

Atwater man takes stamp collections to world show in New York

By [Carolyn Lange](#) on May 20, 2016 at 12:47 p.m.

A childhood pastime of collecting stamps — and, yes, this was a pastime of many kids back in the day — has grown to worldwide proportions for an Atwater man.

Alan Moll will travel to New York City next month where two of his thoroughly researched and immaculately displayed stamp collections will be judged at the 2016 World Stamp Show.

Moll said he will be “competing against people from all over the world” during the eight-day event, which is held May 28-June 4.

“I don’t have a chance in the world of getting a grand award,” said Moll, 62, a software developer for the U.S. Department of Defense.

But just in case judges do like what they see, Moll and his wife, Tammy, will be at the show in June when the awards ceremony takes place.

The fact that his exhibits were accepted for the show is a huge feather in his cap.



Moll has a pile of awards he has won during his years of competing at shows throughout the United States, but this is the first time he will be competing at the international level.

He filled out an application in March of 2015 and didn't find out until last fall that his exhibits were going to be in the show.

"Not everyone gets accepted," he said. "People are disappointed."

About 700 hundred people from around the world who have made philately — the official term used for the hobby of collecting stamps — their life passion will be competing in the international event, which typically attracts about 250,000 visitors.

Most competitors are only allowed to enter one exhibit. Moll said he is one 20 people who were allowed to enter two exhibits at the World Stamp Show this year.

One of his exhibits features the no-longer-used booklets of postal insurance stamps people could buy from a vending machine, fill out by hand and attach to parcels they wanted insured.

In the show listing, that exhibit is titled: "U.S. Vended Postal Insurance (1965-1985) - A Failed Experiment."

"It's something hardly anyone's heard about," Moll said of the insurance booklets, which were sold from 1965 to 1985.

"I like the obscure things," he said. "I like challenges. I like filling in the blanks."

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