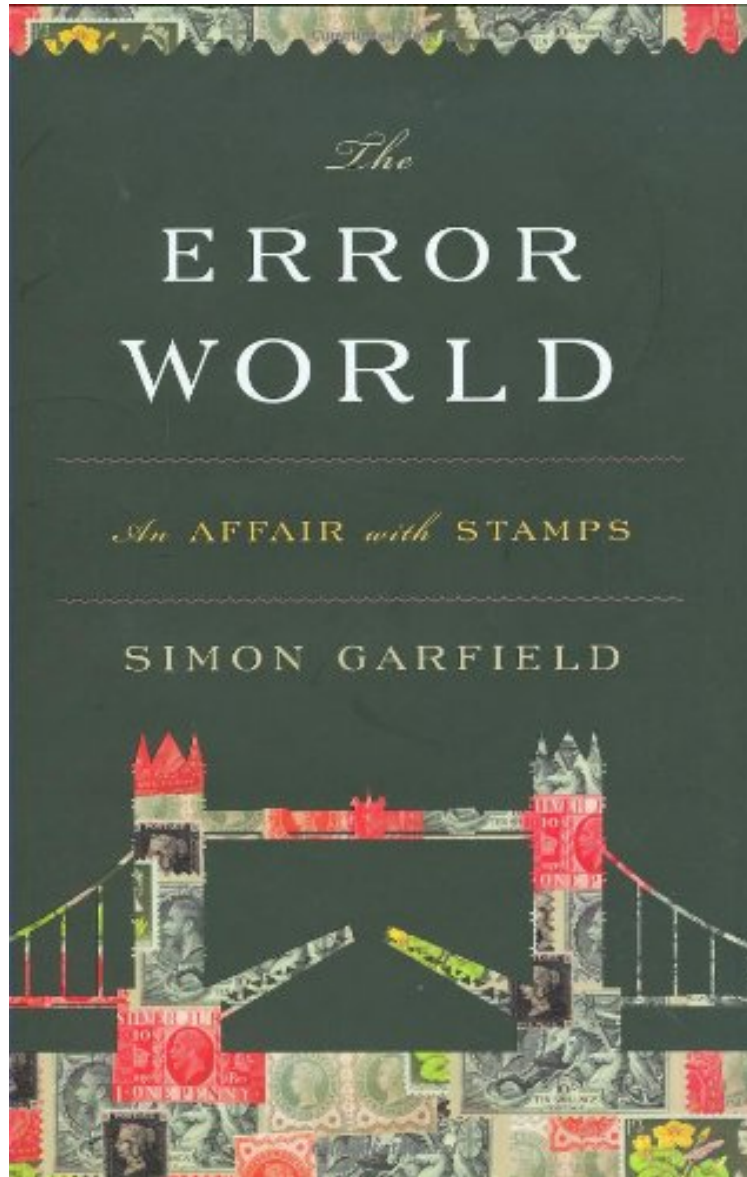


(Get free) The Error World: An Affair with Stamps

The Error World: An Affair with Stamps

Mr. Simon Garfield

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Mr. Simon Garfield : The Error World: An Affair with Stamps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Error World: An Affair with Stamps:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Stamp collecting as a metaphor?By Jill MeyerAnother reviewer of this book on USA - who gave the book three stars - asks a question of what "conceit" a person has to have to think their lives are interesting enough to write a memoir and have other people pay money to read it. It's a good question -

very good, and thank you "Mendicant Pigeon" for asking it - and actually applies to any memoir, not just this one. Simon Garfield has written many interesting books about a variety of subjects - ranging from the color mauve to AIDS in Britain to attitudes in Britain during and after WW2 to his latest, a book on type fonts. He's a clever writer about subjects that are not of general interest but are of interest to a large enough subset of readers who have the coin to buy his books and the time to read them. Along the way, he managed in his personal life to lose three members of his family - parents and older brother in the span of a few years - and to marry, father two sons, and then have an affair and divorce his wife. During this busy time, he also collected stamps - off and on - and returned to his collecting ways during his marital problems. Okay, returning to Mendicant's question, is this the stuff of memoir? To me the answer is "yes", because this is Simon Garfield's memoir and he has addressed odd stuff before - though not in a personal way of a memoir. Memoirs are "sticky wickets", the author must know that most people don't much care about an author's life and attendant joys and woes. If it's a famous person - say Bill Clinton - there's more interest in the memoir because he's FAMOUS. (As an aside, as much as I liked Bill Clinton, I found his memoir one-big-yawn because he seemed to include everything with little editing. I like "editing"...) The best memoirs - to me, at least - are those by little-known people. We don't go into them with any preconceived notion of the person we're reading about. So, yes, I think Simon Garfield's memoir, "The Error World: An Affair about Stamps, is a well-written read. If you care in the very least about the intricacies of stamp collecting - actually, about collecting anything - and don't mind reading about a man's mid-life crisis being told in the terms of stamp collecting, this is a book for you. If you don't care a bit about mid-life crises, then don't pick this book up. It's actually very easy. And thanks again, Mendicant, for asking... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Philatelists will love this one. By clw An entertaining, well-written, non-fiction read for anyone who collects anything, but especially postage stamps. Rare stamps (in particular, errors) could be considered extreme collecting, and this story is all about that. It is also an insightful self analysis about midlife. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unexpected, enjoyable read. By Greg A. Herbert Not sure how I came across this book but I quite enjoyed it. A somewhat eclectic collection of stories relating to stamp collecting and collecting in general. Provided some insight into my own collecting obsessions.

From the author of *Mauve*, an obsessively readable memoir that brings the mania for stamp collecting to life. From the Penny Red to the Blue Mauritius, generations of collectors have been drawn to the mystique of rare stamps. Once a widespread pastime of schoolboys, philately has increasingly become the province of older men obsessed with the shrewd investment, the once-in-a-lifetime find, the one elusive beauty that will complete a collection and satisfy an unquenchable thirst. As a boy, Simon Garfield collected errors—rare pigment misprints that create ghostly absences in certain stamps. When this passion reignited in his mid-forties, it consumed him. In the span of a couple of years he amassed a collection of errors worth upwards of forty thousand pounds, pursuing not only this secret passion, but a romantic one as his marriage disintegrated. In this unique memoir, Simon Garfield twines the story of his philatelic obsession with an honest and engrossing exploration of the rarities and absences that both limit and define us. The end result is a thoughtful, funny, and enticing meditation on the impulse to possess.

PRAISE FOR MAUVE "Garfield has surpassed himself with his new subject matter: *Mauve* elegantly relates the tale of Victorian chemist William Perkin who, in 1856, failed to make quinine from coal tar but discovered instead how to synthesize the colour purple. Fascinating stuff."—*Esquire* "This engaging and airy history shows how the development of mauve, the first mass-produced artificial dye, ignited a 19th-century revolution . . . Garfield has inspired me to wear a bit of mauve this spring to honour this inventive man."—*The New York Times*