Destined to be
America’s #1 Stamp Collector
Warren Delano II
FDR’s maternal grandfather

Retired in 1846 at age 37 having become a millionaire working as a trader while living in Canton, China.

Lost his fortune in the economic crash of 1857
Moved to Hong Kong in 1859 leaving his large family behind to again work as a trader.

Became a millionaire supplying the US Army with opium during the Civil War.
Sara Delano
FDR’s mother

While Warren was in Hong Kong he wrote to his family frequently.

His six year old daughter Sara soaked the stamps off the envelopes and started a stamp collection.

The first stamp catalog published in 1861 listed 1080 postage stamps.
Sara Delano
FDR's mother

As Warren’s wealth grew his family joined him in Hong Kong.

They continued to live there during the Civil War and traveled frequently to visit other countries.

Sara added to her collection during each trip.
The Delano family returned to the States after the war and then took a year long vacation in Europe.

Sara stayed in Europe until 1870 to finish her formal education.

On her travels throughout Europe she added more stamps to her collection.
Soon the young lady’s attention diverted to other pastimes and she gave the stamp collection to her younger brother Frederick Delano.
Frederic became a serious philatelist and was able to add considerably to the collection including covers and many rare Chinese stamps on his business travels to the Far East, Europe, South and Central America.

Fredrick Delano
Sara’s brother
Twenty six year old Sara became the bride of James Roosevelt in 1880.

He was a widower twice her age with a son the same age as Sara.

Sara’s marriage was a happy one and on January 30, 1882 she gave birth to a son. They named him Franklin Delano.
Uncle Frederic was so impressed by 10 year old Franklin’s interest in stamps that he gave the entire collection to him in 1892 for his birthday.
The stamp collection that had been started by Sara Delano, then added to by his Uncle Fredrick, had now grown into an impressive collection that would be the envy of any philatelist.
James and Sara Roosevelt
Franklin’s parents
While running for governor of New York in 1928, his campaign manager James Farley, let it be known that FDR was a stamp collector.
The Famous Collector

After he was elected governor the public started sending him stamps and covers for his collection.
This poster stamp appeared during the election campaign of 1932.
It has been erroneously attributed to the A.P.S. in numerous articles and books.
This editorial comment from the August, 1932 issue of The American Philatelist caused considerable controversy.

“And so, not as a Wet or Dry, not as a Democrat or as a Republican, not as a liberal or a conservative, but simply as an enthusiast in Philately, we bespeak the favorable consideration by of all the members of the A.P.S. of the candidacy of our fellow member, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, A.P.S. #11590, for the office of President of the United States.”
"LET US ALL BOOST ROOSEVELT"

Linn’s Weekly Stamp News is heartily behind the candidacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt for President of the United States.”
The Famous Collector

The American Philatelist
November 2004

Adhesive labels issued by the American Philatelic Society in 1932. “A Stamp Collector for President.”
The American Philatelist February 2005 sets the record straight on the issuer of the poster stamp.
The Famous Collector

George Linn, editor and publisher of the four year old Linn’s Weekly Stamp News, created these poster stamps and cachet covers during the presidential election of 1932 when FDR was running against Herbert Hoover.
Franklin’s journey to the White House
He collected common stamps and covers
The President Collector

He collected everything including non-postage stamps

Charitable organizations sent him full sheets of stamps

1936 election campaign
Every week the State Department would send him a box full of covers.
The President Collector

His mother Sara gave him this personalized sheet of Mother’s Day stamps.
Postmaster James B. Farley asked the public to use the new “Mother” stamp to send a card to their mother.
The President Collector

The White House mailroom was instructed to save all envelopes with stamps on them for the president’s perusal.

The president sorted through these boxes, saved the ones he wanted and had his secretaries make up envelopes of the rest to be given away.
The president received many requests from boys and girls requesting stamps for their collection. This boy also received a small album.
Dear Mr. President,
I liked the stamps you sent me very much, and the little book is very useful. I am just starting my collection and it would be great fun to see yours which mother says you have had for a long time.

I am going to frame your letter and I am going to keep it always in my room. Daddy, Mother, and all my brothers and sisters want to be remembered to you.

Bobby Kennedy
Son of Joseph P. Kennedy
National Air Mail week 1938. Postmaster General Farley asked the public to send the president a letter using the new 6c air mail stamp.
Farley also asked for Postmasters to send an airmail letter. Those signed by the PM and pilot were special to the president.
The President Collector

The president personally approved all 225 stamp designs during his 12 years in office. He suggested many changes and designed 10 himself.

50th Anniversary of Statehood 1939
National Defense 1940

Mother’s Day 1934

The President Collector
Virginia Dare 1937

Susan B Anthony 1936
The President Collector

Byrd Expedition 1933

6 cent Airmail 1938
Although the president played no part in the actual design of the proposed "Blood Plasma" stamp that was scheduled to be issued in 1945, he considered this design "too horrific." He vetoed the issuance of the stamp.
The first stamp printed after Roosevelt took office was the 3c Newburg Peace issue of 1933.

Postmaster James Farley bought a proof sheet as a gift for the president.
Farley continued this practice throughout 1933 and 1934, buying a total of 20 proof sheets for gifts to the president and other officials.

Fraley also purchased full proof sheets for the president to give away. This sheet was given to the Farley family and signed by the president.
The President Collector

Farley’s Follies
When stamp collectors found out about Farley purchasing proof sheets that were not available to the public they demanded an equal opportunity. George Linn stroked the fire with editorials in his weekly newspaper. Other philatelic publications joined the crusade. The Post Office Department relented and reissued the 20 stamps with a special printing and made them available for a limited time only.
Special printing (Nos. 752-771) “Issued for a limited time in full sheets as printed, and in block thereof to meet the requirements of collectors and others who may be interested.” Issuance of these 20 stamps in complete sheets resulted from the protest of collectors and others at the practice of presenting to certain government officials complete sheets of unsevered panes, imperforate (except 752 and 753) and generally ungummed.

Copied from Scott Catalog
752 Newburg Peace-753 Byrd Expedition

These were sold for three months only, March 15 to June 15, 1935.
• Entering the White House in 1933 FDR’s collection was estimated to contain about 22,000 items in 30 albums. In addition he had 1000’s more in boxes still to be sorted.

• When he died in 1945, the collection had over 1.2 million items. About 80% was still in boxes that had never been opened.
The President Collector

- There were an estimated two million stamp collectors in the United States in 1932.

- Due to the popularity of the president’s hobby it was estimated that over ten million stamp collectors were enjoying this hobby in the US by 1945.
His last official act on the day before he died, April 12, 1945, was to approve the design for the United Nations stamp.
Auctioned by H.R. Harmer in New York in four parts

1. February 4 and 5, 1946, three sessions
2. April 1 and 2, 1946, two sessions
3. July 16, 1946, mainly unopened boxes of covers
4. December 17 and 18, 1946, items offered by buyers in part 1
   • Estimated by George B. Sloane to worth $80,000 not counting most covers and unique items
   • Total sales for parts 1-3 was about $220,000
Auction of Collection

Part one - February 4 and 5, 1946

The Postage Stamp Collection of FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Part One

UNITED STATES of AMERICA and LATIN AMERICA

FEBRUARY 4, 5, 1946

at the PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES, Inc.
35 EAST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK 22

H. R. HARMER, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS
42 EAST 37TH STREET, NEW YORK 16

Catalogue, with list of prices realized in the United States: $5.00
In Great Britain: 7/6d.
Auction of Collection
Part one

“I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dec. 21, 1932
Auction of Collection
Part one

500 Attend Bidding on His Famous Collection at Galleries Here.

FIRST OF THREE SALES

By FRANKLIN R. BRUNS JR.
Stamp dealers and collectors, drawn by the name of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, last night surpassed the appraised valuation of his stamp collection in one long sitting. The collection was appraised for estate-purposes at $80,000. The 281 lots sold last night alone surpassed that total, and assured a gross realization for the six scheduled auction sessions of well over the $100,000 set by H. R. Harmer, Inc., the auctioneers.
The sale took place at the Parke-Bernet Galleries and attracted over 500 persons. Divided into four sections, last night's session established at least two trends. The small die proofs of United States stamps, presented to President Roosevelt by officials of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, showed bidding is George H. Sloane, who appraised the collection.
16 of the 20 proof sheets known as Farley’s Follies were sold at the auction in 9 lots.

Scott # 727, 733, 738(2), 739-751 and CE1

A 2nd sheet of 738 given to Mrs. Roosevelt was included

All sheets signed by James Farley

Admiral Byrd also signed 733

Total realized at auction $4,425
Auction of Collection

Part one

Lot 308
5c Franklin
10c Wash Green type III Scott 35B

Lot 309
10c Washington
Scott 29

Lot 310
10c Washington
Scott 29

Lot 311
5c Franklin
10c Washington
Scott 28
Scott 29

Then
Now
28 1
29 2
35B 15
Auction of Collection
Part two April 1 and 2, 1946

The Famous and Valuable General Collection of Postage Stamps formed by FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States of America, 1933-1945
offered by H. R. HARMER, Inc., on instructions received from THE EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE JAMES ROOSEVELT, BASIL O'CONNOR, HENRY T. HACKETT
PART TWO
VENEZUELA
a specialized collection, including singles, blocks of four, errors and varieties.
THE REST OF THE WORLD
other than United States and Latin America
INCLUDING PRESENTATION COLLECTIONS,
particularly Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, France (Die Proofs), French Colonies (Free French Administration), Norway, Russia, Sweden, Vatican City, Canada (Die Proofs), Cape of Good Hope (Pre-stamp covers), Great Britain, Irish Free State,
THE PRESIDENTS GENERAL COLLECTION
strong in Cameroun (Free French issues), Congo (1924 imperf. in sheets), France, Germany, Lebanon, Tibet, Turkey,
HONG KONG (50 lots),
Queenland, Miscellaneous lots, Album binders, Literature, etc.

PUBLIC AUCTION
MONDAY, APRIL 1, at 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
1946

PUBLIC EXHIBITION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th to MONDAY, APRIL 1st
Daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Closed Sunday
PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES, Inc.,
30 East 57th Street, New York, 22
(Adjoining our premises)
SALES CONDUCTED BY HERMAN D. HARMER (of H. R. HARMER, Inc.)
A. R. RADE (of Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc.)
H. R. HARMER, Inc.
International Stamp Auctioneers
32 EAST 57th STREET, NEW YORK 22, N.Y.
Telephone: Plaza 3-6482
Cable: Harmerhale New York

Third Session of Sale
TUESDAY, APRIL 2nd, 1946
AT 8 P.M.
at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., 30 East 57th St., New York

THE SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF HONG KONG
THE PRESIDENT’S FAVORITE COUNTRY
Attention is drawn to the fact that this collection includes a number of defective items which have not been included in the stated catalogue values. The album pages have, in most cases, been “written up” in the President’s handwriting; many interesting varieties of shade and cancellation are included in the majority of the lots.

Lot No. 555
Pre-stamp cover bearing small paid in double lined frame illustrated stamp in red on front and HONG KONG JY 21 1848 in black on back. Condition fair to very fine.

Lot No. 556
New York to Amoy via Marseilles with small circular blue框 on back HONG KONG JY 8 45 and London overprint on red on front. London AU 27 42 paid, a fine and clean cover.

Lot No. 557
New York to Amoy via Southampton Overland Mail with red New York BR, PK15 used in red dated June 1st, a small red London postmark. London by Jul. 14 48 paid back on front black receiving mark on back Hong Kong & AU 1858. This cover has a small tear at T and other defects but is of nice appearance.

Lot No. 558
1862 no watermark 2c brown, o.g. bklk of four, centered to 7 1/2 fine and scarce

Lot No. 559
No watermark 2c to 90c, cbl, of 24 stamps on album pages incl. 8c (2), 9c and 90c unused, others used, condition fair to very fine (1-17) 175.00

Lot No. 560
1865-27 watermark c. c., coll. of 246 stamps on album pages comprising a fine range of shades and Perfs. incl. 2c brown two mint bklks of four, a good lot of the 3c, 4c and 9c values; condition fair to very fine (246) 325.00

Lot No. 561
1869 5c ultramarine with the scarce S2 (Swatow) postmark, fine used and scarce

Lot No. 562
Collection of 91 stamps, incl. used black bklk of 4 of the 2c dull rose, a good range of shades and Perfs mounted on album pages; condition fair to very fine (20) 325.00

Hong Kong
Lot Sold for

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Auction of Collection
Part two

The highest price paid was for this Canadian lot (438) of die proofs that sold for $1700.00.
Items purchased at the auction could be stamped to authenticated them.
The President Collector
After the Auction

Strip of six poster stamps, including one depicting FDR, produced by stamp dealer and stamp show promoter A. August Tiger in 1947.

I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President Collector  
After the Auction
The President Collector

After the Auction
The President Collector
After the Auction
90 countries have issued 485 stamps honoring FDR. This is a nice set depicting life events from Manama 1970 (now United Arab Emirates).
11 countries have issued 19 stamps honoring FDR the stamp collector.

- Nicaragua 1946
- Monaco 1947
- Philippines 1950

Infamous 6 finger design
The President Collector
Honoring FDR the philatelist

Kingdom of Yemen
1968

Upper Volta
1970

Republic of Rwanda
1970
The President Collector
Honoring FDR the philatelist

Nicaragua 1970

Dahomey 1970

Western Samoa 1981
The President Collector
Honoring FDR the philatelist

Turks & Caicos 1982

Cook Islands 1982
The President Collector

Honoring FDR the philatelist

Turks & Caicos 1982

India 1983
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

*Destined to be*

*America’s #1 Stamp Collector*
Follow this link to view a short presentation by the National Postal Museum

http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/DeliveringHope/video.htm#content