

Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials

Subsidiary Page 5 A Short List of Items to Avoid

The primary concern of the Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials Committee and this website is to provide proper care for those philatelic materials that have come into our hands. In order to preserve and conserve our philatelic treasures, we would be wise to exclude all of the following from close proximity to our stamps, cards, and covers:

- Ballpoint pens.
- Cellophane or plastic (Scotch) tape.
- Rubber cement.
- Paper clips and other metallic paper fasteners.
- "Magnetic Albums." These are adhesive coated pages with plastic covers. Most are made out of PVC plastic and acidic adhesives.
- Constant contact with your hands. Human bodies give off sulphur. Fingerprints on the gum of mint stamps or even covers is like a little time bomb slowly releasing stain-forming sulphur. Use lintless lightweight white gloves, as worn by conservators and professionals whenever practical.
- Rubber elastic bands.
- Masking tape.
- Typewriting added to covers or photos, often on the reverse side.
- Peelable labels used on stock sheets and album pages. Some types of these adhesive labels deteriorate over time and materials from them migrate into the album page. Mounted stamps could be affected by those materials.

Baadke (1996 and 2000a) has given an excellent account of the important details to be observed in connection with the handling and storage of philatelic materials. It is, of course, well worth the effort required for us to do our very best to assure that our collections will be unharmed not only for our enjoyment, but also for the enjoyment of those individuals in whose hands our materials will someday pass.