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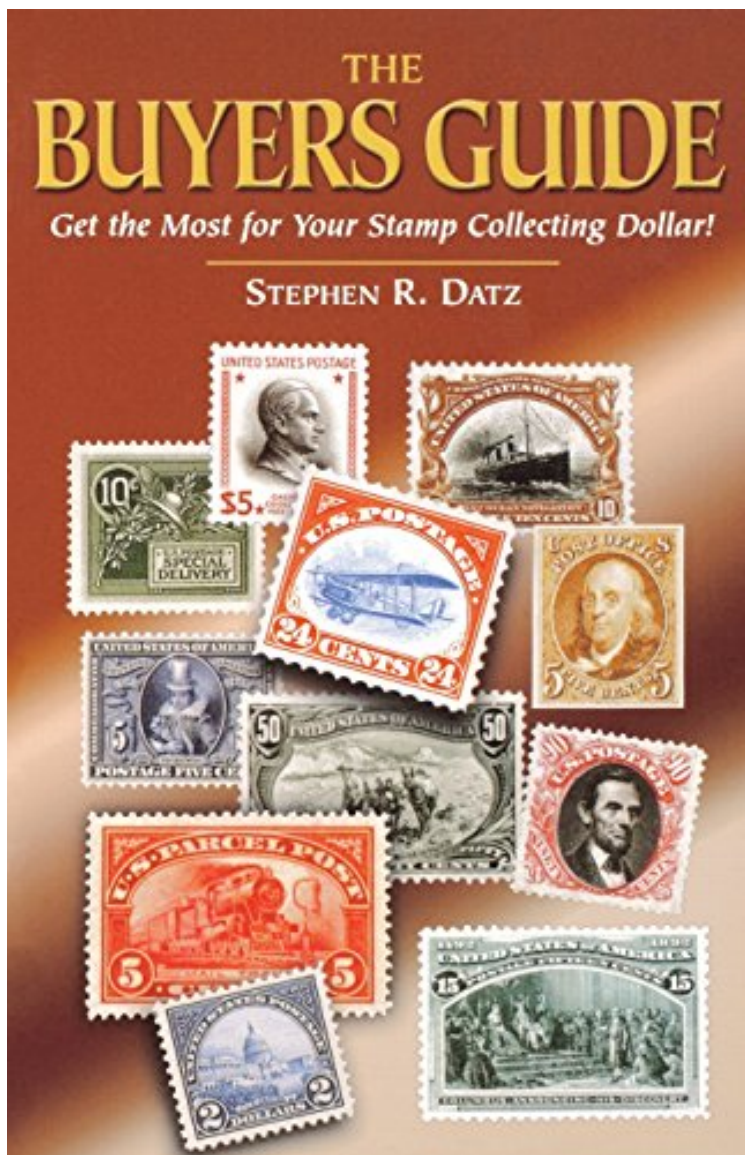
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The Buyers Guide

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The Buyers Guide. Everything you need to know about buying quality U.S. stamps. Graded stamps are all the rage. But not all graded stamps are equal-especially when it comes to value. Truly scarce issues and condition rarities deliver more bang for the buck. But how to know what to look for? Census figures are fine and dandy, but don't tell

the whole story. Submissions are skewed toward the high end-and not all high-end examples are necessarily submitted or graded. That's where the Buyers Guide comes in. It fills the gap with data spanning the entire spectrum to help you pinpoint the qualitative characteristics and true scarcity of more than 600 key U.S. stamps. More than 25,000 auction lots were surveyed to compile qualitative data and provide guidance, on a stamp-by-stamp basis, for the percent of each issue hinged vs. never hinged, the average frequency at auction (key to assessing actual scarcity-not all expensive stamps are as rare as you might think), color and freshness, margins and centering, as well as dangerous fakes and problem stamps. Abundant illustrations appear throughout. Knowledgeable dealers and experts reviewed preliminary drafts and generously shared their knowledge about the fine points of these key stamps. The result is a powerhouse of knowledge-the kind pros carry around inside their heads and use every day-at your fingertips in a convenient, easy-to-use handbook The Buyers Guide is the one reference you cannot afford to be without. Get the facts before you buy-and get the most for your stamp-collecting dollar!