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Numismatics and Philately

(Classes CJ, HE6000-HE7496, HG (portions of) Z695.1.P67, Z697.P53, Z5956.P6, Z6866-Z6870, Z7164, P85)

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I. Scope

This Collections Policy Statement addresses publications about numismatics and philately as subjects. The Library does not acquire postage stamps, coins, or medals for its permanent collections. Responsibility for such collecting is deferred to the Smithsonian. Numismatics is assigned to the entire CJ class and includes tokens and medals as well as coins. Although military medals are generally assigned to Class U, Class CJ does include numerous volumes on medals that could be considered art while many quite similar titles are to be found classified in NK. Tokens come in many varieties and are most usually associated with, but not limited to, transportation systems or retail stores.

Additionally, collecting banknotes is a subfield of numismatics. Works relating specifically to banknotes as collectibles are integrated in Class HG by country and are considered to be part of a country's monetary policy. Works which address both a country's coins and banknotes are classified in HG, even if both are treated as collectibles. Other material important to the study of both coinage and paper money is to be found in Class HJ (Public finance). Public finance is covered in the Economics and Business Collections Policy Statement.

Although Philately is assigned a rather narrow call number range in Class HE (Transportation and Communications), it is adjacent to the broader subject Postal Service. As any serious philatelic research is impossible without consultation of this broader topic, this policy statement includes Postal Service.

II. Research Strengths

In addition to having one of the top five collections of numismatics and philately publications in the United States, the Library of Congress also supports in-depth scholarly research in related areas. These areas most notably include government documents, foreign and domestic. The microform collections include complete runs of Coin World and Linn's Stamp News. Several hundred volumes published prior to 1800, mostly on numismatics, are in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. The Manuscript Division houses a number of collections important to researchers, including Theodore Roosevelt's presidential papers. Roosevelt was almost single-

handedly responsible for changing the designs on many United States coins in the early 20th century. Correspondence relating to the gold and silver standards for United States specie are also to be found in presidential papers. Debates on these and other topics can be found in the Congressional Record and its predecessors, again emphasizing the importance of government documents. The Asian Division and the Near East and Hebraic Sections of the African and Middle Eastern Division house a small amount of relevant material in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, and Hebrew.

III. Collecting Policy

1. The Library shall acquire at Level 5:

a. Scholarly journals, whether subscription or sent as a condition of membership, emanating from societies and/or associations, regardless of language or country of origin. Additionally, scholarly journals offered only by subscription and not published under the auspices of any organization, are to be acquired.

b. Major English language serials devoted to collecting coins or stamps.

c. Museum catalogs.

d. Scholarly monographs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, collected works, festschriften, and biographies of noted collectors, dealers, and designers; scholarly works on the history of philately and numismatics; yearbooks and almanacs.

2. The Library of Congress collects at Level 3 or Level 4:

a. Serials and monographs whose sole purpose is to espouse or detail the investment value of stamps and coins.

b. Works whose audience is the beginning collector.

c. Auction catalogs, including those which list pre-auction price estimates or which survey auctions of the previous year.

3. The Library shall collect at Level 1:

a. Juvenile works.

4. The Library does not collect:

a. Albums meant to house collections, with minimal or no text included.

b. Sales catalogs of individual dealers.

NOTE: It is not unusual for scholarly works to be in pamphlet form and/or self-published: retention of these materials shall be based on useful or scholarly content. In the cases of numismatics and philately, these criteria should be applied regardless of the probable cataloging result, i.e. full cataloging, minimal level cataloging, collection level cataloging.

The Copyright Best Edition statement provides guidance for selecting materials for the permanent collections in numismatics and philately.

IV. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future

The Library's monograph and serial collections in the subject areas of numismatics and philately are primarily the result of copyright deposit. However, the broad range of holdings of non-US material are due to purchase, both through agreements with the Library's foreign contract book dealers and ordering from publishers' catalogs by Recommending Officers. Government documents are a particularly important resource in the study of the history of postal service and the mails. The Library's extensive holdings of non-U.S. documents are a direct result of its foreign exchange agreements.

V. Collecting Levels

NUMISMATICS

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| CJ1-CJ9 | Serials A. Official publications of societies and associations B. Subscription journals 1. Scholarly 2. Hobbyist U.S. Hobbyist Other Countries | 5431 |
| CJ14-CJ41 | Societies Including congresses, yearbooks, monographs and pamphlets, exhibition catalogs | 4 |
| CJ42-CJ45 | Museums | 4 |
| CJ47 | Sales Catalogs (Auction) | 2 |
| CJ49 | Sales Catalogs (Dealers) | 0 |
| CJ53-CJ101 | Philosophy, Study and Teaching, History, Directories, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias, general works juvenile works on the above | 41 |
| CJ109-CJ151 | Works on coins, by material (gold, silver, etc) | 4 |
| CJ153-CJ161 | Finds of Coins (Hoards, etc.) Scholarly works which analyze find's contents | 34 |

ANCIENT COINS

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| CJ201-CJ277 | Periodicals, exhibitions, sales catalogs | 4 |
| CJ301-CJ763 | Greek Coins | 4 |
| CJ801-CJ1139 | Roman Coins | 4 |
| CJ1201-CJ129 | Byzantine Coins | 4 |

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---|
| CJ1301-CJ1397 | African and Oriental | 4 |
|---------------|----------------------|---|

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| CJ1509-CJ1743 | Medieval and Renaissance (by period or ethnic group; includes periodicals, dictionaries, and encyclopedias on these specific topics) | 4 |
| CJ1747-CJ1758 | Modern (by century, region or country) | 4 |
| CJ1800-CJ2449 | America 1. United States 2. Other North and South American countries | 54 |
| CJ2500-CJ3387 | Europe 1. Great Britain (including colonies) 2. All other countries | 44 |
| CJ3370-CJ3889 | Asia (includes Near East) | 4 |
| CJ3900-CJ4389 | Africa | 4 |
| CJ4400-CJ4419 | Australia | 4 |
| CJ4580-CJ4599 | New Zealand | 4 |
| CJ4600-CJ4625 | Pacific Islands | 4 |

TOKENS

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| CJ4801 | Periodicals | 4 |
| CJ4803-CJ4804 | Collected Works | 4 |
| CJ4805-CJ4808 | Museums | 4 |
| CJ4813 | Dictionaries and Encyclopedias | 4 |
| CJ4815-CJ4825 | General Works | 3 |
| CJ4861-CJ4889 | By time period | 3 |
| CJ4901-CJ5450 | By region or country, except United States | 2 |
| CJ4901-CJ4910 | United States | 5 |

MEDALS AND MEDALLIONS

| LC Classification | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|

| | | |
|---------------|--|----|
| CJ5501 | Periodicals, Serials | 4 |
| CJ5502 | Congresses | 4 |
| CJ5505-CJ5506 | Collected works | 4 |
| CJ5507-CJ5508 | Exhibitions | 4 |
| CJ5509-CJ5512 | Museums | 4 |
| CJ5513-CJ5514 | Sales Catalogs 1. Auction 2. Dealers | 20 |
| CJ5517-CJ6569 | By time period, topic, or region or country except CJ5801-CJ5819 United States CJ6101-CJ6119 Great Britain | 54 |

PHILATELY

POSTAL SERVICE

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| HE6001-HE6009 | Periodicals, Societies, Serials A. United States B. All other countries | 53 |
| HE6011 | Congresses | 5 |
| HE6015 | Museums. Exhibitions | 4 |
| HE6031 | Guides. Directories | 5 |
| HE6035 | Encyclopedias. Dictionaries | 5 |
| HE6037 | Geography. Post routes A. United States B. All other countries | 53 |
| HE6041-HE6055 | History | 5 |
| HE6101-HE6176 | Special Topics (including rates, postal money orders, unclaimed mail) A. United States B. All other countries | 53 |
| HE6182 | Stamps and Postmarks. General works on history and description | 5 |

POSTAGE STAMPS

| LC Classification | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----|
| HE6183 | Works on postage stamps by topic depicted | 4 |
| HE6184 | Other aspects; includes airmail, cancellations, first day covers, errors, postage due, etc. | 4 |
| HE6185 | Works on Postage Stamps by region or country 1. United States 2. Other countries | 54 |
| HE6187 | Serials Serials for Juveniles | 41 |
| HE6188 | Societies | 4 |
| HE6189 | Congresses | 4 |
| HE6191 | Exhibitions (Museums and public collections) | 4 |
| HE6194 | Yearbooks and Almanacs A. United States B. All other countries | 54 |
| HE6196 | Dictionaries and Encyclopedias A. English Language B. All other languages C. Juvenile works | 521 |
| HE6199 | Collected Works | 4 |
| HE6203 | History of Philately (both general works and works on individual countries) | 4 |
| HE6206-HE6209 | Biography (of collectors and collections; directories of collectors and dealers) | 4 |
| HE6213 | General Works | 4 |
| HE6215 | Handbooks, Manuals, etc. (juvenile works on above) | 31 |
| HE6217 | Addresses, essays, lectures | 3 |
| HE6221-HE6228 | Albums, catalogs, price lists (albums which are for display purposes only are not collected. Standard catalogs for the identification of stamps, such as Scott's and Stanley Gibbons are collected comprehensively. Juvenile works are not collected.) | 3 |
| HE6226 | Price Lists | 1 |
| HE6228 | Exchange lists | 0 |
| HE6238-HE6239 | Airmail and other special types of Mail transport. A. United States B. All other countries | 54 |

| | | |
|---------------|--|----|
| HE6241 | Postal Service employees, including letter carriers. A. United States B. All other countries | 52 |
| HE6246 | International postal service. General works | 5 |
| HE6251-HE6261 | International Postal Union | 5 |
| HE6275-HE6276 | Pan American Postal Union | 5 |
| HE6278 | Other Postal Unions | 4 |
| HE6300-HE6499 | United States Postal Service, including history, regional and state, rates, biography, accounting, automation, money orders etc. | 5 |
| HE6500 | Confederate States | 5 |
| HE6651-HE7496 | Postal Service in regions or countries other than the United States | 3 |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

| LC Classification | | Collecting Levels |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Z695.1 P67 | Postage stamps | 5 |
| Z697.P53 | Philately | 5 |
| Z5956.P6 | Various aspects of postal service, including library catalogs on this subject | 5 |
| Z6866-Z6870 | Numismatics | 5 |
| Z7164 P85 | Postal Service | 5 |

Revised by the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, November 2008.