



Stamps by Larry McInnis

The ups and downs of interest in stamp collecting are followed as closely as the fortunes of political parties; measured by using mar-

ket analysis and - what else - polls. I have my own measurement: the number of books about philately published in

a given year, especially by the non-philatelic press. In good times, there are many; in bad times, they're few. In the early 1980's, during

the heyday of philatelic investment and speculation, when stamps that previously sold for not much more than pennies were suddenly bringing big dollars, there was a flood of philatelic books.

The bubble burst about 1981. There were few books after that.

In 1986, there was a

change. An early indication was the new revised edition of the huge paperback *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting* by Richard M.P. Cabeen. The book was written in 1965, republished in 1979 (when the market and interest in stamps was taking off), and then again in 1986, by Harper and Row.

In 1983, at the end of the boom era, Van Dahl Publications of Albany, Oregon published *Where in the World?*, a stamp atlas prepared by Ken Wood, a philatelic writer of great renown. He is editor emeritus of *Stamp Collector*, a weekly. Letters are invited.

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