

Dr. David N. Mielke (North Carolina)



David has been a stamp collector and postal historian since December 1954 when he used a dollar he received for Christmas to buy a packaged album, stamps, and hinges. Like most philatelists, he began by collecting world-wide stamps, ultimately specializing in those from the United States and Germany.

He completed his doctorate at the University of Tennessee, writing his dissertation on the educational views of W.E.B. DuBois. His interest in collecting and studying African-American stamps and postal history began in the early 1970s when he acquired some slave documents. His African-American collection is wide-ranging and includes stamps, both U.S. and world-wide, depicting individuals and events, first day covers (especially "unofficial"), slave mail and documentation, Civil War covers, North Carolina post offices with African-American postmasters appointed by President Grant, boxing covers, postcards, advertising covers, HBCU covers, and autographs.

Mielke's German interest and African-American interest has common ground in his study and collection of the African-German colony of Witu-Schutzgebiet. The colony founded by two German brothers protected Africans living there from being enslaved. The stamps are listed in Michel (not Scott), are very interesting, and considered among the ugliest stamps ever produced.

David Mielke joined ESPER in 2006 at the invitation of Beatrice Cox. He has published several articles and is a regular exhibitor and presenter. He is a retired college professor and Lutheran pastor. He is married with two children and three grandchildren.