

# *Philatelic Literature:* **It's Scott Time !**

by Dr. Everett L. Parker

If it's summer, that must mean it's time for another season of the **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue**. From now through the fall, a new volume will be forthcoming each month,



with the specialized catalogue of U.S. stamps and covers and the Classic Specialized to end the year.

Volume 1 of the 2016 edition boasts 48 more pages than the 2015 edition, obviously reflecting many new stamps being added over the past year. This edition has 1,656 pages, compared to 1,608 in 2015. The fine attention to detail that we've come to expect over the years from Scott is evident with this edition as well.

The market for U.S. stamps is rather quiet at present, according to catalogue editor Charles Snee. "With the exception of scarce and rare items, which continue to appreciate well, most stamps are holding steady," he reported in the "Letter From the Editor" at the beginning of the catalogue.

One should always carefully check the introduction pages to the catalogue as there is much useful information to be found. It is a basic introduction to stamp collecting that we should all read.

In the postage section, there are approximately 1,000 value changes. Catalogue editors believe there may be some speculation with the five-cent Chinese Resistance stamp (Scott #906), issued in 1942. For that reason, the \$2.75 value for the stamp in mint, never-hinged condition is shown in italics.

In the back-of-the-book section, values for the special printings of the 1879 postage dues stamps softened by about

10 percent. On the other hand, values increased for selected newspaper stamps. Belgium reigned supreme in the value-change category with 2,020 reported. "From one year to the next, most values remain stable for some countries," Snee reported. "Such as was the case for Anguilla. We found just 315 value changes, most of which were declines of 10 percent or so."

Value decreases were also reported in Australian Antarctic Territory, where slightly more than 250 changes were made, with decreases up through the issues of 1999. Beginning with the 2002 Antarctic Base Stations block of four, however, the values shifted sharply upward with significant increases noted.

Volume 2 of the catalogue is also available, and covers countries of the world C-F. It, too, had 48 additional pages over the 2015 edition, increasing to 1,712 total. Canada and the Canadian provinces received the most value changes, resulting in more than 5,000 updates. The market for very fine and rare Canada stamps continues to be quite strong, Snee reported. The provinces remain robust, with only a few decreases from 2015, and many more increases, particularly in Newfoundland.

Cameroun had almost 500 value changes, with substantial increases in modern issues. Nearly 200 value changes were reported for Cape of Good Hope, and some substantial changes were reported in China. Dominica showed 1,100 value changes and France showed many changes.

For more information on the catalogues, contact Amos Publishing, P.O. Box 4129, Sidney, OH 45365. There is a website at [www.amosadvantage.com](http://www.amosadvantage.com). It appears the retail price for each volume of the 2016 catalogue is \$124.99.

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*Remember that review copies of books, monographs, society journals and other philatelic literature are solicited. Please send all publications to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906. Email is [eparker@hughes.net](mailto:eparker@hughes.net).*