

Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials

Subsidiary Page 10 Dealing with Scotch Tape

Scotch tape should remain in the kitchen and should never be seen in the stamp den. Adhesive tape of this type can easily render an otherwise attractive cover unfit for exhibiting and perhaps even collecting. An example of the deleterious presence of adhesive tape on a cover is shown in **Figure 13**.



Figure 13. Top portion of a cover with scotch tape applied at upper right.

After nearly 15 years, the adhesive tape used at the top of the cover shown in Figure 13 has turned an unsightly brown. With care, however, the tape can be removed and the cover cleaned. Follow these instructions carefully.

Soften the adhesive tape with a hand iron heated to a temperature just below that used for synthetic fabrics. Be careful that the iron is not too hot. Then, carefully pick up a corner of the tape and peel it off. If the tape is stubborn and will not come off, use an eye-dropper to apply a little acetone or trichloroethylene at the point where the tape is separating from the surface of the item. If acetone is used, be exceptionally careful since acetone is very flammable and as it will change the color of some stamps. Use a soft cloth with a bit of trichloroethylene and gently rub off the adhesive left on the cover or stamp. Always provide adequate ventilation when using these solvents, and follow the hazard instructions on the container. If feasible, apply the solvent out of doors where thorough ventilation is assured.