock books and other books we were working with were stolen. We had purchased 17 Scott blue albums and had them apart, taking out countries as we progressed and using emptied albums to house our collection. There were probably 6 remaining, which therefore will only contain pages for A-I. These were labelled by the previous owner A-Z and years mostly.

US and India were kept in a 'drawer together, and while the US album was not taken, any items collected were stolen -everything for India except one stock book was stolen. Canada had a drawer of it's own, and everything was missing there. As an identifying item, an envelope produced by Canadian Museum of Quebec with a Unicorn Cock depicting the painting of Jean Dallaire, was in the drawer of Canadian items. There were only 12 of these produced.

The first page of Luxemburg was placed in a full plastic sleeve and included the following stamps: SC#1-\$60.2 -\$110.4 -\$450,5 -\$110,6 -\$200,6a-\$210, 7 -\$21,8 -\$160,9 -\$400,10 -\$250,11 -\$210,12 -\$250,13 -\$300,14 -\$16, 18b-\$450,also23 -\$85,27 -\$110,30, 3b,36,53,and62a -\$110.

We were working out of numerous items such as a red box with higher value stamps, a little white binder of higher value common wealth stamps with large white-bordered cards, a Disney collection, three Harris or Aristocrat type albums which contained our original collection from the 50's-70's with some later work

done on them, a Part 1 International Scott collection (remaining estimated value left in of \$50,000) with many pages of black-sleeved valuable stamps, two Harris type albums that were purchased as a set (Grandma's albums) with stretch and seal used as interleaves on most pages, numerous stock books, old albums, etc. The unique factor in all of these items is they only contained stamps from A -I. We had just received a purchase of 8 stock books of British Commonwealth stamps we had not sorted yet - this collection was supposed to be worth \$5,000.

We had done some countries "out of order" and the completed pages were placed in the file folders for when we had progressed to the point of placing them in albums. These countries include: Cuba, Bahamas, Cook Island, Bermuda, and Cape of Good Hope (which included about 10 of the early triangle issues). We had specialty pages with stamps in the Cape Verde folder, but hadn't worked much on it yet.

Besides the finished albums, file cabinet with folders, and drawers, we also had two clear Tupperware bins where we had envelopes and cellophane fronted cards with stamps placed alphabetically. One bin also had empty envelopes, etc., unknown (unidentified at this point) stamps, and stamp hinges. All packages of blank Scott pages, interleaves, and numerous packages of mounts were also stolen.

We had catalogued up to the point completed in Italy in 2007 Scott catalogs and still have those. If further information is needed on stamps in our stolen albums, much of this information can be provided. Many of our purchases were from Ebay and paid through PayPal, and we have printed copies of all invoices. Some items, such as the Czech music sheets and the initial Israel collection were purchased through Foot Stamps in Langley, who is probably still familiar with those purchases. We also had red boxes and binders of his in the house so be on the lookout for "Foot Stamps" on cards. We had initial RL on the inside of two of his binders.

Thank everyone for their assistance in helping recover our stamps.
Best Regards, Rick and Mary Lou Lang 778-858-8029