

following review helpful. Statistical abstract
By A Customer
Classic US stamps only. This is not a book for the general US collector or someone seeking information on the best method of buying for his/her US collection, since it deals with US Scott Catalog numbers before 834 only. The likelihood of forgery, fault repair, regumming or other misrepresentation in these issues must be extraordinary, given the frequent use of the term, "Beware." Mr. Datz makes a strong case for expertization of nearly every issue in this group. The data on scarcity may be useful for debunking those advertised "really scarce" offers in this high dollar area.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic US Stamps only
By A Customer
This is essentially a statistical extract of auction lots with some editorial comment for each "Classic US" stamp presented. It does not deal with any modern issues or give any insight about the general subject of buying US issues at discount prices. After reading this book, I have no confidence that a beginning or even intermediate collector can avoid buying troublesome classic stamps without expertization.

Using more than 100,000 computerized individual stamp auction lots as a starting point, this incredible resource assesses all U.S. issues on a stamp-by-stamp basis, providing a powerful tool for buying the right stamp at the right price. Featuring more than 600 photos that augment the text, this guide has convenient sections on scarcity, general comments, premium characteristics, and caveats. Stamp prices are based on subtle grades of condition, and consumers are at a disadvantage if they do not have the dealer's intimate knowledge gained from handling hundreds of stamps on a daily basis. This book puts the consumer at the same level as the dealer. A panel of experienced and respected stamp dealers and experts generously share their knowledge on all aspects of stamps, including color and freshness, centering and margins, gum and hinging, faults and imperfections, and fakes and problem stamps.

About the Author
Stephen R. Datz is America's most prolific stamp book author, with eight other philatelic books and more than a hundred articles in such stamp periodicals as Scott's Monthly Journal and The Stamp Wholesaler. He is the former editor of StampMarket Update.