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Worthless stamps issued by many small countries

by LARRY MCINNIS
More and more philatelists are complaining about more and more stamps being issued.

The result? More and more stamps are being issued.

In 1984, a record was set, with 9,254 stamps issued throughout the world, and 908 miniature sheets.

That beats the previous record, set in 1983 with 7,830 stamps and 825 miniature sheets.

It's the killing stamp collecting. It's certainly a reason why collectors should look at one country, since it's obvious it's impossible to have a complete worldwide collection.

Canada issued a comparatively modest 38 stamps and one miniature sheet in 1984. In fairness, in the compilation prepared by "Michel Rundshau", the German monthly stamp magazine, miniature sheets are counted as one unit.

Canada's sheet actually contained 12 stamps.

The United States issued 57 stamps.

St. Vincent and Grenadines led the

world with 308 stamps and one miniature sheet. Since the sheet counts as one unit, that's 309 units.

St. Vincent is an island in the Caribbean. The Grenadines are a group of small islands, 600 of them totalling 44 km, between St. Vincent and the Grenadines of Grenada. Total area of St. Vincent and Grenadines is 390 km, with a population of some 120,000.

Also in the top 15 are, in order Libya, 272 units, North Korea, 234; Guyana, 220; Central African Republic, 214; Togo, 173; Vietnam, 166; Grenada and Grenadines, 146; Guinea, 134; Hungary, 128; Parguay, 126; Soviet Union, 124; Bhutan, 108; Laos, 103; Nevis, 97.

It doesn't take much imagination to realize there's a whole lot of stamp issuing going on, designed to bring in hard currency from western collectors. And some of the worst offenders are in the West!

The philatelic resale value of this stuff is zero.



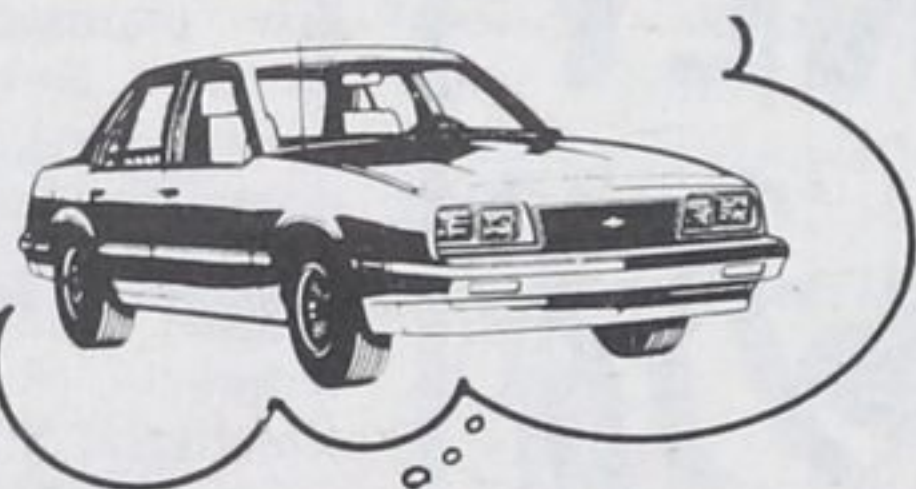
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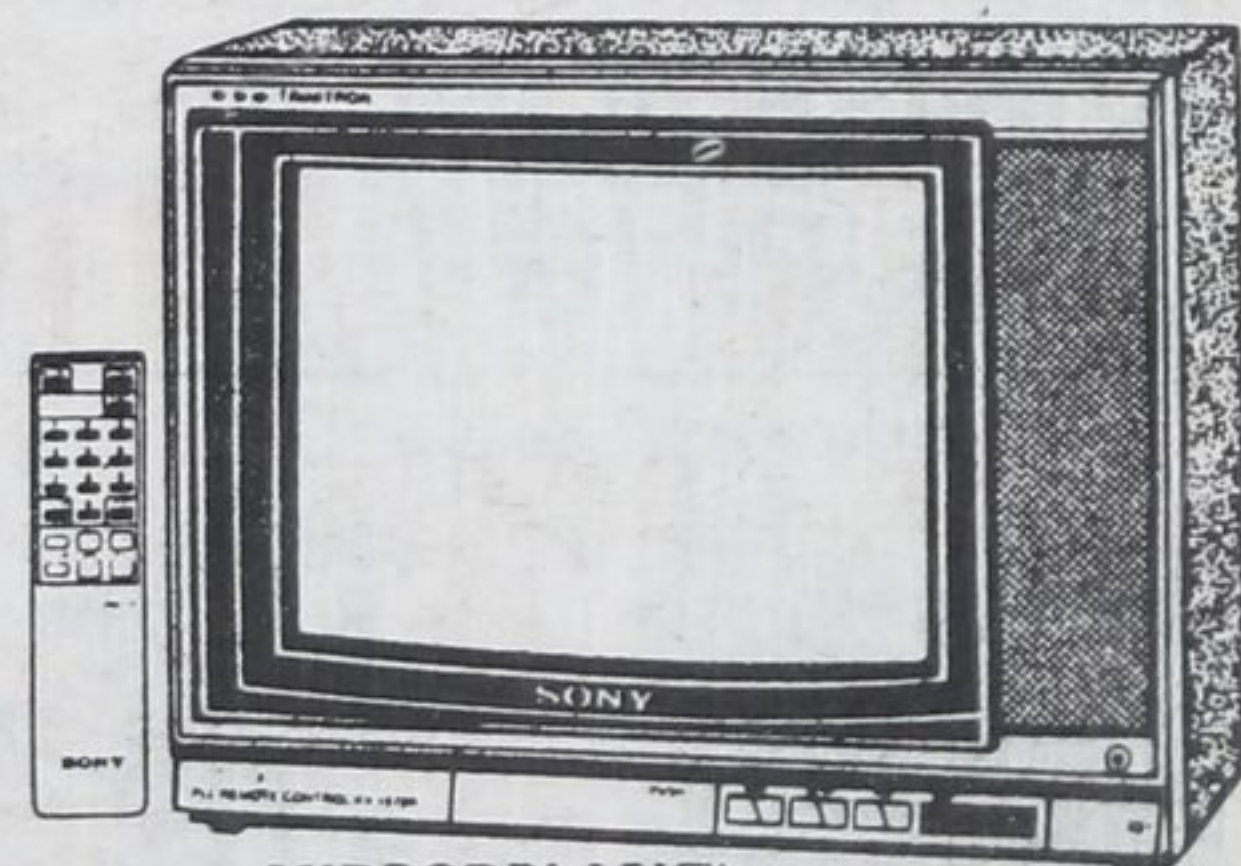
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