**THE BUYERS GUIDE: AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS**

GENERAL PHILATELIC CORPORATION 1992 170 PAGES

In this book, the author attempts to give guidance on acquiring premium quality U.S. stamps. He canvassed roughly 25,000 auction lots of individual U.S. stamps selling for over $100. By dividing each lot into four sections (scarcity, premium characteristics, comments, and caveats), each issue from Scott #1 throughout the Washington-Franklin series is evaluated. For scarcity the author posts the quantity issued as well as the average number of times each issue is listed per auction. This was completed for both mint and used copies.

This book furthermore evaluated every issue for such characteristics as normal centering, margin size, perforation faults, and color strength. From these evaluations, the author is able to recommend which premium characteristics are reasonable and which are difficult to obtain. These results are found in the comment section for each issue.

Finally, warnings as to which faults to avoid and stamp alterations/repairs are common for each individual issue. This section also gives recommendations of when a certificate is suggested, strongly suggested, and essential for each issue.

Overall, I found this book very valuable. By illustrating typical margins and centering for each issue, it is easy to observe when a premium stamp comes up. The recommendations on when to get certification are also helpful (especially for someone wiith minimal experience). To be warned, this book is not a pricelist but rather gives a comprehensive view on which stamps to pay a premium.