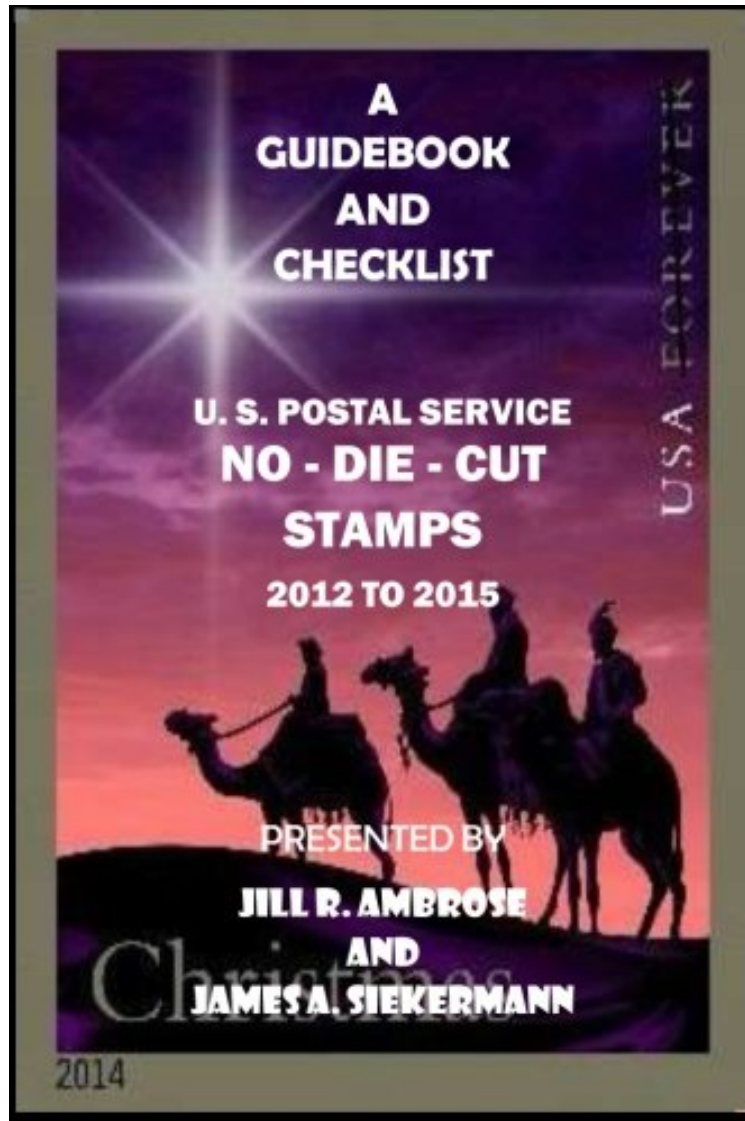


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Jill R. Ambrose CH, James A. Siekermann
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Jill R. Ambrose CH, James A. Siekermann : A Guidebook and Checklist: U. S. Postal Service No-Die-Cut Stamps 2012 to 2015 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guidebook and Checklist: U. S. Postal Service No-Die-Cut Stamps 2012 to 2015:

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We are pleased to present to the philatelic community the first ever detailed guide and checklist of no-die-cut stamps. This new category began without any grand announcement. The U.S. Postal Service in their mysterious way of doing things, began this new program in the middle part of 2012. What it has turned into is a serious area of stamp collecting. This has been going on long enough now that there really is a need for a comprehensive guide to what has been produced thus far to help the collector get a solid footing, and this is it. To begin with, every U. S. stamp produced today begins its journey printed on a web press and then cut into large press sheets. In the process, the vast majority of the sheets are die cut, then cut further into individual panes and packaged for sale enabling the user to peel the stamps and place them on covers. Recently, a few thousand press sheets have been set aside and remain without the die cuts. Thus this new collecting phenomena has been born. For years a big deal has been made of stamps having a different number of perforations. Well now, we have stamps with none. This makes these a different stamp, with their own Scott Catalogue number, even though it contains the same subject matter as a regular die cut stamp. The exciting part of these stamps is their rarity, as they only come in the full press sheet format, in very limited numbers. The collector can do their own custom cutting making truly unique specimens. When a regular stamp is peeled from its backing for use, all you have is the same stamp everyone else has. When a no-die-cut stamp is cut for use, whatever selvage, or plate number that's adjoining, comes with the stamp for use, making a very unique and rare specimen. Imagine having a regular non coil stamp with a plate number as part of the stamp! Add to this the scenario of a very limited production in the low thousands, and the even smaller number of press sheets actually cut into individual stamps gives us the possibility of historic rarities in our present time. This area is open to all, and is actually illustrated by the backgrounds of both authors of this guide. Jill Ambrose has collected seriously for over half a century, having extensive U.S. and worldwide collections. I have not collected stamps at all, save accumulating small quantities here and there. The fact that collecting a used copy of every no-die-cut stamp issued thus far, and that it is very much possible, is what brought me in. Jill has a complete collection of press sheets, panes, and used copies, more than likely the only collector to do so. While I can't go that far, I can acquire a used copy of each of the 273 stamps issued thus far, which likely will only be accomplished by a limited number of collectors. Thus, whether your personal collecting background is limited, or extensive, this can be for you. We don't know how much longer all back issues will be readily available, as the available copies are limited. The future value of these stamps is something we hesitate to estimate as it depends on future demand. Right now a good rule of thumb for most issues either new or used is approximately double face. With these no-die-cut issues, some of the rarer ones are already ten times or more than face. This brings us to this guide. We now are three and a half years into the program, with 108 different press sheets containing 273 individual stamps. Every stamp, and in some cases, the entire pane is pictured along with a description of content, plus the issue date and Scott number. We at the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society have given our own unique numbering system to each press sheet, and each stamp that has been issued through 2015. We will continue adding to this as we go forward through 2016 and beyond. With each stamp described, we have added boxes that can be checked as the collector acquires these stamps in all formats we can presently think of.

About the AuthorAbout Jill R. Ambrose: Contact her at JillAmbrose@zoomtown.com 32 year member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) Published author in the American Philatelist magazine, Member of APS Writers Unit #30 27 year member of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC3) Digital Edition Producer of Coil Line, PNC3 monthly journal Two term Past President, Current At-Large Board member Content Mistress and former Web Mistress of the club website at PNC3.org Long time member of the United States Stamp Society Contributor to the Durland Catalog and the Specialist Magazine 30+ year member of the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society Editor of Syncopated Perfs, the club newsletter, for 20 years Co-Chair of annual show, CINPEX, Webmaster of club website, Past President Contributor to Linn's Stamp News and the Scott Catalogue Trustee of the Rosie Reds Inc., a philanthropic and social organization focused on supporting the Cincinnati Reds, MLB. About James A. Siekermann: Contact him at Jims150320@aol.com I came into the philatelic scene as a postcard collector, being a member of the Cincinnati Postcard Club from 1992 to 2002. Having attended numerous CINPEX shows in search of postcards and usable postage, I joined the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society in 1996 and continue to this day. From this involvement I began working on the CINPEX staff in 1998-9, becoming bourse chairman in 2000, and Co-Chairman of CINPEX from 2001 to the present. I have been working to enhance the collecting experience for all show attendees and club members in the 20 years I've been associated with the club. This guide and the new collecting area it chronicles is the latest effort to present to the collecting public the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of this developing rarity while it is still feasible.