

Stamp collecting 集邮

Vocabulary: Memorabilia and collections 纪念品和收藏词语

What have former French President, Nicholas Sarkozy, ex-Beatles singer John Lennon and female tennis champion Maria Sharapova got in common? They all share a passion for **philately**, or stamp collecting.

As fewer people send letters to one another, the hobby of stamp collecting has steadily been in decline. But in tough economic times the market for **desirable** stamps has been booming.

A rare stamp **in mint condition** can hold real value. **Collectable** or **limited-edition** stamps can sell for many times their original value. Stamps can even attract serious investors: the Treskilling Yellow, a Swedish stamp originally printed in 1855, was sold at a private auction in 2010 for the sum of \$2.3 million (14.6 million yuan).

Stamp **memorabilia** is also a **flourishing** business, as they provide great **souvenirs** for important occasions. They can **commemorate** important anniversaries, such as Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, or celebrate **enduring** cultural **icons**, like The Beatles. Some argue that stamp collecting is also a great way to learn about other nations and their cultures.

Interest in stamp collecting has also grown in emerging economies, such as India and Brazil, as it provides a **sound** and stable investment opportunity for collectors. In China, where stamp collecting was once seen as a potentially **subversive** activity, it is now a **thriving** hobby for millions. Chinese stamps produced in the 1960s during the Cultural Revolution are especially **highly-prized**, compared with European stamps from the same period.

In the UK, the Royal Mail recently **issued** a variety of stamps to **honour** each gold medal winner from Great Britain's successful Olympic team. Stamps are therefore used as a way to **venerate** national heroes.

Although she herself appears on many UK and Commonwealth stamps, one of the largest collections belongs to Queen Elizabeth II, as she **inherited** the **treasured** set from her father, King George V. He **amassed** a huge **compendium** after visiting many countries around the world.

So, while some people see stamp collecting as a boring **sideline** for grey-haired men, it can prove to be an educational and financially **astute** pastime.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分



Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What other name can be used to describe stamp collecting?
2. What phrase describes an item in a perfect form?
3. What is the collective term for souvenirs and collectables?
4. What verb means to honour or revere?
5. What other word is used to describe a collection?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. A _____ book dedicated to contemporary Nigerian photography recently launched in Lagos and London – only 500 copies are available.

flourishing	limited-edition	philately	investors
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2. A specially designed plaque has been unveiled in Ayrshire to _____ the first-ever railway to carry passengers in Scotland.

sound	compare	stamp	commemorate
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3. David's experience in the military has given him a _____ basic training in first aid.

sideline	compendium	investment	sound
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4. Chinese cuisine varies greatly by region, but almost every province has its own _____ recipe for pork.

treasured	computer	collectable	memorabilia
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5. Sir Alex Ferguson is an extremely _____ football manager who has led Manchester United to many trophies and victories.

collectable	mint condition	astute	hobby
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What other name can be used to describe stamp collecting? philately
2. What phrase describes an item in a perfect form? in mint condition
3. What is the collective term for souvenirs and collectables? memorabilia
4. What verb means to honour or revere? to venerate
5. What other word is used to describe a collection? compendium

Exercise 练习

1. A limited-edition book dedicated to contemporary Nigerian photography recently launched in Lagos and London – only 500 copies are available.
2. A specially designed plaque has been unveiled in Ayrshire to commemorate the first-ever railway to carry passengers in Scotland.
3. David's experience in the military has given him a sound basic training in first aid.
4. Chinese cuisine varies greatly by region, but almost every province has its own treasured recipe for pork.
5. Sir Alex Ferguson is an extremely astute football manager who has led Manchester United to many trophies and victories.

Glossary 词汇表

philately	集邮, 集邮者
desirable	抢手的, 中意的
in mint condition	崭新的
collectable	可收集物, 珍藏物
limited edition	限量版
memorabilia	纪念品
flourishing	繁荣兴旺的
souvenirs	纪念品
commemorate	纪念
enduring	持久的
icons	偶像人物
sound	明智的, 可靠的
subversive	颠覆性的
thriving	繁荣兴旺的
highly-prized	被视为珍宝的
issued	发行
honour	(以示) 纪念
venerate	尊敬
inherited	继承的
treasured	珍视的
amassed	积聚, 收集
compendium	概略 (成套的邮票)
sideline	副业
astute	精明的