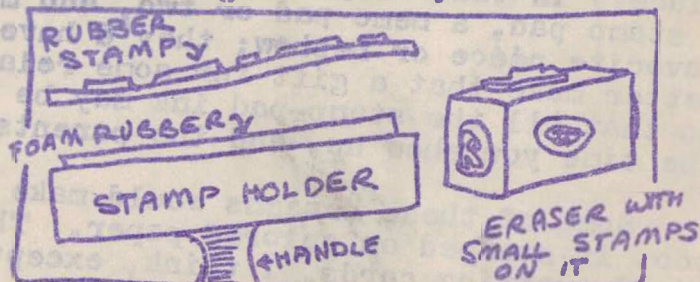


GOOD HOUSEKEEPING #3

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This week we cleaned out another box; this one full of rubber stamps! When Ann Chamberlain was trying to make a small living off the home manufactory of rubber stamps, I helped her drum up business. She then gratefully gave me lots of extra stamps (whee!) and Ernie started to bring home stamp pads and handles and such from work (he worked at a correspondence school, which used up stamps quickly) and somehow we ended up, as we always seem to, with a boxful of stamps....

So, if you need a stamp...let me know! I'm not going to stamp 50 pages with these silly things, so forget it. If you are interested, pick out the items you want from the list and send me some postage for them, and I'll help add some kipple to your den! If you want a holder with handle, add some more postage; I have them from 1 inch to 7 inches wide, and as long. It is simple to make your own stamp set; just use rubber cement to both lettering and holder (use an art gum eraser for small items), let glue dry, then add some more glue to only one of the items, and stick together. Like so: Rubber cement is marvelous for this sort of thing, because you can also peel it off again if you wish.



None of the stamps are mounted, save a couple of odd ones, right now but it can be arranged. I'm not interested in charging anything for the stamps, but will expect you to pay postage at least; fair 'nuf? For a dime, I can put quite a few unmounted stamps in an envelope.

I have a large "TRADE" stamp mounted. And a bordered "SEC. 34.66, P.L. & R?". (Whatever that means!). "CIRCULATION COPY" and "RON ELLIK FOR TAFF" are also mounted. Unmounted one-of-a-kinds: "REGISTERED No...." "INSURED.....FEE", "DISTRIBUTORS' INC.", "MANUFACTURER WHOLESALE RETAIL", "HAVE I GOT RUBBER STAMPS? ..ANY 3 LINES: \$2.08: WITH ORDER", "SCOPE", "THIRD CLASS MAIL", "PAID", "NEWS. HERE", "FOR TAFF", "INFORMATION", "IF", "IMMEDIATE", "EASE", "YOU", "STREET", "OK", "COUNTY", "SALE", "USE", "NO", "IS", "WHY DON'T YOU", and one I've been puzzled about for some time: "Please ignore the above questions and those appearing on Examination sheet on next page". I also have a stamp reading: "PRE*SEASON INTRO* DUDTORY OFFER!--24.90 Complete with necessary fittings". Also assorted large letters of the alphabet, mostly cut up to form words like "Book Rate" or some such message, but long since just tossed in the box.

There are assorted "Los Angeles, California" stamps, in microelite, standard size, and script. I have one stamp of the globe design used by the ISFCC, and several "Member, NFFF" with the club emblem, also. Fannishly, we have on hand "Look", "Flash", "Return Postage Guaranteed", "Printed Matter", "Post Card", "This is Your Last Issue", "Your name is Mentioned", "Your sub expires next issue - write!", "Contains", "Trade", "Fun", "Review," "Contribute Material or artwork - Please", "Artwork- Do not mutilate", "May be opened for postal inspection", "Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society", and Rush in both large and small lettering. Also "First Class", "Parcel Post", "Quality Rubber Stamps", "Air Mail", "Recieved", "COD," "Special Delivery", "Due!", "Photographs Do Not Bend", "This Side Up", "Important!", "With Care", and "Glass".

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Also on hand is a multitude of small cuts, like the one of a phone, with the word "Call..." on it. Some of the stamps are teensy li'l ones, with the design only 1/4 inch high. They include: a figure with a lyre, a man herding ducks, a Scottie dog, an elephant toy, Hallowe'en cat, tiny bat, witch on a broom, Jack-o'-lantern, heraldic lion, moon and bat, laughing nouse, figure cutting wheat, wounded stag, stork, telephone, golfer, Santa & pack, dancing girl, clown, kewpie doll, Xmas present, lantern, toy soldier, toy horse, child with candle, man with bouquet of flowers, cards showing Aces, card pips, figure holding tray on head, large brackets, stars, assorted arrows, large stamp of garden wall and potted plant, couple celebrating party, Wise Man on camel, assorted border and edging designs, all very small, tiny Xmas bell, lightening bolt, American flag, turkey, leaping stag, and that's it. Some of these have a matching figure facing the other way, but not all. If you want more than one of each design, be sure to say so.

And if you want any of these at all, be sure to order them now; before we lose the box again! About all I can say for some of the designs (I don't even pretend to know why Ann made them up in the first place!) is that they'd make a great gift for some kid. You could buy a stamp pad, a memo pad or two, and mount some of these stamps for a favorite nécée or nephew; they'd have a ball. Umm...on second thought, better make that a gift for some relatives you don't visit very often; so that all the stamp-pad ink may be painted over in the kid's room by the time you show up, and the parents have forgotten all about it.

Some of these designs would make very nice gift enclosure cards, too, if stamped on colored paper. They are too tiny to make full sized greeting cards, I think, except maybe for ants, bees, or mice...

Anyway, there it is, people; remember that nothing is genuine if it doesn't have the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approbation on it!

About half of my problem in getting rid of junque is that I just can't bear to throw anything away so long as it seems useful. Even if it isn't useful to me. So in a way, Good Housekeeping is my way of trying to see that some of this kipple goes to a good home (some-one who will use it). I hate to just throw something out without giving it a try, anyway. Actually, I don't throw things out; I give them to a local charity such as Goodwill, or to one of the myriad rummage sales going on. Nothing ever goes to waste; even the rags that are much too worn to use as clothing is bundled up and sold by the hundredweight to paper mills for pulping. True, while they don't get much for that, it is still something, and every bit counts.

As a kid, I would have been barefooted lots more than I was if there had been no Salvation Army, so I have a certain regard for this fine institution. Some people may turn up their noses at going into such places, but I've found some real bargains in books, costumes, and clothing now and then; not to mention a few pièces of furniture that we couldn't otherwise afford.

Now that I'm on this cleaning out kick, all sorts of things are turning up. I was truly delighted when we found Bruce's comics, now valued well beyond my ability to replace them, safely packed away in a box labelled as containing something else! Who knows? I may even find my lovely trilobite fossil, someday...*sigh*.... --Bjo--