

SYNOPSIS

TITLE: “WHAT DO I DO NOW?”

PURPOSE:

To motivate collectors and/or potential collectors to explore how they may develop a never ending approach to their collecting interest.

SCOPE:

Like most stamp collectors, I started out as a boy trying to get one copy of each stamp from every country on earth; but as I grew older, I started to specialize; and being Canadian I chose to collect Canada. And like most collectors, whatever the “specialty” I reached a stage where I couldn’t add to my collection any further. This was partially because of the scarcity of items, and partially because of expense.

Every collector who reaches this stage has the same question: “**What do I do now?**”

The answer: Diversify – Dig Deeper – Research!

In 2008 I started to collect Hawaii and as had happened before, I soon reached the point where I had copies of all the Hawaiian stamps I could afford. Several trips to the islands had aroused my interest in their history; culture; geography; and their decline as a nation. I still wanted to pursue this collecting area; so again that question: “**What do I do now?**”

I have tried to demonstrate the answer on the following pages which outline various themes based on the stamps of Hawaii. **By design, none of the themes are complete.**

While Hawaii issued only 88 stamps I believe the following will show there is no end to the collecting possibilities if you expand the focus, and do some research and “diversify”

EXHIBIT PLAN:

The exhibit starts with a traditional Hawaiian collection which presents stamps and covers in a chronological approach; and includes all of the material that is available to me within my budget.

It then explores my “diversified interest” which starts with “**A Canadian Connection**” motivated by my interest in Hawaiian stamps from a Canadian’s perspective.

This led me to “**Hawaiian Cancelations**” in general, which led me to:

“**Maui Postmarks**” and “**Kauai Postmarks**”. These are my favourite two of the eight Hawaiian Islands; of which only 6 had Post Offices.

Hopefully you will note from the various covers presented how **Plate Inscriptions** evolved along the way.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

My interest in Hawaii was initiated through several trips to the islands of which we have visited all 7 of the 8 islands that one is allowed to visit.

I have visited every site of the towns listed in the exhibit; and visited several local museums including the Iolani Palace and Bishop Museums on Oahu. The “on site” learning experience is invaluable in approaching an exhibit like this.

Today’s research and “digging” has been made much easier through the internet.

Google has been invaluable in finding information. The first piece leads you to the second; and the second to the third, and so on. It’s fascinating. My collecting has again become educational; and my growing knowledge has heightened my collecting interest. **There is no end.**

Wikipedia is a very informative web site which provides significant detail as well as many good leads for further investigation.

However, most of my motivation and direction has been given by **Fred Gregory** through his “**Post Office in Paradise**” website (www.hawaiianstamps.com). He has enabled me to know what to look for and has saved me many, many steps along the way... Fred has given me permission to use the information from his site in this exhibit. **Mahalo Fred!**