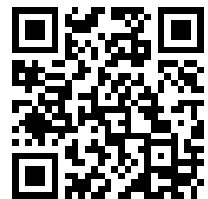

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PAUL F. STOLZE,
BOOKBINDER, PUBL.
AND PRINTER.
WAUSAU, - WIS.



SEP 5 - 1951

[Philatelic Journal of America]

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P5
v.16

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOLUME 16
NUMBER 1

JANUARY 5, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Owing to an accident, **Publisher's Notice** which caused unavoidable delay in getting out the magazine number bearing last week's date, it will be mailed a few days later than this paper.

This is the first number of a new volume. **The New Volume and the Old** We guarantee 1,000 pages for the year 1903, a magazine number every month, and several extra magazine editions. Some numbers of the last volume are out of print and only exist in complete volumes. A few unbound volumes of 1902—728 pages are available, \$2.00 post free. Any subscriber who paid one dollar for the volume and can supply a clean set of all the numbers will be paid \$1.25 for them, 25 per cent over cost.

A new value is to be added **A 25c. Stamp** to the U. S. "series of 1902." The gap between 15c. and 50c. is to be supplied with an intermediate value, probably 25c., as that is one that seems to be favored by the Post Office Department.

Some months ago we commented upon the need of a stamp of the kind. The Department was asked if such an addition was likely in the series of 1902, and answered negatively.

A more pointed article was then printed calling attention to the fact

that many large publishing and mail order houses had to use four, six and even eight stamps to make up postage rates on parcels requiring over 15c. and less than 50c., of which thousands are sent daily.

Our articles were reprinted in some of the largest papers of the country and the matter was brought to the attention of the P. O. Department in a manner that could not be ignored. A new value is the result.



VICTORIA

The 1 penny and 2 pence War Stamps, issued in Victoria, while the Transvaal War was in progress were sold at a considerable advance over face for the benefit of hospital service, or something of that kind.

The stamps, nevertheless were available for postal purposes at 1 penny and 2 pence but the compilers of Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue have very foolishly omitted them, and in this respect as in most others pertaining to British Colonies they have been followed by the compilers of the American Catalogue.

Not so, however, with Senf Brothers'

(Continued on Page 4)

NOTES AND COMMENTS

From the Eastern stamp papers we learn of the death of Mr. Wm. Alexander Smith, Jr., of New York City. Mr. Smith had been long and favorably known as a philatelist. He gave particular attention to oddities and varieties which made his collection a most interesting one:

Pacific Philatelic Society of San Francisco have offered a silver medal to the Boston Society which will be offered in the series of exhibitions of 1903.

One of the classes in a recent exhibition of stamps, held under the auspices of the Boston Philatelic Society called for fifty stamps each cataloging \$50 or over. There were five competitors entered and the total value of the collection aggregated \$45,000.

The reports of album sales from all parts of the United States are very favorable and indicate a large number of new collectors. Many old collections are being transferred to new books.

Mr. Roy Farrell Greene, who is well known to American collectors as a philatelic writer, has made a success in literary lines. His first book of dainty verses "Cupid is King" has been published by the Gorham Press of Boston; illustrations in tint are by Albert Reid, decorations by Warren Rockwell, 12 mo., \$1.25, post free.

Canada is ahead of the United States on the matter of postal registration. A 7c. stamp is all that is required for postage and registration to any point in Canada, United States or British Empire. It is time that the registration rate in the United States was receiving attention. Eight cents is an unreasonable charge for the service and it is no credit to the Post Office Department to boast of profit on a branch of service which curtails general utility. The new 7c Canadian postage stamp the denomination,

that serves to pay the postage and registration fee on domestic and imperial letters was issued the day before Christmas. Contrary to expectation in some quarters the stamp bears the head of Queen Victoria, uniform in design with the current issue. Color is bright olive yellow, said to have been adopted to insure effective cancellation.

Dissatisfaction among the dealers who handle the Scott Standard catalogue seems to have been general, regarding the delay that has occurred in issuing this much heralded edition. While the catalogue leaves a great deal to be desired, it is the only one that American dealers have, and the publishers made a great mistake in failing to recognize the demand for its issuance earlier in the season.

The time will no doubt come when a much better catalogue than this will become available.

In fact, the Stanley Gibbons 1903 catalogue in one volume, is preferred by very many collectors and we understand that it is meeting with very liberal support from American collectors. The time will not be far distant when a community of interests may produce a catalogue that will be something more than a dealers' price list.

The ink in which the Columbian 6c. is printed is of such a character that is susceptible to heat, light and other chemical action. Innumerable shades of this stamp exist, from a light shade of lilac to a deep purplish blue. The fact of a correspondent of an English stamp paper having discovered one in blue, need not lead collectors to believe that they are to be drawn upon for the cost of another error.

Some reprints of old Roman States masquerading on original covers were set out by a stamp faker in Italy.

The 62nd Edition of Scott's catalogue, issued by the Combine, was received in St. Louis January 2nd.

1903 CATALOGUE.

THE New Catalogue (**15th Edition**) bound in one volume (480 pages) priced in American currency is now ready, price **60** cents, post free.

BRITISH COLONIES which have received particular attention are Grenada, St. Vincent, South Australia, Tasmania and Zanzibar, having been entirely rewritten. Advanced collectors who are interested in the various perforations effected by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. will find that the lists of Grenada, St. Helena, St. Vincent and Western Australia have been divided in accordance with information supplied in our handbook "Grenada."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES. Chile and Greece have been entirely rewritten, and many countries revised and corrected to date.

The important feature of the **PRICES** has received our most careful attention, and we fully believe that the present Catalogue reflects the current market values as we go to press. We have an enormous stock, from the rarest to the commonest varieties, and we have been enabled to make a vast number of reductions in prices, more especially in the used stamps. The current and more recent issues have also been priced, in this new Catalogue, on a lower basis throughout than has formerly been the case.

The prices are those at which we can actually supply the stamps at the moment of going to press, and are strictly net in all cases.



"It is a book that should be in the library of every stamp collector in the United States."

—Editorial, Mekeel's Stamp Collector.



Address all orders to

STANLEY GIBBONS,

167A BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

(Continued from Page 1)

German Catalogue, which lists and illustrates these stamps as well as two others of similar character issued in 1897.

We are informed by correspondents in the Colony that there are no more of the 1900 War Stamps available and such as were unsold have been withdrawn from sale and destroyed.

Collectors who have disregarded the the advice of the cataloguers and obtained these stamps, will discover some day that they have done very well. They are interesting and no collection of Victorian postage stamps will be complete without them.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES

Mr. E. Uhlmann, La Cananea, Sonora, Mexico:—For information with regard to the character of the pre-cancelled United States Stamps and the conditions on which they are issued refer to the Holiday Magazine edition of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR.

WHAT OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAY

We have 1,600 paid subscribers and are pushing for 10,000. That prospective subscribers may know what the old ones say we print:

TESTIMONIALS

Enclose \$1.00 for 1903. The paper is O. K. and I enjoy it.

B. G. Jeffries, M. D.,
Chicago, Ill.

I am greatly pleased with your bright magazine. Enclose \$1.00 for 1903.

James C. Mills,
Pennington Gap, Va.

I renew for 1903 as I have been very much interested in your paper during 1902. Miriam B. Andrews,
Chicago, Ill.

Enclose \$1.00 for 1903. In the whole realm of philatelic literature (and I have read a great deal of it) none give me such *useful* information (sans gossip and chat) than your own.

R. R. McGill,
Chicago, Ill.

Enclose \$1.00 for 1903. The magazine editions are alone worth the price of subscription many times over, to say nothing of the healthy news at regular intervals. I should not like to be without it.

Chas. W. Schuler,
Montague City, Mass.

Enclose \$1.00 for 1903. Will say that I think the magazine numbers are *fine*.

H. J. Blackledge,
Benson, Ariz.

I hand you \$1.00 to renew my subscription. Would observe that to me the paper is quite valuable, the many pointers from it being worth far more than the subscription,—without mentioning its newness.

James T. Stanger,
Montreal, Canada.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for year's subscription to the STAMP COLLECTOR.

M. H. Lombard,
(Pres. Boston Philatelic Society.)

Enclosed find \$1.00 in renewal of my subscription to your STAMP COLLECTOR for 1903. Geo. L. Toppan,
(Ex-Pres. American Philatelic Association.)

A New 50% Discount Book

We have just added **Book No. 46**, to our 50% Discount Series of Approval Books. It will be very popular, and contains among other things the following:

Argentine, used officials of 1902 and the new 5c Rosario Harbor value.

Colombian Republic, varieties perforated and unperforated of the recent provisionals, *now cheap*, will be rare later.

Cook Islands, new colors of 1902 issue.

Finland, 1 mark, used.

Hayti, 1902, Provisional Government surcharged.

Morocco, some complete sets of these interesting stamps.

Netherlands, some fine used copies of the higher and scarce values.

Niue and Penrhyn Islands, 1902 issue.

ASK FOR BOOK No. 46, QUICK!

If you are a *General Collector*, you cannot do better than to go through our 50% Discount Series of Approval Books; *over 5,000 varieties*, and many that you will not find elsewhere in this class.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

NO DEFICIT

Postal receipts from all sources year end'g June 30, 1902, \$121,848,047.26
Expenditures..... 124,785,697.07
Apparent deficit..... 2,937,649.81

There were over 139 millions of first-class pieces of mail matter handled *free* for official government business. Over a million registered packages with a money value of 1,534 million dollars handled *free* for the P. O. and Treasury Department.

With these facts before any intelligent man, all talk of a postal deficiency is simply a misuse of words.

The U. S. postal service as far as the public is concerned is on a handsome paying basis. The Government should pay for its postal service. And we should have no more juggling of figures, and senseless talk of a *deficit*.



A POSTAL RECEIPT

It would serve a useful purpose, and be much appreciated by businessmen, if a cheap means could be devised—that would return the receipt of the addressee to the sender of a letter, without the necessity of registration.

A post card form for instance, on which the return address has been filled in by the sender, with a place for addressee's receipt on back, could be attached to or allowed to accompany the letter for which a receipt is desired. The carrier could secure the signature of the party when the letter is delivered and return the card immediately to the sender. A two-cent fee would be reasonable.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Hogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

BRIGHT'S NEW CATALOGUE

The 5th Edition "A B C" Catalogue issued by Bright & Sons, is before us. It is the only catalogue published in the English language that contains the adhesive stamps and stamped stationery of the entire world, and makes nearly 900 pages.

The illustrations, and particularly those of the United States stamps are very, very fine.

This catalogue will be very popular on this account, the laws prohibiting the illustration of U. S. stamps in this country.

Messrs. Bright & Sons are to be congratulated also for breaking away from the British custom of keeping the *penny* in place as the lowest unit of value. The $\frac{1}{2}$ -*penny* is used by them freely and greatly to the advantage of their work.

The inclusion of the large number of stamps of England and Colonies bearing the effigy of the King, gives this the title of the King Edward Edition.

The work will be sent post free by the publishers for 70c. Address:—

BRIGHT & SONS,
164 Strand, London, England.

MOROCCO

PACKET SULTAN containing one complete set of stamps, Tanger—Tetuan; one complete set Tanger—Arzila; one complete set Tanger—Fez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez Taxe; one complete set Fez—Sefro, one complete set Mazagan—Marrakesh; one complete set Saffi—Marrakesh; one complete set Mogador—Marrakesh; one set French Post of Morocco Postage Due 5, 10, 30, 50; one set French Post id 5, 10, 20, 25; one set Gibraltar $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d; one set Gibraltar Morocco Agencies 5, 10, 25; one set German Post 3, 5, 10, for **\$2.25**.

Packet containing only five sets at the choice of the buyer, for \$0 80
Each of the complete sets of local posts 25

Payment in advance or good references.

Cash by Postal Order.

J. ELMALEH, *Tangier, Morocco.*

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

LITERARY, FINE ART AND

PHILATELIC AUCTIONEERS

47, Leicester Square, London, W. C., England.

MAKE THE SALE OF

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

— A SPECIALTY. —

Where do you get the highest prices for English Colonials? Why, in England, of course.
Send postal card for priced catalogue of any of our recent sales and you will soon be convinced.

Some of the Fine and Rare Stamps which will be in Our Sale of January 20 and 21, 1903, which consists of a magnificent Private Collection, nearly everything UNUSED and in the Finest Possible Condition.

- Great Britain** 6p. and 10p. octagonal, mint, superb, and 10s. and £1 watermark cross, ditto.
- Ceylon** imperf. 8p. [2] and 9p. *used*, superb, and 10p. [2], 1s. 9p. [2] and 2s.; perf. star 1s. 9p. [2] and 2s. [2 pairs]; no wmk. 9p. [2] and 1s.; wmk. CC 2p. emerald [block of 4 and a pair], 5p. purple-brown [block of 4], and a magnificent lot of other mint pairs and blocks of the pence issues.
- Mauritius** post paid, two superb copies of the early 1p. *used* together on piece of original.
- Canada** imperf. 7½p. and 10p. and perf. 6p. mint, etc., etc.
- Bahamas** no wmk. perf. 14—16 1p. and 6p. and perf. 13 6p.; wmk. CC perf. 12½ 1s. mint.
- Barbados.** A very fine lot including wmk. large star rough perf. 1s. and clean cut perfs. 4p. and 1s.; small star 5s. rose [3], all mint, etc., etc.
- Grenada** broad star 2½p. and 4p., blocks of 4 of each; 1883 "Postage" on half of 1p., a strip of six; 1886 4p. with upright "d," all mint, and a superb lot of pairs, strips and blocks of the early issues.
- St. Lucia** 1st issue 1p., 4p. and 6p., a block of 6 of each; wmk. CC perf. 12½ 1s. orange, block of 4 of each shade; wmk. CA 1s. orange [surcharged], block of 4, all mint, etc.
- St. Vincent** wmk. star 5s.
- British Guiana** 1852 1c., a superb pair and a single; and 1856, an enormous copy of the 4c. and 1862 2c. [3] and 4c., all *used* and superb, etc.
- Victoria**—a very nice lot of various unused, a fine range of shades of the 1862 and 1876 issues [including two of the 4p. rosine, the 5s. blue on yellow], etc., etc.
- Western Australia** 1854 1p. [2 pairs], 4p. [3 pairs and 5 singles], 1s., 3 pairs and 10 singles, various shades, 1857 2p., 1860 6p., all unused and 1857 2p. and 6p. [5, two are gold bronze] and several values rouletted, all *used* and very fine and a splendid lot of unused blocks, etc. of the later issues.

OTHER SALES WE ARE HOLDING IN 1903:

January 6 and 7, 20 and 21; February 10 and 11, 24 and 25; March 10 and 11, 24 and 25; April 21 and 22; May 3 and 6, 19 and 20; June 9 and 10; Sept. 29 and 30; Oct. 13 and 14, 27 and 28; Nov. 10 and 11, 24 and 25; Dec. 8 and 9.

OWING to the very large number of commissions received from the Continent and America, the Catalogues are issued, when possible, one month or more before the date of sale. Owners wishing to include stamps should therefore forward them as early as possible.

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON'S Sales are attended by the majority of the leading collectors and dealers, and are the best medium for disposing of collections and single rarities, many record-prices for fine stamps having been obtained during past seasons.

The greatest care is taken in preparing the catalogues, in order that country and foreign buyers who send bids may rely upon condition, etc. of the various lots, being accurately described.

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For Terms and Full Particulars, Address **Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON,**

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47, Leicester Square, LONDON, W. C., ENGLAND.

\$1,000 1898 REVENUE.

\$500 " "
\$100 " "

Do you really intend to purchase above or similar rarities in 1898-1902 Rev., cut or uncut? If so, communicate with me. Do you want scarce blocks of such stamps as \$50 bistre, *uncut*. Remember such things as above are not cheap, but as an investment they are O. K., and as for the simon pure collector he knows he has something very few others have. The demand for these stamps is greater than the supply, therefore, there cannot be but one result and that is that prices must advance, and these stamps will never be cheaper than at present.

Anything else in U. S. that you want? I am at your service.

For the average collector I have a nice line of U. S. and foreign at reasonable prices. Remember, good stamps in good condition are worth a good price, and no dealer can sell any large number of different varieties at 66-2-3 commission.

W. C. PHILLIPS, (Box A) Glastonbury, Ct.

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'd.

36 John St., New York City

Sell all new issues at a trifle over face value.

Natal King's Head, two colors, ½p. lp. 1½p. 5p.
6p. 1s, set perfect centre, mint..... 71c

Gold Coast King's Head, ½p. lp. 2. 2½p. 6p. 1s,
set perfect centre, mint..... 65c

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC

1892. 10c black on buff, mint, o. g..... \$0 03

1899. 50c blue on violet, mint, o. g..... 08

1892. 1 peso blue on green, mint, o. g..... 16

1892. 5 pesos red on pale rose, mint, o. g..... 75

1892. 10 pesos blue on white, mint, o. g..... 1 50

47 CIRCULARS FREE.

"OMEGA"

Some people say advertising

does not pay. That depends on what you have to offer. If something no one wants, then it does not pay, but if you have something that every stamp collector needs, as for instance, "Omega" Hinges, then it does pay. The "Omega" is recognized even by makers as the leading hinge, therefore you need it. Send 35 cents for special 10,000.

R. M. GAY & CO. Brooklyn, N. Y.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.



\$3000.00

I want a billiard room, a den, four sleeping rooms and a bath added to my dwelling. Rather than borrow the money and pay interest I have decided to sell \$3000 worth of stamps at a large reduction and use the money to build. Commencing with No. 128, I will issue a series of priced lists quoting stamps at prices that will surely result in quickly placing the desired sum in my hands.

If you want stamps at little prices you will send me a postal asking that priced lists of the "\$3000 sale" be sent you.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

A FEW U. S. BARGAINS!

Here is a Bargain List of four good U. S. stamps — do you need any of them? Now is the time to buy—the supply is limited.

- 1851—No. 31. 1c, cata. 25c, my price.....12c
- *1862—No. 73. 2c, " 45c, "25c
- 1862—No. 76. 5c, " 35c, "18c
- 1862—No. 78b. 24c, " 49c, "20c

Unusd. Cash with Order.

Also ask for my Approval Sheets at 50% discount and get fine specimens at lowest prices.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

Danish West Indies

	Per 1.	Per 100.
1c red-violet, unused.....	\$0 16	\$15 00
4c dull blue, unused.....	12	11 00
2 on 3c 1902, 1st issue, unused	20	18 00
8 on 10c " " " " " "	30	25 00
2 on 3c " 2d issue " " "	12	11 00
8 on 10c " " " " " "	20	18 00
1c green, used.....	1	00

H. KOCH, 19 Crawford St., Newark, N. J.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

SPECIAL—Four months trial 10c, or 50c per yr.

PHILATELIC WEST, Superior, Nebraska.

Oldest, Independent, Philatelic 100 page monthly, brim full of interesting matter, that will interest every reader, pertaining to Stamps, Coins, Curios, Relics, Photography, etc. Illustrated, leading collectors, etc., all over the world. *Nothing similar or as good. Six associate editors.* The very best of everything, and lots of it. Off. organ of over 23 societies and clubs, over 12,000 members. **DO IT NOW. Write for copy.**

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....20c	50 books.....\$0 75
10 ".....35c	100 ".....1 25
25 ".....50c	250 ".....2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

WANTED!

Encased Postage Stamps. Send list and prices of what you have.

ARNOLD NUMISMATIC CO.

124 Washington St., Providence, R. I.

OUR HOLIDAY NUMBER

The December magazine number of this journal contained 56 pages and cover (contents given below). It will be sent for 10 cents.

New annual subscribers will receive the HOLIDAY NUMBER *free*, their subscriptions expiring December 31, 1903.

Lose no time in sending in your dollar as we shall not continue to send sample copies.

Fifty-two numbers, and 1,000 pages of reading matter guaranteed for 1903.

VOLUME XV

— OF —

"Mekeel's Stamp Collector"

being the 52 numbers of 1902 contained, with complete index, 728 pages. A valuable book for the library of the collector.

A limited number of unbound volumes are available at \$2.00 each and will be sent post free as long as they last.

It is a volume that will increase in value, as the number is extremely limited. Order at once.

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector is a Weekly Newspaper and an Illustrated Monthly Magazine in one. It is published every Thursday—fifty-two issues a year. Twelve issues each year are Illustrated Magazine Numbers, containing more pages than the regular weekly issue.

Price.—The subscription price is One Dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

Postage is Prepaid by the publishers for all subscriptions in the United States, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, Guam, Porto Rico, Tutuila Samoa, Canada, Cuba and Mexico. For all other countries in the Postal Union add 52c for postage.

Change of Address.—When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent ten days before the change is to take effect.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOLUME 16
NUMBER 2

JANUARY 12, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

The new U. S. 2c. stamp "Series will be issued during the current month, and soon after, the 1902" other denominations of the "series of 1902" will appear one by one, as the stock of the old issue on hand by the P. O. Department is exhausted.

The new series of stamps are an improvement on the old, the only criticism offered being that the designs are too elaborate for the small size of the stamps.



Booklet of Spanish-American Philatelic Society The enterprise of Mr. Chas. W. Meyers, of Wichita, Kansas, the Secretary and Treasurer of an international philatelic society which glories in the name of "La Sociedad Filatelica Hispano-Americana" is responsible for a very tastily prepared commemorative booklet and philatelic directory.

The constitution of the Spanish-American Philatelic Society is included and has a vast amount of information in connection therewith, in both English and Spanish, together with the addresses of a large number of its members in Latin-America.

The striking matter of the pamphlet is the large number of half-tone portraits of stamp dealers and collectors in Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia and other places of South America, as well as new officers resident in the United States.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR BOOK

The Year Book of the American Philatelic Association for the year 1901-2 has been circulated since the first of the year and presents the attractive appearance that is characteristic of the publications issued by Secretary Deats.

The Secretary's report shows the number of members at the date of the convention in August last, to have been five hundred and fifty-five, a net gain of twenty-three for the year then closed. During the year eighty new members were added and thirty were re-instated, while seventy-four were dropped for non-payment of dues, and thirteen were lost from other causes.

Under the terms of the By-Laws, the Secretary has no discretionary authority to carry non-paying members beyond the allowed days of grace. In many cases the failure to pay dues within the requested time is purely a matter of forgetfulness, and some members are lost in this manner who might otherwise be retained as a desirable addition to the Association, and a policy of moderation would no doubt have kept others in the fold.

It is a doubtful policy to force good members out with one hand and reach forth for new with the other and at the same time complain of lack of interest in the Association by collectors at large.

While the question of how to get new members is an important one, that of how to keep those we have is no less so. One of the former treasurers was untiring in his efforts to

retain the members and collect the dues and if the sending of two bills did not bring a remittance a third or fourth or personal letters were sent resulting largely to the profit of the Association, not only in increased revenue but in retaining the members.

The report of the Treasurer on August 8th, 1902, shows the following balances:

General Fund	\$ 27.87
Stock Fund	1,762.00
Insurance	879.37
<hr/>	
Cash on hand	\$2,669.24
The amount of dues collected during the year was	\$649.21
The balance of the entertainment fund and sale of Year Book was	13.19
Interest received on stock fund	30.00
<hr/>	
Less General Expense.....	\$692.40
	664.53
	<hr/>
	\$ 27.87

The total of the funds on hand given in the Treasurer's report including the stock fund of \$1,687.00, to the convention of 1901 was \$1,816.80.

This sum was increased in September by \$791.09 Insurance fund turned over to the Treasurer by the Supt. of Sales, making a total of \$2,607.89, on which the Association has received the munificent sum of \$30 interest since the Convention of 1901, or 1 1/4 per cent on the Stock and Interest funds of \$2,478.09, the entertainment fund having been expended, while with proper handling it should have received 4 per cent or at least 3 per cent.

A comparison of the results of the administration of the Association's finances by Mr. Chandler during the period from 1892 to 1897 and from 1897 to date by his successors may be of interest at this time.

The Treasurer from 1892 to 1897 had two permanent funds—the Stock

and Entertainment funds. These were invested for the benefit of the Association; the table below showing the amount in the funds at each annual meeting and the interest received thereon each year as shown by his reports to the Conventions:

Aug. 1, 1892, received from former Treas.	Stock Fund	Ent. Fund	Total	Int. Rec'd
\$ 185			\$ 185.00	
1893—Am't on hand,	446		416.00	7.55
1894 " " "	799		799.00	47.50
1895 " " "	1083		1083.00	55.70
1896 " " "	1343	100.84	1443.84	57.50
1897 " " "	1438	25.05	1468.05	60.48
				\$228.73

1897—Rec'd from former Treas.,	Stock Fund	Ent. Fund	Ins. Fund	Total	Int. Rec'd
\$1438					
1898—Am't on hand,	1514	125.89		1639.89	
1899 " " "	1559	125.89		1684.89	
1900 " " "	1629	125.89		1754.89	
1901 " " "	1687	125.89		1812.89	40.92
1902 " " "	1762		791.09	2553.09	30.00
					\$ 70.92

But little comment on the figures is required. They show for themselves. Mr. Chandler received from the former Treasurer \$185.00 in the Stock Fund and at the close of his term turned over to his successor \$1438.00 in that fund, \$125.89 in the entertainment fund and also \$228.78 in the interest fund.

The Boston Convention of 1897 ordered the Interest Fund transferred to the General Fund. The Entertainment Fund was mainly used for the Buffalo Convention in 1901 and the balance was transferred to the General Fund.

The average yearly balance during Mr. Chandler's term was \$1,120, and the average yearly interest was \$45.75 or nearly 4 2-10ths per cent.

The average yearly balance during the next five years just closed was \$1,889, and the average yearly interest in that period is \$14.18 or 8-10ths of 1 per cent—being \$31.57 per annum less than Mr. Chandler obtained on 56 per cent of the average amount in the control of his successors.

On the basis of Mr. Chandler's returns the Association should have received interest on its funds in the last five years \$396.70 or an average sum of \$79.34 per year or 3 2/3 per cent more than it has received.

(To be continued next week)

25,000,000 Twenty-Five Million

We have contracted for the insertion of the following advertisement in high-class periodicals during the next three months where it will have a circulation of 25 millions.



Stamp Collecting
A PROFITABLE
PASTIME

160 different foreign stamps	10c
500 mixed foreign, many kinds	10c
50 unusual foreign stamps	10c

Price List and sample of our Weekly Stamp Collectors Paper free.

TELL us the number of stamps and the kind of album you use for your collection. We will then send you **FREE** some very attractive foreign stamps for you to use in starting new collectors.

MEKEEL STAMP CO (Dep't H.) ST. LOUIS, MO.

WE BUY RARE STAMPS AND OLD COLLECTIONS.

Illustrated list showing what to look for, 10 cents.

Approvals 50 per cent discount.

IN OUR WAREHOUSE WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF LBS. OF CHEAP STAMPS TO FILL THESE ORDERS.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS ONLY INTENDED TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF NEW COLLECTORS.

Advertising is the life of trade, and advertising has been our means of carrying on the stamp business for 25 years.

Within the last twelve years we have sold stamps, albums, or collector's supplies to over 123,000 different individuals; some were 10c customers; some have spent hundreds of dollars with us. Our business is entirely by mail; our force is so trained and systematized that we can dispatch a thousand orders in a day. We have no shop or office trade, and do not want it.

The mail is taken from our doors by United States mail wagons several times a day. The St. Louis post office has handled a million pieces of MEKEEL Co. mail matter in a single year.

We have the largest mail order and approval business in America and have the most satisfactory and best organized system in existence. Let us hear from you.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The American Philatelic Association has appointed the following New York gentlemen to serve on the Experting Committee:

JOHN N. LUFF.
J. M. ANDREINI.
J. C. MORGENTHAU.

D. T. Eaton, of Muscatine, Iowa, has issued a 1903 price list of unused, entire envelopes of the United States.

The Chicago Philatelic Society Auction Sale, No. 20, will be held January 17th. A catalogue has been circulated.

Young Natal, a new magazine for young people, published in Newcastle, Natal, has a creditable Philatelic Department.

Ben G. Green, Numismatist, of Chicago, holds his fourth auction sale of coins early in February, disposing of the collection of W. G. Jerrens, of that city, and a Canadian property.

Mr. A. Preston Pearce has commenced an illustrated article in *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, on "Provisional Fiscal Issues of the American Occupation of the Philippines."

The "I. P. R." and Collectors' News is the title of a new British paper, "A newspaper for collectors of stamps, coins, postcards, etc., etc."

The first two numbers, Nov. 10th and Dec. 17th, are before us, the second being a decided improvement over the first.

The Chronicle, a local newspaper in Scottsborough, Ind., has a two-column section devoted to "Coin News," in its issue of Dec. 18th, conducted by Mr. Claude E. Foster.

A number of newspaper clippings from New York and Yonkers newspapers were sent by a correspondent,

concerning an exchange transaction which took place, whereby the owner of a collection of 9,000 varieties of postage stamps, who is a resident of Yonkers, traded it for a house and two lots to a non-resident owner, who lived in Orange, N. J.

The Yonkers man having secured some desirable real estate for the collection that he had accumulated within the past twenty-five years, and the other party securing a valuable addition to his own accumulation and getting rid of some property that he was not particularly interested in. To the uninitiated, this trading of stamps for real estate seems one sided, but undoubtedly, the man who secured the stamps got the best of the bargain.



FORGERY OF A RARE STAMP.

A forgery of a Cape of Good Hope error, 1 p. in blue, the color of the 4 p. is described by the English correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

"A genuine specimen of the 4p. blue has been taken and a narrow strip containing the words 'Four Pence' has been cut off at the white line underneath the words. A similar strip containing the words 'One Penny' has been forged and put in its place. The joint cannot be seen, not even with a glass. The great difference between the forged strip and the same top side of a genuine specimen is the position of the word 'one.' As there is only one specimen of the one penny in each sheet of the four penny, it is impossible for the words to be in two positions. Another thing, the diamond shaped corner ornaments are different, the forged one is rather blurred and takes the shape of that in the one penny, while that on the left is undoubtedly that of the four penny. Then again, though the thick border line under the words 'one penny' is of the right thickness and straight, that under the word 'postage' breaks at the bottom corner of the small square at the top of the stamp and is the fraction of a millimeter out."



Send in your subscription for 1903.

WHAT OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAY

We have 1,600 paid subscribers and are pushing for 10,000. That prospective subscribers may know what the old ones say we print:

TESTIMONIALS

Send \$1.00 to renew my subscription. Will say that I am very well satisfied with the paper, especially with the magazine numbers.

Lieut. A. P. S. Hyde,
Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.

Find enclosed \$1.00 for renewal to your paper. I would not be without it.

Sam Schlenker,
Brenham, Texas.

I enclose my check for \$1.00 in renewal of my subscription to MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR for 1903. I am much pleased with the periodical in many ways, and especially when it makes an effort to improve the status of stamp collecting. This status too much resembles a "bucket shop" at present to attract scientific collectors.

Edward L. Rand,
Boston, Mass.

Enclosed find \$1.00. Your paper is O. K. and I wish you the greatest success with it during the coming year.

Wm. A. Bodendoerfer,
Muskegon, Mich.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for renewal. I should miss your paper very much if it ceased to arrive. The magazine numbers are of special value.

Chas. Dewick,
Huntingdon, P. Q., Canada.

Enclose \$1.00 for my subscription for 1903. I am not active in collecting at present but want to keep in touch with a "fad" that is very interesting to me. I find no better way to do so than through the columns of your paper. I find a great deal of pleasure in reading it from week to week.

H. L. Andrews,
Woburn, Mass.

NOT THE ONLY ONE.

A correspondent writes:—

"I would like to have a catalogue of U. S. stamps, giving each variety, denomination and color *"straight."* All the catalogues mention so many types, shades, embossing, measures, etc., etc., etc., it mixes me all up, and makes me tired of the whole business."

A. F. WOOSTER,
Norfolk, Conn.

HAYTI

A *special book* containing used, unused copies of all issues, pairs or perforation varieties and oddities has been prepared, and will be sent on approval to anyone interested in this country. The stamps are not catalogued high, and 25 per cent discount from current quotations will be allowed. HAYTI will take a boom some day! Remember Hawaii—the time will come.

Book No. 65 of our 25 per cent Discount Approval Book series is *all Hayti*—this is the book you want, unless you are going into it deeper than ordinary, in that case ask for the *special book* of Hayti.

One cent blue, 1898, priced 75c in the 62d Edition (No. 46) will be sent post free for 38c, fine copy, o. g. A set of ten different Hayti for beginners, 25 cents post free.

G. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

MOROCCO

PACKET SULTAN containing one complete set of stamps, Tanger—Tetuan; one complete set Tanger—Arzila; one complete set Tanger—Fez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez Taxe; one complete set Fez—Sefro, one complete set Mazagan—Marrakesh; one complete set Saffi—Marrakesh; one complete set Mogador—Marrakesh; one set French Post of Morocco Postage Due 5, 10, 30, 50; one set French Post id 5, 10, 20, 25; one set Gibraltar ½d, 1d, 2d; one set Gibraltar Morocco Agencies 5, 10, 25; one set German Post 3, 5, 10, for **\$2.25**.

Packet containing only five sets at the choice of the buyer, for \$0 80
Each of the complete sets of local posts 25

Payment in advance or good references.
Cash by Postal Order.

J. ELMALEH, Tangier, Morocco.

Announcements have been sent out by Albert Perrin, Secretary of Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Ave., New York City, that there will be a Vaudeville Entertainment given at the Club Rooms Saturday evening, January 17

Mr. Raynor Hubbell, a well-known dealer of Buffalo, N. Y., informs us that he has realized a long cherished plan of floating a large stock company to deal in stamps in Buffalo. In this matter he has succeeded beyond his most enthusiastic expectations, and we will make announcement in our columns in regard to the matter later. We congratulate Mr. Hubbell.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

NOTE TO-DAY'S BARGAIN LIST

1868	Cuba, 5, 10, 20, 40c. cata.	\$1.06, my price	50c
1869	Cuba, 10, 20, 40c.	.96	45c
*1892	Mozambique Co., 5r to 200r.	1.58	45c
1897	North Borneo 1c to 24c.	.71	35c
*1896	Ecuador, Jubilee, 1c to 1s.	1.25	20c

**Unused. Cash with Order.*

Stamps on Approval at 50 Per Cent Discount.

Stamps at all prices. Stamps from all countries. Stamps for all collectors. A postal card from you will bring you a nice selection on approval.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

A COLLECTION AT ONE-FIFTH OF CATALOGUE

We offer a bargain this week that is unusual.

A collection of **1763 different foreign postage stamps**, the genuineness of which, and good condition we guarantee. The stamps are mounted on sheets and the catalogue price by Scott's 62nd Edition marked below each stamp—the lot totals **\$58.85** and will be sent post **\$11.75** free and registered for.....

Twenty of these collections are ready, after they are gone money sent will be refunded.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Your Chance Bargain App. Sale

In order to realize a considerable sum of money during the next few weeks I have mounted a large quantity of nice stamps at *net* prices of 5c. to 20c. each which I will send on application to reliable parties. In most cases prices are ten to forty per cent below ordinary *net* prices (not cat). Don't think I am giving stamps away, but I am making some very liberal offers. Don't be skeptical. Get an app. book and judge for yourself. Only good buyers making prompt returns need apply.

W. C. PHILLIPS, - - - Glastonbury, Ct.

"Revista de la Sociedad Filatelica Argentina,"

Our REVISTA is the most important philatelic journal in this part of the New Continent, and the most eagerly and widely read, chiefly amongst advanced collectors.

Its wide Circulation is the best guaranty of the success of its advertisements.

Collectors desirous of exchanging, buying or selling should try once, and be convinced.

Translation of advertisements free. Sample specimens post free.

Subscription price, \$1.00 per Year.

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1/2 page	8.00	
1/4 page	4.50	
1 line10	

General Agent: ROBERT ROSAUER, Calle Rivadavia, 522 Buenos-Aires (Rep. Argentine.)

OUR HOLIDAY NUMBER

The December magazine number of this journal contained 56 pages and cover (contents given below). It will be sent for 10 cents.

New annual subscribers will receive the HOLIDAY NUMBER *free*, their subscriptions expiring December 31, 1903.

Lose no time in sending in your dollar as we shall not continue to send sample copies.

Fifty-two numbers, and 1,000 pages of reading matter guaranteed for 1903.

VOLUME XV

—OF— "Mekeel's Stamp Collector"

being the 52 numbers of 1902 contained, with complete index, 728 pages. A valuable book for the library of the collector.

A limited number of unbound volumes are available at \$2.00 each and will be sent post free as long as they last.

It is a volume that will increase in value, as the number is extremely limited. Order at once.

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Change of Address.—When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent ten days before the change is to take effect.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

E. H. T., BROOKLYN, IA.:—No 9 of *Mekeel's Drummer* is out of print. We have a few odd copies of some of the other numbers. A complete set of the *thirteen numbers* issued are \$1.50, and we can supply a file at that price.

P. MCM., ABERDEEN, MISS:—There is no stamp dictionary published. Send list of names and we will publish definitions.

Parties having accumulations of old U. S. stamps are invited to quote us per 100 or 1,000 that they can furnish of any of the following U. S. varieties. We are open to buy some of each for our packet trade:

(Type of 1870-82) 6, 15 and 30, not particular as to variety, good used copies.

1883, 4c. green.

1887, 3c. vermilion.

1888, 1c. carmine.

1890, 6c. "

Current, 15c. olive and 50c. orange.

New 8c., 13c. and Special Delivery 10c.

Quotations must be for good used copies, paper removed from the back.

HAVE YOU ANY OLD U. S. REVENUES? We are open to buy all the common War Revenues from 1861-78, first, second and third issue in good used condition per 100 and per 1,000. Quote price and specify quantity. Only answers to this advertisement that are received immediately can be considered, as there is plenty of this stuff on the market, and we only need an immediate supply for use in packets, etc.

Of the recent revenues used, 1898-1900, we invite quotations with quantity specified in all cases, on Proprietary 1¼, 17½, 3¾ and 4c. On Documentary 40c. and 80c., \$3.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 1900—\$1.00 Carmine and Grey, \$2.00 grey, \$3.00 lake and grey. 1902—\$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 green.

No objection to stamps with cut cancellation, but do not want punched copies.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
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LOOK HERE!

Some More Good U. S. Bargains.

No. 229, 90c.	25c
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No. 291, 50c. Omaha	15c
Standard Stamp Catalogue for 1903, at 58c, postpaid. Cash with order.	

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Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

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FOR 1903

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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.,
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Mekeel's Stamp Collector

[Continuing the "Philatelic Journal of America"]

Vol. 16, No. 4 JANUARY 26, 1903 *Whole No. 56*

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\$11.00 FREE \$11.00

Not exactly that but fine *cut copies*. \$1.00 green, \$3.00 brown, 1898: \$1.00 red, \$1.00, \$2.00 gray, \$1.00, \$2.00 green and black, 1902, Spanish War Doc. Rev. All you have to do is send me an order of at least twenty-five (25) cents from my 1903 price list.

Send for list at once. Every thing in U. S. except great rarities. Fine line sets, packets etc. at surprisingly reasonable prices.

W. C. PHILLIPS, GLASTONBURY, CT.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa,

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

- Here are five sets of stamps at bargain prices:
- 1892, Mozambique Co. 5r. to 300r., cat. \$1.58, my price 45c.
 - 1896, Hayti, 1c. to 20c., cat. 36c., my price 20c.
 - 1878, Honduras, 1c. to 1p., cat. 83c., my price 40c.
 - 1891, Honduras, 1c. to 1p., cat. 79 c., my price 40c.
 - 1891, Honduras, 2p., 5p., 10p., cat. 75c., my price 40c.

Stamps on approval at 50 per cent discount.
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Anto. Je. Esteves Barbosa,

383 Andradas 385,

Porto Alegre (Brazil).

Advanced Collector. First-Class References. Wants exchanges with advanced or medium collectors and dealers of postage stamps, used and unused, and correspondence desired with collectors of all parts of the world, preferring collectors of all British Colonies and Central and North America. Want postage stamps on approval, basis: Scott, Stanley Gibbons, Senf or Yvert and Tellier. In exchange I will give old and scarce Brazilian, Uruguay, Argentine, etc., stamps.
Send me 200-500 good postage stamps (no common wanted) of his country, will receive from me same number and value in exchange of Brazil and South American stamps. Answer always, return mail guaranteed. Correspondence: English, Spanish and French language.

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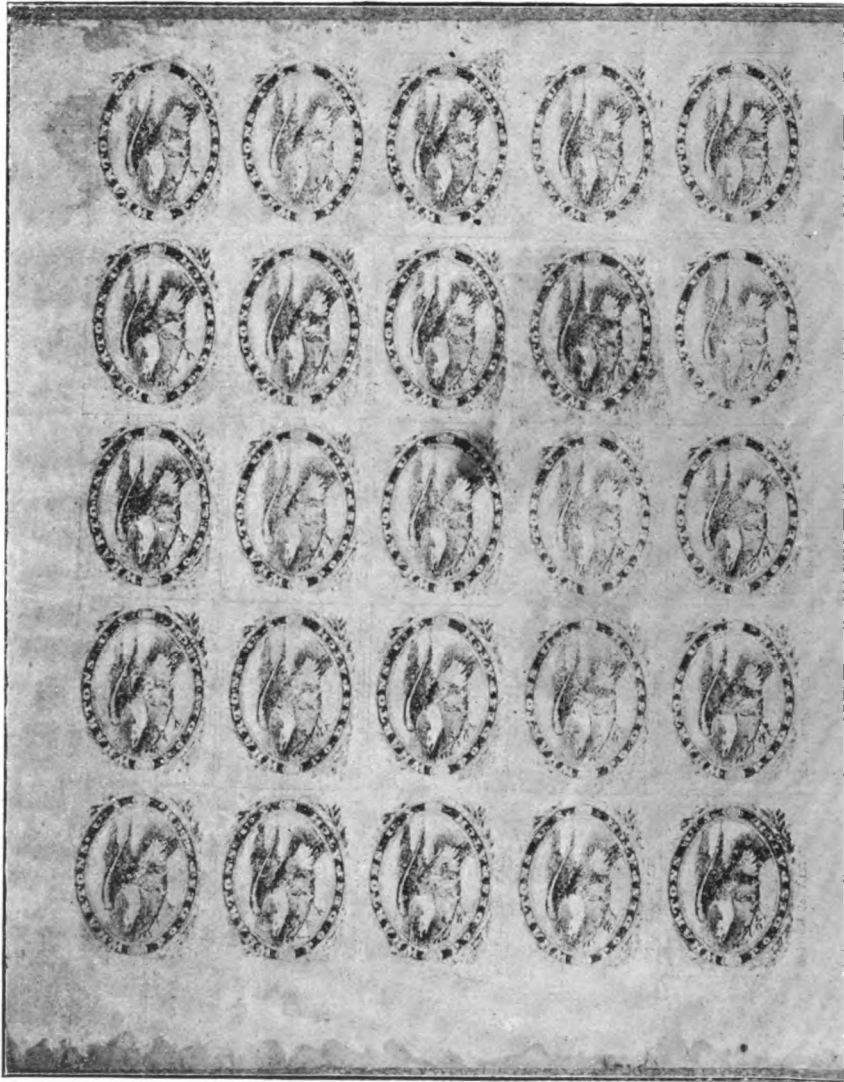
The sole supply of these stamps is now in my hands; all others held by Prof. Marchand have been sent to Washington and destroyed. Buyers have my assurance that these prices will not be undersold,—later they will probably be increased.

- 2, 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2, and 7 1/2, complete set of seven..... \$2 50
- 1 1/4, 1k, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, set of four..... 75

E. H. BUEHLER,

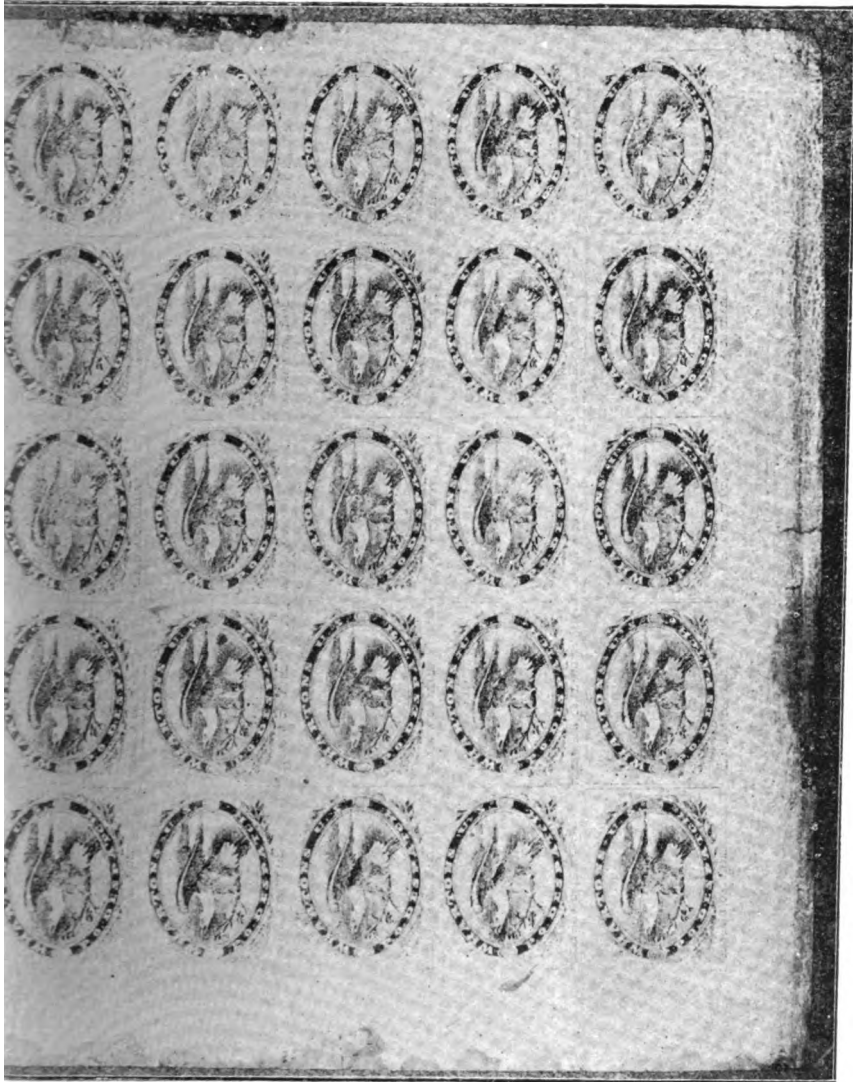
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FRONTISPIECE
MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR,
JANUARY 27, 1903

WHARTON'S U. S.
LOUISVILLE CARRIER
Comple



. P. O. DESPATCH,
STAMPS, ISSUED, 1857.
te Plate.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Our readers will recall **An Editorial** that our British correspondent, Percy C. Bishop, in writing from London, dated January 9th, referred to the fact that we had been misled by the statement that after January 1st all British Colonial stamps would be sold at face value in London, assuming that this indicated an intention on the part of the government authorities to open an office for the sale of unused Colonial stamps.

Mr. Bishop stated that this was not the intention, and that the announcement was an advertisement for a firm who are furnishing new issues.

The editorial matter for this week's paper had already been prepared and was in type when this information from Mr. Bishop was received. Our readers are therefore informed of the fact, as there was not time to change the matter before going to press with this number.

While the British Government has not placed the Colonial stamps on sale

as was inferred, a great deal of the editorial is apropos of the general situation with regard to the accumulation and recent boom in new issues.



An elaborate index of **An Index** the contents of our Volume for 15 is being prepared. It **Vol. 15** will be issued as an eight-page supplement with one of our February issues. Readers who contemplate binding the volume are advised to wait.

Only a few more complete files of Volume 15 can be supplied by the publishers. The 728 pages would make a valuable book for the library of any collector. The file will be sent post free for \$2.00.

For the convenience of readers who are completing their files we print the following information :

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 25c.
No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
No. 52, Dec. 27, 48 pages - 10c. each.

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at 5c. each as long as they last. Very few of some are on hand.



The Collectors' Club of **Stamp Exhibitions** New York announce a series of evening stamp exhibitions to be held at

the Club House, 351 Fourth Ave. The programme is as follows :

March 9,100 Unused Australian Stamps
February 9,Great Britain
March 9, U.S. Documentary and Proprietary
April 13,Russia, Finland and Poland
May 11,Egypt and Soudan

Louisville Carrier Stamps

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE WHARTON AND BROWN & MCGILL CARRIERS

BY C. H. MEKEEL

Our frontispiece this week is a half tone reproduction from a photograph of an entire sheet of U. S. Carrier Despatch Stamps that were issued in 1857 by Wharton's Post at Louisville, Ky. The stamps were lithographed and as will be seen by a close examination of the illustration bear the imprint under each stamp of "ROBYN & CO. LITH."

It has never been stated that differences existed in these stamps but an examination of the plate will show that there are a number of interesting and minor varieties. The eagle in the stamps is represented as standing on a limb of a tree, the small branches beneath the eagle differ on different stamps; for instance, compare the five stamps in the top row with the first stamp in each of the lower rows. It will be noted that the limbs in some of the stamps show more branches. This and other minor varieties we leave for philatelists with good eyesight and a glass to work out. Not very much of the detail has been lost in our reproduction.

The Carrier Service was established in connection with the Louisville (Ky.) Post Office as early as 1854, letters being delivered for a fee of two cents each. David B. Wharton became the carrier employed in this service January 1, 1856, and in the following year he introduced the use of stamps to facilitate the collection of his fees.

The stamps were only used on letters bearing the regular United States postage stamps and represented the carrier's fee for delivery and were used on mail either to or from the post office. They differed from ordinary local stamps in that they were not used

independently of the United States stamps on circulars or letters.

Our illustration makes an extended description of same unnecessary. The stamps were lithographed in blue-green, on white wove paper and unperforated.

David B. Wharton was succeeded by a man by the name of McGill who formed a partnership with an assistant carrier by the name of Brown. The firm of Brown & McGill bought the Wharton outfit of letter boxes and his whole carrier plant and proceeded to issue Carrier Stamps of their own after the same design. The stamps of Brown & McGill were lithographed by Hart & Maypothor, successors to the firm of Robyn & Co. The only alteration in type being that of the upper label, and the omission of the imprint. They were lithographed on white wove paper and unperforated. Most of those known are blue, but a used copy is in the collection of C. T. Harbeck of New York, in black.

In 1865 or '66, what would be considered by philatelists an imitation or forgery, was made by the order of Mr. McGill by the same lithographers. He discovered that a demand existed in New York for these stamps and ordered a supply from his lithographers; they not having the original stone, produced what was really a poor imitation and furnished them to Mr. McGill who forwarded them to New York with the impression that he was simply furnishing reprints. These imitations are comparatively common and, of course, are only secondary in philatelic interest.

The originals of both the Wharton and Brown & McGill stamps are very scarce. No reprints of the Wharton stamps were ever made and no good counterfeits are known to exist.

Cuba Provisional, 1c on 3c—1902

The attention of the Philatelic Society of Cuba and the Cuban Postal Administration was called to a publication in Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* of an extract from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of New York, in relation to the provisional postage stamp recently issued in Cuba, in which the three cents stamp was surcharged for use as one cent.

The comment above referred to, indicated that the stamp was of a speculative character and that although the Havana Post Office had none of them the postmaster's friends were well supplied and were very willing to sell at a profit.

The comment having been brought to the attention of the Postmaster General of the Cuban Republic by the Philatelic Society of Cuba great indignation was expressed by that official at what he regarded to be a very erroneous and offensive statement. He invited an interview with a commission which would represent the Cuban Philatelic Society and Doctors Llanso, Diez, Estorino Y Barreras were designated to wait on the Post Office Department in the matter.

On December 31st, the commission was received by Sr. Figueredo who explained the cause and postal necessity for the surcharge in question and satisfied these gentlemen, of the postal necessity of the provisional stamps. The Cuban Government wishing to have no unpaid account between the new Republic and the United States Government at the time postal affairs were given over they refrained from ordering stamps during the latter part of the American Administration, consequently one of the first acts of the new Cuban Republic was to solicit from the United States the printing of their stamps by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

It being necessary that this should proceed through diplomatic channels, the usual red tape associated with matters of this kind, delayed the receipt of the new stamps and the one

cent denomination being exhausted the surcharge of the three cents stamps was resorted to as a postal necessity.

Two hundred thousand of the three cent stamps were surcharged and placed on sale to the public without any restrictions whatever. The stamps lasted three days. The citizens, whether they were stamp collectors or not, had the privilege of purchasing whatever they required and it is, of course, not to be denied that individuals availed themselves of the opportunity for speculation, just as it always occurs whenever provisional stamps are placed on sale, anywhere else in the world.

An advance in price is naturally anticipated and individuals buy for speculation. The intimation of irregularities conveyed by the papers mentioned above was shown to be without any foundation in fact, and the Cuban Postal Department contends that these statements were due either to ignorance or maliciousness.

The second issue of Cuban provisionals had already been prepared when a shipment of the 1c. stamps arrived from the United States, and the Department declared its intention to burn the surcharged stamps rather than issue them, when there was no necessity.

A new series of stamps is projected for Cuba which will include other denominations than those which now exist, up to and including a \$1.00 denomination. The new series will depict various Cuban views, and the drawings, colors, paper and other details will be considered. A committee from the Cuban Philatelic Society have been invited on account of their technical knowledge to assist the Post Office Department in determining these matters in connection with the new issue.

It appears to us that the provisional 1c. on 3c. stamp of October, 1902, has been fully vindicated.

That Catalogue for Collectors

BY B. W. W.

Many of your readers will know something of the controversy three years ago on the question of a collectors' catalogue, compiled of course by collectors, as a sort of protest against those made by dealers who, it is stated, are thereby enabled to force varieties and shades upon those who collect stamps which they would not otherwise think of obtaining. There certainly did, and does, seem a necessity for condensing haphazard accumulations of stamps to something fairly complete or truly representative of the postal emissions of most countries, and by suitable lists to enable persons of limited means and opportunities to compile such a collection on a simple and intelligible plan from the start, instead of wasting time and energy looking for unimportant varieties.

The difficulties however of making such a compilation to suit the three grades of collectors is immense, though it might not appear so on a casual or general consideration of the question. There is a deal of human nature in human beings after all, as Sam Slick has taught us, to say nothing of every-day experience, and a collector is just as likely to refuse being dictated to by the compilers—however eminent or independent—of a catalogue, as to what stamps are or should be collectible, as he is to accept one trader's price list as his sole guide. At first he gets two or three hundred from packets of mixed stamps supplemented by a few he fancies, picked from sheets at very low prices, and mounts them anyhow in a scrap-book, until he possesses an album which has separate pages for different countries, but probably no list of the values issued or drawings of the various types. As an orderly man, he then begins to feel the want of something more to guide him in the arrangement, whether chronologically or by types and values. The

only book he can now buy for this purpose is a priced catalogue of the stamps of the world as issued by the largest stamp dealers, such as Scott, Gibbons, King or Bright in English, or by Senf in German.

These priced catalogues therefore have become standard books on stamp collecting, though the prices therein do not trouble many collectors in large cities where stamps may be picked up in shops at all sorts of prices from one quarter of, to double the price in catalogue. Why then is there a demand made now and then for an independent catalogue? Every legitimate stamp that has been issued for postal purposes is listed and mostly priced. In our young days we had one published by Alfred Smith of Bath (Eng.), considered a good and reliable guide to less than 1,000 stamps, all that were then known, and how proudly we looked at the many lines ticked off in pencil as having a specimen in our Oppen's album, even to the enormous extent of 80 per cent of the whole, and pictured how soon a full collection would be ours. But a change came o'er the spirit of our dream, for those pestilential philatelists, as they were beginning to call themselves, composed of foreign Frenchmen aided by some beef-eating Britishers, actually had begun to measure and register the number of holes between the stamps and some talked about crowns and letters and stars in the paper itself. That was the opening of the flood-gates, and now the maelstrom itself is a quiet backwater compared with the whirl of old varieties and new issues the modern collector finds himself in.

The question now is—what *not* to collect, and who is to be the guide and friend whom we can trust for wisest advice, or to save us from being overwhelmed in this flood? The Gibbons catalogue lists quite eighty

times as many as in the days above referred to, and the smaller collector is at his wit's end, and inclined to give up in disgust at the hopelessness of even a fairly representative lot of stamps of any large portion of the globe—the British Empire alone approaching 12,000 varieties. Scott places the more important varieties in subsidiary type after the main lists, while King has returned to the days of old and gives us only main types or issues with but a few watermarks, etc., as producing the handiest little book for the young collector at a low price.

Then so many of us are always thinking what we may be able to get for our stamps some day, and on trying to sell find that the majority being priced singly between one and ten cents will not collectively fetch an average much over the smaller denomination. We choose to forget that most of the stamps came through packets of 100 for a quarter or possibly 300 varieties for a whole dollar, filled up by exchanging duplicates with others or from sheets at one to five cents, and that a careful working out of the cost will be about what seems so ridiculous when offered as a whole; besides which the trader has to keep a shop and advertise at considerable cost to do business. The collectors' catalogue was to set all this right by stating what is the fair *value* of these stamps. That might be comforting to know, but suppose you can't get it all the same! It will not be particularly satisfactory to find that you cannot get anyone to *sell* to you at those prices when you want some, nor yet will they buy of you except to pick a few good-condition copies here and there.

What is most wanted is a comprehensive handbook on the lines of those issued a score of years back by Major Evans or Mr. Pemberton, with illustrations or clear brief descriptions of the designs to recognise the stamps by; being brought up to date, with an inch or two of space left blank after each country to write in new issues. Such a book, though, would require at least 600 pages of letter-press for

the simple main types (including watermarks of paper used) sufficient for any medium collector as an interesting and standing book of reference. For the more advanced man, an edition of double the size by using exactly same pages as before with opposite page occupied by the varieties, all the main issues being numbered and the varieties with *a, b, c, d*, etc., after the number. Collectors could then communicate freely as to their wants without elaborate descriptions, and if the three largest cataloguers would adopt these numbers uniformly there would be a beneficial simplification in dealings with them whatever one's nationality.

The following quotation from the *Philatelic Journal of India* of three years ago sums up our views very well: "The collectors' catalogue should, can, and will be attempted. It should be the result of private commercial enterprise. It should not perpetuate the fatal mistake of pretending to price stamps. Were a catalogue published to-day with every stamp's value properly recorded, it would be misleading by next Saturday afternoon, so what is the use of wasting time even in talking of a standard *priced* catalogue? A priced catalogue is an utter impossibility except as a false guide to values, but a catalogue that records to the best of its compiler's ability and opportunity, ascertained facts about stamps relating to their colors, shape, perforation, design, watermark, date of issue and other points of interest is another matter entirely. This could be easily produced, though its promoters must not expect to attain full success by the first or even the second edition. Philately is a lively pursuit, and needs a living catalogue. A shut-down catalogue is like a closed collection—of little further interest to its owner." Though prices are unadvisable in such a book, it would be no detriment to add in parenthesis (15) or (125) etc., after each stamp listed as the average price in cents taken from the United States, British, and German catalogues at date of publication, which would give some

approximation to the values, and let the reader know whether the stamp was a valuable or a very common one. A guaranteed subscription list of at least 10,000 copies would be necessary, however, to ensure the production of such a book at a reasonable price for the general collector.

ERIE'S

Ups and Downs for 75 Years

Perhaps no more interesting book for the intelligent business man and general reader was ever sent out than Edward Harold Mott's "Between the Ocean and the Lakes: The Story of the Erie." Mr. Mott spent many years on this superb work, which is a complete history of the great thoroughfare known as the Erie Railroad, and he has produced a work that is as thrilling and interesting as it is valuable and comprehensive. The men who made and unmade, who ruled and ruined, who built up and tore down this great business interest were men whose careers and personalities presented large dramatic possibilities in the hands of so skilled and experienced a writer and so careful and accurate a historian as Mr. Mott, and he made the most of his material. The great volume is as readable as a good novel.

The history of the Erie is sketched from 1831 down, and no important or interesting detail, personal, financial, commercial, mechanical, scientific or legislative, has escaped the indefatigable author. The growth of the great line, its ups and downs, its successes and failures, are set forth most entertainingly. The text is supplemented by many telling illustrations and maps.

All the prominent men connected with the line are represented in fine engravings. The portraits alone are worth the price of the volume. To be appreciated this sumptuous volume must be seen.

The publisher has spared no expense in printing and binding, and "The Story of Erie" is a monument of historical research, careful study, brilliant writing and high-class bookmaking. Everybody interested in general business matters should have this fine and valuable book.—*Mail and Express*.

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J. B. COLLINS, Publisher, 233 Broadway, N. Y.

THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED IN PORTO RICO UNDER AMERICAN DOMINION

Mr. B. M. Comerford of Porto Rico writes in *The Porto Rico Stamp Exchange* that it is a mistaken idea to suppose that Coamo (Porto Rico) was the first stamp issued on that Island after the invasion of the United States Army. He states that a provisional postage stamp was issued at Ponce while Coamo was yet occupied by the Spanish troops.

Unfortunately, the article was not accompanied by an illustration, but it was described as an adhesive stamp, produced from a hand stamp impression, betraying the newly acquired English with the first word "Postages" and the Spanish explanation "Correos" below, between the two words the value "5 cts.," the whole struck on common paper and overprinted, as a means of control, with the official stamp of the Judge of Ponce which contained the Spanish National Shield. The official authority for the issuance of the Ponce stamp was signed by R. U. Colom, Mayor of Ponce, and approved by Major General Wilson and signed by his Chief of staff, Lieut. Commander Tasker H. Bliss.

The original document is said to be preserved in the archives of Porto Rico. One interesting feature in connection with the announcement of the existence of this provisional is to the effect that there are no remainders and very few copies are known, and those that exist are in the collections of Porto Rico philatelists.

The Ponce stamp was only sold as it was necessary for its use as postage and apparently few persons know of its existence.

It is stated that when the 2c. carmine 1895 issue was introduced that the first copies sold were surcharged with a rubber stamp impression which was used to produce the original provisional and that one of these copies is in the collection of a prominent San Juan collector.

U. S. SERIES OF 1902

The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* says:

I have seen the models for the \$1 and \$5 stamps of the new series and have no hesitancy in saying that the sketches represent magnificent specimens of the stamp-maker's art. In the former, Farragut, who supplants Perry, faces almost full front, the bust enclosed in a half oval. In the two upper corners appear the figures \$1 and between and at the top "Series of 1902." The lettering "United States of America" follows the curve of the oval. Figures of a marine and a sailor appear in the bottom corners of the design. The name "Farragut" is in a straight line under the bust and years of birth and death, 1801-1870 in small ribbons below and at the side. The value, "Postage One Dollar" is in two straight lines at the extreme lower portion of the stamp.

The \$5 value depicts John Marshall almost full facing, in an oval. The top of the design is represented by a heavy stone with medallions of the head of Liberty sunk on the left side and Justice with eyes bandaged, on the right. The medallions seem to be cut in the stone. In the center is a ribbon bearing the inscription, "Series of 1902." The words "United States of America" appear around the oval as in the case of the \$1 denomination. The name "Marshall" is in a slightly curved line beneath the bust with dates of birth and death in the same relative position as the \$1. Postage Five Dollars is in two straight lines at the bottom.

It is understood the two stamps will be printed in the same colors now employed. The model for the \$2 does not appear to have been finally approved.

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 55 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

BOSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S RESOLUTIONS

Mr. C. A. Howes, Secretary of the Boston Philatelic Society, in forwarding a renewal of his subscription to MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR sends us a copy of the following resolutions which were adopted by his Society and forwarded to the Postmaster General. We hope that the matter will have the consideration of the Department, as the linen lined registration envelopes would be a very useful addition to the present postal stationery. The resolutions were as follows:

Whereas the United States Post Office Department is now preparing a beautiful new series of postage stamps, and is also contemplating a new series of stamped envelopes to accompany them, and

Whereas the introduction of one or two new values in the adhesive set for the greater convenience of the public is intended, therefore

Be it resolved that we, the members of the Boston Philatelic Society, at a regular meeting held in Boston, Dec. 16, 1902, respectfully urge that provision be made in the new envelope series for one of a 10-cent denomination for the convenience of those desiring to register ordinary letters, as we feel there would be a much greater demand for them than for the 13-cent stamp for foreign registration.

Also that one or more sizes of envelopes be issued with linen lining, after the manner of the registration envelopes of Great Britain and all her colonies, as well as many other foreign countries. Unfortunately our country is rather behindhand in this respect.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

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Some More Good U. S. Bargains.

No. 229, 90c.....	25c
No. 230, 50c. Columbian.....	25c
No. 260, 50c.....	18c
No. 261, \$1.00.....	60c
No. 291, 50c. Omaha.....	15c
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THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

From the Editorial Chair

There is perhaps no recent development in philatelic conditions which is fraught with so much interest to those who are following with somewhat anxious eyes the idiosyncrasies of modern Philately as the recent decision of Great Britain's Postal Department to place on sale in London at face value the current stamps of practically all the British Colonies. We say decision, but as a matter of fact this decision has already crystallized into action, and it is now possible for the London collector to buy unused current Colonials from the very fountain head of their dissemination—and without paying any premium whatsoever. The natural inquiry which will arise in every collector's mind is as to the effect of this innovation on the new issue craze. That craze is a very real thing in Philately just now. It is one of the vital conditions that must be reckoned with in any analysis of the present state of philatelic energy. There can be no doubt that a very great number of English and European collectors—and also, no small number of Americans—are giving almost the whole of their philatelic attention to laying by stocks of unused current issues: having turned a willing ear to the siren song of future profits, so insistently sung by those philatelic middlemen to whom the new issue traffic is meat and bread. And there can equally be no doubt that the new issue system of collecting is fundamentally unsound, in so far as its setting itself up as a separate and integrally complete mode of philatelic practice is concerned. Confining one's philatelic task to the gathering of new issues only, through the convenient proxy of those dealers who make a business of supplying them in monthly bunches, can hardly be considered the practice of Philately. As a subsidiary task to the more important one of building up the main body of a collection, the keeping abreast of current issues may very properly be

given some attention. But the unfortunate phase of the present situation is that the collecting of current issues is becoming a sort of separate specialty—not necessarily presupposing on the part of its user any attention whatever to issues that are not current. That this state of affairs is other than a very ephemeral deviation from the more fruitful paths of philatelic effort we do not believe. The issues of the past, collectively speaking, must always transcend in interest the issues of the present. But there seems to be danger that a good many good philatelists will be diverted from the true courses of Philately into ultimate philatelic extinction by way of the new issue route. Any dallying with philatelic speculation always places in some jeopardy the keenness of one's appetite for Philately's purely intellectual pleasures. With many, the blunting of taste is so slight and temporary that it leaves no permanent impress. But with some, on the other hand, it marks the beginning of a gradual disintegration of all capacity and inclination for Philately proper. And there is no possibility of denying that the basis of this sudden fondness for new issues is very largely speculative. If, therefore, these new facilities for procuring new issues at a minimum of inconvenience and expenditure are to cause the new issue traffic to assume even larger proportions, it is a matter of some concern.

But we doubt very much if this will be the case. The supplying of new issues at a certain per cent over face (competition has of late cut that per cent down to a very small one, indeed) has for the past few years been a very lucrative business for certain English dealers. This step on the part of the British Government, however, cuts from beneath their feet a very considerable portion of the ground they have been standing on. Of course, all the business that has been done in new issues has not been

in British Colonials. But British Colonials have, nevertheless, been the backbone of the trade. Indeed, we doubt if it would ever have attained anything like its present proportions had it not been wafted by the favoring gale of circumstance: the circumstance in this case being, of course, the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward, with the consequent enormous flood of new issues, which every patriotic English collector naturally wished to secure. This favoring circumstance has been very cleverly seized upon and made use of by those interested in promoting the new issue traffic and indirectly it has of course helped to create a demand for the new issues of other countries and Colonies. But Great Britain has, after all, been the stronghold of the traffic, and British collectors its chief patrons and upholders. And it need hardly be said that at least seven-tenths of Great Britain's collectors are, practically speaking, specialists in England and Colonies only. They may have general collections also, but it is on the British and British Colonial sections that their attention and money are chiefly lavished. So that it would seem that the operations of these new issue brokers would be greatly restricted under this new and unexpected turn of affairs. Of course, everyone who might desire to buy the new British Colonials as they come out does not live in London, nor, indeed, in England. But it is hardly in human nature that collectors should be willing to pay the broker the former per cent over face when these issues are obtainable in London at face value. Rather will the distant philatelist seek to enlist the good offices of some London brother to act as his agent "without money and without fee," promising to reciprocate on similar terms when suitable opportunity arises. We think, indeed, that these brokers themselves realize that they have been flanked; and that the one thing remaining for them is to "stand from under" as gracefully as possible. Already London's principal handler of new issues has announced that he will accept orders for the current

stamps of any of the Colonies included in the government's list at face, the only additional charge being a fee of 6d for clerkage and 3d for postage—presumably not on each stamp, but on the whole order—a figure which certainly supplies no very perceptible margin of profit, unless the volume of orders taken on this basis is positively enormous.

It seems to us therefore that this innovation is going to put a good deal of a wet blanket on the new issue traffic. It is largely the creation of clever boomer: that is admitted on all hands. And if these boomers find, under the new conditions, that the game is not worth the candle, and therefore either abandon the field or else pursue it on a much smaller and less impressive scale, it is very doubtful if there is enough innate momentum in the new issue craze to carry it along of itself for any great length of time. We do not believe that the current Colonials being on sale in London will effect the matter very much either way—except that it has seemingly killed the goose that laid the golden egg for a few clever manipulators. There will undoubtedly be quite a rush at first, but in the end it is doubtful if collectors at large will pay any attention whatever to the possibility of getting their British Colonials from this source. We understand that there has been no great rush of philatelists at the British North Borneo Company's London Offices lately, where for some time it has been the custom to sell the current issues of Labnan and Borneo to any collector wishing to purchase. Our comparison is perhaps not strictly a fair one, owing to the decidedly disreputable nature of the British North Borneo Co.'s stamps. But we think it will in the end prove that very few British Colonials will be purchased by collectors direct from the governmental depots; though doubtless, wholesale stocks of the stamps in question will be largely recruited therefrom, the saving to the large dealer in time, postage and convenience being very considerable.

As to the new issue craze in itself,

it decidedly looks as if it had received a body blow. New issues will, of course, always be imported and sold. But all the circumstances of the situation seem to indicate that we have reached the beginning of the end in the craze for new issues for themselves alone and as objects of speculation.

There is one further phase of this matter which is perhaps worthy of some attention. Is it a good sign or the reverse that the powers that be of the British Postal Department should be so impressed with the spread of interest in stamp collecting as to have taken the above step? There is, of course, nothing at all out of the way in a government offering special facilities of this nature to philatelists. It is a rather pleasant commentary on the present strength of our pursuit that it has been deemed worth while. But it is in some ways not altogether reassuring. It is not well that governments should know too much about Philately. Time out of mind, it has caused a peck of pother. In fact it is not, we think, too strong an assertion that nearly all the troubles that beset Philately to-day are due to the governments of the world, as represented by their respective postal administrations. The two great dangers that modern Philately has to face are, first, the forgery and the reprint; and, second, the multiplicity of speculative and unnecessary issues. Some would perhaps mention "over-elaboration," "ultra - minuteness," "bloating" and other like matters, in this connection; but these may, we think, be depended upon to adjust themselves in time to more judicious levels. Philatelists can probably be depended upon to in the long run recognize what is best for Philately. But no such dependence can be placed upon non-philatelists, they obviously having none but selfish concerns in the matter—which makes their attitude toward Philately a very grave thing, indeed. We have mentioned forgeries and reprints. Despite all Philately's frequent self-gratulations on this head they appear to still con-

stitute a very considerable menace to philatelic welfare—especially to our ability to hold in line the wealthiest of Philately's followers against whose pockets most of the present day forgeries and reprints are directed. And we cannot but feel that forgeries and reprints stand a good deal on common ground; and that governments that countenance the latter are doing a great deal to aid the only slightly more illicit efforts of those who manufacture the former. The present Moldavia forgery-reprint muddle furnishes a case in point. The indications all point to these Moldavian specimens being absolutely bogus. But there appear to be grounds for believing that the original dies are in existence. And philatelists know so well the feeling of small governments in regard to reprints, that they can really feel no certainty that these stamps are not what they purport to be, namely, reprints from the original dies. The result is a state of doubt and uncertainty that does not seem likely to be very immediately stilled. We know that these so-called reprints (or, at least, those of them that have thus far been noted) are mostly on the wrong papers; and that their possibilities for harm are thereby practically neutralized. But if the original dies are still in a usable state how are we to know when reprints from them may not be made *on the right papers*. If the good faith of postal officials were beyond question: if no reprints were ever made, without their bearing some plain indication of their nature, such as the word "specimen," we could distinguish the sheep from the goats to much better purpose. We would know that the stamp that differed in essential points from the original was an imposition, and we could infallibly brand it as such. As it is, the half toleration extended to reprints gives the forgery a chance at successful masquerading. It may not be able to get itself mistaken for an original, but if it can pass for a reprint something is gained—of course, from the forger's standpoint. Suppose in examining a suspicious specimen we find certain striking points of

deviation from the original in various parts of the design. The logical conclusion is that the stamp is bad. But its sponsor answers: "Not at all: this is a reprint and in cleaning the dies it was found that, on account of their badly worn state, retouching was necessary in certain spots. Hence these differences." And who can say him nay? The forgery question has without doubt been a great deal complicated of late years by this aspect. Of the reprint question, Government officials have become so keenly alive to the money making possibilities of Philately, that old plates and dies have been assiduously searched for and, when found, gleefully used for reprinting purposes. The stamp trade itself is not able to show absolutely clean hands in this regard. Not a little of this searching for old dies has been done at the instance of stamp dealers and speculators; and much of the present knowingness of the postal administrations in regard to stamp collecting is due to the intimate relations oft times existing between postal officials and stamp men. There is reason to believe that in many countries the dies and plates of obsolete issues are much more carefully preserved than of yore. Formerly, their value ceased utterly when they were retired from active service. Now, postal officials know only too well that they are worth "hanging on to;" that the time may come when their use for reprinting purposes will put a pretty penny into someone's pocket.

This state of affairs will, we believe, ultimately necessitate an entire revision of Philately's attitude toward reprints. Nominally, we do not now recognize them on anything like the same plane as genuine originals. But what we do do is to wink at their existence; and accord them a sort of semi-philatelic standing which serves to encourage their production. In this Moldavia case, the Roumanian gentlemen who have taken upon themselves the task of enlightening the philatelic world in regard to these issues, lay great stress upon the fact that only a very few of each value were reprinted—it being obviously

sought to imply that these reprints will be rare and, in themselves, of considerable value. Moreover, it is unfortunately too true that there is a market for reprints *as reprints*—entirely apart from the market for them when they masquerade as originals—and that, in the case of such rarities as the stamps of Moldavia, many philatelists are ready to pay a good high price for reprints of them. We have said that we regard this as unfortunate. We think there are very good and distinct reasons for so regarding it. The fact that reprints are salable, under their own name, and without any concealment of their nature, gives encouragement and incentive to further reprinting. And the more reprints there are about, the harder it is to say whether this or that stamp, admittedly not a genuine original, is a reprint or a forgery.

Philately herself is a good deal to blame for this. The reprint question has always been handled half-heartedly. If definite and decisive action in the direction of utterly tabooing all reprints had been taken twelve or fifteen years ago, the practice of reprinting would probably by this time be in almost entire disuse. For, really, few governments are so conscienceless as to wish to fleece the collector out and out. They feel that as long as some collectors are ready to buy reprints, and to a certain extent esteem them, reprinting old issues is simply filling a legitimate commercial demand. If we did not make so much distinction between reprints and forgeries; if reprinted stamps had to be illicitly offered as genuine originals; it is unlikely that many governments would wish to stoop to such dirty work. The gist of the whole trouble is that philatelists—dealers and collectors alike—have always wanted to straddle this reprint question. For instance, we in America have always wanted to make out that it was all well and good to include in our collections such things as the New Haven signed reprints, and the so-called re-issue of 1875 of the U. S. general issues. We have condemned reprints in general, but allowed our-

selves the luxury of a few exceptions. And so have collectors in other parts of the world. If we had all of us taken a firm stand on the matter of reprints long years ago, and put them all under the ban, *without any exceptions*, the reprint question would long since have solved itself. But every collector has made his own exceptions to the tacit agreement of exclusion and the result all along has been a pretty fair sort of market for reprints of all kinds—except, perhaps, for reprints of low cost stamps, whereof everyone could afford to buy originals. It is the old, old story of the collector being very willing to abstain from buying that which he does not want, but utterly unwilling to observe the same abstinence in regard to what he does want. A few years ago when the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps was feebly attempting to bail out the ocean with a thimble, so to speak, many of us went quite out of our way to advise the executive committee of that body to set the seal of its disapproval upon the Olympic Games set of Greece, and other commemorative sets of like kidney. But did anyone hear a peep from America in regard to blacklisting the U. S. Columbian series? It is precisely the same with this reprint matter. We tell ourselves that the 1875 "reissue" is not a reprint series, because it was available for postage. We do not stop to think (or if we do, we obstinately shut our eyes to it) that nobody ever did use any of these "reissues" for postage except a few stamp collectors who were longheaded enough to foresee the future rarity of used copies. If you deem this statement overdrawn, set out on a quest for a used copy, and see how far you will have to go to find it.

All this has perhaps very little bearing on our main question. It is doubtless of small use to study what is in the light of what might have been. But it certainly seems to us that the reprint will ultimately have to be thrown overboard, body and baggage, no matter how many heart-burnings it may cause in certain quarters. Governments are getting to be

altogether too "foxy" in their use of these old dies and plates. It is a very fortunate thing that a great many of them were destroyed before Philately became a commercial force. That the bulk of them *will not be destroyed* in the future—we speak now of current and future issues—is a fact that can hardly be impugned. And so long as Philately gives reprints even the slightest countenance, there will be a certain degree of menace in their existence.

In saying that governments were directly responsible for most of the problems which Philately is at present facing, we mentioned, secondly, the inordinate multiplication of new issues, due almost wholly to Philately, which has been one of the chiefest points of concern in the philatelic situation for some years past. This phase of the matter needs no enlargement here. We mention it simply as a link in our chain of arraigning evidence against the postal administrations of the world. Added to this, comes the matter of remainders. We may perhaps be criticised for considering the common governmental practice of selling "remainders" of obsolete issues to stamp dealers as inimical to the best interests of Philately. Governments have followed this practice ever since there were stamp dealers to sell to, and probably they always will. But we strongly incline to the opinion that Philately would have been better off had every lot of remainders ever marketed been dumped, indeed, into the bottom of the sea. It has been sometimes sought to prove that the marketing of remainders is a great boon to the young and the impecunious of our cult, in that it cheapens the cost of the stamps and makes them much more accessible to the young collector. This may have been so in the archaic ages of Philately, before stamp dealers had judiciously grown. But the modern method of marketing remainders does not help the young collector much and does often hurt the advanced collector a great deal. The remainder merchant nowadays

does not come out in the open. As far as possible, he remains under cover. He markets as many of his wares as he can without disturbing the market, and there is no thought whatever on his part of dumping them all on the market at one fell swoop, that prices may tumble to the young collector's level. What does usually happen, where the remainders are of stamps catalogued at a good price, is that the market takes just enough alarm over the matter to drop quite sharply, yet stopping at a point of altitude considerably above the young collector's vision. While collectors and dealers in general, of course, find an unpleasant shrinkage of value in that certain section of their collections and stocks. So that the young collector has not been benefited, many philatelists have actually been harmed in pocket; and the only parties to gain by the transaction being the remainder merchant and the government from which the remainders came. It might be argued that even if the young collectors do not benefit from remainders, the medium class of collectors—as distinguished from the wealthy and very advanced class—certainly might. But it is to be questioned if the solidity and stability of the stamp market is not a far more important consideration to these middle class collectors than the having of a few rarities brought down to their price level. This is the worst feature of this remainder business; that it causes unnatural and unexpected fluctuations of price. Stamp prices are subject to a natural fluctuation according to the ordinary laws of supply and demand. But the sudden appearance of remainders on the market overturns and suspends all these ordinary laws of supply and demand. It is the same as if on the Corn Exchange the visible supply of May Corn were suddenly and unexpectedly augmented by an unknown supply of unnumbered millions of bushels. No one can doubt what would happen to corn prices in such a case. And that many enormous lots of remainders have been successfully marketed within the last decade without at any

time precipitating a panic in the stamp market is good evidence that there are more philatelists than speculators in our pursuit. But still we do not like this constant state of suspense in regard to remainders; this never knowing at what moment and from what quarter a mighty host of them may not descend upon us. It is not salutary to the stamp market's health. It breeds doubt and distrust in regard to the stamps of countries that have previously offended in this particular. To use a homely phrase—it keeps us from knowing quite where we are at, in a good many countries. And did the high and august postal officials of both hemispheres congregate together for the express purpose of granting all philatelists' prayers in respect to postal practice, one of our own first wishes would be that the selling of remainders might be forever and absolutely done away with.

And, then, there is the cancelled-to-order stamp—a pest of purest kind. We do not wish to go to tedious lengths, but, really, these greedy governments have much to answer for, and it is as well to get at the depths of their iniquity at one sitting and have the unpleasant matter over with. From every possible point of view, the cancelling-to-order practice is at variance with philatelic principles. The cancelled-to-order stamp is a lie most absolute. It purports to be what it is not, that is to say, a stamp that has seen postal use. True, it has the unsullied purity of original gum—telltale earnest of its true nature.—But original gum is a removable quantity. Rogues know full well how to efface every trace of it and give stamp full semblance of postal use. And even those of us most innocent of wile may easily compass the same result by sticking the cancelled-to-order specimen on a bit of paper and peeling or steaming it off after a few days. Of course, good philatelists study cancellations and are often able to identify the cancelled-to-order stamp by its canceling mark differing from that on the postally used specimen. But sometimes this test is of

no avail, through the use of identical cancelling stamps in both cases; and, even were the test always infallible *now*, it will not wholly safeguard the collectors of the future. Every year new philatelists come into bloom. Not all of them have access to this knowledge; not all would avail themselves of it, if they had. There is so much to learn about Philately nowadays that it takes the collector a long time to simply learn the boundaries of his task, let alone becoming proficient in all the points that bear upon stamp identification. And there are philatelic generations yet unborn to whom the cancelled-to-order stamp will be a snare and a stumbling block if it continues to revel in the sunlight of philatelic favor. Revel may hardly be the right term in this connection. But it is certain that there are great quantities of cancelled-to-order stamps sold every year. The philatelist who includes both used and unused in his collection and considers full sets of each necessary to its completeness can often buy full sets of both from the accommodating postmaster. The policy in this respect of the various stamp issuing chartered companies of Africa is well known; and there are a great many post offices scattered all over the world where cancelled to-order sets are obtainable. And, again, we find that the fault is fully as attributable to collectors as to the postal officials. The latter did it originally to "oblige" some of their friends. They certainly would cancel no stamps to order if there were not collectors positively aching to buy them. For the stamp-using public in general are fully willing to trust the cancelling clerk to do his work properly "unsight and unseen." We do not see on just what principle the philatelist admits cancelled-to-order stamps to his collection, *when he knows their nature*. He may argue that postally used copies cost a great deal more; are, in fact, almost unattainable; and that the cancelled-to-order is "the next best thing." This line of reasoning would seem, however, to be almost equally applicable to forgeries. Most of us have only too much

cause to know that we will never fill the space which the large minded album maker provided for the Post Office Mauritius, the first issue Reunions and others of like calibre; but are we, therefore, forsooth to insert in the spaces otherwise foredoomed to vacancy, some forgery or "photograph" of these great rarities. Does any man in his sober senses buy the "photographs" of Swiss Cantonals for insertion in his album? We have heard of such things being done years ago, but that was when Philately was in a primeval state of development. The small boy sometimes cuts the woodcuts from the dealer's price list and proudly mounts them in his album, but we of maturer years sneer at his ignorance. Yet the difference between this deluded youth and the deluded reveller in cancelled-to-order specimen is one of degree only. The cancelled-to-order stamp is a stamp in form and look, but it is decidedly not a stamp in spirit and use. It is not an unused stamp, which *can* do postal duty; it is not a used stamp, which *has* done postal duty: it is a hybrid thing, neither fish, flesh, nor fowl. We do not see how any self-respecting philatelist can knowingly admit cancelled-to-order stamps to his collection.

There is one point which stands out with almost startling clearness amidst all these philatelic dealings of governments and postal officials; namely, the fact that that dealing is practically confined to unused stamps—the cancelled-to-order hardly counting as an exception. It is not our intention to draw from that fact the deduction that Philately has been unwise in admitting unused stamps to her fellowship equally with used ones. But certainly there is absolute truth in the statement that had used stamps only been considered from the very first as embodying in themselves the proper limits of stamp collecting, and unused stamps as not belonging within the pale at all, governments would never have gotten much of a finger in the philatelic pie. We trust this assertion may not be misconstrued. We have not the least intention of advo-

cating any such return to primitive principles as collecting used stamps exclusively. We are simply considering matters in a spirit of philosophical inquiry. And we have some ideas as to the future relative importance of used and unused stamps in Philately which, though almost startling in their nature, are not, we believe, by any means beyond the realm of possibility. Before unfolding these views, there are some further things to be said, preliminary to a complete understanding of our idea.

Stamp collecting in its very earliest form dealt, practically speaking, with used stamps only. Getting used stamps from letters and postal parcels was the only means perceived by the early collectors for securing their specimens. Gradually, however, the superior beauty of unused specimens impressed itself on their comprehension; and the success of certain original-minded spirits in getting from foreign post offices complete sets of current stamps in an unused state, turned the ideas of those collectors most zealous for the superiority of their collections in quite a new direction. Somewhat later a few of the most farsighted of the early dealers began to import and lay by more or less large quantities of current foreign sets; these, of course, being all in an unused state. This practice has been continued up to the present day, on an ever increasing scale, and by an ever increasing number of dealers. It is most fortunate that it has been so, because otherwise there would be very scant supplies, indeed, of most of the olden issues—the chances against any great quantity of them surviving on letters for so many years being very strong. The unloading of these accumulations, as demand for them has arisen, has served to very largely increase what we may term the available per cent of unused stamps of obsolete issues as compared with used ones. Dealers have also hoarded used stamps, but they have not waited so long before realizing on them, because, their original cost being less ordinarily than in the case of unused a slight increase in value was

sufficient to repay for the investment. In unused stamps, on the other hand, the investor was putting in quite considerable sums and it required a greater lapse of years before he could realize at a rate of profit commensurate with the capital and risk involved. For the last decade these hoarded unused stamps have been coming to the fore and practically dominating the rarity market. Coincidentally, the development of the business side of Philately has resulted in largely increasing the importation of unused current issues; so that in common stamps as well as in rarities, unused specimens have been constantly becoming more available. To add to all this, the extensive speculation in new issues of the last two or three years, to which we have alluded in the first portion of this month's editorial, has given the unused even greater prominence. There was undoubtedly never a time when collectors of all grades had so great a proportion of unused specimens in their collections. It used to be thought a philatelic sin to mix used and unused stamps in a collection. If it were still so considered, the bulk of philatelists would be flagrant sinners, indeed. The wealthy collector includes either unused only or attempts to get each set in both used and unused states. The principle of the average specialist is the same, while with the young and middle class collector, there is no uniformity of rule whatever; the collector usually getting unused stamps when he can and used ones when he has to.

Now, the question is, whether this state of affairs has come to stay. There is probably no question but that practically all philatelists prefer unused stamps to used ones, on the score of appearance. Ordinarily, therefore, it would seem probable that the ascendancy of the unused stamp was a permanent factor in Philately, and that probably that ascendancy would be still more marked in years to come. But the query which has occurred to us and which we have been leading up to with so much pains (perhaps some of our readers

might feel inclined, to add, with so much circumlocution) is this: is there not a possibility, amounting almost to a probability, that at some future date (say twenty or thirty years hence) Philately may find it necessary to revert to her original principle of collecting used stamps only? Is it not possible that governments and postal officials may ultimately so overtax the patience and the pockets of philatelists, by means of their present methods, (probably amplified and improved on as time goes by), that there will be a total revolution in the way in which stamps are secured: the practice of buying them direct from post offices becoming obsolete and the

spoils of correspondence being depended upon for the world's philatelic supplies. Does this seem fantastical? Does it seem utterly beyond the bounds of supposition? Consider the case. Consider the fate of the speculative issue, of the made to order error in surcharge, of the insidious provisional, *et hoc genus omne* if there were no possibility of selling any of them, unused, to philatelists. Where would be the commemorative issue, that master-stroke of modern postal finance. Can you not conceive of the rapidity with which the new issue columns of the philatelic press would dwindle to slim proportions?

Numismatic Department



Under the provisions **Hawaii's** of the Hawaiian coinage **Coin Issue** act, recently passed by Congress, the silver of the island is to be turned into the mint to be recoined into United States currency. Mr. S. G. Pratt, representing the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, who has recently been in Washington in the interest of the Hawaiian legislation, calls attention to a very peculiar condition of financial affairs in Hawaii.

"Souvenir seekers have caused us a great deal of trouble with our silver coins," said Mr. Pratt, "and there is now less than \$900,000 of our silver coins that will be available for reminting. We had an issue of \$1,000,000 about twenty years ago, and the sum has been increased by smaller issues since that time. Coin collectors at one time bought up all of our dimes and held them until they reached a premium, and they are now worth about 40 cents each. The speculators also tried to corner the silver quarter market, and did succeed in getting thousands of them out of circulation. Souvenir hunters and visitors have carried away several hundred thousand dollars' worth of our coins, so that

the reminting of our silver coinage will not be a stupendous undertaking."

The Arnold Numismatic Co., of Providence, R. I., recently secured a choice little lot of State and Territorial Gold which they will include in their next auction sale, notice of which will appear later. The lot consists of:

California gold \$50.00 (slug) 1851. Obverse, AUGUSTUS HUMBERT UNITED STATES—ASSAYER OF GOLD, CALIFORNIA—EAGLE 880 THOUS. 50 DOLLS.

Rev. Engine turned design with border around same being twisted ribbon effect, extremely fine and very rare in this condition.

C. BECHTLER, ASSAYER—RUTHERFORD 2½ GOLD.

Reverse. NORTH CAROLINA GOLD in field 250.

Proof—Excessively rare, the second piece to be offered of its kind in fourteen years.

GEORGIA GOLD \$2¼, similar to above fully as rare, proof.

\$20.00 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 900 Thous. eagle with shield and ribbon.

Rev. United States Assay office of gold, San Francisco, California, 1853, in France. Engine turned design; very fine, scarce.

Gold dollar, A. BECHTLER—DOL ★.

Rev. CAROLINA GOLD in field 27. G, 21 C.

Also some regular gold \$1 and \$3 pieces, some thirty-eight in all.

Connecticut Money

This vigorous little State coined more copper than any other Commonwealth in the Union. Her principal die sinker, one Abel Buell or Bewell as it was then spelled, not only prepared the dies for his own State, but for Vermont, the New York coppers, probably some of those for New Jersey, as well as the United States coin, the "Fugio" or Franklin, otherwise known as "The mind your business cent." It is a matter of record, that Buell became an itinerant vender of dies, and visited the States before mentioned, peddling his peculiar wares as they were needed. Mention should be made, that owing to the crude method of coinage in those days, many dies were defaced and broken, and the new ones would be unlike the old. Hence the demand for dies, and explains why so many varieties exist, and the difficulties encountered by numismatologists in obtaining all the varieties. Connecticut was one of the first to make paper or fiat money, the first issue was in 1709 and continued till 1780 when all Acts for that kind of currency were repealed. They continued to circulate till 1839, but with greatly depreciated value. Connecticut, unlike many other States, never wholly repudiated her paper money. But it must be confessed much of it was never redeemed. The first real, hard copper cents or tokens struck within the borders of Connecticut were the Higley or Granby cents. They were not authorized by the State, though Higley was never molested. He was a native of Granby, now a part of Simsbury. He was by turns a doctor, a blacksmith, a copper mine owner, and farmer. The copper obtained was unusually fine, soft and easily worked, so that the coppers made by Higley were much sought after by goldsmiths to alloy their gold ware. This in a measure causes the scarcity of these coins and shows their extreme rarity and high value. The Granby mines were worked down to the time of the American Revolution, but were never profitable. In October, 1773, the General Court of Con-

necticut established in the subterranean part of the Granby copper mines a Colonial jail and public workhouse. Afterward it was known as Newgate prison. All the law-breakers of the State were confined here, many of the prisoners working in the mines. The buildings connected with the mines were three times burned, many of the convicts escaped, and the suffering of those that remained was very great. These underground, dark, damp and unwholesome passages for confining prisoners, is certainly a blot on the fair name of that otherwise good old State. Ministers preached against the disgrace, newspapers added their anathemas, and finally in 1827 the State abandoned the old Newgate, and afterward built the present structure at Wethersfield.

John Higley was an ingenious blacksmith, and probably made his own dies. The cents were struck in 1738, '37 and '39, and bear several devices. The most common one has on the obverse a standing deer, and surrounding the deer, the inscription "The value of three pence." On the reverse, three hammers each bearing a crown surrounded by the inscription "I am good copper." Another variety has on the reverse a broad axe encircled by the inscription "I cut my way through." Legend says this is supposed to be an attempt at a pun on the name of his State, "Connecticut my way through," alluding of course to the axe. The first inscription as noted above, was the value of threepence. Rum in those days was threepence a glass, and blacksmith Higley was wont to settle his score at the bar, with his own coin at the stated value. The landlord finally "kicked," the public "kicked," objecting to take a halfpenny's worth of copper for threepence, so our ingenious blacksmith changed it to "Value me as you please." Of course all this is tradition, but it seems well authenticated.

The first regular authorized coinage of Connecticut was granted by the Assembly at New Haven, October, 1785. The Act reads as follows:—"Resolved by this Assembly, that

Samuel Bishop, Joseph Hopkins, James Hillhouse and John Goodrich have liberty. And liberty and authority is hereby granted to them to establish a Mint for coining, and manufacturing coppers, not to exceed the amount of ten thousand pounds lawful money, in value of the standard of British halfpence, and to weigh six pennyweight," etc. The remainder of the directions in the Resolution, being to throw safeguards about the Act, and otherwise to protect the State. The above named gentlemen, it seems, did not care to go into the coinage business, and so sublet the contract to two wealthy New York merchants, Samuel Broome and Jeremiah Platt. There were two Mint houses, one situated in what is now known as Morris Cove, and the other not far from the mouth of the Westville River in Westville. Defective coins of Connecticut, Vermont and New York, as well as perfect ones, have been found about the sites of these old Mint houses quite recently. The original dies of the "Fugio," or "Mind your business" cent, were found a few years ago in New Haven. Since that time many fine specimens have been struck in copper, silver, and even in gold. It is doubtful if the dies have yet been destroyed. Connecticut cents were all struck during the years 1785, '86, '87 and '88. Nearly all of them bore the inscription "Auctori Connec." by the authority of Conn., and on the other side "Inde Et Lib," independence and liberty. There are many variations in the wording, as well as the shape, size and position of the ideal head of liberty, with which they are all graced. Some of the cents were struck over George III. halfpenny, some over New Jersey and Vermont cents. The result makes a curious combination, and they are much sought after by collectors.

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BY L. G. QUACKENBUSH

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Dec., 1902.

The reader who hungers for the solid meat of Philately need never fear of finding a collection of cakes and cream at the *Monthly Journal's* board. We have before expressed the opinion that no philatelic magazine at present published—not even excepting the *London Philatelist*—is month by month adding so much, either in volume or importance, to the fund-current of philatelic knowledge as the *Monthly Journal*. And the number at present before us—that of December, 1902—serves to confirm us in this opinion. It contains, in addition to its usual complement of Chronicle, Notes, and Editorials, instalments of four serial studies of stamps, each one of which is notable as shedding real enlightenment upon points of philatelic moment. They most effectually refute the contention that philatelic research has well nigh reached the point where it must expire for lack of further food for discovery. It must be evident to everyone who reads them with a true appreciation of the depth of study which they represent that the field for such research as in them finds expression is still almost boundless. Such work as is embodied in each one of these four studies is deeply impressive of Philately's horizon of discoverable fact—is eloquently indicative of the fact that much of what we have heretofore deemed thorough underground exploration is merely a measuring of the surface.

It is more than a coincidence that these four works should appear in the *Monthly Journal* at the same time. It is a step in the well defined policy of publication. Whatever the *Monthly Journal* does, it does thoroughly.

Whatever work is admitted to its columns is slow, painstaking, all embracing work, which leaves behind it very little ground for future commentators to stand on. And it is the fact that in the course of a year the *Monthly Journal*, proceeding in this necessarily careful manner, can only manage to balance up the books, as it were, of four or five, or, at most, a half dozen small colonial states—and that its two or three chief rivals only manage about as many more between them—which leads us to believe that there is no immediate fear of the *Monthly Journal* and others of its class being obliged to fill their columns with philatelic poetry and fiction, for lack of other matter. If Philately possessed two or three dozen Basset Hulls, there might be cause for alarm. If every corner of the world had so argus-eyed a student on the ground as has South Africa in the person of Mr. Emil Tamsen, we might despond. But as it is, we shall placidly enjoy these gentlemen's contributions, and feel perfectly confident that they and all other philatelic investigators of the first rank will always find plenty to write about.

The first of these four articles of which we have made such liberal mention, is the continuation of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull's "Stamps of Tonga"—the "first" in this case referring not to order of merit, but to order of appearance in the make up of the magazine. It this month covers a wide range, from the "provisional official series" of 1893 to the ½d provisional of 1896. The amount of study in a philatelic way which one small and insignificant group of Pacific islands can present, even when it did not begin to experience the blessings of postage stamps until 1887,—as, of course, exemplified in the

article under notice—is calculated to terrify the beginner, and to inspire the real philatelic student. As treated by Mr. Hull, the stamps of Tonga and their minor varieties take up new interest. This point is, in fact, characteristic of all his work. From first to last, his writings are always as lucid and clear as words can make them, and certainly in the present case, he has done wonders with Tonga. Heretofore it would have been deemed by almost any collector a very unattractive field in which to specialize. Now, under his treatment, it appears as a really pleasant and engaging specialty. The work is, in fact, of the sort (all too rare) that serves to convince the half discouraged collector that Philately presents no obstacles that cannot be overcome by painstaking application. Many philatelic investigators involve themselves and their subjects in such complexities and obscurities of statement that it is really painful to follow their windings of thought, their doublings and side trips and lost trails—to the conclusion. Such is never the case with Mr. Hull and in this lies no inconsiderable part of his greatness as a philatelic writer.

The second of these four studies is the commencement of an essay on "The Stamps of the New Republic" by Emil Tamsen. Very little has been heretofore written on these stamps, and that little mostly by Mr. Tamsen himself. His present work, however, is on a more elaborate scale, proposing to treat exhaustively all points connected with the history of these much neglected issues. These stamps of the "New Republic" form one of the most out-of-the-way fields of Philately. Probably very few American philatelists, outside of those who have large and rich general collections, possess any New Republic stamps, or take any interest in them. They are of a crude and decidedly unhandsome appearance; but they are, we believe, wholly free from speculative suspicions; and, more important still, they are of a considerable degree of rarity, promising in a few years to be practically out of reach of

the ordinary collector, and it therefore behooves the generalist to give them some attention, if he does not wish the New Republic page to be forever a weak spot in his armor. As to the New Republic as a field for specialists, its possibilities seem to be very large. Doubtless many English specialists in Transvaal stamps also specialise in New Republic—the latter state having become a part of the South African Republic after only about three years of independent existence. In any case, a perusal of this first instalment of Mr. Tamsen's paper certainly shows that the specialist will find much to interest him in the odd stamps of this odd domain. Mr. Tamsen states that in his collection, sold in 1899, were several thousand specimens; but that even this collection was not complete. This is not, of course, to be taken that there are several thousand varieties of New Republic stamps; but simply as an indication that Mr. Tamsen's accumulation was of the "bloater" class. The interest in New Republic stamps for the specialist lies in the existence, as an integral part of the design of these stamps, of a great number of different dates. The New Republic stamps were printed with a *rubber stamp*, with movable figures for values and dates, these latter being changeable as required, on the same principle as date stamps are changed in business offices. All the values bear the words "Nieuwe Republiek" at the top and "Zuid-Afrika" at the bottom. The denominations, varying from 1d to 30s, were all put in by means of these movable figures; and under the numeral of value appears the date of the printing, as "Jan. 9,-86," "Mar. 17,-86 and so on. These stamps were printed in small quantities, as required—generally by one or more of the Treasurer-General's clerks, after hours in the evening—and the use of a different date each time a fresh supply was printed is supposed to have been in some way intended as a safeguard. In regard to this and the philatelic interest of the different varieties due to these

different dates, Mr. Tamsen writes as follows:

"The idea seems to have been that the movable dates would act as a check upon officials and a prevention of forgery, but in that case it is difficult to understand why the use of the dates was abandoned early in 1887, except for the reason given me by one of the Treasury clerks, namely, that it was found too much trouble to alter the date every time that a fresh lot of stamps was required. As the twentieth-century philatelist goes in for varieties of level, raised, mixed, and misplaced stops, etc., I fail to see why the different dates of the New Republic stamps should not be considered equally interesting. The fact that some of the varieties of date are almost unobtainable, ought not to be an objection; some of the 'dotty' varieties are usually scarce, and are purely accidental besides. We collect as varieties stamps that are exactly similar to one another except in perforation, which marks as a rule a different date of printing. The dates on the stamps of the New Republic mark different printings and that in the clearest and most intelligible manner, on the face of the stamps, and no perforation gauge is required to show the difference."

It seems to us that Mr. Tamsen has in this paragraph made out a decidedly strong case in favor of these different dates, and that they are certainly much more legitimate objects for specialistic search and study than the "dotty" varieties mentioned for comparison. The listing of the different dates found on New Republic stamps and of the different values on which each one appears is a part of his work not reached in the present instalment. It may be of interest, however, to here note that Stanley Gibbons' new Catalogue mentions a total of 118 date varieties in New Republic stamps—this being in addition to a regular list of 81 varieties, whose size is due to differences in paper and in the embossed arms which were applied to the stamps for some reason or other during a portion of their term of tenure. Furthermore, as

would be practically unavoidable when so primitive a mode of printing was employed, the New Republic stamps abound in errors, a great many of which Mr. Tamsen mentions in the course of this first instalment. So that, all in all, we must conclude that New Republic is really a fascinating field for the specialist. Certainly, New Republic stamps form in many ways a sort of philatelic anomaly. With no surcharges, with no varieties of perforation; with no possible errors or shades in color, because violet only was employed throughout; here is, nevertheless, a large number of distinctly well defined varieties. Such a field is worth knowing about, if only for its uniqueness. And we shall await with much interest the continuation of Mr. Tamsen's paper.

The third of the *Monthly Journal's* serials is the continuation of the Editor's paper on the Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir. And here, we frankly confess, we are brought to a halt. Major Evans' papers on Indian Native States stamps are, as we have before had occasion to remark, exceedingly interesting, but they penetrate to a depth of technicality which would, we fear, interest but few of our readers. The current instalment is very largely taken up with matter relative to the plating of these stamps and is illustrated with no less than six reproductions of entire sheets. Manifestly, much as we admire Major Evans' work and much as we must commend its value, we cannot follow him into latitudes so intricate.

The last of these serials is the continuation of Dr. Marco Del Pont's work on "The Postage Stamps of the Argentine Republic"—a work to whose previous instalments we have given much attention. The present instalment is very largely an amplification of matters previously treated, and we will not, therefore, attempt analysis of its contents. In disposing of it thus cavalierly we are somewhat actuated by considerations relating to two points which it will not do to wholly overlook, namely, space and the patience of our readers. In ex-

tenuation of the length of this review, let us plead that it is not ourselves, but the Editor and publishers of the *Monthly Journal* (who persist in loading down their numbers so heavily with interesting matter) at whose door the blame must be laid.

The Perforator

Published and Edited by A. Herbst and W. A. McDonnell, New York.

Dec. 25th, 1902.

The American philatelic monthlies of the present day are such a pitiful lot (we regret the necessity for speaking so candidly, but it is the truth) that it is very pleasant to see one of them improving very decidedly. We have noticed a considerable change for the better in *The Perforator* since Messrs. Herbst and McDonnell took over its management some few months ago; and its Holiday number, dated Dec. 25th, displays a degree of promise that makes us hopeful of its ultimately developing into a magazine of real worth and importance. The reading matter, taking it all in all, averages very much higher in grade than it is usual to see in the minor stamp press; and though containing little or nothing of a scientific nature, is of interest to even the advanced collector. *The Perforator* is running as a feature a serial article on "The Seybold Collection of Original Covers," illustrated with photographs of some of its gems. The Seybold collection, as is well known, is practically unrivaled in America, so far as original covers go, and it is very doubtful if there are more than two or three other original cover collections in the world that are its peers. The chance of viewing a few of its gems in even this unsatisfactory manner, and of gleaning a few facts about their history, is therefore of no little interest. The covers pictured in this number are two only—one, bearing no less than five copies of the rare 2 cent Mobile and the other, a single specimen of the 5 cent Lenoir—both stamps to be counted among the most desirable of Confederate Locals.

Following this feature comes an article on "Our First Stamp Albums"

by Amy Louise Swift, which we dare not praise, inasmuch as Miss Swift in closing her essay acknowledges it to be a reproduction in much contracted form of the exhaustive article on "The Evolution of the Stamp Album," appearing in the *Philatelic Journal of America* for Dec., 1894, from the pen of L. G. Quackenbush. We may, however, safely make the comment that Miss Swift has shown excellent judgment in compressing so many of the facts regarding the early stamp albums collected in that article into so small a space as her present essay without losing the thread of sequence.

Following this comes a feature in which we own we can take but very slight interest. Mr. E. B. Sterling's interminable lists of U. S. Proprietary Revenue Cancellations—whose philatelic interest we should place on about the same level as that of the precanceled U. S. Stamps, or "next door to nothing." It is a pleasure, however, to find Mr. Sterling again interested in Philately. The older ones among us can well remember the time when he was in the very front rank of American philatelists and dealers; and his present-day interest in Revenues marks no new habit of mind. For he it was, more than any other one man, who popularised the Revenues of the Civil War in the days when postage stamp collectors held them in little higher esteem than tobacco tags. Sterling's Catalogue was for many years the revenue stamp collector's bible; and then its publisher drifted from philatelic view. It is evidently the brand new crop of Revenues which were made necessary by the Spanish-American war that has reanimated Mr. Sterling's dormant philatelic energy, and it is easy to be seen, from these lists that he has of late been furnishing to the *Perforator*, that he has lost none of his olden facility for philatelic investigation of the minutest sort. In the current number he fills nearly three closely printed pages (and *The Perforator's* pages are extra large ones, being at least twice the size of our own) with a list of the different Proprietary Revenue Cancellations emanating from one firm only,

Keasby & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa. The style of this list is somewhat as follows:

$\frac{1}{4}$ c—K. & M. Co.—July 2, '98, 3 lines, bl'k, horizontal
 .. —Ambler —July 21,
 .. —May 15, '01

and so, *ad infinitum*, through some hundreds of different dates and vagaries of cancellation, all of which, down to the last jot and tittle, are most faithfully set down. Doubtless, there are in this country some collectors interested in these proprietary cancellations; but we doubt if many of them collect on as wide a scale as Mr. Sterling and are therefore somewhat inclined to question the utility of such a list. It would seem hardly probable that more than one out of one hundred of *The Perforator's* readers would derive therefrom either benefit or pleasure.

Next we come to *The Perforator's* "Prize Manuscript Competition," which is, we are pleased to see, drawing out a somewhat better class of articles than hitherto. The first prize is this month captured by a really excellent article by Mr. Geo. F. Loring of Brooklyn, which appears under the caption, "A Few Suggestions for the Care of Covers, Etc." The title is somewhat misleading, as the "Etc." is of appreciably more interest and more length than the suggestions relative to covers. Mr. Loring gives a great number of useful and practical hints to young collectors on the proper treatment of stamps in their native state; how to remove the paper from the backs, how to soak them, how to dry them, how to press them, etc. Very commonplace matters, to be sure; but his instructions on these and other similar points are so lucid and practical that they will doubtless be of real use to many a young collector. For it is an unfortunate fact that most stamp journals seldom dream of treating such simple matters as these—which may partially account for the annual withering of a good deal of youthful philatelic interest; a tender plant, needing careful watering and nurturing if it is to gain maturity.

The second prize in this monthly contest of mental skill is taken by an

article on "The Mail Bidder In Stamp Auctions," signed "Aesculapius." This essay, also, is well worthy of its laurels, treating in a luminous and knowing way some of the problems and possibilities of mail auction bidding. Two more prize essays follow, but neither seems above mediocrity; while the next feature (a pitiable attempt to be funny, in the form of a supposed letter from "Pete Belcher, President of the Pochuck Fillatelic Society of Fillatelists") grovels considerably below it. An excellent article on "The Approval System, Its Uses and Abuses," which occupies the succeeding page, is well worthy of a perusal by every dealer, great or small. And the number closes (so far as reading matter is concerned) with some very well conceived editorials, one of which, headed "The Care of a Collection" presents some unusually sound views on points not infrequently disregarded by even the most experienced of us.

We sincerely trust that *The Perforator* will, in future issues, adhere to the high standard it has set out for itself in this Christmas edition.

The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly

Published by Plumridge & Co., London, England.
 Edited by Percy C. Bishop.

Dec. 6 and Dec. 20.

The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly for Dec. 6 is a Christmas number, a little more corpulent than is its wont and really redolent of good philatelic reading. The *Fortnightly's* stock features—"Philately at Home and Abroad," "On Postal Cards and Covers," "The Collector's Guide to Values," "Between Ourselves," "New Issues and Discoveries," "From the Auction Rooms," etc., etc.—are present in unusually generous instalments, and there are various other special features. One is an article of interest on Berlin's famed postal museum; and another an article on "Philately and Geography," by "Wallaby." Then there is a bit of lifting the veil from the inner sanctuary in an article headed "The Making of a Catalogue." Bright's A. B. C. Catalogue is the one particularized

and in an interview with Mr. Oliver, its active compiler, the *Fortnightly* representative has managed to pick up many interesting bits as to what might perhaps be called pre-catalogue procedure. The infinite amount of labor falling to the lot of the man, or even the body of men, who compile a catalogue year after year is, perhaps, almost beyond comprehension. It took Mr. Oliver and another English philatelist *about two years* to compile the first edition of Bright's Catalogue. It is not to be presumed that they gave more than a portion of their time to the work, but even then the magnitude of the task is very apparent. Succeeding editions have not, of course, entailed as much labor; the need now being only of revision. But Mr. Oliver stated that he started on the preparation of his 1903 edition in February, 1902.

Philatelic fiction very seldom contrives to insinuate itself into philatelic print nowadays. But in this Christmas *Fortnightly* we find a quite lengthy story called "The 'Missionaries' From Hawaii," which is rather pleasant reading. Its appearance in this Christmas number is doubtless due to a desire to diversify the menu with a little Christmas desert, as it were. And it is not at all a bad idea. Philatelic stories, as a rule, are sorry stuff, but Mr. Bishop's judgment on any class of literary matter is seldom at fault.

Under the title "When Philately Was Young," the *Fortnightly* reprints from *Notes and Queries*, a well-known English journal of general nature, a further instalment of Mr. P. J. Anderson's very interesting paper on early Philatelic literature. Our readers will doubtless recollect that we wrote at some length regarding the first portion of that gentleman's researches in a recent number of the COLLECTOR. As we propose giving some attention to this second instalment of his elsewhere in this number, we will pass it by here without further comment, except to say that the *Fortnightly* has done Philately good service in giving Mr. Anderson's work general circulation among philatelists. In a non-

philatelic paper like *Notes and Queries* it would naturally be accessible to only a very few philatelists. Not the least interesting feature of this Christmas *Fortnightly* is a couple of columns headed "Stamp Storyettes: Some Stories of Stamps and Stamp Men That Will Bear Repeating." The *Fortnightly* is always strong on sprightly little paragraphs of this sort, and though it is not convenient food for review, we feel no inclination to re-pine.

The *Fortnightly* for Dec. 20th shows, happily, no signs of a let down from the standard of its immediate predecessor. An excellent account of the London Society's South African Exhibition is given, and there are a couple of letters on the subject of "Hair-Splitting Specialism" that decidedly show how strong a tide is settling in against over-minuteness. Mr. W. Buckland Edwards writes on "Condition In British Stamps," touching most sensibly on the bearing which condition is sure to have on the stamp values of the future and pointing out how many British stamps of quite recent issue are already hard to get in really fine condition. Let us quote one paragraph:

"The writer ventures to predict that in ten years' time certain values will be really scarce, although millions and millions of the stamps must have been used. It is curious to find the 1 shilling green already in demand unused at double face. How is it that collectors omitted to buy it, when they had 15 years in which to do so? It is the usual case of something which can be done at any time, and is therefore never done at all."

Mr. Edwards is undoubtedly sound in his assertions. There are a great many common, low-priced stamps that it is very hard to get in strictly A1 condition—more especially in a used state. We venture to say that there are quite a number of United States stamps issued within the last ten years, of which this fact is true. The modern cancellation marks used by the bulk of our post offices are much less disfiguring than of yore. But packages still, and probably

always will, receive rough treatment at the hands of the canceling clerk; and those values most used for packages are often hard to secure in a properly immaculate state. It is well to let charity begin at home, in stamp collecting as elsewhere; and we should advise our readers to pay just as much attention to "condition" in their United States stamps of current and recent issues, however common, as in the choicest rarities of foreign lands. As Mr. Edwards happily says: "Something that can be done at any time is often never done at all."

On another page, the *Fortnightly* reproduces in full the article on surcharges, entitled "A Venture Into Heresy," which appeared in the COLLECTOR'S November Magazine Number. *The Fortnightly* does not entirely agree with the remedy that article proposed for some of the existing evils of collecting, but it compliments the essay highly on its extent of interest and closeness of reasoning—praise which we trust we may be excused for mentioning here. The fact that English and Continental journals are doing THE COLLECTOR the honor of devoting much space to reproducing and commenting upon its articles is, we feel, of interest to our subscribers as well as to us. *The Fortnightly's* friendly borrowing of our matter is no isolated instance; as perhaps we shall see before this month's review is over.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News

Published by the Mekeel-Redfield-Severn Co., New York. Edited by Chas. E. Severn.

Dec. 6.

We select the Dec. 6th issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for our review this month, rather than any of the other of its numbers that have appeared during December, because the number in question is another of that progressive publication's very frequent "specials." This special is of a somewhat different nature from most of its forerunners, for it is a "Recruiting Special," especially designed to interest "the rank outsider," or, at most, the accidental collector, whose purely casual interest in stamps has never led him to really collect,

as philatelists understand the term. That there are hosts of these in this country there can be no question: people who have in some manner gotten hold of a few foreign stamps, or perhaps some old United States ones, but are only aware in the dimmest sort of way that there is such a thing as organized Philately, with its societies, and its publications, and its commerce and its many other wonderful components. Many of these loiterers on the threshold lack only a little knowledge of philatelic methods to become permanently attached to our forces. But, as we have frequently pointed out in our Editorial Columns, American Philately (and Philately in the rest of the world, too, for the matter of that) seems willing to let them hang around outside the portals till they are weary and drift away to other realms of occupation, rather than lift a finger to let them in. In this "Recruiting Special," the publishers of *Mekeel's Weekly* are showing the way to the dealers and collectors of America. And they are doing it in admirable fashion. It is a decidedly difficult matter to devise features which will not "shoot over the head" of the reader with little or no knowledge of stamp collecting; and it is even more difficult still to so treat these features that they shall at the same time please and instruct the untutored mind. Both these difficulties seem to have been overcome in the number before us, thanks principally to Mr. C. A. Howes, whose contributions are the feature of this special, as they have been of previous ones for a year or more past. Mr. Howes' leading article in the number under notice is entitled "The Zoology of Philately." It follows the same lines as some of Mr. Howes' previous articles in *Mekeel's Weekly* and *The American Journal of Philately*; being practically a study of the significance of various stamp designs, limited in this case to those that portray birds, beasts and other members of the animal kingdom. In this and the other articles above mentioned, Mr. Howes is doing Philately very notable service, in quite another way from instructing the young collector.

Much more important than this latter point is the fact that he is bringing to the front a long neglected field of philatelic study. We philatelists have studied watermarks, we have studied papers, we have studied perforations, we have studied with infinite care every infinitesimal point connected in the remotest way with stamp production and manufacture; but we have never studied, at least to any general extent, the boundless field of interest presented by the *character* of stamp designs—in other words, by the portraits, and the emblems, and the symbols, and the mottoes, and the landscapes, and the birds, and the plants, and the historical scenes, and the many other features, figures, and devices which adorn them. In this, Philately has undoubtedly made a serious mistake. It has been a case of studying stamps wrong end foremost. We know the varieties of perforation in which a stamp comes; we are so familiar with its minutest dot that we are able to separate its various types and printings. And yet we are, in very many cases, profoundly ignorant of the symbolism and significance of the design itself. It would seem that the study of stamp symbolism ought to be an integral part of the study of Philately; and it has remained for Mr. Howes to show us the full measure of its instructiveness and interest, and, we firmly believe, to turn philatelic thought into a new and sadly neglected trend. In the article before us, Mr. Howes relates many facts in relation to the birds and beasts pictured on postage stamps that are, we believe, new to at least ninety-nine collectors out of one hundred. How many of us, for instance, could make the remotest guess as to the identity of the curious creature pictured on the duty stamps of Tasmania; which is, we are herewith informed, the platypus or duck-bill, a creature of most remarkable sort, resembling the beaver in appearance and habits, but furnished with a veritable duck's bill and likewise with webbed feet—and which completes its natural peculiarities by laying eggs and then nursing its young when

hatched. Or who among us would have known that in China, the carp is the symbol of literary talent and that to that fact it owes the honor of appearing on certain Chinese stamps? Or how many of our readers can conscientiously put their hands on their hearts and say that they have long been aware that the bird shown on the Japanese 15 sen of 1875 is the "wag tail," and that it occupies a similar position in the Japanese accounts of creation to that which the serpent does in our own? No, let us all be candid about this matter. Let us confess that it is all new to us. And it is not alone good reading, but we think it is good Philately, as well.

This article by Mr. Howes bristles with all sorts of little points similar to those we have noted; and so does a companion article by Miss Amy L. Swift on "The Botany of Philately," which deserves almost equal credit. A few pages farther over we find yet another splendid article dealing with stamp designs, this one being headed "A Study in Statesmen." The author gives brief biographical sketches of the five men whose portraits appear on various stamps of the 1873 issue of the Argentine Republic. They are: Gen. Juan Ramon Balcarce, on the 1c.; Dr. Mariano Moreno, on the 4c.; Gen. Carlos Maria de Alvear, on the 30c.; Gervacio Antonio de Posadas, on the 60c.; and Gen. Cornelio Saavedra, on the 90c. Now, how many of our readers can mention a single important fact in the career of these five South American notables? Doubtless, few have ever cared "a hafer" who or what they were. But if you will turn to the stories of their lives, as told in this article in *Mekeel's Weekly's* "Recruiting Special," we will warrant that you will learn more about the history of the Argentine Republic than you ever knew before; and will also find the subject not only interesting, but fascinating. The possibilities in the field so lightly invaded in this "Study in Statesmen" are very wide. We would not be surprised if in the future, books on such subjects;—that is, on the history of the famous people pictured on postage stamps—may

be gotten up by philatelic publishers and eagerly read by philatelic students. As the period at which these postage stamp heroes lived and fought becomes more and more remote, the interest and curiosity of philatelists in regard to them will, we think, increase very appreciably. It is, in fact, by no means impossible that Philately may ultimately weary of burying herself in her own technicalities and resort to such studies as this as a relief. In any case, we think the publication of these articles in so widely circulated and influential a paper as *Mekeel's Weekly* is certain to leave a strong impress on current philatelic ideas.

Yet another feature of this "special" is a further article by Mr. Howes, this one being on "United States Envelope Dies;" and describing in a most clear and practical way the points of difference by which the die varieties of the U. S. envelopes may be identified. The article is illustrated in such a manner as to render the text even more clear; and we have no doubt it will prove a great boon to many collectors who do not possess any of the standard works on these issues.

This "Recruiting Special" contains also a great variety of other matter of minor interest, which it is hardly needful for us to deal with here: such things as news letters from various cities and the like. But we may say with perfect truth that, though this "special" is supposedly intended for the edification of beginners and we hardly feel that we belong to that class, we have found much pleasure in it from the first line to the last.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

Published by P. L. Pemberton & Co., London, England.

The *P. J. of G. B.*'s latest number contains much good and pleasant reading. Its "well-known philatelist" in this month's picture gallery is Mr. W. Schwabacher, the President of the Fiscal Philatelic Society, a stamp collector since 1864 and the proud possessor of a postage stamp

collection of 18,000 specimens and a fiscal stamp collection of 30,000 specimens! A sketch of such a collector's life and philatelic labors cannot but be interesting, as well as an inspiration to younger collectors. The *P. J. of G. B.* certainly uses good judgment in the selection of the notables to adorn its serial portrait gallery. A short article with the modest heading "Concerning Australian Stamps," which follows hard upon the heels of the printed and pictorial sketch of Mr. Schwabacher, contains a bit of such wise counsel on the burning subject of "condition" that we shall quote the paragraphs in question, which are as follows:

"Really fine specimens of old Australian stamps are of the greatest rarity, and worth commensurate prices. Moderate specimens of most varieties are fairly plentiful, while 'wrecks' are common, especially of stamps which are extremely rare in fine condition.

"To advise each and every collector to take none but absolutely superb copies of early Australians would be a 'counsel of perfection' quite impossible of attainment. The object to be sought should rather be the getting together specimens that are not below the fair average for each stamp.

"This is a matter that requires much more care and knowledge than is generally imagined. A stamp that may absolutely seem only moderate will often be rather above than below the average of the specimens of that particular variety usually met with, and, of course, *vice versa*. Our readers will therefore do well to study carefully what is the average condition of the varieties they propose to buy and to regulate their purchases accordingly rather than to think that they must be acting rightly by buying at a small fraction of catalogue prices—which is only another way of advising them to become philatelists rather than mere accumulators."

This is a phase of the "condition" question which we are glad to see at last given some attention. As our contemporary points out, fine condition

is a relative term. A degree of damage which would serve to irrevocably damn a current British Colonial in the eyes of the stickler for condition would seem but trivial and unimportant on a Post Office Mauritius. "Condition" is really more useful as a standard of differentiation for common stamps than for any application it has to rarities. If all but one of the existing copies of a certain stamp were badly smudged in canceling, and that one lone specimen has lost a corner, but is bright and clean of face, that one is assuredly a gem of gems. But this is an extreme illustration. On another page, we find considerable attention given to the COLLECTOR'S editorial of a month or two since on the shortcomings of philatelic magazines. As our contemporary's comments have suggested to us some further points bearing on the subject—which we think belong more properly to the editorial than to the review columns, we refer our readers to the editorial pages for our further views on this topic.

The *P. J. of G. B.'s* editorial leader is devoted to full particulars as to the dangerous forgeries of Greek stamps lately appearing on the market; and some attention is also given to the perennial subject of auctions, the view being taken that they are all well enough for those who "know the ropes," but that ordinary collectors will find them a dear school of experience—an opinion with which we find ourselves unable to agree. The excellent "Descriptive Catalogue of European Postage Stamps" deals this month with the issues of the duchy of Brunswick and in a decidedly interesting and valuable way. And the number closes with the usual "Philatelic Review of Reviews," in which we are pleased to find no little prominence and no little praise accorded to one of the Magazine Numbers of the COLLECTOR.

The Australian Philatelist

Published and Edited by Fred Hagen, Sydney, Australia.

Dec. 1, 1902.

The December number of the *Aus-*

tralian Philatelist would indicate that Philately in the Antipodes is gaining ground. For that journal is certainly doing so, and we can hardly suppose it possible that it should gain in size and general excellence without some augmentation of support. *The Australian Philatelist* is, however, so largely devoted to matter of little interest to any save Australian collectors that we do not feel disposed to review its contents at any length. This statement should not be understood as impugning in any way the merit of this far away journal. It is naturally "a specialty paper," devoted necessarily to Australian stamps, because it is from Australian philatelists that its support must come.

The editorials are, to us Americans, at least, the most interesting feature of the number before us. From their general tone and from many of their explicit utterances it is easy to gather that "bloating" and other kindred features of advanced English Philately have not as yet become the fashion in the greatest of her colonial possessions. Mr. Hagen condemns "bloating" in unmeasured terms. In one place he says: "From Mr. Basset Hull's remarks the members gathered that many English collections were more in the direction of wholesale gatherings: for instance, a whole sheet would represent one variety. With the exception of locating the position of errors where they exist on a sheet, such a system of collecting is open to objection—it is not true Philately." And again: "Where a pair or a block satisfied a collector up to a few years ago, he now wants a half sheet, or a whole sheet, if within the reach of his pocket. And should there be shades in color of a particular stamp nothing short of a half or whole sheet will satisfy him. And it may thus happen that a collector will show you sheet after sheet of one authorized value. Is this *bona fide* collecting? We are not of that opinion. It is nothing but wholesale gathering. This system of Philately does more harm than good, for should a stamp become scarce, the scarcity is discounted to a great extent by the

knowledge that there are sheets of it to be found in certain collections. We would certainly not recognize this system were we called upon to give an award for the best collection at a philatelic exhibition."

Mr. Hagen's words are strong, but not, we think, in any way undeserved by the evil in question. "Bloating" seems to be very firmly entrenched at present, but it seems improbable that it will in the future gain many new converts. Certainly, if Mr. Hagen's favor counts for aught, it will find scant favor in Australia.

The "New Issues and Discoveries" are notably good and full in relation to all Antipodean issues. Then come "Reviews" and "Correspondence" and "Society Reports" and other minor matter sufficient to make up a very goodly paper—not as large as it will be some day, perhaps, but still quite sizable, considering the youth of Philately in Australia.

The Australian Journal of Philately

Published by J. H. Smyth & Co., Sydney, Australia.
Oct. 16, 1902.

Either the *Australian Journal of Philately* is not so prompt in appearing as its local contemporary, or else the latter must date its numbers ahead. For it is something of an anomaly that after reviewing one Australian journal, bearing date of Dec. 1st, we should find that the latest number of its rival which we have on file bears date of Oct. 16th. It is possible that some later copy of the *A. J. of P.* may have gone astray. But "whate'er the cause, the fact remains;" and as we have not yet reviewed this October number we will venture, even at this late date, to do so. The *Australian Journal of Philately* is very similar in contents and make up to Sydney's other philatelic journal, mentioned previously in this review. It is well written and well calculated to help and interest Australian collectors. In the current number we find a considerable excerpt from the *London Philatelist* on the proposed new Edition on "Oceania" whose compilation Mr. Basset Hull is about to undertake in

conjunction with the London Society—a matter naturally of very great interest to Australian collectors. Some three or four pages are devoted to an article on "Federal Prospects"—another matter of paramount interest to Australians. An article headed "Visitors From New Zealand" gives us some interesting facts about the progress of Philately in New Zealand, as related by two well-known philatelists from there lately visiting in Australia. Part I of Stanley Gibbons' new Catalogue is reviewed in very adequate fashion. Another feature, which we at first took to be philatelic fiction, but which on reading proves to be a humorous "take-off" containing more truth than poetry, is headed "Drake," by "Casey." Drake is the present Postmaster General of the Australian Commonwealth and is held responsible for a good many of the postal eccentricities lately prevalent in that part of the world. This take-off is written in a form of Irish dialect, which reminds us of Mr. Dooley, and is by no means bad reading. A rather sparse department of "New Issues" completes the number.

The American Journal of Philately

Published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York. Edited by John N. Luff.
Nov., 1902.

We have not yet received any later number of the *American Journal of Philately* than that for November; which, fortunately for the *A. J. of P.*'s chance of figuring in this month's review, we have not previously reviewed. The number is of the solid value always present in this publication. The editorial for the month is devoted to a subject of much interest: namely, the attempts which have recently been made by various societies to hold competitive exhibitions in which the collector of moderate means might have a chance—as the *A. J. of P.* aptly expresses it, "something in which effort and ability should count more than wealth." We quote the most important portion of the editorial: "Anyone who has tried to arrange such a competition knows how difficult, indeed, how nearly impossible,

it is to attain the desired result. We feel, therefore, that congratulations are due to the Philatelic Society, New York, upon the competition recently held under its auspices, and which seems, for once, to have secured the results aimed at. The subject of this competition was "Stamps bearing Portraits," and the exhibitors were required to give the name of each person portrayed, with date of birth and death. It sounds simple, but it is not at all easy to work out. Those who have attempted it say that the total number of portraits on stamps is only about 210; yet at the recent competition 101 was the largest number which any exhibitor was able to show with the required information supplied. Probably the several exhibitors together did not fulfil the conditions for more than 150 stamps.

"For such an exhibition, wealth is not required; perseverance and work will be of more avail. It also furnishes a good suggestion for a small specialty in collecting. On the whole, the exhibition proved interesting and instructive, and the members of the Society who were present were unanimous in their praise of it and promptly proceeded to devise another display on the same lines. This is to be devoted to stamps showing pictures, statuary, and buildings—in other words, art and architecture. The title of the picture or statue and name of the artist are to be given if possible. In the case of any celebrated building the name of the architect is to be supplied if it can be done.

"It will be observed that the merit of these competitions lies more in the information to be obtained from them, than in the possible beauty or value of the stamp. The educational feature takes precedence of the merely spectacular."

This editorial is of much interest as illustrating the newborn tendency to study what we have ventured to term "stamp symbolism," as spoken of at some length in our review of the "Recruiting Special" of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. Straws show which way the wind blows and this editorial, in a journal of such standing as the

A. J. of P. is significant. More significant still is the fact that it has opened its pages to some of Mr. C. A. Howes' studies on stamp designs, so warmly commended in this review. His essay (or rather, sketch) in the *A. J. of P.* deals in detail with some of the pictorial stamps of New Zealand and Tasmania, describing the localities pictured, the flora, and all other points of interest in the design. Certainly a new era in stamp study is dawning.

The remaining contents of the November *A. J. of P.* are of the usual scientific caliber. M. Jules Bouvez's exceedingly exhaustive work on the stamps of Luxembourg is continued. "The Postal Laws of Hawaii from 1852 to 1878," a paper read by the late Sir Daniel Cooper before the International Congress of Philatelists at Paris in 1878, and now printed in America for the first time (twenty-four years later) is of considerable interest to Hawaiian specialists—who are almost always sure of finding some special tidbit for them alone in the journal under notice. Then follows a most interesting article, from the pen of Mr. Luff himself, on "The Reprints of the Stamps of Moldavia." As the status of these alleged reprints has already been discussed in the COLLECTOR we will not here rehearse the matter for a second time: Suffice it to say that Mr. Luff, from certain copies of Moldavian stamps lately submitted to him which presumably are from this batch of reprints, strongly suspects that they are not even reprints, but out and out forgeries. This opinion is at variance with that expressed by Mr. Castle and other eminent English experts; but we are inclined to believe, considering the highly suspicious character of the whole manner in which these reprints have come on the market, that Mr. Luff's theory is the correct one. Very likely more detailed information as to the status of these alleged reprints may be availed before this number goes to press, for all philatelic Europe is stirred up over the matter and bent on ferreting out the truth. But it

will be certainly safe to pursue a policy of "hands off" in regard to any of the early stamps of Moldavia offered for sale just now—unless from absolutely unimpeachable sources. For there is certainly a deal of roguery afloat somewhere in this business.

The balance of the *A. J. of P.* is devoted to the usual Notes, Chronicle and the like. Mr. Nankivell's English Letter, which we always take great pleasure in reading, is deplorably absent.

The Philatelic Record

Published by Truslove & Brav, West Norwood, London, England.

Nov., 1902.

The Philatelic Record for November contains much able matter. The Editorial is cut somewhat shorter than usual and the oddly named review department "Philately In The Mags" has, for the nonce, suffered total extinction. The sacrifice is doubtless due to the length of Lieut. R. H. Napier's important paper, "Notes On The Stamps Of Griqualand West." The stamps of Griqualand West enjoy the somewhat unique distinction of being from first to last the product of the print shop—in other words, all the Griqualand varieties were produced by surcharging either the letter "G" or the letters "G. W." on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. The artistic interest of the Griqualand varieties is therefore manifestly very slight. The field of study they present is however very rich in opportunities for the specialists—particularly those interested in "plating" entire sheets. In overprinting the Cape of Good Hope stamps with the letter "G" uniformity of type was apparently no consideration. Capital "G's" from several different fonts were used indiscriminately; and as the type was old and worn, many further varieties were created by many of the letters being broken or otherwise distorted. The result is a perfect carnival of varieties, which have never been quite satisfactorily arranged in due apperpie order. This Lieut. Napier has set out to do, and undoubtedly will do: **for he is one of the most accurate and**

able philatelic logicians of the day. We employ the term "logician" because the solution of such problems as are presented by these Griqualand varieties is really more dependent on skilful weighing of slight indications and nice mathematical deductions than on original research. Given an infinitely large number of slightly differing varieties of surcharges and asked to solve the problem as to the exact position of each one on the original sheet, and we have a prodigious, not to say seemingly impossible task. It is one of the strongest indications that Philately is a science, in the highest sense of the word, when we find such problems ultimately solved, after an enormous amount of the most patient, skilful and intricate calculation. Lieut. Napier's work on the Griqualand varieties is a case in point. As we read it, we cannot but marvel anew at the results attained by philatelic study—at the fact that so much can have been learned with practical certainty where it would have seemed as though chaos must always exist.

It is, of course, utterly impossible for us to review here Lieut. Napier's able paper. It is far too intricate for that. But we can, at least, record our judgment that it is one of the best pieces of work in its line that we have seen for a long time. It is illustrated, in the *Record's* usual ample fashion, with a series of photographic reproductions showing clearly many of the different varieties of print.

The Record's "Notable Philatelist" this month is Mr. C. F. Larmour, a well-known Anglo-Indian philatelist, who has been a most active worker in the cause of Philately in India; and whose attainments as a collector appear to have been fully on a par with his more widely known ability as a philatelic editor and society organizer. The article by Theodore Haas on "The Stamps of Crete" is in the number before us brought to a conclusion; and there is a short and rather interesting article by B. T. K. Smith on a "retouched die variety" in the current one penny stamp of Victoria. The department of "New Issues and Discoveries" concludes the number.

Department of Foreign Relations

From 1888 to 1892 we published a series of **MEKEEL'S STAMP DEALER'S** and **COLLECTOR'S ADDRESS BOOKS**, containing the addresses of collectors in all parts of the world. These books are now out of print. One of the important features was the announcements of collectors and exchangers desiring foreign relations.

No stamp paper of the present day does much to cultivate this kind of business, and as our foreign connections extend into every country and colony we shall make this department an important feature.

Our columns are open to *subscribers only*. Announcements of reasonable length, in the following style \$1.25 per insertion. Payment in advance.

Subscriptions and payment for announcements may be remitted by foreign correspondents in unused postage stamps of the lowest denomination current in their country. Subscription to all foreign countries (except Canada, Cuba and Mexico) \$1.50 per year.

The amount of both subscription and advertisement, \$2.75, must come with first copy. Repetition of the advertisement, \$1.25 each.

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N. ABUDARAM

Porto Alegre
BRAZIL

Exchange desired with advanced collectors in all parts of the world. Please send me a selection of rare stamps of your country and receive in exchange rare stamps of Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Basis—Scott, Kohl, Tellier, Stanley Gibbons' or Senf's latest catalogue. Common stamps not wanted. President of the "Uniao Philatelica Brasileira."

F. SCHWARZENBACH

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SWITZERLAND

The largest packet maker in the world. Open to buy lots of South and Central American Stamps. Make quotations.

CAUTION

While we do not publish the announcements of any one but that we believe to be all right, we desire to caution our readers to use good business judgment in all matters of foreign exchange relations, and not to rely entirely upon the fact that the advertisement has been accepted.

FOREIGN NOTES

Subscribers in foreign countries are requested to consider themselves our authorized correspondents for the particular locality in which they reside and all are requested to furnish us early information about all new issues of stamps as well as local news of importance.

EXCHANGE

We will exchange with collectors and dealers in foreign countries.

Wholesale lots will be accepted at current market prices in exchange, and stamps furnished for collection or at wholesale if desired.

Our specialties for exchange are the stamps of the American continent, but we accept the postage stamps of *any country*, as we are general dealers.

Collectors who are particularly interested in Mexico may receive very fine selections in exchange from us priced and classified by either Scott, Gibbons, Senf or Kohl's catalogues.

Special quotations for cash are also solicited. Always send samples and state quantities when making us offers. *We make no bids.*

Address all parcels registered.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

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PACKET SULTAN containing one complete set of stamps, Tanger—Tetuan; one complete set Tanger—Arzila; one complete set Tanger—Fez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez Taxe; one complete set Fez—Sefro, one complete set Mazagan—Marrakesh; one complete set Saffi—Marrakesh; one complete set Mogador—Marrakesh; one set French Post of Morocco Postage Due 5, 10, 30, 50; one set French Post id 5, 10, 20, 25; one set Gibraltar ½d, 1d, 2d; one set Gibraltar Morocco Agencies 5, 10, 25; one set German Post 3, 5, 10, for **\$2.25**.

Packet containing only five sets at the choice of the buyer, for \$0 80

Each of the complete sets of local posts 25

Payment in advance or good references.

Cash by Postal Order.

J. ELMALEH, Tangier, Morocco.

BACK NUMBERS == 1902

— OF —

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c.
No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. each.

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at 5c. each as long as they last, very few of some on hand.

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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Chronicle of New Issues

Only adhesive stamps listed.

All are regular postage stamps unless special heading in italics.

All are 1902 issues.

Varieties of perforation, unimportant minor varieties and oddities not listed.

Surcharges are in black unless noted.

Native Indian States are not considered, except those surcharging British Indians.

Bahamas

New series, head of King Edward VII.

- 1 penny, carmine.
- 2½ pence, blue.
- 4 " orange.
- 6 " ochre.
- 1 shilling, black and carmine.
- 5 shillings, violet and ultramarine.
- 1 pound, green and black.

British Honduras

Colonial type, head of King Edward VII.

- 2 cents, lilac and black on orange-red.

Cape of Good Hope

New types, head of King Edward VII.

- ½ penny, green.
- 1 penny, carmine.
- 1 shilling, ochre.

Cook Islands

New supplies of all current Cook Islands stamps are on the latest New Zealand paper (with watermark very distinct, the "NZ" and star being close together instead of wide apart as formerly) and perforated 11.

Bird Type.

- ½ penny, green.
- 2 pence, dark brown.
- 6 " deep mauve.
- 1 shilling, bright rose.

Portrait Type.

- 1 penny, carmine.
- 1½ " dark violet.
- 2½ pence, blue.
- 5 " shades of gray.
- 10 " dark green.

The 2p., 6p. and 1s. (bird type) are so arranged for printing on the New Zealand paper that some of them may be found with portions of the marginal watermark, "NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE" and large figure (1, 2, 3 or 4), or without any watermark at all (one stamp in sixty).

Corea

Commemorative stamp of large size

issued in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the accession of the present Emperor, Yi Huing. The central feature appears to be the Corean imperial crown, and the design is elaborate and artistic. Inscriptions are in French and Chinese, with two large figures of value ("3").

3 cheun, orange.

Egypt (Soudan)

Current (camel) type, stamps printed on paper watermarked star and crescent (multiple). Watermarks close together and several on a stamp.

- 2 millimetres, brown and green.
- 1 piastre, brown and blue.
- 10 piastres, purple and black.

Fiji Islands

The new issue, as previously announced by us, head of King Edward VII.

- ½ penny, green.
- 1 " lilac on red.
- 2 pence, " and orange.
- 2½ " " blue on bluish.
- 3 " " brown.
- 4 " " blue.
- 5 " " green.
- 6 " " carmine.
- 1 shilling, green and carmine.
- 5 shillings, " black.
- 1 pound, black and blue.

French Guiana

New value added to current set.

- 2 francs, violet and carmine on rose.

Great Britain

Official Stamps.

King's head stamp surcharged "GOVT. PARCELS.

- 1 penny, carmine.

King's head stamp surcharged "C. A." (Crown Agents for the Colonies).

- 1 penny, carmine.

Honduras

New series, size 25 x 35 mm. Inscription "Correos de Honduras, U. P. U." Portrait of Gen. Santos Guardiola, ex-President of the Republic.

- 1 centavo, green.
- 2 centavos, red.
- 3 " dark blue.
- 6 " violet.
- 10 " brown.
- 20 " light blue.
- 50 " vermilion.
- 1 peso, orange.

Iceland

Of the stamps just retired, the following have been re-habilitated by the surcharge "I GILDI—'02-'03" in two lines.

- 6 aur, gray, red surcharge.
- 10 " carmine.
- 20 " blue, red surcharge.
- 25 " brown and blue, red surcharge.
- 40 " violet.
- 50 " blue and rose.

Official Stamps.

The official stamps accompanying the new issue are in exactly the same type as the regular issue except for the inscription at the right hand side of the stamp, which is "Pjonusta" instead of "Frimerki."

- 3 aur, orange and black.
- 4 " dark green " "
- 5 " red brown, " "
- 10 " blue " "
- 16 " pink " "
- 20 " green " "
- 50 " lilac " "

India

Official Stamps.

King's head stamps with the customary surcharge "On H. M. S."

- ½ anna, green.
- 1 " carmine.

Liberia

Provisional surcharged on \$1 (hipopotamus type) of 1892. The over-



print consists of large figures "75" and small "c." Also bar over old value (in words) at bottom, figures (1) at top not obliterated..

75 cents on 1 dollar, blue and black.

Mauritius

New stamps in the current (arms) type.

- 3 cents, green and carmine on yellow.
- 6 " black and carmine on orange-red.

Persia

Stamps of the long-expected "permanent" issue; lower values in a new type somewhat similar to the last, and the higher values (1 kr. and up)

in that given by us in connection with the recent provisionals (page 494).

- 1 shahi, lilac.
- 2 shahis, gray.
- 3 " green.
- 5 " red.
- 10 " brown.
- 12 " blue.
- 1 kran, purple.
- 50 krans, dark green.



Paraguay

We reproduce from a South American paper, *Revista de la Sociedad Filatelica Argentina*, an illustration of the design of a forthcoming issue for the republic of Paraguay. It is pending the arrival of these new stamps that they are having to resort to surcharging for supplies of certain values.

Rhodesia

This should properly be given under the head "British South Africa," but we follow the current catalogue. New value in current type (A 8).

2½ pence, light blue.

St. Lucia

Colonial type, head of King Edward VII.

- 2 pence, lilac and black.
- 2 shillings, green and lilac.

Also a commemorative stamp of 2 pence, issued in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the history of the island. It is a large stamp with local view.

2 pence, green and brown.

Sierra Leone

Colonial type, head of King Edward VII.

- ½ penny, lilac and green.
- 1 " " " carmine.
- 1½ " " " olive.
- 2 pence, " " sepia.
- 2½ " " " blue.
- 3 " " " gray.
- 4 " " " carmine.
- 5 " " " black.
- 6 " " " violet.
- 1 shilling, green and black.
- 5 shillings, " " carmine.
- 1 pound, lilac on red.

Servia

Two additional values of the current type, being gradually introduced.

25 paras, blue.
50 " brown.

South Australia

Another batch of values in the large oblong type. We should hardly think the public down there would take very kindly to stamps of this size as a regular diet.

3 pence, olive-green.
4 " orange.
6 " blue-green.
10 " orange-yellow.
1 shilling, dull brown.

Southern Nigeria

Similar to Queen's head issue, but head of King Edward VII.

½ penny, green and black.
1 " carmine " "
2 pence, red-brown " "
4 " olive-green " "
6 " violet " "
1 shilling, black and green.
2 shillings, brown and black.
5 " yellow " "
10 " red-brown and black on yellow.
1 pound, violet and green.

Switzerland

Current stamp in new color without change of type.

1 franc, bright red.

Tasmania*Newspaper Stamps.*

The Commonwealth postal authorities having stopped the free transportation of newspapers, and the Commonwealth newspaper stamp not having put in an appearance, the Tasmanian Government Railways have issued a type-set series. Inscriptions are "T. G. RYS—(value)—NEWSPAPER STAMP." Size 26 x 26 mm., perf. 12.

¼ penny, black.
1 " "
2 pence, " "

United States

Series of 1902, stamps previously described are now regularly listed.

1 cent, green.
2 cents, rose.
2 " carmine.
5 " blue.
8 " violet-black.
13 " lilac-black.

Special Delivery Stamp.

10 cents, ultramarine.

CUMBERLAND, MD.

In listing a newly discovered local, Baker's City Express Post, from above town, the *American Journal of Philately* has the following:

"We have seen a local stamp, hitherto uncatalogued, which is on the original cover and presents every appearance of genuineness. It was found among the papers of the gentleman to whom the letter was addressed, and its history seems to be fully authenticated. The letter was mailed in Cumberland, Md. As will be seen by referring to our illustration, the design is very similar to one of the Frazer locals."

*Local Stamp.*

2 cents, black on pink.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

We now illustrate and chronicle in the regular form the local "city dispatch" stamp of which we gave historical and philatelic information on page 453, October magazine number.

*Local Stamp.*

2 cents, black.

West Australia

We illustrate herewith another of the makeshift stamps now inflicted on this state of the Australian Commonwealth.

GENERAL NOTES

Under this head will be given from time to time notices of such discoveries in old issues and minor varieties of all kinds as it is not desired to list in the regular chronicle; also information in regard to stamps withdrawn from issue, obsolete stamps again placed on sale or re-issued, etc.

Australian Commonwealth

It will be an open question whether the new official stamps of the various states are worthy of general collection, as the letters are perforated in the stamps and not surcharged on them. We have a Luxemburg official set and a Tunis postage due set which are distinguished by perforation, but there are many English varieties that are not catalogued at all. Of the Australian states, New South Wales has two varieties ("O. S." for the departments under federal control and "O. S.—N. S. W." for local departments) and Tasmania one ("T"). All the other states will probably follow.

Crete

A correspondent of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* informs that paper that during a recent shortage of 1 lepton postage stamps, "the postmaster" (is there only one postmaster on the island?) made use of fiscal stamps, this provisional use lasting about two weeks. The same correspondent mentions a 25 lepta with large surcharge from which the letter "s" is missing, leaving "PRO ORINON."

North Borneo

Minor varieties noted by the English press in connection with the current postage due stamps:

2 cents, vertical surcharge, stop after "DUE"
8 " horizontal
8 " same, also stop after "DUE"

Paraguay

The recently chronicled 5c. on 8c. "habilitado" is noted with surcharge reading up and also with surcharge reading down. Each of these varieties may also be found with no stop after "cent" and with error "Hab litado." Thus the collector may have six varieties of this one stamp if he should feel so inclined, to say nothing of "small stops" and "thick stops."

Portugal and Colonies

Portugal will be the fourth country to introduce "penny postage" with its colonies. Great Britain was the first, quickly followed by France and Germany. The Portuguese equivalent of the penny is 25 reis and all stamps of that value will be printed in carmine. This is a reduction from 65 reis.

Uganda

Sheets of current 1, 3 and 8 annas stamps are reported to have been seen so printed that stamps may be found with portions of a watermark in two lines "CROWN AGENTS FOR—THE COLONIES," also one stamp in 60 without any watermark whatever.

THAT TRUST ACCOUNT

We have received some very kind letters on the subject of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR and the figures quoted in the December magazine about the cost of its production. (See page 712, Volume 15.)

We are not seeking to make money out of this publication. We intend to publish as large and as good a journal as the income from subscriptions and first-class advertising patronage will justify.

We do not solicit bargain counter advertising and will only accept the announcements of the highest class dealers; therefore, subscriptions are our main support.

We believe that 10,000 subscriptions, at \$1.00 per year, can be obtained for a paper of this class. We shall spend every dollar we receive, in improving and enlarging the publication.

At the out-set we stated that the editorial management was in the hands of men whose more important business interests would of necessity command first call upon their time and energies, so that our own work would be largely a labor of love for the benefit of Philately.

There are services that can be bought, which will aid us in extending the scope and usefulness of our field. When our income justifies it we shall have no difficulty in finding the material.

The Trend of the Times

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S MIRROR OF RECENT EVENTS

The race of stamp fakirs is seemingly ubiquitous. No quarter of the globe seems to be wholly exempt from their presence. Australian collectors are just now beset with an epidemic of faked perforations, supposed to be the work of some person or persons living in Australia and not, therefore, the usual "European importation." The most dangerous of these fakes, on account of their being the highest in price are Queensland perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, 1d, 2d and 1sh. They have been produced by taking genuine specimens of the ordinary stamps, perf. 12 all round, removing the horizontal perforations and substituting the larger gauge; and the fakes are said to be very close imitations of the originals. A considerable number of other Australian stamps whose value would be materially enhanced by a slight change of perforation, have been similarly altered; and no one in Australia seems to know what may not be next expected. If such trickery is long unchecked, it will deal perforation collecting a very hard blow. With the immense amount of criticism it has lately come in for it is very doubtful if it could survive any very fierce attacks from the fakirs. It is a great pity, however, to see one of the last safeguards for the detection of reprints and forgeries thus seemingly in danger of removal. A difference in perforation has often been the one clue to forgery detection. That forged perforations are beginning to trouble Philately forefends, we fear, greater attention to correct perforating in out and out forgeries.

The increased interest and attention given to competitive exhibitions by all the leading local societies of America and England is worthy of note. It is noticeable, however, that there is a great discrepancy of opinion among them as to how the prizes should be awarded. Almost all use

a point system of some sort, but hardly any two are agreed in their mode of scoring. The Boston Society has, in the arrangements made for the series of exhibitions it is holding this year, struck a more impartial basis of decision than in any other similar set of specifications that we have seen. In the hope that some of our readers belonging to local societies in smaller cities may either now or later be called on to devise rules for making awards in similar competitive exhibitions—for we believe no local society can fail to derive advantage from such a feature—we quote the percentages decided on in several of the various exhibits:

British North America: Completeness, 20%; condition, 50%; arrangement, 30%.

Russia, including Finland: Completeness, 35%; condition, 25%; arrangement, 10%.

Victoria: Completeness, 35%; rarity, 30%; condition, 25%; arrangement, 10%.

United States, adhesives only: Completeness, 20%; condition, 50%; arrangement, 30%.

It will be noted that in these competitions, completeness (which used to be considered the philatelic desideratum) is hardly, on the whole, given as much consideration as condition and arrangement. We believe the Boston Society is perfectly sound in thus arranging its percentages.

The Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences does not, in our judgment, strike nearly as happy a medium in its methods of scoring as does the Boston Society, as above mentioned. These open competitive philatelic exhibitions are on this institution's program for this Winter, a condensed summary of whose nature and conditions is as follows:

"First exhibition, the best 50 Dif-

ferent Cancelled Stamps, Condition, not Rarity, to count. A total of 300 points may be scored, as follows: For each stamp, one point for color or brilliancy, two points for centering and three points for cancellation. Legible town cancellations shall count three, ordinary town cancellations shall count two, bar or cork cancellations shall count one.

Second exhibition, the best exhibit of stamps of any one of the following countries: Chili, Hong Kong, Belgium, Jamaica, Netherlands, Egypt. The total of 10 points may be scored as follows: Three points for condition, three points for rarity, three points for numbers, and one point for general effectiveness and skill in arrangement.

Third exhibition, the best 50 different unused stamps of the catalogue value of \$10 and under. The total of 300 points may be scored as follows: For each stamp, one point for color or brilliancy, two points for centering, and three points for rarity. No damaged or repaired stamp can score any point."

We will not here take space to indicate wherein we think these percentages are not quite as well chosen as those of the Boston Society, because it would involve length and complex considerations. But we think our readers will find a comparison of the two of some little interest.

The new Expert Committee of the American Philatelic Association consists of Messrs. John N. Luff, J. M. Andreini, and J. C. Morgenthau. They were appointed some time since, but we believe we have hitherto neglected to mention the matter. The appointments are thoroughly commendable from every point of view, though we believe there was some comment over the fact that the veteran, J. W. Scott, was not named as one of this expert body. Mr. Scott was perhaps the best posted Counterfeit Detector which the American Philatelic Association ever had

(though the late E. A. Holton and others filled the office with signal ability) and his services as an expert would certainly have been highly valuable to the newly constituted body. As our readers probably know this Expert Committee is to perform the same duties as were formerly delegated to the Association's Counterfeit Detector; the innovation having doubtless been inspired by the example of the London Society which has for some time boasted a similar committee.

A semi-philatelic transaction whose parallel does not come within the range of our remembrance is the recent transfer of a house and lot in Yonkers, N. Y., the consideration being a postage stamp collection of some 9,000 varieties, valued at \$2,500. Stories of similar deals have now and then appeared in the philatelic press, both here and abroad, but confirmatory details have usually been lacking. In this instance, it seems to be well authenticated that the exchange actually took place as stated—a pleasant indication of the tangibility of stamps as a commercial asset.

Fiscalism seems to be continually gaining ground. One of the most significant indications of the fact is found in the action of the London Philatelic Society, (the foremost philatelic body of the world, and one in which fiscal collecting has hitherto received a scant consideration) in devoting an evening to a "Bird's-eye View of Fiscal Philately." The gentleman who is to give the "bird's-eye view" is Mr. W. Schwabacher, a leading member of the London Society and also President of the Fiscal Philatelic Society. As a refutation of the claim that there is no money in Fiscals, it may be noted that Mr. Schwabacher has recently refused an offer of £1,000 (or about \$5,000) for his Fiscal collection—which is stated to contain about 30,000 specimens and to be one of the best and largest extant.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

A. C. C., TROY, N. Y.

Question.—What is the best stamp hinge, a peelable or non-peelable?

Answer.—Simply a matter of opinion. Some prefer one kind and some another. The large peelable hinges are more expensive but some do not care for them. A hinge should always have pure gum, the cheap-label adhesive qualities of some hinges damage the stamps and gum up the backs.

H. F. P., ST. PAUL, MINN.

We have sent you the 52 numbers comprising Volume 15 (price \$2.00), payment for which was received. An index will be prepared and mailed (with a Title Page) as an 8 page supplement to an early number of our paper.

Other readers are also advised to await this form before binding.

W. T. VAN B., PEORIA, ILL.

Question.—What is the meaning of "Habilitado" in the way it is used on the stamps of the Spanish speaking countries?

Answer.—In the broad sense as applied to stamps, when placed upon stamps that have been returned from use and re-issued, it means that they are officially re-habilitated and made available for use again.

TO OTHER QUESTIONERS.—We will soon dispose of a large installment of queries that have been accumulating for attention in this department.

HENRY FLACHSKAMM—

(STANDARD STAMP CO. OF ST. LOUIS)
ON TRIAL IN U. S. COURT FOR FRAUD.

Judge Humphry of the United States District Court at Springfield, Ill., will shortly try Henry Flachskamm and some parties indicted with him for fraudulent use of the U. S. mails.

Although Flachskamm is a resident of St. Louis (4 Nicholson Place) the offence was committed in Illinois, where certain business was conducted from an address in East St. Louis, Ill.

Flachskamm's Missouri record, in the Federal court in St. Louis, shows

that he was indicted under Section 5480 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for using the mails to defraud.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the Montgomery County jail, also a fine was imposed.

Motion was made to set aside sentence which was overruled. Plea of guilty was withdrawn and a demurrer was then filed to the indictment which was sustained.

He was re-indicted at the May term, 1902. This indictment is still pending.

The case referred to above, which will soon be tried in Springfield, Ill., is a new one and has no connection with the charges still pending in this state.

Henry Flachskamm has for years dealt as the Standard Stamp Co. of St. Louis.

A few years ago the stamp business was allowed to drop and he occupied himself with mercantile mail order schemes.

Recently the stamp business has been revived, and the fraudulent Mexican stamps, warnings about which have been extensively published, were sent out by his concern.

He also has the so-called reprints, really counterfeits, of the Mexican 1872 issue to answer for. These stamps were extensively handled several years ago, the whole set having been produced from a genuine die of one of the values that Flachskamm secured from a party in the City of Mexico.

It was alleged that the work was done in Hamburg, Germany. At all events, a wholesale firm of that city marketed the product abroad.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

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THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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NOTES FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, JAN. 16, 1903.

The newspapers here are displaying great interest in the new U. S. A. stamps that are now crossing the channel so hard upon each other's heels. First came the 13c.—finest stamp of all in my opinion—and now the new 10 cent “Special Delivery” and the 8 cent “Martha Washington” are being pictured and paragraphed in all the principal papers. Martha Washington, in fact, has been made the subject of innumerable articles and paragraphs and a noteworthy fact is that no one speaks of her as “Mrs. Washington” or “the late Mrs. Washington,” just as it would be “William Shakespeare” or “Edgar Allen Poe.” It is seldom that a woman—even after death—reaches that height of distinction and respect which impels everyone to speak of her without the usual prefix of commonplace society.

I am in a position to state (though no announcement, official or otherwise, has yet been made) that a change in the design of our British postage stamps is one of the possibilities—I might even say probabilities—of the very near future. People here are heartily sick of the present daubs in their weak wishy-washy colors and their very faulty effigy of King Ed-

ward. There is now a scheme backed up by many influential people to secure for us a really striking series of postage stamps bearing a real portrait of King Edward VII, and—best of all—designed this time by an artist of British birth. When I say that the Prince of Wales, himself, is known to be actively interested in the movement, philatelists will recognize that there is a good chance of our getting a series of stamps of which we may be proud.

Lawrence Greig, sentenced to five years imprisonment for his frauds on the Carnegie Steel Company, had many irons in the fire, as I pointed out at the time of his trial. But his bankruptcy proceedings, now in progress, show that the convict had even more extensive engagements than were at that time known. It seems that he provided \$25,000 for the Graydon Turbine Engine, and had a one-third interest in the Barber's Patent Motor-Car, in which he invested \$2,500, and a four-fifths share in the Kingston Motor and Cycle Company, for which he provided \$5,000. He further states that he had sunk about \$25,000 in the Motor Express Company and the Kingston Motor Express Company, most of the money having come from the Carnegie Company. In 1901 he took over the *North London Observer* at a cost of \$6,000, and he had a one-third interest in the *London Mining Monthly*, into which he put \$750. Early in 1902 he entered into a contract for the building of a motor-boat

for \$1,000. He had paid about \$2,000 in connection with the invention, and was to have a share in a syndicate to be formed for exploiting the patent. He had entered into an agreement to purchase the business of a Leeds firm, and had paid a deposit of \$7,500, but, finding that he could not complete the purchase, he assigned his interest to secure an advance of \$4,000. Early in 1902 he agreed to provide the funds for a stock-broking business carried on in Old Jewry as the British and Continental Stock Exchange, and he entered into a similar agreement in regard to a stock-broking business carried on in the West-End.

A young man with his hands very full, indeed. And no mention is made in the above tabulation of business of his philatelic ventures.

PERCY C. BISHOP.



The reprints that exist of **French** certain French stamps have **Reprints** always been of considerable interest to philatelists, as being "official" in their character and not issued in quantities large enough to make them common. The reprinting has always been done by government order and the work done by the regular printers, and the quantities have been so small there has been practically no danger of the reprints being passed off as originals. M. Maury, of Paris, has now published a complete history of French reprints, of which we reproduce an abridgement made by B. T. K. Smith for Alfred Smith & Son's *Monthly Circular*:

The first reprints of French stamps were made in 1862, and it is curious to note that the reprinting was done in consequence of a request made by Sir Rowland Hill, who had undertaken to form a collection for the British Post Office. The French authorities had preserved none of the old stamps, with the exception of a few sheets of the earliest Empire issue that were left over from a surplus supply. It was therefore decided to reprint the missing varieties, and this decision suggested to the Administration the idea of forming a collection of its own, to be deposited in the *Musee Monetaire* of the Mint. The order was given in February, but it was not until September that M. Hulot con-

descended to print off 20 sheets (of 300 stamps each) of each of the following:

Republic.
10c., 15c., 20c. (black), 20c. (blue), 40c.
and 1 franc (carmine.)
Presidency
10c. and 25c.
Empire.
25c.

The 1 franc Empire was not reprinted with these, as 3½ sheets (1,050 stamps) were discovered in stock. Sir Rowland received a sheet of each reprint, the Post Office kept 10 sheets, three or four sheets were sent to the Mint and the rest were burnt a few days later in the presence of a special committee. On February 23rd, 1863, 20 sheets of the 1 franc Empire were reprinted. They are difficult to distinguish from originals, as the color is almost the same. The wavy lines of the spandrels and the shading of the neck are, however, a little clearer in the reprints, and blocks from the outside of the sheet show that in the reprints the whole sheet is surrounded by a line, at a distance of about 8 mm. No line exists on the original sheets.

It is generally supposed that the surcharge of "25c." in red on the reprinted 20c. blue is an official imitation, belonging to the above series. M. Maury, however, says that they "never came from the Mint," which means, I suppose, that he looks on them as forgeries made outside.

Was there ever a *second* reprint of the issues mentioned above? In 1868 the Mint was authorized to print "two sheets of each French postage stamp," as a supply was wanted for gifts to foreign administrations. Did this mean only the stamps then current, or did it, as M. Maury inclines to think, include the old stamps as well? He says that "each value of the reprints is found in two tints, perceptibly different, and noticeable not in isolated cases only but in large blocks of stamps that are

BACK NUMBERS == 1902

— OF —

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c.
No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. each.

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St. Louis, Mo.

fresh, with gum intact. The 20c. black, in particular, is sometimes on paper almost white and sometimes on rather deep yellowish paper." On the other hand he finds that "the *mise en train* seems the same in each variety, which would hardly be the case after an interval of six years."

He concludes with a hint that in 1900 there *may* have been "a reprint of all the varieties of the Peace and Commerce type, 'N under B' and 'N under U,' that were unknown until then. At all events he has had the 25c. black on rose, perforated, in the 'N under B' type, and is waiting for more information.

There are other French reprints, including some of the French Colonies (the imperforate varieties), which are not included in Mr. Smith's abstract, as there is nothing new presented or suggested in regard to them in M. Maury's article.



Though not exactly *Philately*, the following account is interesting as dealing with a misuse of the registered mail and the novel manner in which it was exposed. We present the account given in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, as transcribed from a French paper:

"It seems that the jewelers of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, had been in the habit of sending small articles of value to Europe by registered letters without declaring their contents. By this means payment of the customs duties was evaded, while the letters arrived safely. Whatever the Argentine government suspected, it could not tamper with these letters without definite proof, such proceedings being illegal. In these circumstances recourse was had to the X rays, with most astonishing results. Money, watches, chains, etc., were discovered in vast profusion, and the government, having now something definite to go upon, promptly opened the suspected letters and confiscated their contents—to the tune of some \$5,000 worth in one week!"

We do not vouch for the truth of this story in any respect, although it

is interesting enough to have something in it—as the letters did. At best, it is quite obvious that there has been a "mix up" of the facts, even granting that there are facts in the case. The Argentine government could not, and would not, confiscate shipments *from* that country. There would be no customs duties to collect on articles leaving Buenos Ayres for Europe, that would be on jewelry and similar articles coming the other way. Besides, shipments of jewelry and other merchandise of value would naturally be *from Europe to Argentine*; with this transposition, the story may be true.



Those who have included the two stamps issued in 1897 for New Hebrides "interisland postage" in their collections, will be interested in the prospective new issue for similar purposes. "The new stamps will be three in number—5 centimes, 15 centimes and 1 franc. The proceeds of the sale of these stamps will be devoted to the improvement of the postal service and the maintenance of the routes of communication." Letters for foreign parts, of course, will have to be prepaid with stamps of New Caledonia or New South Wales, according to whether they go by French or English boats.



We recently reported, under our Chronicle of New "Errors" Issues, and listed as an error, the current 5c. stamp in the color of the 2c. Later information is to the effect that this is merely an essay or color trial, this same denomination being printed as well in the colors of the 10, 20, 40, 45 and 50 centesimi. When performances of this kind are indulged in, the results should be more carefully guarded, and not placed in hands that will attempt to work them off on philatelists.



Subscribe for Vol. 16 before it is too late to get back numbers, \$1 a year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The fact that this number will be received by the subscribers, before the January magazine which will bear a date previous to this one, need not be the occasion of a reminder. The magazine is well in hand and will be mailed very soon.

L. B. Dover & Co., of St. Louis, have sold out to Crowell Stamp Co., of Cleveland, O.; the latter firm acquiring the stock as well as the good will, mail correspondence, etc.

Mr. H. C. Crowell spent a few days in St. Louis recently.

A correspondent in Canada writes us that a new 4c. stamp is likely to be issued very soon. We have not heard whether it is to be a Queen's or King's Head. Collectors have been looking toward Canada for a new set of King's Heads for some time.

Wilcox, Smith & Co., of Dunedin, New Zealand, send us, under date of the 29th of December, samples of the new 2 and 4 pence, also 1 shilling, on Piedmont paper that have just been issued, watermarked single lined N. Z. and star :

- 2 pence, lilac, perforated 14.
- 4 pence, brown and blue, perforated 11.
- 1 shilling, red, perforated 11.

Penny postage in New Zealand has caused all values above 1 penny stamps to become very scarce, so that all native prints are expected to be scarcer than even the London issue of 1898.

An interesting article containing some valuable historical matter in connection with the first postage stamp authoritatively used in the United States, known as the United States City Dispatch Post, was published in the December number of the *American Journal of Philately*, having been contributed by a gentleman connected with the Third Assistant Postmaster General's office, who had access to some valuable official documents.

Notwithstanding the fact that the United States laws are most stringent in regard to the printing of illustrations of any of the U. S. securities, some newspaper is almost sure to overlook the fact and break out with the picture of a new postage stamp when it appears. We have recently received a newspaper clipping showing an enlarged illustration of the new special delivery and the 13c. postage stamp, which has had a wide circulation in the United States.

It is customary when these unusual breaks occur for a representative of the service of the Treasury Department to call on the publishers of the newspaper, explaining the infringement of the law, and take possession of the offending printing block. The publishers of the newspaper, of course, always explain that the infringement of the law was unintentional and an oversight, and there the matter rests, but it is sure to break out again somewhere else.

The new 2c. stamps, series of 1902, were received in our mail Monday morning, January 26th, from various sources. While the stamp has a very pleasing effect, when taken in a general way, most of the copies we have seen are unsatisfactorily printed when the printing of the design is considered. The U. S. flags draped at either side which have been mentioned so prominently in the preliminary descriptions of this stamp, are disappointing. The printing gives most of the stamps we have examined a cloudy appearance so that the flag design fails to stand out, as it was designed in the original impressions that were submitted to the Department for approval.

The portrait of George Washington is very satisfactory and is, by far, preferred to the profile that it succeeds.

It may be observed that the paper used in the new stamps is inferior to some that we have had before and the perforation is poor and irregular.

Not more than five per cent of the stamps that we have under observation which have come from different

post offices may be considered well centered.

Complete description of the new stamp has been given in our columns and as it will soon be familiar to all of our readers we refrain from repeating it.

We predict that the new series of 1902 which are now being introduced in the United States will revive the general interest of stamp collecting among the boys and young people more than anything has, since the use of the Columbian issue in 1892.

In the latter part of February, 1902, the 9 pence **A Rare South Australian** (type A 3) was issued on paper watermarked crown and S A, letters wide apart (an entirely new style of watermark, introduced in 1901). Previous to this, the stamp had been in current use for upwards of 25 years on paper watermarked "star with short broad points" (catalogue number 69). On the new paper, however, it had a very short life, being withdrawn rather suddenly in July, 1902, after the issue of only 50 sheets or 12,000 stamps, most of which were used on telegrams. As there was absolutely no announcement or warning as to the discontinuance of this stamp, dealers and collectors generally found (and still find) themselves entirely without supplies, so that its scarcity is assured. It seems that South Australia was entirely without a 9 pence stamp of any kind for a time after this variety was exhausted, and it was thought the value was going to be dropped from the set; then, equally without warning or preliminary suggestion of any kind, came the present (large oblong) type—in which we are evidently to have a full set of all values.

A collection of 1763 different foreign postage stamps, the genuineness of which, and good condition we guarantee. The stamps are mounted on sheets and the catalogue price by Scott's 62nd Edition marked below each stamp—the lot totals \$58.85 and will be sent post free and registered for..... **\$11.75**
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Department of Foreign Relations

From 1888 to 1892 we published a series of **MEKEEL'S STAMP DEALER'S** and **COLLECTOR'S ADDRESS BOOKS**, containing the addresses of collectors in all parts of the world. These books are now out of print. One of the important features was the announcements of collectors and exchangers desiring foreign relations.

No stamp paper of the present day does much to cultivate this kind of business, and as our foreign connections extend into every country and colony we shall make this department an important feature.

Our columns are open to *subscribers only*. Announcements of reasonable length, in the following style \$1.25 per insertion. Payment in advance.

Subscriptions and payment for announcements may be remitted by foreign correspondents in unused postage stamps of the lowest denomination current in their country. Subscription to all foreign countries (except Canada, Cuba and Mexico) \$1.50 per year.

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FOR 1903**

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1 line.....	.10	

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Doubtless many of our 1865 readers have been amused **Russian** by the catalogue note after **Levant** this issue (consisting of two stamps catalogued \$35 and \$40 the cheapest way) to the effect that there were "sixty-three varieties of each." Advanced collectors may be glad to learn, however, that there is a possibility that this number is overstated. We learn from the *London Philatelist* that Mr. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, Russia, has made a discovery of great importance in the collection of Herr Mertens of that city—nothing less than a reconstructed plate, lacking one specimen, of this interesting and quaint issue, same consisting of *twenty-eight stamps*. The veteran philatelist, J. B. Moens, was responsible for the theory of 63 varieties, supposed to be arranged in nine rows of seven. But in Herr Mertens' collection there are "numerous vertical strips of four showing wide margins above and below, showing that there were only four rows." It may be supposed that there are overlapping horizontal pairs sufficient to confirm the existence of but seven stamps in a row, and so establish the new figures of "twenty-eight varieties of each."

✻ ✻

Forged Forgeries of water-
Watermarks marks are not very plentiful, perhaps because of the limited demand for such varieties, perhaps on account of the difficulty of producing anything like an accurate imitation. In making forgeries of the rarer varieties of Tuscan stamps, watermarks were naturally attempted as the wares would have been no good without them; but the watermarks in the forgeries were so unlike those of the originals that they have served as the best and easiest test of genuineness.

Lately we see notices in the press of forged watermarks in the stamps of Chile, first type. The 10c. blue has been provided with bogus watermarks "20" and "5" (large numeral with long neck) and the 5c. red with watermark "1." These varieties are all entirely fanciful except the 10c. watermarked "20." We are told that

the forgeries are "dangerous," "skillfully done," etc., but the information so far given out has been from those advocating "suppression of details" in matters of this kind. We hope particulars will become available for publication in time to prevent much victimizing of collectors.

✻ ✻

"The Stamps of Australia" We recently gave space to some criticism of the Philatelic Society, London, in regard to the name of their new work, hitherto described as a revised edition of "Oceania," and also some alleged exclusiveness in regard to the preparation of same. Since that time Mr. A. Basset Hull, the editor of the new work, has written to the *Australian Philatelist* in answer to these criticisms. As to the first, he says that the title of the present work will be that attached to this paragraph, "The Stamps of Australia." Only the six states now included in the Australian Commonwealth will be taken up at this time, the stamps of New Zealand and other Pacific colonies and protectorates being reserved for a subsequent volume. The objects of this division are to reduce the bulk and the selling price of the Australian volume (which will include the most popular stamp issues) and also to bring forward the date of publication, a most important consideration.

In regard to the second criticism, Mr. Hull says: "The London Society was aware that I had secured the co-operation of Messrs. David H. Hill and W. R. Rundell with regard to the stamps of Victoria; Messrs. O. Blockey and F. Krichauff in the matter of South Australian issues; Mr. W. F. Petterd for Tasmania; and Mr. Maney Lake, Pres. of the Philatelic Club, for New South Wales. The Publication Committee were also aware that I intended returning to Australia to complete the work, and would invite the co-operation of all advanced philatelists in the compilation of complete and accurate lists." Thus it will be seen that the criticisms of the London Society in this matter were rather of the nature of "much ado about nothing."

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 6
WHOLE NO. 58

FEBRUARY 9, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

We believe a great deal for the of good may be done for General Philately by encouraging new Good collectors, and those who manifest an interest in stamps, by giving from your duplicates.

We began this season by giving away some very attractive stamps to stimulate interest in collecting, and have been much gratified by the results manifested.

A little generosity among our readers will make many new collectors. Besides the pleasure and happiness bestowed by the development of a new pursuit, the advantage to Philately in general will be very great.



A letter from Salvador News From written January 1st, brings Salvador All that we have seen are



of the above type, engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co, of London. Wove paper, perforated 14, water-marked "S" in each stamp:

1 centavo, green;
2 centavos, red;
3 centavos, orange;
5 centavos, blue;
10 centavos, brown-violet;
12 centavos, slate;
13 centavos, red-brown;
50 centavos, bistre.

There are others in the series, that we shall report when they come to hand.

In the last days of December the 1 centavo lithograph ran out and surcharging was resorted to. We have seen the 1c. on 2c., 3c. and 5c. The surcharge in one line "1 centavo" appears in black across the face of the stamp.

1c. on 2c. red, arms in black;
1c. on 3c. black, arms in black;
1c. on 5c. blue, arms in black.



BOSTON FRAUDULENT SURCHARGES

A list of the fraudulently surcharged stamps sold in Boston in 1902, to which reference has been made at various times has been published by the Secretary of the Boston Philatelic Society.

The list is as follows:

British East Africa, 1892, ½, 1, 2½, 3 annas, 1 rupee.

British Protectorate, 1888, 1, 2, 2sh. 6d, 5, 10sh.

Gold Coast, 1887, 1d. on 6d. orange.
Grenada, Unpaid Letter stamps, 2d. on 6d. red lilac.

Hawaii, 1893, 12c. red lilac, black surcharge.

India, Official stamps, 1866, water-marked, 1 anna brown.

Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894, type A26, ½ d. on 2½ d., blue (Scott 485).

Orange River Colony, 1900, surcharged "V. R. I.," 6d. carmine.

It may be remembered that the publicity given to the matter called it to the attention of the Boston Philatelic Society, and at a meeting at which the Investigating Committee was appointed extracts from MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR were read.

The committee completed their work and have published the result of their investigation.

The stamps were sold by the Boston Stamp Co. of which J. Favill Capron is the manager. The explanation made by this party to the Committee was that the stamps were purchased by him in good faith as genuine stamps from one "W. R. Thomas." Who or what this party was or his antecedents, do not appear. The President and Treasurer of the Boston Philatelic Society who were members of the Committee refer in their report to having interviewed "*a man introduced to us as W. R. Thomas.*"

They further publish the following signed statement:

January 1, 1903.
BOSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY, Boston,
Mass.:

I have read the letter of J. F. Capron to you of December 30th. His statement therein that he purchased these fraudulent surcharged stamps from me is true. I have ceased to handle any such stamps, have destroyed all such stamps in my possession, have removed from Boston to the Western States, and shall handle no such stamps in any way in the future. You are authorized to publish this statement if you so desire.

(Signed) W. R. THOMAS.

It would appear to an outsider that a man who had produced and sold fraudulent stamps was very delicately and considerately handled, and very little confidence may be placed in his statements that he will hereafter "be good."

As a matter of news and public interest the stamp collectors outside of the immediate vicinity of Boston may thank MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR for being the means of "turning on the light."

START NEW COLLECTORS

Be generous with your duplicate stamps and start new collectors. Here is a letter from one of our readers on this subject:

"I am very much interested in MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR and feel that I know a great deal more about stamps now than I did a year ago. Am keeping a file for future reference.

I have been reading "Oliver Crinkle's" "Idle Hour Papers" in the Holiday Magazine and am glad to see there the suggestion of giving stamps as Christmas presents. A year ago I gave my oldest nephew quite a little collection from among my duplicates and expect to do the same for two or three others when they are old enough to start a collection, and in looking backward I well remember the delight of a certain little girl over a set of Egyptian stamps that were given to her on her birthday.

(MISS) M. B. ANDREWS,
Chicago, Ill."

WHAT OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAY

We have 1,903 paid subscribers and are pushing for 10,000. That prospective subscribers may know what the old ones say we print:

TESTIMONIALS

"Enclosed find \$1.00 for MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR for 1903. *It is the best stamp paper out.*"

C. B. RUSSELL,
Chicago, Ill.

"I enclosed \$1.00 for a renewal. If the COLLECTOR is as good this year as it was last I shall be more than repaid.

It is the brightest little stamp paper I know of " E. K. THURLOW,
West Newbury, Mass.

THE JANUARY MAGAZINE

Subscribers will receive the January Magazine a few days later than this copy.

We regret the necessary delay.

Department of Foreign Relations

From 1888 to 1892 we published a series of **MEKEEL'S STAMP DEALER'S** and **COLLECTOR'S ADDRESS BOOKS**, containing the addresses of collectors in all parts of the world. These books are now out of print. One of the important features was the announcements of collectors and exchangers desiring foreign relations.

No stamp paper of the present day does much to cultivate this kind of business, and as our foreign connections extend into every country and colony we shall make this department an important feature.

Our columns are open to *subscribers only*. Announcements of reasonable length, in the following style \$1.25 per insertion. Payment in advance.

Subscriptions and payment for announcements may be remitted by foreign correspondents in unused postage stamps of the lowest denomination current in their country. Subscription to all foreign countries (except Canada, Cuba and Mexico) \$1.50 per year.

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J. KUHN, JUN.

Groningen

HOLLAND

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Our January Magazine

The January magazine number of this journal contained 44 pages and cover (contents given below). Also a plate of Louisville Carriers, fine half-tone. The number will be sent for 10 cents.

For the next two weeks annual subscriptions may commence with the January Magazine Number.

Lose no time in sending in your dollar as we shall not continue to send sample copies.

Fifty-two numbers, and 1,000 pages of reading matter guaranteed for 1903.

VOLUME XV

— of —

"Mekeel's Stamp Collector"

being the 52 numbers of 1902 contained, with complete index, 728 pages. A valuable book for the library of the collector.

A limited number of unbound volumes are available at \$2.00 each and will be sent post free as long as they last.

It is a volume that will increase in value, as the number is extremely limited. Order at once.

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector is a Weekly Newspaper and an Illustrated Monthly Magazine in one. It is published every Thursday—fifty-two issues a year. Twelve issues each year are Illustrated Magazine Numbers, containing more pages than the regular weekly issue.

Price—The subscription price is One Dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

Postage is Prepaid by the publishers for all subscriptions in the United States, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, Guam, Porto Rico, Tutuila Samoa, Canada, Cuba and Mexico. For all other countries in the Postal Union add 52c for postage.

Change of Address—When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent ten days before the change is to take effect.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES ON COUNTERFEITS

BY REV. L. G. DORPAT.

The human memory is rarely strong enough to retain all that its owner wishes to retain. Hence we use scrap-books, card-indexes and similar devices for a complement to the deficient memory. Note books also belong in this category. A gentleman in New York has devised a plan for a note book on counterfeits, which seems worthy of general notice. Whenever he gets a counterfeit, he compares the same with the genuine stamp and makes a description of both, taking care to make the descriptions short and decisive in regard to distinguishing the two stamps from one another. The descriptions are first jotted down on any kind of paper just at hand at the time, one facing the other, when the paper is folded, something like these:

U. S. COLOMBIA 1867—10 PESOS.	
GENUINE.	FORGERY.
Inscription: Correos Nies.	Inscrip: Correos Nues
E. U. de Colombia.	E. U. de Colombia.
	Three stars too many.

ROMAGNA.

GENUINE.	FORGERY.
Ornament in right upper corner square with corner and in line with word Bollo.	Ornament in right upper corner out of place, slopes to right, almost touching P. of Postale. If line be drawn at bottom of word Bollo, one-third of ornament will be found below line. Lettering too thick, except in word Romagna. Obliteration well imitated but too much space between bars.

Besides these self-made descriptions the gentleman copies such as he may find in the stamp papers. When time permits they are copied into a blank book, which in time becomes very valuable. By using, instead of a blank book, a card-index, with cards about the size of postal cards, the system might be improved, and, if a number of collectors would cooperate by exchanging notes, a splendid compendium on counterfeits might be brought together. If any readers of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR feel interested and will undertake to prepare similar notes on any counterfeits they may have, I will gladly help to effect an exchange. Perhaps the publish-

ers will allow sufficient space every month for the printing of any new descriptions which may appear. Finally, when the amount of material has become large enough, the result may perhaps be published in book form.

It would be very desirable to know the origin of any counterfeit, also to have enlarged photographs of the same or the parts of them which show the difference plainest. Any further suggestion will be thankfully received. Should anyone think the plan too big for realization, I would beg him not to drop it altogether for that reason, for if we can not accomplish all, we can at least accomplish a good deal if we only try, and sometimes much more than first expected.

My address is: L. G. DORPAT,
Box 37, Wayside, Wisconsin.

Anto. Je. Esteves Barbosa,

383 Andradas 385,

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Send me 200-500 good postage stamps (no common wanted) of his country, will receive from me same number and value in exchange of Brazil and South American stamps. Answer always, return mail guaranteed. Correspondence: English, Spanish and French language.

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Payment in advance or good references.
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Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
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1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free.
Circulars free.

\$11.00 FREE \$11.00

Not exactly that but fine cut copies \$1.00 green,
\$3.00 brown, 1898; \$1.00 red, \$1.00, \$2.10 gray, \$1.00,
\$2.00 green and black, 1902, Spanish War Doc. Rev.

All you have to do is send me an order of at least
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Send for list at once. Every thing in U. S. except
great rarities. Fine line sets, packets etc. at sur-
prisingly reasonable prices.

W. C. PHILLIPS, GLASTONBURY, CT.

A new role for the enthusiastic stamp collector is presented for our consideration by "Dak," the clever contributor of strenuous poetry and prose to the *Philatelic Journal of India*. We cannot do better than reproduce his remarks in full:

One frequently reads that the practical educational advantages gained by the collection and study of stamps, though indirect, are something wonderful. Apparently a philatelist has within him the making of an historian, a politician, an R. A., a journalist, a paper maker, a chemist, a linguist, a botanist, a zoologist, an engraver, a photographer, a geographer and an astronomer, besides other personalities. But we never hear of him as an accountant. Now that the fancy that stamps grow on trees and are to be had for the asking is no longer generally indulged in, to build up a considerable collection means much calculation and recording of prices, and no small expenditure of brain effort. I very recently found myself simultaneously in possession of nine lots of approval sheets from as many senders. Some of them I passed round to personal friends who complicated matters by taking stamps. By the time they had squared up with me, I had had quite enough for a time of the financial aspect of Philately. The remittances were in four different currencies, the "50% off" business created its customary irritating entanglements, one

sender asked me to pay him in 3 pie king's head Indians. I did so, and there were a lot of them. When all was over I felt like Sir Michael Hicks-Beach felt after his resignation of exalted but exacting office—"really relieved." The day may perhaps arrive when a "philatelic clearing house" will make our little settlements for us. That day is far distant, though in the meantime I think writers of handbooks and articles, might sometimes take as their subject "The Philatelist as an Accountant." The collector, who does business with many men in many lands and carries his dealings to a satisfactory finish, must possess sound ability as an accountant and a knowledge of commercial methods likely to be of great service to him through life.

It seems that Mr. Luff **Moldavian** and other skeptics were "**Reprints**" right about the so-called "reprints" of first and second issue Moldavian stamps. Mr. Castle and other English authorities, who gave "expert" opinion that these things were from the original dies (all rusty from age!), find themselves totally put out and discredited. It has not been established that the "fakes" were produced by some photographic process, as Mr. Luff suggested, but that they are clever counterfeits is generally admitted.

The current French stamps of 40c. and 50c. have **French** hitherto been printed with **Varieties** the background of the central picture in a second (light) color. These values are now reported without this second printing or background in the light color. It is variously reported that these are errors, also that they are issued intentionally in this shape, the double impression being found too expensive for stamps so commonly used.

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The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."

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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

INTERESTING ITEMS

The type A 5 stamps of *Eastern Roumelia* are similar to the 1880 and 1884 issues of Turkey except for a tri-lingual inscription in very small letters. It consists of the name of the country (*Eastern Roumelia*), as follows: In French, reading downwards along the left edge of the upper portion of the stamp; in Russian, upwards along the right edge of same; in modern Greek, across the stamp between the crescent and the inscription "Emp: Ottoman," and connecting the lower ends of the French and Russian inscriptions.

Eastern Roumelia was annexed to Bulgaria in 1885, under the name of *South Bulgaria*. The annexation was complete, as well postally as otherwise, so that there was absolutely no occasion for the issues of surcharged stamps catalogued under the name of the new province, South Bulgaria. The Eastern Roumelian stamps were on hand and it was decided they would bring more *revenue* if offered as new issues, especially with several different kinds of lions on, than as a job lot of remainders. Hinc illi leones—blue, black, with three toes, four toes, frames, etc.

The catalogue has a note after the last issue of *Eastern Roumelia* to the effect that the 1884 issue consisted of but two values, that the 20 pa., 1 pi. and 5 pi. were prepared for use but not issued. This must be an error, so far as the 20 pa. carmine is concerned, for this stamp appears among the South Bulgarian surcharged varieties as it could not have done had it not been issued under the Eastern Roumelia regime. The 1 pi. blue and 5 pi. brown were evidently not issued and do not appear among the surcharged varieties.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

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HENRY FLACHSKAMM CONVICTED OF FRAUD

A jury in the United States District Court at Springfield, Ill., convicted Henry Flachskamm of a conspiracy to use the U. S. mails to defraud. Judge Humphry was on the bench and the case lasted over three days. Sentence of three years in the penitentiary was passed.

Flachskamm is known to the stamp world, as the *Standard Stamp Co.*, and has been recently mentioned in these columns in connection with the handling of certain fraudulent Mexican stamps

The present case grew out of a scheme operated by Flachskamm and his brother-in-law under the name of the National Mercantile Co. from an East St. Louis, Ill., address, although the parties reside at 4 Nicholson Place, St. Louis, Mo.

This is the reason the case was tried in Illinois.

Flachskamm has been in trouble before on a similar charge in the U. S. District Court of Missouri, the record of which appeared in our January Magazine.

The recent case has been referred to in the newspaper reports as the "Fur Collarlette Case," the concern having advertised extensively in mail order papers having large circulations that they would give a fur collarlette to induce women to sell eight pieces of cheap jewelry for \$2.00.

An exhibit from the East St. Louis post office showed that the firm had done an enormous business, numbering its victims by the thousands. On one day as many as two hundred money orders were paid at the post office, having been sent to the firm in payment for the jewelry. Each order amounted to \$2.

The jewelry was worth from 25c. to 50c. so a handsome profit accrued.

The fur collarlette was not sent, but instead an "offer of a fur collarlette" which was to be given to those who sold \$8.00 worth of the jewelry. A very few persons persisted in the sale and received the collarlette, but al-

most all quit after receiving the second offer.

Those who received the collarlette got a cheap thing worth about \$3.00. The scheme was to deceive and get the first \$2.00. It was alleged by the government prosecutors that there were about four thousand victims.

This money enabled Flachskamm to employ high priced lawyers in his defense, and it is stated that he will appeal.

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Here are five sets of stamps at bargain prices:
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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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WHOLE No. 59

FEBRUARY 16, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

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[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

We like to have our readers suggest questions that interest them, when in answering them we are thus enabled to answer many.

C. P. S., BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Question.—How many stamps constitute a “block?”

Answer.—A *block* is usually applied to a number of unsevered stamps more than two, in some other formation than in a *strip*. A *block* is not necessarily regular in formation, but collectors who go in for blocks favor the *block of four*, a rectangle, two each way. Where several stamps are arranged unsevered in a row, either horizontal or vertical, they are usually described as a *strip*, and the term *block* is used for other formations.

W. D. B., CHICAGO, ILL.

You are mistaken in the supposition that “*uncancelled South American stamps are mostly counterfeits.*” There are very few counterfeits of South American stamps, and the impression that unused stamps are likely to be counterfeited because they are unused is a school-boy delusion that prevails in some localities.

If one would stop to think, it might occur to them that a cancellation mark could be added very easily to a counterfeit stamp. So, as a matter of fact, most of the counterfeits appear as *cancelled stamps*, and one must find

some better reason to reject unused stamps than that they may be counterfeits.

J. A. T., NASHVILLE, TENN.

Question.—Is there a color chart that will enable us to identify the shades and colors I find described in the catalogue?

Answer.—No. There is no color chart that would serve that purpose. The same color or shade occurring in different stamps, is frequently described differently in the same catalogue, while the descriptions of the different catalogues are not uniform.

The philatelist of experience becomes a color expert in his own way and soon ceases to be confused by these matters of minor detail in descriptions in stamp literature. The *color chart* is a delusion.



A LOWERING OF IDEALS

Among the many attractive features that Philately has to present to the uninitiated, is its aesthetic side; and not alone is the outsider impressed with the beauty of design, execution, coloring and *tout ensemble* of the many handsome stamps, but the collector himself, either consciously or unconsciously, appreciates their artistic merits and gradually acquires a taste for the best there is in the arts of illustration and printing.

But of late years there has been a great falling away from the ideals of taste and beauty set before us by the early artists and engravers of postage stamps. I do not refer to the gaudy and unique so-called “pictorial

stamps" of many of the lesser countries, marked all over with the trade mark of commercialism; I will even admit that many of them are handsome. But what I would call attention to is the muddy course through which now runs that once pure fountain-head of art, the English Colonials.

We Americans have a right to complain, too, for have we not boomed and boosted the English Colonies for years, looking up to them as the highest class of desirable stamps? But how is the mighty fallen! I am willing to admit that all collectors might not pass a uniform judgment on the comparative beauty of certain stamps and that rarity has a quality of adding personal attraction to certain stamps, yet I think there can be no variance from the verdict that the judges of the early designs of English Colonial stamps were incomparably the masters of those who to-day are permitting the issuance of the modern designs.

Let us take Queensland. Note the simple design of her first issue; the beauty of the young Queen's face; the fineness of the backgrounds, even under a glass; and the embellishment which the Queen's ornaments and the crown add to the picture. For these issues at their best take say, the 2d. blue and 6d. green of 1862 and the 1s. violet of 1869. They are perfect little gems of art, worth preserving for this feature alone. But since 1880 there is a rapid decline in the excellence of the Queensland stamps, until with the ½d. of 1895, the 2½d. of 1898 and the ½d. of 1900 we reach the anti-climax; stamps crude of design, coarse in engraving, ugly in portraiture and hideous in coloring.

Western Australia, for many years the heart's delight of every collector, shows a similar record. The old swan stamps are all beautiful as well as unique and typical. There is the grace of the swan about them and the design of the background is very pleasing. Yea, all is simplicity. Simplicity is the very keynote. How could any plainer lettering be devised. Take the 2d. blue of 1861 and

the 4d. carmine and 1s. green of 1865 as examples. And then to think that this design should be abandoned and the made-over stamps of Victoria chosen to represent Western Australia, and this only a few weeks ago. Not only deterioration but plagiarism, as it were, also.

One more illustration will serve me, and in this case you may say you do not see the point so clearly, for some of the later stamps of New Zealand are really well executed. But you will understand perfectly if you will take a page of the early issues previous to 1872, which are all of one design. And in this fact lies part of the secret—uniformity. The older stamps of New Zealand did not have the finish and excellence of background work of the Queensland and Western Australia stamps. Simplicity was almost their entire merit; that, and the stately portrait of the Queen. Even their colors are not well-kept to-day. But look at such a page and there is something satisfying to the artistic sense, something entirely aside from our exultation over their rarity, which, when we take a page of recent or current issues, gives way to disappointment. Here is a conglomeration. The ludicrous 5d. of 1891 and the ugly 2½d. of 1898 come next to the rather neat bi-colored 1d. of 1898, the handsomest stamp in the set. The ½d. and 6d. are passable but not much can be said for the others and their varying sizes and shapes detract much from the appearance of the set and page.

Now, all of this is the contrary of what is expected with the progress of civilization. It is true that not all English Colonies show such marked decline. Some even have improved, but they are the exceptions. I have not given all the examples I might. It would seem as if Art had flourished at the zenith of the Queen's youth and declined with her old age. Let us hope the new reign may be a Restoration.

Philatelists, as philatelists, may not have the right to enter any objections to all this. They are supposed to take the stamps as they come and

derive their pleasure from the associations rather than from the appearance of the stamps; besides, philatelists already are poking their noses too freely into affairs that are the public's convenience, not the philatelists' whims. But as a citizen, *pro bono publico*, I do uphold that we should demand higher artistic ideals in those misty personages who act as judges of postage designs, and if they cannot improve on the old, go back, at least, to the purity and simplicity of the early days, for it is by such little things as these, the very postage stamps we use on our letters every day, that a nation's tastes are acquired and a country's art ideals developed.

CHARLES E. JENNEY.

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector is a Weekly Newspaper and an Illustrated Monthly Magazine in one. It is published every Thursday—fifty-two issues a year. Twelve issues each year are Illustrated Magazine Numbers, containing more pages than the regular weekly issue.

Price—The subscription price is One Dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

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THE NEW U. S. STAMPS

The 1c. and 5c. of the "Series of 1902" are favorably received, the portraits of both Franklin and Lincoln being better than those that have been recently used on our stamps.

There is some protest, however, against the retirement of the profile of Houdin's bust of Washington on the 2 cents stamp. We print next week an editorial from the *New York Times* of February 6th on the subject of the new two cents stamp in which it is rather severely criticised. The only excuse for a change would be an improvement, and in the opinion of the writer none has been made, in the adoption of the "tea-store chromo" of Washington now adopted.

BACK NUMBERS == 1902

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c.
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THE TREND OF THE TIMES

(Continued from Page 71, January Magazine Number.)

It is cause for world-wide philatelic congratulations that one of the cleverest of European stamp fakirs is dead; M. Foure, whose name is very little known on this side of the water but who enjoyed a very infamous celebrity in the inner circles of European stampdom. M. Foure, it seems, was a German, a teacher by profession, and a man of much education and high ability—all of which makes it the more unfortunate that he should have chosen to practice "the seamy side of Philately." M. Foure was a specialist in faking old German envelopes, and it is stated that he was so successful in this line as to have deceived the best informed collectors in Europe and to have thereby administered practically a death blow to this once highly esteemed branch of collecting. As a result of his fraudulent practices in this connection he was forced to leave his home in Berlin some years since and emigrate to Paris, where, up to the time of his death, he was engaged in the manufacture of "fakes" on a large scale.

It is pleasing to learn from various notes on the subject appearing in recent English papers that Mr. Fred J. Melville, who, we believe, enjoys the distinction of being the first to lecture on Philately before non-philatelic institutions, is meeting with plenty of calls for his services. As to his engagements in the early part of the season we quote the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*:

"On November 26th, he (Mr. Melville) gave his chatty, anecdotal lecture, 'Stamps with Stories,' at the Town Hall, Petworth; on December 8th he lectured on 'His Majesty's Mails' before the 'Social Settlers' of Ipswich; and on Thursday evening last (Dec. 18th) he fulfilled perhaps his most notable engagement of the season, addressing a good meeting at the London Institution."

It would certainly seem as though

such missionary work would be decidedly fruitful of result, especially as from the extracts we have read of Mr. Melville's lectures they appear to be admirably calculated to interest and attract the non-philatelic mind. We trust Mr. Melville may not be for long alone in the philatelic lecturing field.

The stamp auction is gradually but surely making its way into all the main centres of population—at least in those countries where Philately is in any degree strong. That, however, it does not sometimes make its debut with any great *eclat* is evident from the following paragraph, which we clip from the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*:

"Messrs. Robert M'Tear & Co., auctioneers, of Glasgow, disposed of an extensive and valuable collection of foreign postage stamps, jubilee medals, and coins. Among the higher prices secured for stamps were 15 Barbadoes (Jubilee issue, etc.) 11 shillings; 20 Falkland Islands, Grenada, St. Helena, and others, 10 shillings, 6d.; and 19 Trinidad, St. Vincent, etc., 10 shillings, 6d. An album containing about 500 foreign stamps realized 3 shillings, 6d.; and a cigar box containing over 1,000 foreign stamps fetched 2 shillings, 3d."—*Glasgow Evening Times*.

As the *Fortnightly* pertinently remarks: "The prices given scarcely justify the expression 'valuable collection of foreign postage stamps.'"

A complete history of English Fiscal stamps is projected by that energetic leader of fiscal stamp collecting in England, Mr. Walter Morley. The title of the proposed work is "A History of the Adhesive Revenue and Fee Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland." Mr. Morley's appetite for fiscal research is seemingly insatiable. His book on the revenue stamps of Spain and her colonies is but fresh from the presses, and yet here we find him essaying a task of such magnitude that beside it the book of Spain is a mere nothing. If

the proposed work reaches completion it will, without doubt, not only boom fiscalism in England, but, indirectly, throughout the world. The future of fiscal collecting is certainly full of promise.

It may be added that Mr. Morley has gained from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue permission to examine the official records of the past two hundred years; which will, in some ways, greatly facilitate his task, but which gives us a still better idea of the real width and magnitude of his subject. Two hundred years! Just think of it!

The Collectors' Club of New York, which has always been considered more of a club than a philatelic society, pure and simple, is this season falling into the line on the competitive exhibition idea. One exhibition each month, from January to May, is the club's program; the countries selected for exhibition being as follows:

January:—Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.

February:—Great Britain.

March:—U. S. Documentary and Proprietary Revenue Stamps.

April:—Russia, Finland and Poland.

May:—Egypt and Soudan.

Not alone are the stamps of Australia to be done ample justice in the new work now in course of compilation by the London Philatelic Society, under the editorial supervision of the well-known authority on Australians, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, but New Zealand also is to be the subject of a like work. The publisher of the latter is to be no other than the New Zealand Government itself, if report speaks truly; and the authorship is in the hands of Mr. A. Hamilton, a leading New Zealand collector. In the compilation of the work, according to all report, access has been freely had to all official records and other sources usually closed to the philatelic investigator. The result

should, therefore, be a work of unusual interest and authority. It is very gratifying, moreover, to see a government co-operating in this manner in a work of philatelic research; and certainly bespeaks a spirit of unusual philatelic enlightenment on the part of New Zealand's governing powers.

A French postal official has invented an apparatus designed to supercede the postage stamp. The arrangement is said to be similar in appearance to the ordinary automatic distributor. A very simple, but infallible mechanism franks the letters and papers according to the amount of money inserted in the machine. We would be inclined to believe that one of the insuperable objections to this machine is that, as far as is mentioned, there is apparently no means devised by which the machine may answer questions. One has but to spend a half hour in the vicinity of the stamp window of any country post office in the land to be convinced that without some such attribute, any machine of the kind would be unsatisfactory to the great bulk of letter posters. Every stamp clerk in every post office in the United States will bear out this assertion.

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Department of Foreign Relations

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector

[Continuing the "Philatelic Journal of America"]

Vol. 16—No. 8

FEBRUARY 23, 1903

Whole No. 60

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Mauritius, 1848.

Following shortly after the famous "Post Office" stamps of Mauritius, came the "Post Paid" stamps, which we illustrate above. They differ from those great rarities in background as well as in the inscription noted. The "Post Office" stamps have a background of horizontal and vertical lines, while the "Post Paid" stamps in early printings show diagonal and vertical. As the plates became worn, the horizontal lines disappeared first and the diagonal lines wore away gradually, until by 1859 the background was almost plain. These stamps were printed in sheets of twelve, four horizontal rows of three.

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All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Thousands of new collectors are starting. Sales of cheap lots for beginners, and cheap albums, are simply enormous this year. Many will tire and drop it after a few weeks, but the army of stamp collectors will gain many recruits who will pass the elementary stage.

The new issue of stamps now coming into use in the United States directs attention to stamps in general.

Many old collectors who have not been active have got out their albums and decided to add recent issues.

In consequence old established firms are flooded with correspondence and orders.

The "stamp fever" that has a run, like tops and other periodical sports for boys, is raging violently and is more general in its scope this year than usual.

As a result, the editor, who is also a stamp dealer, finds himself pretty well worked out when his day's work at the desk is finished.

The question of price in regard to United States stamps of the old issues is being debated at some length by the

readers of a contemporary journal. The observations are interesting as they illustrate the different points of view and the experience of the several critics.

A dealer who is in touch with many thousands of the rank and file, collectors whose accumulations range from two thousand to five thousand varieties, can tell you something. There are not enough to go around. Take stamps like the 12c, 1851; 12c, 24c, 30c and 90c, 1861; 6c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 1869; 7c, 12c, 24c, 1871-73; there are a hundred collectors who can afford to possess them to every stamp in dealers' stocks. What must be the result? An advance, of course. Lots of U. S. stamps, particularly varieties of embossing and special printings, are over-priced and are of small importance to the ordinary collector. The dealer who is in touch with the wider range of collectors knows that the supply of standard varieties of the old issues is far from being equal to the demand.

Buyers can often be diverted for the time being, and other stamps supplied that are available; therefore, the demand is not as pressing as it will be later when "filling in" time comes.

What is true of fine used copies of U. S. is also true of the early issues of all popular countries whose stamps are free from the taint of commercialism and speculation.

**Wharton's
Louisville
Carriers**

The illustration of the entire sheet of Wharton's U. S. Despatch Stamps, which appeared in our January Magazine, has brought us some very interesting notes on the varieties existing, from a philatelist

who has made a study of the sheet in question. We regret that the enlarged illustrations of the different types are not ready for this issue, but we shall give them in the March Magazine.



The First Our article in the last Magazine regarding the
Porto Rico first provisional issued in
Provisional Porto Rico after the American invasion, as the Porto Rico paper was pleased to call it, has brought some further information from other sources in the Island.

We should advise our readers not to invest in copies of the stamp offered at fancy prices.

The general order authorizing the use of the stamp has not been questioned, but a *bona fide* used copy proving postal use is not yet in evidence.

The rubber stamp from which the alleged stamps were made is in existence, also the rubber stamp used as control, so that there is no limit to what could be produced, if a demand were apparent.

A correspondent in San Juan writes in reply to our inquiry:

"The stamp to which you refer was made by an ordinary rubber stamp in reddish ink. I have one impressed on an envelope, unused, and one adhesive,

which I regard simply as curiosities, as I do all stamps never put into use.

"I have a copy of the general order authorizing their use, but have been unable to find a *bona fide* used specimen. I was offered one on original cover, addressed to Adjuntas, P. R., the owner claiming that it had carried the letter, but it had no postmarks or signs of use of any kind. Such covers could be made wholesale."



Of the new series, 1c, 2c, **U. S. Series** 5c, 10c and 13c have appeared up to the time of **of 1902** going to press.

In our opinion, the 1c, 5c and 13c stamps are satisfactory; the two former are an improvement over the old ones.

The 2c and 10c are not equal to the ones they succeed.

The 2c will even be withdrawn and a movement is now on foot in the P. O. department to order a new design prepared.

The 10c is stiff and not pleasing.

All the values that have appeared show shades of color, due to different printings.

The St. Louis post-office only has the new 2c and 13c thus far. When they are all on sale here, we will notify our readers. In the meantime they will kindly refrain from ordering supplies.



Entire Envelopes and Postal Cards

BY B. W. WARHURST.

The picture card mania on the European continent, which has extended to Great Britain and developed rapidly during the past three years, has reminded some philatelists and stamp collectors of their shameful neglect of the interesting postal stationery, for which, previous to 1880, there was a demand, and in most albums spaces were provided for the items which were catalogued along with the adhesives. Post-cards were looked upon very doubtfully as a general means of communication when first issued in the early seventies, but have now become general in all civilized countries and almost as numerous as letters, while the postage of picture or view cards alone in Germany is quite an important source of revenue to the post office, over a million a day passing regularly by mail. Pictorial cards, however, are not of themselves postals, very few being sold with the franking power of an impressed stamp as in Greece, and still fewer are directly issued by the postal authorities as in Argentina and Australia. The collecting of picture cards as such has no connection with philately, the greater portion never even passing through the post, but they are kept just as we used to keep note-paper headings and views of places visited in holiday times before postcards were introduced.

"Entires" is now generally used by collectors as a simple and comprehensive word for letter-sheets and envelopes, news-bands or wrappers, and postal or letter-cards, issued with an impressed postage stamp and sold for public use at the usual post offices, and it is to the collecting of these in an entire or uncut condition that stamp collectors are united as being equally important with adhesives for the purpose of obtaining a proper representation of the postal emissions of any country.

There are a few old collectors who have continued the bad habit of cutting out the stamp portion of envelopes and cards for which small spaces only were left in some of the older books, and at first sight this seems all that is necessary, especially for used specimens, but those cut-square pieces in an unused condition will not legally frank a letter through the post, and therefore their interest as postal stamps depends on the cards or envelopes being kept entire as issued by the post offices.

The ordinary justification for cut envelopes, and one of the chief causes of the abandonment of entire specimens, is the amount of space occupied by them, and the United States in particular has been the *bete noir* of collectors for some years, because of the enormous number of varieties in paper and sizes, which are decidedly unnecessary issues though they may not be considered as speculative in the usual sense. Had there been but two or three sizes, all on one kind of paper, the varieties of dies used for the stamps would have made them attractive and largely sought after by most collectors; as it is, many of the issues of the last fifteen years, including the fine Columbus design, can be bought in England at face price because of the quantities formerly sent over to the large dealers by agents, which have been unsalable for a long time, even when cut down in size. Out of a large accumulation of duplicate entires during a long period of collecting, the only pieces that my friends will not buy or exchange with me for are these envelopes, though the manager of an exchange club for British specialists has included the U. S. as English-speaking in the countries covered by the term British.

So far as England is concerned, it must be admitted that the collectors

there, of 1870 to 1880, must share the blame for the reaction that has taken place. The officially issued envelopes, like the early American ones, are undoubtedly interesting, though the numerous dies and dates complicate matters for those who go in for all these minutiae, but some large firms having had quantities of envelopes and wrappers stamped to order for their own special use to places abroad which several collectors sought after, led to the ordering by other firms, solely for sale, of all sorts of compounded values in addition to the single stamps, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4 and 6 pence, and 1 shilling, which they sent in for on variously colored papers, and then had them cut up in various sizes. There are before me now two specimens of these, one with five 1-shilling stamps and another of same total value made up of six 10-penny stamps (introduced about 1890), into which small covers it would be impossible to put anything short of a cake of gold or lead that would be heavy enough to require such postage, as twelve ounces weight can be carried to any part of the world, thirty ounces to our colonies, or fifteen pounds weight anywhere in the United Kingdom for that amount. For a time the well-to-do collectors bought these and comical values like one shilling and threepence halfpenny at three or four times their nominal or face value, until it became widely known that they were simply made for sale, not for use. The only values for public or general use are ½d., 1d. and 2½d., as sold by the postal authority, and these are therefore the only legitimate issues to collect, though there are the very rare twopenny issues of 1840 and 1841.

Postcards have latterly been the most sought after because of their general uniformity and limited values, while the yearly issues do not now increase, there being but two values required as a rule. Large quantities of these are also stamped to order, but possess no philatelic interest, lacking the status of official issue. The pictorial craze has confused the collecting somewhat where the collectors have forgotten the one thing necessary to give them a philatelic

character, that of being on sale at official post offices ready stamped for postal use by the public at large.

The one advantage of entires, compensating for their bulk or weight, is their small number. Whereas there are at least 25,000 different adhesive postals which with minor varieties of papers and perforations may total up to three times that quantity, the stamped covers and cards are barely one-fifth as many, so that a collection of 1000 cards may be as fairly representative of the world's issues as 5000 stamps would be in an ordinary way. The cost of these would also be relatively less, as the bulk of cards vary between one and three cents on face, and of envelopes from two to five cents, while adhesives are mostly one to twenty-five cents, excluding the big values in British Colonies, which are more for fiscal than postal use.

The one disadvantage of entires, unfortunately, is the difficulty of getting them up to date of late years, due to the wholesale stamp dealers having ceased to import them. A great boom in adhesives followed the postal jubilee of 1890, when thousands of collectors developed into amateur dealers, causing prices to advance by their absorption of small stocks, and entires were pushed aside despised by collectors and dealers. After the inevitable reaction or slump in prices occurred a few years ago, owing to those amateurs having to rid themselves of their accumulations, coupled with the necessity for moderate collectors economizing or limiting themselves to certain countries or districts, because of the frightful yearly increase in new issues, there was a tendency to buy those forgotten entires, which one or two enthusiasts had the temerity to remind fellow-philatelists still existed, and inquiries were made for them. It was then found that the two leading importers had decided to give up these goods, as they did not pay so well as the more handy adhesives, and the space occupied by their joint stocks of over 1,500,000 pieces would accommodate at least 20,000,000 of the stickers; so they commenced selling off their stocks at very little over cost, the last

catalogue of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, three years ago showing an average reduction of 50 per cent in prices.

The smaller dealers then began to clear out their entires, and intending buyers had to be content with the bargains picked up in auction lots that the dealers and some timid collectors had sent to make way for the endless new issues, and so the remaining collectors became depressed—not because of low prices, but because they could not get variety enough. By means of exchange societies, those members are keeping up their collections very well, and have been able to obtain many old envelopes and cards at prices unknown for years past, while new collectors have made good starts through the cheap packets offered by the leading firm, in which 500 varieties of covers can be got at an average of fourpence each, or 1000 different cards at an average of twopence each, all being unused and guaranteed originals, many of which cannot be obtained singly at six times the price. Of course, this reduction can not last long, and prices will jump up again for the small quantities left on hand.

In the States there has lately been an increasing demand, which Scott has been unable to cope with apparently, some advanced collectors out there willingly going to the expense of extra postage incurred by ordering from England, and also in the continent of Europe where there are more dealers in these, and the collectors are fifty

times as numerous as in England. A want list of nearly 1000 unused varieties was before me last week from across the pond, one of several sent over during two years past.

While so many collectors are puzzling themselves as to what portion of the earth's surface they shall get the stamps of, feeling as they do the impossibility of such general collecting as was usual thirty years ago, they may do worse than try entires for a change, or at least to add the envelopes and cards to the adhesives of those countries or sections they are specializing in, or limiting themselves to. There is this consolation for them, if they fear that friends may consider it a new-fangled notion, that the very first postals ever issued were in the form of letter-sheets or covers, which can only be collected in an entire or uncut state to show themselves fully, while postcards have the respectable antiquity of thirty-three years' use to recommend them. In subsequent numbers some information will be given as to these early and other issues which are not clearly understood by many persons, and hints offered as to what to look for and what to avoid; but for the present we will simply advise getting all you can of the entires of your own and such other countries as you are most interested in the postal issues of, feeling sure they will be found quite as attractive as the adhesive portion.



Philatelic Sights and Insights

BY OLIVER CRINKLE

One hears on all sides nowadays complaints that the area of "unoccupied claims" in specialism is most woefully small. "Where shall I find a specialty that will take me into virgin ground?" "What thrice pleasant field is there in specialistic philately where the philatelic prospector has not yet set his foot?" These are queries that are perplexing not a few of us, who are keenly alive to the disadvantage of "following the crowd" in picking out a specialty; and the answer does not seem altogether an easy one.

The most astute and far-sighted of those who have embraced specialism during the last decade have not been slow to see the policy of avoiding the beaten ruts. There are a great many very able men in philately, and the ablest of them have, for a good many reasons, been greatly attracted by the opportunities which specialism offers. They have felt, particularly, that in specialism lay their best hope of attaining philatelic distinction. Zealous study and philatelic prescience can make better headway against mere wealth in this field than in generalism. A millionaire can amass a perfectly magnificent general collection without making any very deep and painstaking study of philately proper. His task is mapped out before him in the catalogue, and once his willingness to "go any length" for fancied specimens becomes known in the dealing world, every stamp vendor is his collecting agent and scouting emissary. But no man, however wealthy, can do really great and notable things in specialism without putting his mind and heart in the work. He *must* study. He *must* train his faculties to powers of observation and investigation that far transcend the ordinary. And the necessity for this neutralizes his wealth to a certain extent in the very beginning, and places him more on the level of the less opulent seeker after specialistic honors.

This point has been recognized by a great many philatelists. They have seen that they could never hope to bring their general collections above mediocrity. They could but fill to less purpose the same number of pages and the same conventionally arranged spaces in which others were achieving very striking results, thanks to the power of money. In specialism, on the other hand, they have discerned a very different prospect. There they have foreseen the chance of creating a field of their own, in which they should obtain over the philatelic Croesus the advantage of prior possession—a field of seemingly cramped extent, compared to the lordly prodigality of the generalist's dominion, but whose intellectual horizon should not be one whit less far-reaching. In choosing the field of labor, therefore, the necessity of staking out one's ground a little one side of the "main traveled roads" of philately is very obvious. Ten years ago it was not a difficult matter to do this. Only a very few countries were specialized in, to any extent worth mentioning. English philatelists were specializing in Great Britain; American specialists were, almost to a man, absorbed in United States stamps; and similarly, in all the principal countries of the world, the stamp collector, who became a specialist, chose the emissions of his own land as his study. A vast field was, therefore, open to the specialist in search of fertile territory. And the manner in which scores—I might, perhaps as justly, say hundreds—of specialists availed themselves of this opportunity, is a matter of history. Lands whose stamps seemed of the smallest possible interest and importance have blossomed out into teeming and unthought-of philatelic richness. Tiny islands of the sea have proven as fruitful of specialistic possibility as great nations in whose mighty political shadow these little islets nestle, as pitifully diminutive append-

ages to their greatness. And in all this has specialism justified its being. It would seem that, unlike the best charity, the best specialism does not begin at home. There has never been any danger that the philatelically essential facts in relation to the stamps of the leading nations of the world would be permanently lost, or that sufficient of these stamps would not be preserved for future generations. But there *has been* considerable danger that the stamps of out-of-the-way regions of the world might not fare so well. This possibility specialism has very largely removed. And in any history of the evolution of philately which may appear in future years, this fact will certainly deserve attention as illustrating how surely philatelic policy has shaped itself along lines tending to the preservation of our pursuit. There was danger of an over-balance of philatelic knowledge in certain directions. In the earliest years of its development it seemed almost certain that the rising tide of specialism would result in leaving out in the cold the stamps of all nations save a very few—such as Great Britain and the United States, as before mentioned. The effect has, most happily, been altogether different, thanks to the acumen of those who have preferred to toil in little trodden fields. And while there are, of course, now as always, certain countries whose field of study is more fully developed than that of others, there is no longer any fear of a concentration of the entire intellect of philately on a limited number of countries, to the practical exclusion of all the rest.

Many a would-be specialist of the present, however, could doubtless find it in his heart to wish that specialism's studies had not been so evenly distributed. As I remarked at the start, it is hard to find an uncovered point. Pretty much all the good specialties seem to have been pre-empted; and it looks very much as though those of us who start in now would have to take up with the poor ones. But, after all, does it really so much matter? Does it not often happen that the stone which the builder rejected becomes in the end the arch of the corner? Or, leaving

quite aside this phase of the matter, may it not be possible that out of specialties of quite indifferent reputability we may get full as much pleasurable study as from those of higher degree? Mr. John N. Luff has gotten together a very striking collection of the stamps of the Chinese Treaty Ports—a class of stamps of as degraded a philatelic reputation as one could easily find. The status of the Chinese Locals reminds one somewhat of that of Mr. Sampson Brass—well remembered, doubtless, by all readers of the *Old Curiosity Shop*. The benevolent old gentleman who took lodgings in Brass' house, for the purpose of spying, if possible, upon the illicit doings of that rascally individual, was remonstrated with by a friend, who asked him if he knew that Brass was considered a person of doubtful reputation. The old gentleman dryly made reply that he was glad to hear there was any doubt about it; that he had supposed Mr. Brass' character to be so decidedly smirched that the word doubt would be sadly misapplied. In which point, Mr. Brass and the Chinese Locals would appear to be in the same boat. Nevertheless, there can be no question but that Mr. Luff has derived both pleasure and mental profit from studying these stamps. He is a man who, we may be very sure, will spend his philatelic time profitably. He has publicly recorded the fact that he has found the study of the Chinese Locals very interesting. And we may take this as proof that specialism's field still offers many unworked nooks and corners to the man of originality of mind.

Again, there is the case of a well-known collector, whom I was about to place as from Chicago, but of whose habitat I cannot, on mature reflection, be quite certain, who has made a splendid special collection of Seebecks. Not long since they were exhibited at the meeting of one of the big philatelic societies and "greatly admired," according to the chronicler thereof. And this, of the much despised Seebecks, the butt perpetual of all the sneers and gibes and revilings which philatelists' tongues are masters of! Can these things be? Indeed, there is no doubt of it. And,

viewed from the right standpoint, this collector is doing an eminently sane and sensible thing. *He is creating a field of his own.* Nobody "that is anybody" in philately has ever cared a copper about the Seebeckized emissions. This odium is well deserved, for the Seebeck principle was, and is, palpably pernicious. But these Seebeck stamps offer precisely the same opportunities for study as do many other fields. They have the same inverted surcharges, and misplacements of letter, and errors of spelling, as in lands less openly subservient to philatelic speculation. There is just as much to learn about them, and just as much interest attaches to the learning process.

To cite another case of similar kind, it is to be noted that at the London Philatelic Society's recent South African Exhibition, Major Evans had a most interesting exhibit of the stamps of Madagascar—or it would, perhaps, be more correct to say, of the British Consular stamps of Madagascar, the French Colonial issues for Madagascar having been, of course, outside the scope of the exhibition. Now here is a series of stamps that probably not five members of the London Society—the greatest body of specialists in the world—could have made any sort of showing in. Probably fully half of them have been specializing in South African stamps of some kind since the outbreak of the Boer War. But these Madagascar stamps have had so little to commend them to notice that they have been quite passed over. Of course, Madagascar "British Consulars" is not a practicable specialty for the ordinary collector. I doubt if it would be possible to make any decent sort of a collection of them in this country without sending abroad for most of the specimens, and even then the time and expense involved would be prodigious. Probably the publishers of Scott's catalogue could not furnish a half-dozen varieties, without sending to England for them, and the same would be true of any large American stamp house. But even if it is impracticable for us to follow Major Evans in this particular specialty, it is possible for us to borrow a leaf from his book, as the saying goes, in this

matter of choosing a specialty. Most of us are seeking a field that we think will prove rather easy. We want to get out of the beaten ruts, but we do not want to greatly incommode ourselves in so doing. And we are, in the great majority of cases, unable to rise superior to the philatelic prejudice which has kept certain fields comparatively free from tillage. For instance, French Colonies. I am far from being sure that French Colonials do not offer just as pleasant and profitable field for the specialist as British Colonials themselves. French Colonials are generally frowned upon because the French government in issuing them seems to have had philately very distinctly in mind. They, moreover, lack diversity of design; and an album devoted solely to them would be in some ways extremely monotonous. But monotony is getting to be a dead word in the specialist's vocabulary. Reconstructed sheets are certainly monotonous from a general collector's standpoint, but they are the apple of the specialist's eye. "Bloating" is monotony reduced to a science, but the bloater takes great delight in his acquisitions, nevertheless. The fact is, specialism is cast in a mould of its own. Its aims and pleasures are as different in kind from those of generalism as anything that can be easily imagined. Generalism aims more especially at pleasing the eye; specialism, at pleasing the mind. Monotony of design in a series of stamps is, therefore, no bar to effective specialization in them, provided they possess sufficient diversity of manufacture to provide the minor varieties of shade, perforation, type, etc., which is the specialist's bread and meat. Therefore, why not the French Colonies, or the Portuguese Colonies, or the Dutch Colonies? Portuguese Colonies provide as large a field (or perhaps an even larger one) than do the French Colonials. The Dutch Colonies would form a somewhat more restricted field. But the expense of specializing in any of these would be much less than in specializing in British Colonials. The latter have received such an extraordinary amount of attention that few of their minor varieties have failed to receive

the full degree of promotion in price which their rarity deserves. In these other Colonials, the minor varieties do not command such inflated prices, and the major varieties are positively cheap. There are undoubtedly a certain number of collectors who already specialize in these classes I have mentioned. Patriotism is still a very strong factor in determining one's philatelic inclinations. Frenchmen who specialize naturally devote a good deal of attention to French Colonies. Germans, of course, feel a patriotic interest in the German Colonial emissions. But neither French or German Colonials rise to any altitude of price at all comparable with that enjoyed by British Colonials, because of the fact that the great majority of French and German philatelists are still generalists at heart. Their specializing is very largely done in the same way as in the United States: namely, as a side issue to general collecting; both the universal and the special album being in commission at one and the same time, and given about equal attention. This is one cause why the stamps of the British Colonies, either collectively, or individually, or separated into groups, are the pampered pets of specialism; while other classes of Colonials languish in comparative neglect. Another cause, undoubtedly, is the insularity of the English character, which cleaves to British institutions at all times and in all cases. The French and the Germans are broader viewed. They are not less patriotic—simply less narrow in some of their ideas. No "pent-up Utica" confines the energies of French and German philatelists. They collect anywhere and everywhere, as the fancy pleases them, and have never yet been able to agree to focus the bulk of their philatelic energy on their national stamps. Dutch collectors are, I think, somewhat more inclined to specialize in "Holland and Colonies"; but they are not numerically numerous, and this fact has kept down prices on the stamps of Holland and dependencies. As to Portuguese Colonials, I believe that Portugal boasts but very few collectors, and the slight demand for Portuguese stamps is, therefore, not to be wondered at.

All this may seem a decided digression from our original query, but the point I am trying to get at is this: Is the man who decides to specialize in some of these not-very-much-favored Colonials deliberately locking himself up in a field where he is practically debarred from the sympathy and aid of philatelic comradeship? In other words, has the specialist in such a field any chance of ultimately "getting in the band wagon"—of finding himself an honored prophet of a popular specialty—or will he always have to content himself with virtue for virtue's sake, never receiving for that he has achieved his meed of public philatelic honor? I take it that this is an important point. Most of us do not like to labor alone. We are anxious enough to get out of the beaten rut, but after we have gotten a good, fair start in clearing a pleasant little path of our own through the weeds and stubble, we want companionship and neighborly sympathizers. What, then, is to be said on this side of the matter?

It is difficult to predict just what may come to pass in the philately of the future. But I do believe that British Colonials cannot always retain their present commanding position in specialism. Circumstances have aided them greatly of late, but circumstances are equally likely to turn against them in the future. The collectors of the United States, for one thing, are quite likely to be weaned away from British Colonials. British Colonials have always been great favorites with our leading collectors in this country, partly on account of their native beauty and interest, and partly, no doubt, on account of the bond of race and speech between the United States and England. Their supremacy was seriously threatened when the United States commenced to acquire colonial possessions of her own; and they might have lost ground heavily with us had it not been for the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward. The resultant world-wide freshening of interest in British stamps has served to quite overshadow the new-born interests in the stamps of the United States colonial dependencies.

These latter did not, either, prove to quite fill the bill in the manner many philatelists had fancied they would. Their postal emissions were ours only by adoption, not to the manner born. And, with the exception of Hawaii, they do not present very interesting fields. American philatelists, and their European brethren also, are going, in the course of time, to give British Colonials the slip; and then these German, French, Dutch, and Portuguese Colonials are very likely to come into their own. Philately is a profoundly restless science and there is every reason to believe that in the course of, say, a hundred years, practically every special field, of any importance at all, will have its turn at being "the fashion." Very probably the rounds may be made long before the century limit. There is all of South America, in addition to the colonial possessions already spoken of, and there is Mexico—which deserves more attention from American collectors than it has of late years been getting—and there are quite a number of other specialties that the whirligig of time is likely to bring to the fore. Of course, South American countries, or Mexico, do not present anything like virgin ground. Their stamps have been specialized in very zealously, especially in the case of Mexico, as witness the famous Coster collection, and others of like note, dispersed a few years since. But Mexicans and South Americans have been overshadowed by British Colonials, and the general run of their prices is still very moderate, indeed; a strong point for the philatelist of modest purse. Take such a country as Colombia, including all the issues of its separate States, such as Antioquia, Bolivar, etc., and anyone can find a very fine field for specialization. Or in Mexico; think what a wealth of possibility is presented by the surcharged names of towns! The philatelists of Europe who forswear British Colonials are likely to choose some specialty in their own hemisphere; of which there are, as we have already seen, plenty to choose from. But is it not extremely probable that when American philatelists become tired of British Colonials they will turn either

to Mexico or to some of the South American States?

There is one specialty, not mentioned in the foregoing, which can hardly be overlooked in any series of speculations as this; and that one is, the stamps of the United States of America. I observe in a late number of one of our monthlies a prophecy of a coming boom in United States stamps. It is one of the curious anomalies and contradictions, of which philately presents so many, that in a land so thronged with active philatelists as this one, the nation's postal emissions should stand in any need of "a boom." It would seem that American collectors would hardly be content to have any of their U. S. spaces yet unfilled—saving, of course, the extreme rarities that were beyond their purse—and at the same time be laying out considerable sums in purchasing stamps uttered by foreign lands. Yet there are undoubtedly a great many very zealous American philatelists who stand in just this position. United States stamps are not collected among us with the same fervor that they were six or eight years ago. There is a good, steady, healthy demand for U. S. stamps of the older and better class, but this demand is hardly so virulent as for a good many other classes of stamps that are more in the public eye. It is very noticeable that very little matter relating to United States stamps appears in American stamp journals nowadays. This is a significant indication of the tenor of the times. When a great many philatelists are collecting and studying a certain class of stamps, a great deal of matter relative to those stamps naturally finds its way into the philatelic journals. The argument might be offered that the field has been thoroughly threshed over, and that very little remains to be discovered or written about. This, I think, can hardly be so. In any class of stamps there is always something to talk about—even if it be only the re-bringing up of old points. It is not conceivable that all our collectors possess either the Tiffany or the Luff reference works on U. S. stamps. Were such the case, the fact that queries on points relating to

U. S. stamps are so seldom addressed to philatelic editors would have no significance. But the relatively trivial sales of these works, compared with the immense number of active collectors resident in this country, proves that the generality of collectors are "going it on their own hook," as far as U. S. stamps are concerned. And it bespeaks lack of interest in this line that they so seldom seek outside aid. But this is far from being a state of affairs that is likely to continue. United States stamps, I certainly believe, are destined to be one of the most popular specialties of the future. Their comparative loss of public favor within the last few years is, I think, to be traced to the era of price inflation in the middle nineties. United States stamps of the older issues were for several years subjected to an enormous increase of price in each annual catalogue—an increase believed by many of the best posted collectors to be out of all proportion to the increase in their scarcity. And there can be very little doubt that in many cases prices *were* artificially inflated by the catalogue-makers. Having gone beyond their proper station, U. S. stamps have naturally of late years refused to soar higher. They have, in fact, in a good many cases, failed to hold their own. I believe, however, that their prices at the present time are not at all exorbitant. They have now just about reached in actual value the point to which the cataloguers artificially elevated them some years since. The reproach of inflated prices can no longer be justly brought against them. Indeed, I think that a turning point in respect to United States stamps has been reached, through a general realization and awakening to this fact that desirable United States emissions are not likely to go any lower. The truth is, a great many of those who were scared out of United States stamps during the era of inflation decided that they would not recommence collecting them—except that they would, of course, keep abreast with such new issues as might come out—until such time as United States stamps had gotten down to as low a price level as they might reasonably be expected to fall to. It is becoming very evident that

United States stamps *will not* break in price—to any appreciable extent at least. Some of us have been waiting five or six years for this break, but it has not materialized. We have noted a great many seemingly serious breaks in auction prices on even some of the most desirable varieties, but we have found it an utter impossibility to induce dealers to sell us really fine specimens at the figures recorded as obtaining at auction; and we have almost invariably found, upon investigation, that the specimens that seemingly went so cheap were lacking in some point of "condition"—that fetich of modern philately. It certainly appears useless, in view of all these things, for anyone to "hold off" any longer on old U. S. stamps in the hope of more advantageous buying. This fact must soon be thoroughly realized, and as soon as it is, there is every probability that United States emissions will regain much or all of their pristine glory. Quite apart from patriotic considerations, they present a fine field for the specialist. The various grilles, the National and Continental prints, etc., etc., certainly offer a superb field for research and study—especially to the ordinary collector, to whom it is an especial advantage to find his minor varieties in comparatively low-priced stamps. The United States is assuredly not a field that is going to be neglected in the specialism of the future.

After all, in specialism it is the spirit, and not the matter, that counts most. In almost any specialty that can be chosen, no matter whether it be one of the despised or one of the favored ones, there is abundance of opportunity for philatelic pleasure and profit if the would-be specialist has grasped the true spirit of specialism. Specialism in philately is the same as specialism in other of life's concerns. It means the acquiring of special and expert knowledge not possessed by one's fellows. And the specialist in any of philately's fields has this satisfaction, that he knows a great many things which a great many other philatelists do not know. He may have to share that luxury of feeling with quite a number of others, but, still, it is a select inner circle after all. Nothing can rob the specialist of that satisfaction.

The Philatelic School Room

AN EXPANSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE "TALKS TO YOUNG COLLECTORS"

CONDUCTED BY LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH

NOTE.—No. 1 of these talks appeared in MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR of March 3, 1902.

Our last recess has been rather a protracted one, and now that we have come together again to continue our study of the catalogue and its contents, I am almost at a loss to know where I left off. With what my friends would doubtless call customary carelessness, I omitted to make note of our last stopping place, and though I am sure we had gotten as far as either Iceland or India, I am not quite certain which. Let us assume, for the sake of starting somewhere, that we were just ready to take up Iceland when the bell rang last time, and commence with that chilly colony.

Iceland stamps are not many. To say, however, that the Iceland page may be easily completed, would be to stretch the truth. A half dozen of them catalogue at a dollar or over, and one or two so much over that at least ten or twelve dollars would be required in order to purchase good specimens of the half dozen at the best discount from catalogue rates that one is likely to get, for Icelandic stamps are not offered at large discounts. Iceland is believed to be one of the coming countries—that is, one of the countries whose stamps will come into strong and general demand on account of a boom similar to the one now or lately "on" in Danish West Indian stamps. These booms would have no interest for the young collector were it not quite likely that he will be caught in their undertow of interest and be very anxious to get some of the stamps he finds so much talked and written about. So it is not at all unwise when one scents a coming boom in the air to get in ahead of it and make your selections in advance of the rush. Iceland stamps never appear plentifully on ordinary approval sheets, because, in

reality, even the low-priced varieties are quite scarce. Iceland is a very small island, thinly populated, and not having any very important business interests. Consequently, the number of Icelandic stamps used is, and always has been, relatively very small, which accounts for the small number of them in dealers' stocks. There are some ten or twelve Icelandic varieties that are to be secured at an outlay of a few cents each, and it will be well for you to try to get these. If search of approval sheets proves fruitless, remember, as I have before remarked, that catalogues and price lists are made to order from and not to look at.

India is an interesting and fruitful country for the young collector. The familiar Queen's head is in Indian stamps surrounded by a great variety of different frames, lending a pleasing diversity to the completed page. And Indian pages may be completed (with the exception of a very few specimens) at a cost fully as small as in any country or colony whose issues total up such a large number. I refer here, of course, to the stamps of India proper and not to the almost endless issues of the Native States of India—quite a different matter. The space devoted to India in the catalogue is rather questionably enlarged by a couple of pages devoted to the official stamps of India, most of which are of the surcharged nature. These the collector may well decide to let alone. The stamps of the Indian Native States—Alwur, Bhopal, Cashmere, Faridkot, etc., etc.,—always have a great fascination for young collectors, owing to the peculiarity and picturesqueness of their designs. Of the interesting nature of the designs on many of these native Indian stamps, there can be no doubt. They are so different from anything else in our

albums, and they are so characteristic of the land from which they come, that it is difficult to avoid taking them to our hearts. But the facts of the case are, that these native Indian stamps, taken as a whole, are about as disreputable a class of rogues as any that get into the catalogue. The early issues were legitimate enough in character, though probably issued more for the personal gratification of the native princes (who were very fond of imitating European ways) than for any very pressing postal needs. The great bulk of the later issues, however, belong purely to the "made-for-collectors" class. Moreover, the number of reprints and counterfeits of Indian native stamps is enormous, many of them, perhaps most, coming from official sources, the scrupulousness of Indian postal officials being very slight, indeed. The chance, therefore, of collecting any great quantity of native Indian stamps is not good, and the young collector had best leave such things to the specialist. A few varieties, for oddity's sake, will add to the album's interest, but beyond this I cannot advise the young collector to go.

Indo-China is another of the numerous French Colonies whose stamps differ in no essential respect, either in status or design, from other French Colonial issues, and we may, therefore, shorten our course by skipping it. Neither need we stop at the *Ionian Islands*, which issued three varieties in 1859, and never any since. All three are very rare in a used state. A few unused remainders are on the market at reasonable rates.

Italy has issued a host of stamps, almost all of which belong to the cheap class, which the young collector will easily secure. Very little need be said about this country; nor of *Ivory Coast*, which is another of the innumerable French dependencies, need much be said, its issues being of a piece with all the other French Colonies.

Jamaica is another of the interesting British Colonies, and it is a colony in which the young collector will find it quite easy to secure a goodly showing. The prices on most of the varieties are

not excessive, and if care is taken to secure nice specimens, not too badly canceled or discolored by time, the Jamaica page will be one of the most attractive in the entire album.

Japan is a country which always attracts young collectors, the designs and general character of the stamps possessing such a truly Oriental oddity. Japanese stamps are fascinating—of that there can be no question. And very fortunately the price of many Japanese varieties is not so high as to preclude the collector of modest purse securing quite a respectable number of them. It is quite hard to get Japanese stamps in really nice condition, there being no country which has made use of more smudgy cancellations. What is worth having is, however, worth taking some pains about, and the Japanese pages are well worth taking extra pains with (in the matter of selecting good specimens), since, rightly filled, they possess very high interest.

Labuan is a not uninteresting country, the most of whose emissions are, however, rather over the young collector's limit. The North Borneo stamps, made available for use in Labuan by surcharging the name thereon, are comparatively cheap, but the young collector will do far better to purchase the unsurcharged North Borneo set itself and let that represent the series in his album. There are so many interesting sets to be secured that it is not to the young collector's interest to duplicate them in this manner.

Lagos is a British Colony in which the majority of the stamps range rather high in price—a few can, however, be secured at low rates, so that the page need not be quite barren. I always believe in the advisability of making a strong attempt to have at least a few stamps in every country represented in the album—so far, of course, as is possible. Even two or three specimens relieve the barrenness of a page in quite a wonderful manner. It looks, at the very least, as though you had made a beginning in that country, and obviously increases the scope and interest of your collection.

Leeward Islands stamps are few in number and easily procurable. You

will not have much difficulty in getting all except one or two of the higher denominations. Turning the page, we come to *Liberia*, a country whose stamps possess many interesting features, at least in a pictorial sense. Liberia is one of those countries that has "gone in" for "picture stamps," and many of her emissions of recent years are strikingly handsome. They also possess the further interest of being decidedly characteristic of the tropical belt: the fauna and flora of the torrid zone furnishing the basis of many of the designs. Ethically speaking, these stamps are not, perhaps, of the most deserving sort, for they palpably belong to the "made-for-collectors" class. But as I have before remarked, it is not needful for the young collector to draw too nice distinctions anent this point, and the Liberian stamps being highly ornamental and picturesque, I should advise the young collector to secure as many of them as he can. Liberia has issued some dollar values that command higher figures than the average young collector is justified in paying, but the majority of the Liberian "picture stamps" are not excessive in cost. The older issues of Liberia are quite scarce and seldom met with on approval sheets. The Registration, Dues, and Officials of Liberia form poor stuff, indeed, for any beginner to fritter away his money on.

Before leaving Liberia, it may be noted as a point of some interest that Liberia was at one time, practically speaking, a colony of the United States. It was originally settled by American negroes, under the protection of the United States Government, and the authorities at Washington exercised a fatherly supervision over its conduct for some time. There might be some ground, therefore, for including Liberia in a specialty collection of "the stamps of the United States and its dependencies."

Of *Lorenzo Marques*, it need only be said that it is a Portuguese Colony, and its stamps of the very slight interest true of practically all Portuguese Colonials.

Luxemburg is a country the majority of whose stamps are quite low in price. In fact, the majority of them do not list in the catalogues at any higher rates on the average than do the stamps of France, Austria, Hungary and other larger European countries, whose stamps would naturally seem likely to be more plentiful. In actual experience, however, despite the catalogues, Luxemburg stamps are not by any means so common as those of the other countries spoken of. In mixtures of "Continentials" and cheap packets, this is very plainly evident. Luxemburg stamps, also, are rather hard to get in nice condition. The majority of them are printed in rather dull colors—though when a really bright one is found, the effect is generally very pleasing—and to get a nice set of any of the Luxemburg issues will require some little pains and searching. Luxemburg is a country worth taking some pains with, however, and you will do well to gobble up any good specimen you find on approval sheets.

Macao, we will skip, it being another of the Portuguese Colonies, frequently before spoken of in these talks.

Madagascar comes next, a colony whose earlier issues, when it was owned by Great Britain, are practically prohibitive in price; while its recent emissions, under French auspices, possess the usual characteristics of French Colonials.

Madeira is another Portuguese possession, of whose stamps nothing can be said without needless repetition.

Then comes *Malta*, whose stamps are few in number, and a half dozen of which, securable at small cost, will be sufficient for the young collector's purposes.

Martinique, brought into special prominence of late through Mt. Pelee's awful disaster, has little in its stamps to enchain the fancy. Its earlier issues were all produced by "the surcharge's artful aid," and may well be left out of the reckoning. Two or three specimens of the stamps of later issue, which are of the familiar French Colonial type, may well be bought, to relieve the yawn-

ing blankness of the page, and will cost only a few cents.

Mauritius possesses a glamour of fascination for the young collector, because of the fabulous rarity of the far-famed Post Office Mauritius. It is scarcely necessary to say that the possibility of any young collector becoming the proud possessor of a Post Office Mauritius is infinitely smaller than his chance of becoming President of the United States. Both are possible, but most extremely and decidedly improbable. However, every young collector likes to have some stamps from Mauritius, for all that. If they are not from the inner sanctuary of the rarity of rarities, they have, at least, a little of the sanctity that attaches to the hangers-on of the temple—at least in the young collector's eyes. And while the majority of Mauritius stamps are not in the penny class in price, a fair sprinkling of them may be had at small cost. Like all British Colonials, they are handsome, attractive, and a good purchase.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin and *Mecklenburg-Strelitz* do not come much within the young collector's ken, as their stamps are little to be met with outside of special stock books or auction sales. Passing them over we come to *Mexico*, one of the most fruitful and interesting countries (philatelically speaking, of course) that is represented in our albums. Mexican stamps, as a whole, are of a quaint beauty in both design and coloring that renders any considerable number of them grouped together on a page decidedly pleasing in effect. The geographical proximity of Mexico, moreover, coupled with the intermingling of Mexican and American history in the past, and the possibility (not too remote to be considered al-

together a fantasy) of a still closer union in the future, render Mexican stamps peculiarly interesting to us. The proximity above mentioned has also worked to the advantage of the young collector, in that it has kept down the price of all the commoner varieties of Mexican stamps. There are few countries in which a small sum will fill more spaces. There are, of course, many high-priced varieties (for in the stamps of no country of any size and importance are rarities lacking), and some of the Mexican Provisionals can vie in scarcity with all but the world's greatest rarities; but with such a wealth of lower-priced stamps to secure, this is certainly no drawback.

Modena stamps are seldom to be met with, either in dealers' stocks or auction sales. Though they are somewhat interesting, on account of their oddity of design, and as historic mementos of a State long since swallowed up in a larger confederation, they have very little popularity. Perhaps their scarcity accounts for it. They are not priced so very high in the catalogues (or, at least, a portion of them are not); but, for all that, they are hard to get. It may be added that the few Modena stamps that are on the market are mostly either remainders or reprints.

Monaco has issued but a few stamps and all of them are readily procurable. They are gems in mechanical execution, and will be an ornament to any album. All but a few of the higher denominations may be bought at small cost.

Montenegro stamps, also, are odd, interesting, and low priced. It is one of those occasional cases to be met with in a stamp album which can be almost completed without going beyond the young collector's limits. Only two or three out of Montenegro's fifty or more adhesives cost as much as a dollar.

(To be continued.)



Department of Foreign Relations

From 1888 to 1892 we published a series of MEKEEL'S STAMP DEALERS' AND COLLECTORS' ADDRESS BOOKS, containing the addresses of collectors in all parts of the world. These books are now out of print. One of the important features was the announcements of collectors and exchangers desiring foreign relations.

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Our columns are open to *subscribers only*. Announcements of reasonable length, in the following style, \$1.25 per insertion. Payment in advance.

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Exchange desired with advanced collectors in all parts of the world. Please send me a selection of rare stamps of your country and receive in exchange rare stamps of Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Basis—Scott, Kohl, Tellier, Stanley Gibbons' or Senf's latest catalogue. Common stamps not wanted. President of the "Uniao Philatelica Brasileira."

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While we do not publish the announcements of any one but that we believe to be all right, we desire to caution our readers to use good business judgment in all matters of foreign exchange relations, and not to rely entirely upon the fact that the advertisement has been accepted.

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Subscribers in foreign countries are requested to consider themselves our authorized correspondents for the particular locality in which they reside and all are requested to furnish us early information about all new issues of stamps as well as local news of importance.

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Foreign Stamp Notes

Australia

In the *Australian Philatelist* we find the following warning:

We have to warn collectors to be on their guard against certain stamps with forged perforations which have been placed in circulation in Sydney for some considerable time. Chief amongst these, in order of supposititious value, are the Queensland, perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, 1d, 2d and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -. These stamps are very close imitations of the originals, being of course genuine specimens of the ordinary stamps, perf. 12, with the horizontal perforations removed, and a larger gauge substituted. The large holes of the $9\frac{1}{2}$ gauge are somewhat irregular in shape; there are also other variations from the genuine article. The imitation is so close that a very careful examination is necessary to detect the fraud, but the point we refer to will aid detection.

Amongst other stamps which have been treated by the same hand are the 6d. black Victoria, "postage stamp" at sides, which has had the usual wide margin on one or more sides carefully perforated to match with the other sides, thus converting a badly centered stamp into a well centered one. There are also the 2d. bottle green and 4d. blue Van Diemen's Land; 6d. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - Tasmania, all perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, postmarked, made from imperforate specimens; 2d. blue New South Wales (1862 type on small N.S.W. Crown paper) perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ unused; 3d. yellow green wmk. 3, perf. 12; 8d. orange wmk. 8, perf. 12; 6d. registered wmk. $12\frac{1}{2}$; 1d blue and 2d green (V. R. in monogram); Fiji, perf. $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12×10 ; 4d. and 5d., perf. 10; also some South Australians and others, including even common stamps of various denominations, which could scarcely pay for the trouble of manipulation.

Besides the faking of perforations, other stamps have been cleaned, and in some cases postmarked or regummed, and passed as unused; notably the Fiji 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -.

Benadir

The following letter has been sent out by Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, England, to the philatelic press regarding the stamps of Benadir:

No doubt you have seen or heard of so-called postage stamps for Benadir (Italian Somali Coast), which are being sold by a trading firm at Milan. Having in mind certain past experiences with Brunei, Nyassa, Sedang and other bogus stamps, we have always looked upon these labels of Benadir with suspicion, and have up to the present refused to buy them. We have, however, been making inquiries by writing letters direct to the place, all of which remained unanswered until we sent an Italian bank note to purchase the stamps; this note has just been returned to us with a letter from which we extract the following:

"There are no postmasters here, and it is forbidden to us officials to have anything to do with postage stamp dealers; the stamps can only be obtained from the Company's office at Milan."

We think this is quite sufficient to condemn these labels.

We may add that the letter we received had on it a stamp of British East Africa, and was posted at Kismayu. If any additional evidence was required it was furnished by our envelope, which was returned to us; it has been sent to Mombasa, Djibouti and Aden, and is endorsed in French, "No postal service with Benadir."

Chili

Mr. E. D. Bacon, in a letter to the *London Philatelist*, issues a warning against some very dangerous fakes of the early Chilian stamps. These are the first 10c. with forged watermarks "20" and "5" (large "5" with long neck) and the 5c. with forged watermark "1."

Great Britain

Again has the forger attacked British postage stamps, and this time he has

turned his attention to those scarce varieties, the 10s. and £1, anchor watermark, on white paper.

The forgeries of the 10s. and £1 Anchor would at first glance appear to be complete imitations of those stamps—paper, print, perforation and watermark. But as to this there is a doubt, because it would be practicable to a skilled forger to secure sheets of some of the penny lilac Inland Revenue stamps, drive out all the color, and then print the spurious 10s. and £1 stamps on the sheets thus “albinoed,” so to speak. The fiscal stamps referred to, as is well known, bear the anchor watermark, and are of the same perforation as the rare postage stamps which have now been counterfeited.

Whatever may be the truth as to the process of production, it is certain that

these imitations are marvelously well done. So far as we know they are all in the uncanceled state, and an idea of the fidelity with which the originals have been copied may be gathered from the fact that at least one philatelist, usually able to take very good care of himself, has been “let in” for a substantial amount for a specimen of the £1.

The high philatelic value of these stamps in the unused state would naturally induce the forger to forego one of the oldest tricks of his fraternity—the placing of a well got-up postmark over the weak places in his work—but at the same time it is quite possible that specimens of the counterfeits have been post-marked. In this condition it is probable that they would be still more dangerous to philatelists.—*The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*.

Inverted Pan-American Stamps.

We have on hand the following Pan-American stamps with *inverted centers*. Prices quoted upon request and stamps submitted on approval to probable purchasers:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1c. An unused copy, not full gum, perforated on four sides, but a trifle off center.</p> <p>1c. An unused copy, full o. g., but not perforated at bottom, well centered.</p> <p>1c. A fine used copy on original cover.</p> <p>1c. A <i>superb</i>, well centered, perfect copy, o. g. and mint. <i>Nothing could be finer.</i></p> | <p>2c. A <i>postally used copy</i>, paid postage half way around the world.</p> <p>2c. An unused copy, one of the block found in Brooklyn; as well centered as any in that lot.</p> <p>2c. An unused copy, with slight nick not extending into design.</p> |
|--|--|

We shall submit any of the above stamps upon approval and quote prices to interested parties.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,

St. Louis, Mo.

Department of Review.

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSH

Publishers of Philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications regularly to the editor in charge of this department.

LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH, French-Bennett Bldg., Oneida, N. Y.

The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser

Published by the Philatelic Publishing Co.,
Birmingham, England.

Dec., 1902.

The Christmas issue of *The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser* does not lack for spice and good reading. Its reading is of a somewhat unconventional character (so far, at least, as philatelic journalism goes) and is seasoned with such a dash of frolic and frivolity as is excusable only at festal Christmas-tide; for frivolity is, as a rule, a dangerous material for philatelic editors to tamper with. In the present case, however, it is admirable from start to finish. Opening with the pleasant conceit that the editor, unexpectedly called away by urgent business, has been obliged to leave this month's number to the tender mercies of his staff, the fun soon waxes fast and furious. "The Postman" opens the ball with a bit of verse. "The Sub-Editor" is then permitted to inject a little gravity into the proceedings by contributing his usual "Chronicle of New Issues," prefaced by the following statement: "The Postman and others having taken control of this journal for Christmas, I wish it to be understood that no responsibility attaches to me for any portion of the paper except this page. Under the circumstances, I am surprised that the only qualified journalist on the staff should be asked to contribute at all." Then, on the next page, "The Poet"—another of *The Chronicle's* staff of shadows—has his say in a good bit of versification on "The Haunted Specialist," which is followed up by the best thing in the whole number: "The Office Boy's Suggested Designs for Postage Stamps." On the principle that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men, we shall quote this

little sketch in full. We wish it were equally easy to here reproduce the "suggested designs" which accompanied it, for they are really side-splitting. Here is the essay:

"I am not one of those office boys about whom you read. I am the product of modern education and have graduated from a higher grade and technical school, so am incapable of those etymological and grammatical errors which the *soi-disant* comic papers delight to attribute to the modern office boy. I have been asked, late in the day, to contribute something to the Christmas issue of this journal, and I have therefore prepared descriptions, accompanied by a few sketches (my drawing in the Higher Grade School was highly commended), of some suggested designs for picture stamps.

"The question of commemorative and other picture stamps has been greatly in evidence lately and there is much to be said both for and against these stamps. As a rule, they appear to me to be too florid and ornamental. They should be, in my opinion, striking illustrations, vividly depicting the object which it is desired to advertise, whether the natural features of the country or some event of importance. Suppose, for instance, it is desired of raising a military spirit in a country, what better than the dashing figure of a hussar in uniform? If the object is to attract tourists or visitors, why cater only for lovers of the beautiful by means of cascades or mountain tops? Show the attractions that appeal more generally to human nature. Monaco, for instance, might issue stamps indicating the attractions of the Casino, and gay Paris could represent the pleasures of the *cafe chantant*

or illustrate a star of the opera. Such designs as these would attract to a much greater extent than the present style, and, if issued as a fairly large size stamp, might be used for many purposes. If these designs should meet the eyes and merit the approval of the postal authorities in any country, I shall be delighted to submit designs for any pictorial stamps which may be required."

Following this engaging bit of ironic humor comes No. 1 of a series of "Philatelic Fables;" this one being entitled "The Merry Swiss Boy and the Czar," and being in approved comic paper style. And, as a closing feature, the "business manager" contributes a very humorous extravaganza on modern stamp dealing. All in all, this Christmas number is a huge joke from cover to cover. And, undoubtedly, it is well enough for even the wisest to play the fool once in a while.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

Published by P. L. Pemberton & Co.,
London, England.

Dec. 31, 1902.

Jan. 25, 1903.

Two numbers of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* lie before us for review, thanks to the few days' lateness of the December issue (as witnessed by its date above), which kept it back just long enough to prevent its securing space in our January magazine number. Fortunately, our contemporary's matter is not of the kind that sours with standing, and we may therefore open its pages now without the least fear that its contents have grown musty in their enforced wait for our attention. The December issue opens with a portrait and sketch of Mr. Erskine Beveridge. It is noticeable that in its sketches of well-known philatelists the *P. J. of G. B.* has of late been choosing, almost exclusively, those who belong to what we usually term "the old school of collectors": that is to say, men well along in middle life who have been collecting for twenty or thirty or even forty years back. We do not know that this has been done with any express purpose in view; but certainly, as we have read

these sketches from month to month, it has seemed to us that the *P. J. of G. B.* was engaged, perhaps unconsciously, in a very impressive serial demonstration of the permanence of philately's hold upon men of intellect. We read so much nowadays about the meteoric, here-to-day-and-there-to-morrow sort of collectors, whose interest in philately is but an episode in their lives, that it is good to read also of men who have found philately an excellent life companion: who have been wedded to stamps so long that if it were the custom to celebrate one's philatelic silver wedding they would be several years past that anniversary. It is, we think, a salutary and wholesome thing to emphasize in this indirect way the lengthy tenure of philately in the affections of such solid, substantial men of mind and affairs as have lately figured in our contemporary's gallery of philatelic notables. No youths are these; but men who have both tasted and tested life, who have lived and achieved and played a goodly part in the world. It is an inspiration to read about them and to look upon their faces. It gives the collector fresh pride in the *personnel* of his craft. It adds dignity and credit to every line written in the balance of the magazine. And we can not too much applaud the justness of our contemporary's judgment in choosing for portraiture and biography such steady-going old veterans as it has chosen, rather than some of the "men of the moment," whose philatelic incubation occurred yesterday, and whose philatelic demise may occur to-morrow.

Having said so much about what manner of men our contemporary has lately been philatelically immortalizing, it may be well to give a definite illustration, for which purpose Mr. Erskine Beveridge, the subject of the December sketch, will excellently serve. Mr. Beveridge is a man of fifty-one; stout, full bearded, the perfect picture of a hard-headed, aggressive, brainy man of affairs. He is, we learn, a linen manufacturer, a J. P., an author of various antiquarian works, and a member of several learned societies. He has been a stamp collector since 1864—with

those occasional periods of forced philatelic quiescence which come in the life of every busy man. At first a generalist, he abandoned generalism in 1880 and sold his collection for something over £100 (a good sum for a collection in those days); and a little later, in starting a new collection, he became a specialist in Great Britain and British Colonies only—the mode of limitation since followed by so many British philatelists. That in this line he has built up a large collection may be safely inferred from the fact that various sections of his collection recently disposed of brought no less than £1,700 (about \$8,500), and that his exhibit of the stamps of Uganda at the late South African Exhibition of the London Philatelic Society was pronounced by all critics a most remarkable display.

Of like kidney is Mr. J. C. Sidebotham, whose portrait and biography open the January *P. J. of G. B.* In fact, he antedates Mr. Beveridge by some years both in his advent into "this world of haps and happinesses" and in his enlistment in the philatelic cohorts. This last phrase is perhaps rather inaccurate, for at the time Mr. Sidebotham started collecting (*viz.*, 1858), the number of stamp collectors would not have entailed any great mental strain in counting. Mr. Sidebotham is, in fact, to be classed as the contemporary of such philatelic pioneers as Sir Daniel Cooper, Rev. Mr. Stainforth, Mr. Hughes Hughes, and other notable collectors of the early sixties. And is it not splendid to think of philatelic interest surviving for five and forty years? True, we learn that there *was* one break in Mr. Sidebotham's devotion, during which, for some years, he took no active part in collecting. But this is a fact often met with in studying the lives of great collectors, and it is significant to see how sure they are to return to their former allegiance after a season. The man who collects assiduously for as much as ten years in his young manhood and then is forced by press of business cares to give up philately for a time, seems almost absolutely certain (in the light of the common experience) to be drawn back again

into the fold as soon as he gets to the "easing-up time" of middle age. Mr. Sidebotham is a general collector, and he does not collect pairs, strips and blocks, preferring rather to pay special attention to shades, perforations, thickness of paper, etc.—a preference in which we think we discern the wisdom and far-sightedness of experience, though the advocates of strip and block collecting would doubtless disagree with us.

To return to the December number, which we have left momentarily for the sake of unifying our remarks regarding these biographical sketches, we find that it contains the *P. J. of G. B.*'s usual assortment of varied and readable matter. The London Society's "African Exhibition" is well dealt with, both descriptively and analytically; the new issue pages are comprehensive and carefully edited; the society reports are interesting reading to those who like to keep track of the pulse-beats of philatelic progress "over the water" (for reports of philatelic clubs, albeit sometimes a little colored, are excellent indicators of the state of philatelic interest in their various localities); and there are numerous short paragraphs and "fillers" that are in no case unreadable. Turning to more sustained features we find the continuance of the excellent "Descriptive Catalogue of European Postage Stamps," which deals this month with the issues of Bavaria; a pleasantly written editorial leader, headed "On Finds"; and some very adequate reviews of the new editions of the Gibbons and Bright catalogues.

In the January number we find a feature of real interest, a paper by Mr. L. W. Fulcher, on a very important matter, to wit: "What kind of minor varieties should be included in a general collection?" Unfortunately, only a portion of the paper is printed in this issue, the ominous words "to be continued" projecting themselves suddenly upon one's vision just at the time that he is getting completely absorbed in Mr. Fulcher's able treatment of the topic in question. In this installment, however, Mr. Fulcher proceeds far enough to let

us see, in a general way, what is his answer to the query propounded in his heading. After reciting at some length the various difficulties which at present enshroud this question and descanting with clearness and acumen upon the fundamental purposes of scientific collecting, he gives what we take to be the gist of his suggestion in the following paragraph:

"Bearing in mind the objects of a philatelist as I have endeavored to indicate, can we not apply the following process as the basis of a rational method of collecting? Given a minor variety, let us ask, 'Does this variety illustrate any solid fact in the history of the stamps of the country?' If the answer is affirmative, then take it—if not, then reject it. Avoid the casual, keep the permanent, or what we may call the evidential varieties."

Mr. Fulcher's formula is not wholly new, but we think we have seldom seen it expressed so succinctly. We believe, moreover, that the rule is a most admirable one and that it will ultimately be followed by the majority of general collectors who perform their philatelic labors on a thinking basis. Such a rule will certainly eliminate from one's calculations a vast number of minor varieties. It may not always be absolutely easy of application, but it is a rational rule, based on logical premises, and, as such, cannot but be infinitely superior to any home-made method, individual to the user, which lacks form, system and exact laws. The most interesting portion of Mr. Fulcher's paper—that in which he makes practical application of his precept, in respect to certain well known classes of minor varieties—is yet to come. Pending this, we shall, of course, attempt no further comment on the method he has suggested. But our readers may rest assured that the balance of his paper shall receive our careful attention next month.

The further contents of the January *P. J. of G. B.* are up to that journal's usual quality, but do not call for special analysis; with the possible exception of an able editorial on "British Colonial Reprints," which contains some facts that our readers may be interested in. Starting out with the somewhat start-

ling assertion that the list of British Colonial reprints is much larger than is generally supposed, it goes on to allay all fears that may have been awakened by the last statement by showing that, with the exception of the reprints of Heligoland and the Indian Native States, these reprints have been made in very limited quantities, for private distribution only or for supplying the various postal administrations throughout the world. This latter fact would in itself convey no assurance that collectors might not ultimately buy these reprints as originals (postal officials not being noted for averseness to selling "presentation sets" when opportunity offers) were it not for the further fact, as stated by our contemporary, that there is no case in which any intelligent attempt has been made to imitate the original stamps exactly in every particular—paper, watermark, perforation, gum, and color—and that therefore these reprints practically always present very discernible differences from the originals. The editorial goes on to mention the following colonies in which reprinting has been indulged in, in this limited way: South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Natal, India, New Brunswick, British Guiana, Cape of Good Hope, and Newfoundland. After reciting the points which radically differentiate the most important of these from the originals, the editorial closes by remarking that without doubt the present popularity of British Colonials is largely due to this almost total immunity from dangerous reprints and the equal certainty that the British Government will not at any future time permit reprints to be manufactured for money-making purposes.

The American Journal of Philately

Published by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co.,
New York. Edited by Jno. N. Luff.

Dec. 1, 1902.

Jan. 1, 1903.

Both of the above numbers reached us considerably later than their publication dates—in fact, the December issue did not arrive until too late to be reviewed in our issue of January 26th, whose last reading forms closed Janu-

ary 10th. We mention this fact, not at all as one discreditable to our contemporary (we ourselves have been too much in the same boat of late to take quite that view of the matter), but rather as an explanation of the tardiness of these magazines in appearing in this review.

The December *A. J. of P.* contains some thirty-eight pages of matter, practically all of which is, in its way, interesting. An article on "The United States City Despatch Post" delves into quite a forgotten chapter of postal history; the purchase of Alexander M. Greig's "City Despatch Post" by the postmaster of New York in 1842, and the continuance of the same under official supervision, which gives to the stamps of the United States City Despatch Post (under which altered title it was operated by the government) the honor of being the first governmentally sanctioned postage stamps of the United States. The essay is an interesting one, especially on account of the extracts from official documents relating to the Post, with which it is liberally besprinkled. We should be much tempted to analyze its contents further, did we not feel that among the huge pile of papers yet remaining to review, there are other matters in which our readers will feel greater interest.

Mr. C. A. Howes, we are glad to see, is continuing his studies of stamp designs, about which we had considerable to say last month. This month he devotes his space to the early issues of New South Wales in general and to the "Sydney Views" in particular.

Following this we find an able article on "The Reprints of the Stamps of France and her Colonies" from the pen of that veteran French philatelist and authority on all matters pertaining to French stamps, M. Arthur Maury. The article, it need hardly be said, covers the ground in very thorough fashion, and bristles with interesting and valuable points. We learn from it that, oddly enough, the first reprinting of French stamps was made at the instance of Sir Rowland Hill, who addressed in 1862 a letter to all the foreign post-offices, requesting complete sets of their stamps

for his collection. The position of Sir Rowland as Secretary-General of the British Post Office gave to his request a semi-official character that made the French postal officials desirous of complying with it. The stamps of the French issues obsolete at that date were none of them available for this purpose, excepting only a few sheets of the 1 franc, Empire, which had been accidentally preserved; and it was, therefore, decided to reprint a few sheets of each of the obsolete issues, the postal administration deciding that, in addition to sending some of these to Mr. Hill, they would start a stamp collection of their own, to be deposited in the Governmental Museum attached to the mint. Accordingly in September, 1862, 20 sheets (of 300 stamps each) of each one of the following values were printed: the 10c bistre, 15c green, 20c black, 20c blue, 25c blue, 40c and 1fr. carmine of the Republic issue bearing the head of Liberty; the 10c bistre and 25c blue of the Republic issue bearing the head of Napoleon III. (then President); and the 25c blue of the Imperial issue bearing head of Napoleon III. Sir Rowland Hill received a sheet of each of these reprinted stamps, 10 sheets of each were handed over to the French Postal Administration, presumably as curiosities; 3 or 4 went to the Mint for the official stamp collection, and the remaining sheets were burnt a few days later in the presence of a special committee. In 1863 the 1fr. carmine stamp of the Empire was reprinted to the extent of 20 sheets only.

M. Maury assures us that these reprints of 1862 are easily recognizable through the impressions being clearer and more uniform than in the originals; and also by the fact that the gum is whiter and more evenly spread than in the old ones.

Again, in 1868, the government, whose official collection had by this time been recruited by more or less complete sets of the stamps of some thirty foreign governments, decided on another reprinting; not a very large one this time, being only "two sheets of each of the French postage stamps." M. Maury is unable to say as to whether this order

referred only to the stamps then current or to *all* French stamps, but seems to incline to the latter theory.

As regards French Colonial stamps, there was in 1887 a reprinting of part of the French stamps which had served for the Colonial. For what purpose this reprinting was undertaken, M. Maury does not inform us. We will not take space here to give a resume of M. Maury's researches in regard to French Colonial reprints, referring such of our readers as may be especially interested in the matter to the article itself. None of these reprints are common and they are not likely to cause much trouble to collectors. Nevertheless, we have reviewed M. Maury's essay at this length because we consider that its matter is of considerable general interest to collectors, even though few of them are likely to harbor unawares any of these reprints.

We are pleased to find in this number of the *A. J. of P.* an "Indian Letter," by E. W. Wetherell, editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, which we trust is to be a regular monthly feature hereafter, for Mr. Wetherell wields a clever pen and his "Indian Letter" is, in readability, well worthy of comparison with Mr. Nankivell's "English Letters," so long a feature of the Scott publication—and beyond this, it may be justly said, praise could no further go.

A further installment of M. Jules Bouvez's valuable work on the stamps of Luxemburg is also included in this December issue, whose last twelve or fourteen pages are taken up with the usual notes, chronicle, and society reports.

In the January *A. J. of P.* Mr. Howes opens the literary cotillion with another installment of "Some Stamp Designs," the 1888 Jubilee issue of New South Wales receiving the major part of his attention.

Mr. Crawford Capen, whose utterances on any stamp collecting subject must always challenge the thoughtful attention of philatelists, has a short, but meaty, article on "Twentieth Century Stamp Collecting." The article is, in effect, a brief analytical glance at the present condition and future prospects

of stamp collecting, both of which Mr. Capen judges to be excellent. One paragraph agrees so perfectly with our own ideas as to the relative future of nineteenth and twentieth century stamps respectively that we shall quote it in full:

"There can be little question that the stamps that will hold their value best and will most interest the collectors of all future time will be those of the nineteenth century—the Victorian Era. The sixty years of stamp issuing included within that century contain examples of all kinds and grades of workmanship, from the coarsest to the finest. It may be possible that some time in the future a new method of manufacture may be devised, which will produce stamps of higher grade than any which the nineteenth century can offer us, but until such an event shall occur, the wide range and fine quality of the stamps of that century, together with the fact that all kinds of workmanship and almost every possible device in the way of design is to be found upon them, will make these stamps most popular." Mr. Capen's views, as above expressed, are most sound. The issues of the twentieth century will not possess as great interest as those of the nineteenth, because they will be less national and individual. The crudity and picturesqueness belonging to the earlier issues of many countries is being replaced by a stilted correctness and conventionality that may be an artistic improvement, but is certainly less striking in human interest. Mr. Capen also discourses interestingly on condition, which he believes is to be a permanent factor in philately; and also has something to say regarding the future of U. S. stamps, on which point his views are most cheerful and optimistic. All in all, an interesting essay: all the more so because it comes from one who has such vast philatelic interests under his dominion.

A valuable paper by Dr. G. Michelson, Colombian Consul-General to Germany, on "Provisional Stamps of Colombia," contains much matter that will interest those who have made investment in these provisionals, whose

philatelic status, never very much, suffers still further degradation from the light thrown upon them by Dr. Michelson. As we presume that only a small portion of our readers are interested in Colombian stamps (this country being one of those that most collectors shun with a shudder, so manifest and many have been its philatelic sins), we will not attempt to analyze the gist of Dr. Michelson's article. The balance of the January *A. J. of P.*, being composed of the usual staple features, notes, chronicle, *et al.*, does not call for special comment.

The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser

Published by the Philatelic Publishing Co.,
Birmingham, England.

Jan., 1903.

The January number of the *Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser* bears a somewhat puny look. We cannot find much in it that is of any great importance, or especially new, though its matter is, as always, pleasant, easy reading. A scanty, consumptive-looking editorial column prefaces an almost equally scanty chronicle. The "Postman's Knock" touches in a jocose vein on various matters of current interest in philatelic England. The best thing in the number is an installment of Mr. R. R. Thiele's "Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps," reprinted from the *Adhesive*, an excellent young monthly from this side of the water which does not often figure in this review because its publisher, for some inscrutable reason, does not send us a review copy. These "Stray Notes" have been admirable series of studies of a hitherto little treated subject, viz., the number of stamps to a sheet and the manner of their arrangement in many different issues. This series of articles has, we believe, been running in the *Adhesive* for considerably over a year past, and in that length of time Mr. Thiele has succeeded in collating a vast deal of valuable information relative to the size and arrangement of the entire sheets of many different issues of many different countries. His mode of treatment has been at times apparently somewhat desultory (as, indeed, is implied in his

title), but this doubtless could hardly be avoided, considering the many scattered sources from which such information has to be collected. In thus bringing these facts together in a continuous even if not a connected form, Mr. Thiele is rendering signal service to philatelic interests. It is a pity that his studies cannot be published in book form on their completion. But philatelic books do not offer a very promising prospect to a publisher—unless he finds pleasure in doing business on a philanthropic basis and is perfectly willing besides to face rather more than a possibility of a deficit when the debit and credit accounts of the work are finally balanced.

Following Mr. Thiele's article, we stumble upon a page of matter headed "Some English-made Albums," which gives some rather interesting facts in regard to the excellence and cheapness of some of the minor English albums. Next comes a statistical article on "Great Britain in America," a list, with some statistical addenda, of the British possessions and dependencies in the Western Hemisphere. We think the list is worth running over here, to refresh the knowledge of some of us who find as we grow older that we have but a very mazy memory for facts. Here is the list, with a very few of the statistical facts given in the original:

1.—The Bermudas; a group of 360 small islands, only eighteen or twenty of which are inhabited, and whose total population at the last count of noses was but a trifle over 15,000.

2.—Canada—on which we need not enlarge.

3.—Falkland Islands—composed of 2 large and 100 small islands, having a total area of 6,500 square miles, and a total population of 1,789.

4.—British Guiana—area, 109,000 square miles; population, 278,295.

5.—British Honduras—area, 7,562 square miles; population, 31,371.

6.—Newfoundland and Labrador—area, 42,200 square miles; population, 202,040.

7.—West Indies, consisting of six groups, as follows: (1) Bahamas, a group of twenty inhabited and many

uninhabited islands; population, 11,000 whites. (2) Barbados, a densely populated island, its area being only 166 square miles and its population 185,000. (3) Jamaica, also well populated, its inhabitants numbering 639,000, its area 4,200 square miles. (4) Leeward Islands, 700 square miles, 127,000 population. (5) Trinidad, 1,754 square miles; population, 230,000. (6) Windward Islands, 133 square miles; population, 56,000. A good many interesting comparisons may be made in the above. It is particularly interesting, in view of the postal history of the Leeward and Windward Islands, to note how slight is their area and population as compared with Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.

The Stamp Collector

Published by Margoschis Bros., Birmingham, England. Edited by Jno. A. Margoschis and W. Kuhn.

Feb., 1903.

We have heard much of this Birmingham journal, our English *doppelgänger* in name, if not in nature, and we have for some time been exceedingly curious to see a copy of it; but it is only within the past week that this wish has been gratified. It is one of the only two English journals that we have not been regularly receiving, the other being the *London Philatelist*, which takes the somewhat unique stand of sending out no exchange copies to anyone; and we trust that in future the *Stamp Collector* may be numbered among our regular visitors, for we like its contents exceedingly. It is a very much better magazine than its local contemporary, the *Philatelic Chronicle* (we should not wonder if the latter's thinness of late is partially due to the competition of this younger and more aggressive co-occupier of the Birmingham field), and does not compare unfavorably with the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* and the *Philatelic Record*—in fact, resembling the latter journal considerably in make-up and general tone, though not quite so sumptuous in type and illustration.

The number before us opens with a thorough *expose* of the so-called "stamps of Benadir," whose real nature

has been pretty thoroughly ventilated in the philatelic press of late. Following this comes an "interview" with Mr. Thomas D. Hume, a distinguished philatelist of Newcastle-on-Tyne, the extent of whose philatelic attainments (or perhaps *acquirements* would be the better word) may be judged from the fact that it takes forty volumes to house his collection. The "interview" deals both with the man and his stamps and is supplemented by a portrait on heavy plate paper. Another photo plate pictures ten of the handsomest of the new issues of the day, including our own Martha Washington stamp; and brings out the beauties of form and outline in far more striking fashion than can be done by a wood cut or a zinc etching.

In an essay bearing the somewhat hackneyed title, "Used Versus Unused," Mr. Ernest Heginbottom, B. A., makes a strong plea for better recognition of collectors of used specimens only in philatelic exhibitions. An article on the "Growth of the British Post-office" comes next; then a "Question and Replies Competition;" and a very good department of "New Issues." "Our Note Book and Philatelic Diary," by "Phoenix," is a pleasant miscellany; and the number closes with a very good review department, under the caption "In the Library Chair."

Taking it as a whole, we like both the literary and the philatelic flavor of our English namesake.

The Philatelic West

Published by L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb. Edited by E. H. Wilkinson.

Dec., 1902.

Jan., 1903.

The Philatelic West is another journal with which this review is in arrears, and the fault in this case lies with ourselves, for we accidentally omitted it last month, and with the gorgeous cover of its Christmas issue staring reproachfully at us from an oasis of desk room hard by the editorial elbow, at that. But it is never too late to make amends, so we will e'en spend a few minutes with this Christmas issue even though yuletide is already so far back in memory's perspective. First of all,

let us say that the *Philatelic West* continues to increase in corpulence in most amazing fashion. The increase is perhaps more noticeable in the advertising than in the reading pages, nevertheless the reading pages are by no means few or ill-filled. This Western journal is, indeed, the wonder of the age in philatelic journalism; not so much in literary or philatelic value as in being undoubtedly a most enormous financial success. A publication which carries an average of from 70 to 80 pages of advertising, at approximately \$1 an inch (and 16 inches to the page), must obviously be a gilt-edge proposition to its publisher—especially as no expensive staff of traveling advertising solicitors is required, a large item of expense to the average class or trade journal handling as large an amount of advertising as Mr. Brodstone's journal. Probably some of his advertising is taken on an exchange basis, and possibly not all of it is paid for at strictly card rates, if we may be pardoned for using a technical advertising term. But certainly, judging from external indications, Mr. Brodstone's income from his paper must be well toward \$5,000 a year. This being so, we can not quite understand why he does not somewhat strengthen his philatelic reading matter. Doubtless, Mr. Brodstone knows best what his readers like; and the great success of his journal is pretty good proof that he has gauged their tastes very accurately. But still it does seem as though, in a publication so eminently prosperous, a few pages more might be spared for philatelic matter and some of the *West's* really able contributors given "a fair show." As we have before pointed out, the *West* is homeopathic in its literary policy. If it has on hand an article of average length, such as would occupy three or four pages of the *STAMP COLLECTOR* and be disposed of at a sitting, the *West* splits it up into quarters or eighths and publishes two or three paragraphs of it every month for some months. This method allows of a good deal of variety being given in a magazine, but it plays sad havoc with the essays so maltreated, the whole interest of many of which

naturally depends upon being able to follow their argument from opening to finish without a break.

Barring this blemish, the *West's* philatelic pages suggest no other criticism save the kindest. In this issue we find the usual editorials; a pitifully small installment of Mr. Thiele's translation of Count d'Assche's work on the stamps of Roumania (whose meager monthly quantity illustrates our remarks above); Mr. Charles A. Nast's "Revenue Department" (occupying one page only); an article on "Stamp Prices of Long Ago," by Frank C. Young ("to be continued"); "Washington Notes," by C. M.; a very good paper on Jamaica and its stamps; the valuable "Department of Inquiry," conducted by L. G. Dorpat; "Chips," by E. R. Steinbrueck, a page of odd philatelic miscellany which is always readable; "New Year Leaves," by "Nemo"; "Inscriptions on Stamps," by L. G. Dorpat (a most excellent serial feature of the *West*); and "Notes and Cuttings from Australasia and New Zealand," by H. W. Mackisack. There is also the usual variety of short notes, and one article which is very poor quality, indeed. It is headed "The Philatelic Cynic," by "Thusey," and is not only devoid of "rhyme, reason or common sense," but is disfigured throughout by arrant slang that in many cases is actually vulgar. Here are a few of the lesser gems of this kind: "Is emphatically on the bum"; "think-tanks half contaminated with bug-juice"; "the goose-talk of intellectual chumps," etc., etc. Can Editor Wilkinson have been in a state of coma when he admitted this vulgar balderdash to his columns? Surely in his sober senses he would never have thought of doing so. Such articles are harmful because they can not but disgust the casual reader, who may often make the mistake of thinking that such productions are typical of philately and philatelic literature in general. In a periodical like the *Philatelic West*, which has so many non-philatelic readers, thanks to its camera and curio departments, the giving of such impressions can not be too carefully guarded against.

The *West's* January number contains

about the same regular departments as are mentioned in our list of the December features, and also the continuation of most of the articles which figured in that number. We find in it no special articles of any particular moment and need not therefore give a list or analysis of its contents, which would not, in any case, differ materially from the December synopsis. We can not refrain, however, from calling attention to the "European Letter" of J. C. Auf der Heide, of Amsterdam, which is couched in most piquant and original English. Opening with the words, "Season is very well beginning in this country," it is full of equally entertaining bits of lingual architecture. We would not poke unkindly fun at this worthy Dutchman, struggling valiantly in the mazes of our language; rather does his droll phraseology evoke only a friendly smile. It is not in human nature to quite forego that smile, even on the ground of international courtesy.

The Australian Journal of Philately

Published by J. H. Smyth & Co., Sydney,
Australia. Edited by Jas. H. Smyth.

Dec. 15, 1902.

The December issue of the *Australian Journal of Philately* opens with a pleasant editorial headed "The Compliments of the Season." It is very prettily written and as it also contains views regarding unused stamps diametrically opposed to those which we ourselves have lately promulgated, we shall take leave to reproduce it, on the principle that both sides of a question should be treated with equal fairness. This is our Australian friend's little Christmas sermon: "Christmastide and New Year's Day are mile-stones, so to speak, in the journey of life, and one is apt at times such as these to review the past and make fresh resolutions for the future. Old differences are settled and fresh pledges made; beaten paths are forsaken and new roads discovered. So it is with philatelists. There are many who doubtless can trace a change in their mode of collecting to this time of the year. All will agree that there *are* modes and methods, or plans, and if we were asked what we should like best

to collect we should say—mint unused specimens. What deters many from this branch of philately is the relative high prices for unused as compared with used copies. But how much prettier the former? There is an air of brightness and cheerfulness about a fresh unused stamp which is lacking in a used copy. During the year now passing away new issues have been frequent and the prices within the reach of most collectors. The collection of recent unused stamps will amply repay the gatherer, not so much from a financial standpoint as from the fact that he has in his possession things, most of which are works of art and pretty to look upon. In our opinion an obliteration of any kind on a stamp takes from its effectiveness.

"Some prefer canceled stamps on the ground that obliteration is an evidence of genuineness, and others hold that stamps are merely printed bits of paper' until they have passed under the maltreatment of a postal official. This is a fallacy, and if such an assurance on our part will eradicate a false impression and induce our readers to look upon philately from a new standpoint we shall feel that we have contributed to the general good and enabled our friends to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

We shall not take space here to combat Mr. Smyth's arguments in favor of the unused stamp, as the serious discussion of the question involves so many complicated considerations as to require plenty of elbow room, which this review can hardly give to it. Let us, therefore, without comment, proceed to the other pages of Mr. Smyth's journal. "Federal Prospects" continue to take up a good deal of space. In fact, it has become quite a staple feature of the *A. J. of P.*, and under that heading each month appears a considerable mass of news, rumors and conjecture in regard to various Australian varieties, past, present and to be.

Following this feature come "Notes on Tour," by A. F. Basset Hull, some journalistic "pick ups" on his recent journey; and succeeding this comes quite an interesting lot of notes on

various philatelic subjects, "some original and some otherwise," as the country editor said. Mr. Smyth has lately been taking a business trip to Newcastle, one of Australia's most thriving cities, and in the number before us he gives a sketch of his trip—of the philatelists whom he met and the stamps that he saw—which makes quite interesting reading. "The New Issues Department follows next, and then a statistical article relative to some recent New Zealand stamps. Other various short articles follow, and the number closes with an interesting glance at the state of philately in 1873, as gleaned from an old volume of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for that year, under the title "Thirty Years Ago."

The Canada Stamp Sheet

Published and Edited by C. W. N. Ussher, Toronto,
Canada.

Jan., 1903.

Feb., 1903.

This little Canadian journal, which at the present moment represents in itself the entire Canadian philatelic press, is still fighting pluckily for existence. It has lately changed hands, not always a promising sign in philatelic publishing of the minor sort; but in this case the new owner and editor seems to be going ahead with aggressiveness and confidence. We sincerely trust that he will meet with an abundant measure of suc-

cess. The *Canadian Stamp Sheet* is not a large or a great paper, but it is all that Canada hath; and under such circumstances it would be a thousand pities to see it flicker and die out. There is a pleasant promise in its contents, too, that makes us hope for quite substantial improvements when the new editor is fully broken to his harness.

The January number is not overcrowded with reading matter. In fact, its reading pages are decidedly gaunt; but the disorder of moving day, of course, is a good excuse for such shortcomings. In this number Mr. Paxman, the retiring editor, gives his valedictory; and Mr. Ussher, the new incumbent, his salutatory. Mr. Raymond S. Baker, under the head "Ontario Jottings," supplies some decidedly interesting notes, items and comments. "United States Minutes," by Usona, are sufficiently good to be read with real interest; and the official reports of the Dominion Philatelic Association furnishes the balance of the month's quota of reading matter.

In the February issue "The Leather Chair" is resumed; Usona's "United States Minutes" occupy their usual place and are of their usual interest; Frank C. Young has an interesting article on "Stamps of British North America;" and there is a goodly quantity of notes and comments. Altogether, this is a really worthy little paper.



Numismatic Department



Coin Notes

The Numismatist, published by Dr. Geo. F. Heath, of Monroe, Mich., is the only illustrated monthly journal exclusively devoted to coins and collectors published in this country. This is in reply to numerous inquiries received from our readers.

Nickel coins similar to those used in other countries are shortly to be introduced in France, to be equivalent in value to our 5c piece, and will weigh six grams. Denomination in French currency, 25 centimes.

Regret to learn of the death of John B. Brevoort, of Johnsonburg, Pa., who

is quite as well known for his interest in stamps as in coins. Mr. Brevoort was comparatively a young man.

The Arnold Numismatic Co., of Providence, have issued an auction catalogue for their sale, which will include the State and Territorial Gold referred to in our last magazine.

J. L. S., Bethel Springs, Tenn.—The coins, of which you submit rubbings, are old Spanish silver pieces, which are very common and only worth their bullion value.

We do not deal in coins.

The only coin dealer we know of in St. Louis is Mr. Ellis, of the St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

A First Bronze of Germanicus

BY B. P. WRIGHT, M. D.



Obv. Bare head of Drusus Senior sinister. Legend, "NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP" (erator).

Rev. Statue of Drusus. Attired in the "toga," facing the right and seated upon a heap of Roman arms, holding a laurel branch in his right hand. In the exergue "S. C." (These letters are used on Roman coins for *Senatus Consulto* and constitute the mark of Senatorial authority for striking the coin.) Legend, "TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG. P. M. TR. P. IMP." This restored would read: Tiberius Claudius Cæsar Augustus,* Pontifex Maximus, Tribunitæ Potestatis Imperator. Translation, "Tiberius Claudius Cæsar Augustus, Sovereign Pontiff, invested with the tribunitian power." First Brass, size 22.

Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus was the son of Tiberius Claudius Nero and Livia. Was born in the year of Rome 716 or 38 B. C. His birth did not take place in the house of his father, but in that of Octavianus, afterwards known as Augustus Cæsar. Three months previous to the birth of Drusus, Tiberius had been compelled to yield up Livia to Augustus, a circumstance which, according to *Suetonius in Claud. C. L.*, gave rise to the following line: "*Beatis trimestes liberos nasci*" — "To the fortunate, children of three months are born." The first prenomens born by Drusus was *Decimus*, afterward changed to *Nero*, by which he is invariably designated on coins. To the prenomens Nero, Claudius was added to indicate his paternal, and by the name Drusus his maternal genealogy, through the gens Livia. By the power exercised by Augustus, Drusus was very early brought to share in public honors, was given command of troops and sent against the unruly German tribes known as the Suevi, Sicambri, Cherusci and Frisii. These people he partly brought under the Roman authority. For this he received the title of "Germanicus," which was conferred after his death. Drusus with vast labor constructed a dam or dyke across the river Rhine, which was called the (Fossa) "*Drusina*," and to this day remains an object of wonder.

"Drusus was the first Roman commander to penetrate into Germany as far as Albis," i. e., *the Elbe* (Eckhel vi, 175-76). Drusus married Antonia, daughter of Mark Antony. Valerius Maximus speaks in high praise of his moral qualities and conjugal fidelity. His death was caused by a fall from his horse in the year 9 B. C. So great was the esteem that Augustus held for him, on account of his valor and integrity, that the Emperor himself delivered his funeral oration, and at the close prayed "*the gods to make his own Caesar like the deceased, and grant to himself as honorable a death as his had been.*" Thus at the age of 47 passed away one of the best Romans. His remains were taken to Rome and placed, with highest honors, in the family mausoleum of Augustus.

*In the Mabinogi is a legend that Bendigeid Vran and his army came to a river that separates Earth from the celestial abode. His chieftains said to him: "Lord, knowest thou the nature of this river, that nothing can go across it, and there is no bridge over it? What is thy counsel concerning a bridge?" "There is none," replied Bendigeid Vran, "except that he who would be chief, let him be a bridge. I will be so!" Whereupon Bendigeid Vran laid himself down across the river and they placed hurdles on his back and the army passed over in safety. Vran in this myth is a personification of the "Bridge of Salvation." The Pope in the character of "Pontifex Maximus" is the "greatest bridge of salvation" of to-day in the Catholic Church. In the days of "Imperial Rome" the Emperor assumed this attribute, hence we find Pontifex Maximus on their coins, to indicate that they were the personification of a bridge over which a blissful immortality could be obtained.

Medal of Collingwood and The Battle of Trafalgar

BY B. P. WRIGHT, M. D.



Obv. Bust of British naval officer in uniform, facing the left. Legend, "ADMIRAL LORD COLLINGWOOD."

Rev. In the forefield the French and Spanish fleets off the Cape of Trafalgar. The British fleet in the form of a half circle approaching to engage in a naval struggle, the result of which forever sounded the death knell of Napoleon's hopes of naval supremacy.

Inscription: "HIS COUNTRY'S FUTURE HOPE."

In exergue: "VICTORY—OCTOBER 21, 1805."

White metal, size 24.

Cuthbert Collingwood was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept 26, 1750. Received his education under the instruction of the Rev. Hugh Maises. His naval career began when he was only eleven years of age, under his uncle, Captain, afterwards Admiral, Braithwaite. It is related that he became home-sick at first, and earnestly desired the sight of land. An officer, noticing the dejected appearance of the boy, spoke words of encouragement to him and otherwise treated him with kindness. To show his appreciation of the officer's conduct, young Collingwood went to his box and taking a piece of plum-pudding therefrom presented it to the friendly officer with his compliments. In 1774 he served at Boston, and from the part he played on the day that the battle of Bunker Hill was fought, earned his first promotion, that of a lieutenant. In 1776 he went to Jamaica in the ship *Hornet*, but soon afterwards removed to Lowestoffe. In December, 1780, he was appointed to the command of the *Pelica*. His valor and bravery soon won him the command of the ship *Sampson* of sixty-four guns. He served under Nelson in the West Indies in actively putting into effect the provisions of the navigation laws against America. In 1793 he was appointed captain of the *Prince*, and served under Lord Howe the following year in the celebrated engagement against the French. This victory of the "1st of June, 1794," has given rise to many medals, and Englishmen take pride in singing, "*May the French ever know HOWE to rule the main*," etc. Lord Howe did not feel kindly toward Collingwood, hence did not take the slightest notice of his services, and when the names of the other officers were reported, his name did not appear in the list of those worthy of reward. This act of injustice was the

occasion of surprise, anger and ill-feeling, and Captain Pakenham remarked: "*If Collingwood had not deserved a medal, neither had he, for they were together the whole day.*" Collingwood had to submit to this injustice, which he did with seeming magnanimity, but striving meanwhile to show by increased gallantry that his services were needed by his country, and three years later (Feb. 14, 1797), in the battle off St. Vincent, he rendered such distinguished aid to Nelson that he was awarded a medal. When informed of this honor, he said with firmness: "*I cannot accept this if the one, honorably earned on the 1st of June, 1794, is still withheld. I feel that I was then improperly passed over, and to receive such a distinction now would be to acknowledge the propriety of that injustice.*" Admiral Nelson replied: "*That is precisely the answer which I expected from you, Captain Collingwood.*" Soon afterwards two medals were transmitted to him by the first lord of the admiralty, together with a civil apology for the former omission. The next duty assigned to him was the office of blockading the ports of France. There is a letter extant, written by him to Captain Ball, which reads: "Our good chief found employment for me; and, to occupy my mind, sent me to cruise off St. Luccas, to intercept the market boats, the poor cabbage carriers. Oh, humiliation!" In 1799 he was made rear-admiral of the *white*, and rear-admiral of the *red* in 1801. In May, 1803, he was sent in the ship *Venerable* to join the squadron off Brest under Admiral Cornwallis, who remarked, as he approached: "*Here comes Collingwood, the last to leave and the first to join me.*" On the 23d of April, 1804, he was made vice-admiral of the *blue*, and the following year was employed in the blockade off

Cadiz until compelled to retire by the combined fleets of France and Spain, but no sooner had the enemy entered the harbor than he returned and held his position until the arrival of Nelson, and as second in command under Nelson opened the battle of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805, at the head of a division of the fleet. In the impetuosity of his attack, he broke through the enemy's line. He seemed to feel a presentiment that this battle would be injurious to him, for on the morning of that day he pulled off his boots and advised Lieutenant Clavell *"to put on silk stockings, as I have done; for if one should get a shot in the leg they would be so much the more manageable for the surgeon."* Then he proceeded on deck, and calling the officers together, said: *"Gentlemen, let us do something to-day which the world may talk of hereafter."* With these words spoken he ordered the men to the guns and the others of his crew to take their proper stations and prepare to perform their part in this very important struggle. His ship was now that called the Royal Sovereign, and at the beginning of the action engaged with the Spanish ship Santa Anna by pouring a broadside and a half into her; then these ships ranged so closely together that the lower yards of the two vessels became locked. The French ship Faugeux with two others also engaged the Royal Sovereign, but they were compelled to retire disabled. Shortly after 2 o'clock the Santa Anna struck her colors. It is related that when the Spanish captain came on board the Royal Sovereign to deliver his sword, he asked in broken English the name of the ship that had compelled him to surrender, and on being told,

said: "I think she should be called the Royal Devil."

Nelson having been killed, the command devolved upon Collingwood, who on the following day ordered a general thanksgiving to *"Almighty God, for having, of his great mercy, been pleased to crown the exertions of the fleet with success."*

For his signal valor at the battle of Trafalgar, Collingwood received the title of Baron Collingwood of Caldburne and Hethpoole in Northumberland; also was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral of the white; a commander-in-chief's medal; the thanks of both houses of Parliament; an honorable augmentation to his arms; the freedom of several cities of Great Britain, and a pension of £2,000 per annum for life and £1,000 per annum to Lady Collingwood in the event of his death, and of £500 each to his two daughters. After the battle of Trafalgar he was made commander-in-chief of the naval forces stationed on the Mediterranean Sea, but his duties were so arduous that his health began to fail. "His eyes became weak, his body swollen and his legs shrunk to tapers." At length he became unable to endure the slightest fatigue; he gave up his command and returned to his home, but the hopes of his friends were disappointed, for he continued to fail. Just before death occurred, thinking himself at sea again, he rallied his exhausted strength and said to the friends about his bedside: *"I may meet the French once more."* On the following day, March 7, 1810, he expired. His body was deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral by the side of Lord Nelson, and a monument erected to his memory by the public.

Medal of the Bastille

BY B. P. WRIGHT, M. D.



Obv. A figure seated (doubtless intended to represent Mars) amid the ruins of the Bastille, the left arm supporting a shield, the right holding a banner bearing the French Cock in the center, surrounded by lilies. Above a sun-face in rays, below festoons of chains. In the exergue the following inscription: "A LA GLOIRE DE LA NATION—EPOQUE DE LA LIBERTE" (To the glory of the French Nation, Epoch of Liberty).

Rev. Inscription: "LEGISLATEURS—CE METAL PROVIEN DES—CHAINES DE NOTRE—SERVITUDE QUE VOTRE—SERMENT DU 20 JUN 1798—A FAIT BRISER LE 14—JUILLET SUIVANT—PAR PALLOY—PATRIOTE" (Legislators, this metal is derived from the chains of our servitude which your oath of June 20, 1798, effected the breaking of on the 14th of July following, (made) by Palloy, patriot).

The patriot, Palloy, conceived the idea of taking iron plates from the ruined Bastille, have the above device struck and fastened together by a brass rim, thus forming a medal, size 24, which is very rare and curious. Some were made with loop to enable them to be worn on the coat or be suspended by a ribbon.

The Bastille, a term commonly applied to a celebrated fortress in Paris, which was used as a state prison and in which many persons who had incurred the resentment of French rulers and their favorites were immured. It was built in the year 1369 and demolished, as this medal states, July 14, 1789. There are many sad tales connected with this famous prison. Voltaire's celebrated story of the "Man with the Iron Mask" has given rise to many conjectures. The most feasible is that he was the twin brother of Louis XIV, born a few hours after him, and that the king, their father, fearing that the pretensions of a twin brother might one day be employed to revive civil war,

cautiously concealed his birth and consigned him to a living death in the Bastille.

The sad story of A. M. Dussault is of interest. He offended Cardinal Richelieu, was sent to the Bastille Nov. 20, 1631, and did not regain his liberty until June 20, 1692. Sixty-one years in a dungeon was a most "horrible legacy of vengeance." A letter written by Dussault to Richelieu, who was on his death-bed at the time, has the following words: "Do not, my Lord, make me perish by inches for disobeying an order of yours. Do not doom my soul to everlasting torment and cause me to show evidence in the presence of Almighty God, our tremendous Judge, that your hands are stained with blood. Ah! were you to hear the complaints, sighs and groans I incessantly heave from the dungeon you have condemned me, you would grant me liberty. I earnestly conjure you to do it, my Lord, in the name of that Eternal God who is to judge you as well as myself; take pity on my cruel sufferings and sorrow. Be

merciful before you die. Give orders that my chains be broken, for once in the power of death you will no longer be able to do that justice I claim from you, but will even be persecuting me *after death*. Vouchsafe, I beseech you, to yield to the humble prayers of a loyal subject to his majesty. Yours, etc., A. M. Dussault, Bastille. 1st December, 1642." This letter when received by a man about to die surely ought to have been given some attention, but "the man of stone" does not appear to have granted the hapless prisoner any relief, for Cardinal Richelieu died on the 4th of December, 1642, and Dussault did not regain his liberty until nearly fifty years afterwards; hence he literally was compelled to endure the vengeance of his persecutor even after his death for nearly a half century. Nothing in history can surpass this as an act of "distilled cruelty."

ARNOLD NUMISMATIC CO.

124 Washington St., Providence, R. I.



Publishers of the NUMISMATIC GUIDE, an illustrated 20-page 1903 edition coin book, giving our buying and selling prices. Sent post paid on receipt of ten cents in stamps.

Arnold Numismatic Co., 124 Washington St.
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

THE NUMISMATIST

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY]

An illustrated magazine devoted exclusively to coins. \$1.00 per year anywhere in the world.

DR. GEO. F. HEATH,
Monroe, Michigan.



Chronicle of New Issues

Only adhesive stamps listed.

All are regular postage stamps unless special heading in italics.

All are 1902 or 1903 issues.

Varieties of perforation, unimportant minor varieties and oddities not listed.

Surcharges are in black unless noted.

Native Indian States are not considered, excepting those surcharging British Indians.

Austria (Offices in Crete)

Current Austrian stamps surcharged with value in "centimes."

5 centimes on 5 hellers, green and black.

10 centimes on 10 hellers, rose and black.

Bahamas

New values in the "staircase" design.

5 pence, orange and black.

2 shillings, slate-blue and black.

5 " olive-green and black.

Cape of Good Hope



We present an illustration of one of the handsome new King's head stamps.

Ceylon

New design, head of King Edward VII.

5 cents, lilac.

Colombian Republic

New issue, lithographed by J. L. Arrango, of Medellin, Colombia, whose imprint appears at the bottom of each stamp.

- 1 centavo, green on yellow.
- 2 centavos, carmine on rose.
- 5 " blue on bluish.
- 10 " brown on straw.
- 20 " violet on lilac.
- 50 " carmine on bluish.
- 1 peso, black on yellow.
- 5 pesos, blue on bluish.
- 10 " brown on buff.

Registration Stamp.

10 centavos, purple-brown.



There is also a third color of the "La Popa" 20c to record—bright purple, blue-violet and now dull blue. This we have only seen perforated.

20 centavos, dull blue.

Congo Free State

It is stated that the 1 franc in carmine and black, catalogued as having been issued in 1901, has only been on sale a short time; hence we chronicle.

1 franc, carmine and black.

Cyprus

Similar to last Queen's head issue, but head of King Edward VII.

½ piastre, green and carmine.

Ecuador

The following list of recent surcharges is taken from the *London Philatelist*. Some of the varieties we have already chronicled:

"C. Benj. R." in script.

1, 2, 5, 10, 20 centavos.

"DE." 5, 10, 20 centavos.

"S." 1, 2 (two sizes), 5, 10 centavos (three sizes).

"RIOS." 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 centavos.

5 centavos.

"JUL. 29, 1902" in three lines.

5 centavos (variety with error "1802").

"ChimbOrAzO Riobamba" in two lines.

1, 2, 5 centavos in green.

5 centavos in purple.

"LOJA—FRANCA" in dotted oval.

5 centavos.

"DE LEON." 1, 5, 10 centavos.

1, 5, 10 centavos.

This is the substance of the *London Philatelist's* list, but it appears there are also some "revenues used for postage." The stamps are the Waterlow (long and narrow) type, dated 1901-1902, and are surcharged as follows:

Revenues Used for Postage.

"DE." 2 centavos, green.

5 " gray.

"S." 5 centavos, gray.

10 " gray-black.

"BIENIO—1903 Y 1904" in fancy oval, with ornaments.

1 centavo, carmine.

2 centavos, green.

5 " gray.

10 " gray-black.

20 " slate.

There also appears to be an older "revenue used for postage" (and a provisional at that) which has received one of these fancy surcharges, viz., No. 266 in the current "standard" catalogue.

Revenue Used for Postage.

"DE." 5 centavos on 4 centavos, orange.

Egypt

Current stamps on the smooth (called) "chalk-surfaced" paper now used and furnished by Messrs. De La Rue.

- 2 millimetres, green.
- 5 " carmine.
- 1 plastre, blue.
- 2 plastres, orange-brown.

Egypt (Soudan)

Another value of the "camel" type on the new paper (watermarked star and crescent in multiple).

- 3 millimetres, green and purple.

Fiji

The accompanying cut shows the type of the King's head stamps recently chronicled.

France

The stamp No. 124, which is only partially described in the current catalogue, may now be filled. The type is as noted, but the color changes from orange to pale red.

- 15 centimes, pale red.

France (Offices in Egypt)*Alexandria.*

In the set listed in the "addenda" to the current "standard" catalogue (page 718), there is no value between 5c and 40c. It appears this gap is to be filled. Type of latest French 10c (A19) has "Postes" at top replaced by "Poste-Francaise" and "Republique Francaise" at bottom by "Alexandrie."

- 10 centimes, carmine.

France (Offices in Levant)

The 10c stamp for these offices is similar to that of Alexandria just described, having "Poste-Francaise" at top and "Levant" at bottom.

- 10 centimes, carmine.

France (Offices in Morocco)

The gap in Morocco set on page 718 (addenda) of current catalogue is to be filled by surcharge of value on altered

French stamps, with "Poste-Francaise" at top and "Maroc" at bottom.

- 10 centimos on 10 centimes, carmine.

German Empire*Official Stamps.*

Frame of current issue with "Germania" replaced by inscription "Frei durch Ablosung Nr. 21," to be used during present year in accordance with account recently given.

- 2 pfennigs, slate.
- 3 " brown.
- 5 " green.
- 10 " carmine.
- 20 " blue.
- 25 " orange and black.
- 40 " lake and black.
- 50 " purple and black.

Guatemala*Official Stamps.*

Apparently a provisional issue, being type-set.

- 1 centavo, green.
- 2 centavos, carmine.
- 5 " blue.
- 10 " brown-violet.
- 25 " on 20 centavos, brown-orange.

India (Gwalior)

King's head stamps surcharged *Gwalior* and inscription in native characters.

- 3 pies, gray.
- ½ anna, green.
- 1 " carmine.

Indo-China*Postal Packet Stamp.*

Current 10c stamp with overprint in two lines, "TIMBRE-COLIS-POSTAUX."

- 10 centimes, red.

Mexico

A new value has been added to the current set, and changes of color are promised in some of the other values.

- 4 centavos, scarlet.

Mozambique Company

New value in current type, figures of value in black.

- 65 reis, blue and black.

New South Wales*Postage Due Stamps.*

These are now appearing on the so-called "chalk-surfaced" paper used for some time now in connection with the regular postage stamps.

- 1 penny, green.
- 2 pence, "
- 4 " "
- 6 " "

New Zealand

Double change in the current 2 pence stamp, printed on the new paper (water-marked single-lined NZ and star instead of double-lined) and perforated 14 instead of 11.

2 pence, red-violet.

Nicaragua

New design, showing portrait, value in figures in upper corners and in words across bottom, inscriptions "Nicaragua," "11 de Julio 1893" and "Correos" (twice). Portrait in black.

- 1 centavo, green and black.
- 5 centavos, blue and black.
- 10 " brown and black.

Orange River Colony

New design, head of King Edward VII, with African "Zoo" at bottom.

1 penny, carmine.

Paraguay

Further surcharging.

- 1 centavo on 14 centavos, brown.
- 5 centavos on 28 centavos, orange.

Persia

Balance of new set; these are all in the portrait type and larger size.



- 2 krans, blue.
- 5 " pale brown.
- 10 " vermillion.

Portuguese India

Two new values (1 real and 2 reis) in current type, also change of color in 6 reis, values in black throughout.

- 1 real, gray and black.
- 2 reis, orange and black.
- 6 " green and black.

Rhodesia

Properly British South Africa Company, but we follow current "standard" catalogue. Two more high values of current type (A10), completing the set except for £2 and £30. The postal use of these very high values must be extremely rare, if not altogether *nil*.

- 20 pounds, bistre.
- 100 " crimson.

St. Lucia



The accompanying cut shows the type of the handsome commemorative stamp recently issued, and chronicled by us last month. The colors are very effective.

Sierra Leone



We present herewith illustration of the 1/2 penny stamp of the King's head series, now current.

Spanish Morocco

Current stamps of Spain with script surcharge in two lines, "Correos Expanol—Marruecos," diagonally across the stamp.

- 1/4 centimo, green, red surcharge.
- 5 centimos, dark green, red surcharge.
- 10 " red.
- 25 " blue, red surcharge.

Trinidad

Another of the stamps announced and chronicled a long time ago, but only recently issued, is the 1s. in new colors

- 1 shilling, black and blue on yellow.

Venezuela

Stamps issued by the revolutionists in the state of Guayana in October last. Venezuelan stamps surcharged with large circular handstamp in violet and signature in black, some of them with new value as well.

- 5 centimos, green (1899).
- 10 " red (1899).
- 25 " blue (1899).
- 50 " orange (1900).
- 1 bolivar, slate (1900).
- 25 centimos on 5 centimos, green.
- 50 " " 5 " "
- 1 bolivar " 5 " "

West Australia

The latest from this land of make-shifts is the 2 pence yellow with inscription "two pence" altered to "postage two pence." Must we expect the 2½, 4, 5, 6p. and 1s. similarly tinkered with? The new 2p. is printed in Melbourne (Victoria) on paper watermarked V and crown.

2 pence, yellow.

Wurtemberg

The official stamps of this kingdom

(including both "amtlicher verkehr" and "porto pflichtige" sets) being still current, although the stamps of the German Empire are used for ordinary postage purposes by the general public, two new values in the O2 type have now been issued. The figures of value and the inscription "amtlicher verkehr" are in black. Must we expect these in the other type also?

Official Stamps.

30 pfennigs, orange and black.
40 " " carmine and black.

General Notes

Under this head will be given from time to time notices of such discoveries in old issues and minor varieties of all kinds as it is not desired to list in the regular chronicle; also information in regard to stamps withdrawn from issue, obsolete stamps again placed on sale or re-issued, etc.

Chile

The *Weekly Philatelic Era* recently chronicled as "official stamps" two of the large *officially sealed labels* in constant use in this and various other countries all over the world. They are in no sense postage stamps, official or otherwise.

German Empire (Levant)

Two types of the surcharge are noted by *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* in connection with the 1 piastre on 20 pf. "reichspost" issue. There are slight differences in the letters and figures throughout, especially the "A."

Great Britain (Levant)



We present an illustration of the 4 piastres on 10 pence King's head stamp, recently chronicled.

Guatemala

Official decree having been promulgated in November last announcing

new postal rates to all foreign countries, except the Central American republics, same being expressed in "centimos" and "francos" instead of "centavos" and "pesos," it is possible there may be some surcharges in the new pictorial stamps or perhaps a separate set for foreign correspondence.

An interesting item in regard to the new issue is to the effect that on the facade of the temple of Minerva, which adorns the 6c value, appears the following inscription in microscopic characters: "Manuel Estrada Cabrera, Presidente de la Republica, a la Juventud Estudiosa." The entire inscription does not occupy half an inch, hence the marvelous character of the engraving will be apparent.

Honduras

Shades and paper varieties reported to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* in connection with the 1898 (locomotive) issue:

- 5 centavos, lilac.
- 5 " violet-brown.
- 1 centavo, brown, vertically laid paper.
- 5 centavos, ultramarine, vert. laid paper.
- 6 " lilac, horizontally laid paper.

Also an almost complete set of this same issue (1, 2, 5, 6 and 10c in normal colors and on normal paper) "which are printed on the back with the arms of the country in a circle; the design is too large to show on one stamp and is apparently struck in the center of a block of four; it is probably a government control mark and is printed in dull violet."

Madagascar

It is reported that this French colony is to have a "pictorial issue" of respectable proportions. Let us hope we will be spared a repetition of the artistic and philatelic horrors of the French Congo set.

Mauritius

It is reported that the 5c stamp printed in lilac and violet on buff paper (No. 112 in the current "standard" catalogue) was withdrawn very shortly after it was issued, owing to its resemblance to the 2c value (No. 103), that there was but one printing, that all available supplies are in the hands of speculators and held at double face, and that there will shortly be a new issue with value in black (presumably 5c lilac and black on buff). Also that there is speculation in the 15c green and orange without surcharge (No. 99), and that the 1c gray-black and black (No. 102) is not obsolete as reported.

Peru

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* reports the 10 and 20 centavos and 1 sol. of the 1897-98 postage due set (surcharged "deficit") used on ordinary letters and presumably in payment of regular postage. The date of this use and the parties addressed would be of interest in determining the importance of these varieties. Things of this kind were fixed up and sent around by Mr. Far-rant of the "Williams Stamp Co.," but these may be something different and have nothing to do with that unforgettable concern.

Roumania

The postage due stamps are now said to be coming with the rose tint on their backs, like the regular postage stamps. We notice the "standard" catalogue still calls this "rose gum," which is quite incorrect.

Tasmania

Says the *Australian Journal of Philately* in its latest issue (Jan. 17th): "We have been informed that the present Tasmanian series will shortly be superseded by a new issue printed in Melbourne on V and crown paper, and

that the familiar tablet type of the present 8p., 10p., 1s. and higher values will be used throughout, the stamps to be printed in single colors." The "familiar tablet type" appears to be a mix-up, as the 8 and 10p. are A5, while the 1s. and higher values are A8.

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STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME.

Many people are at a loss to understand the fascination that surrounds the pursuit of stamp collecting. They are surprised at the clannishness of stamp collectors, and their life-long devotion to their hobby. They are thunderstruck at the enormous prices paid for rare stamps, and at the fortunes that are spent and made in stamp collecting.

After nearly half a century of existence, stamp collecting has never been more popular than it is to-day.

A tired worker in search of a hobby may be persuaded that of all the relaxations that are open to him none is more attractive and more satisfying than stamp collecting.

Its literature is more abundant than that devoted to any other hobby. Its votaries are to be found in every city and town of the civilized world. Governments and statesmen recognize, unsolicited, the claims of stamp collecting—the power, the influence, and the wealth that it commands. From a mere school-boy pastime it has steadily developed into an engrossing hobby for the leisured and the busy of all classes and all ranks of life, from the monarch on his throne to the errand boy in the merchant's office.

In the competition of modern life it is recognized that those who must work must also play. The physician assures us that the man who allows himself no relaxation, no recreation, loses his energy, and ages earlier than the man who judiciously alternates play and work.

As stamp collecting may be indulged in by all ages, and at all seasons, it is becoming more and more the favorite indoor relaxation with brain-workers. It may be taken up or laid down at any time, and at any stage. Its cost may be limited to cents or dollars, and it may be made a pleasant pursuit or an engrossing study, or it may even be diverted into money-making purposes.

So absorbing is the hobby that in stamp circles there is a saying, "Once a stamp collector, always a stamp collector."

The above observations are culled from the book of Mr. E. J. Nankivell, bearing the above title, further extracts from which we shall make later.

SCOTT'S VIEW.

We give our readers the views of John Walter Scott, on things in general, as gleaned from an editorial in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:

"Philately has taken enormous strides in the last twenty years. In early days, before watermarks were worshiped, perforations particularized, paper pondered over or gum guaranteed, a stamp was a stamp, provided sufficient remained to make identification possible; then every collector could reasonably hope to make a complete collection, that is, secure a specimen of every distinct engraving that ever prepaid a letter from sender to destination. Those days are past forever, even if we came down to original principles, and only took one of a kind. To renew flagging interest and revive trade the doctors have prescribed various nostrums, such as specializing or trying to find out how many times the manufacturer of a certain issue has varied from his original instructions either in printing, paper, perforation or gum. We do not deny but that something may be learned from this study, but certainly not enough to pay for the work involved. Some persons we know derive pleasure from the pursuit, the same as others do in solving mathematical problems, or even studying Chinese for a pastime, but such pursuits can never be profitable, and unfortunately the profitable part seems to be the main idea of American collectors. Many start collections without the least idea of the magnitude of the undertaking. They buy an album, get one or two thousand common stamps scattered through it, which are hard to find when the cover has been closed and the place lost. Should they desire to sell they get a catalogue, carefully reckon up catalogue price, not forgetting to give themselves the benefit of every high-priced watermark and later are quite surprised to find the little value of their possessions, quite forgetting that the album

cost only a dollar, and is now out of date, and that the thousand varieties cost not over five dollars. Certainly we should be the last person on earth to discourage stamp collecting or stamp collectors, but we do want them to think before they commence. If they look on stamps purely as a pastime, the same as going to a theatre, and that all money spent is gone as soon as paid out, then let them work on their own plan and enjoy themselves in their own way, but if they find pleasure in building up a collection they must study the means available for the purpose. It is better to build and complete a cottage than dig the cellars and lay the foundation of a palace. To people of moderate means, we say, stick to the stamps of our own country and get them all. Buy only good specimens, but by this we do not mean only *perfect* stamps, otherwise you will not get half way through, for only one in ten thousand stamps made by this government is *perfect*. We know one gentleman who has been fifteen years trying to get a perfect set of the 1869 issue; he now has three-quarters of them. We hope he may live to the biblical three score and ten, and finally complete the set. Philatelic scribes should be careful what they write about; some twelve years ago they commenced a crusade against reprints and Seebecks, with the result that at the present time the average boy believes that every unused stamp is a Seebeck and that reprint and counterfeit are synonymous. So with regard to perfect. A well-known Nassau street dealer showed us a superb specimen of a stamp catalogued at sixty-five cents, which had been returned because there was a microscopic difference in the width of the margins. We offered to bet one hundred dollars that its equal could not be procured in a month. This perfection idea is stamp collecting run mad, and that people are hunting for condition, not stamps, if persisted in will result of philately dying out. Another dealer informs us that he imports only De La Rue made stamps because they alone can be relied upon as being evenly perforated. In fifty years' time, when another gener-

ation has taken our places, these stamps will be quite common while the now despised stamps of South America, and many European countries will bring fabulous prices. European collectors show much better judgment in collecting stamps; they are satisfied with fine stamps and leave the unsophisticated to hunt the *ignis fatuus* of *perfect* specimens.

NOTES

The busy season for a stamp dealer is not the best time calculated for the production of philatelic literature. For this reason our magazine is smaller and later than usual. After the business rush is over, however, we will make up the deficiency and guarantee our readers one thousand pages for the volume of 1903.

We shall publish some information with regard to a Dealers' Protective Association in our next magazine edition. Dealers who desire to co-operate with this organization in furnishing reports or information are invited to address the secretary, care of our publishers.

We have in view the publication of an interesting series of notes and comments from "The Dealer's Standpoint." The active stamp dealer has a point of view from which many novelties and interesting things appear, and a dealer that has a faculty of recording some things that are worth while will furnish points for our readers in an early number.

The publication of such pamphlets as Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., of London, have issued, "Stamp Collecting as a Pastime," are to be encouraged and the widest circulation should be given to the contents of such pamphlets.

A little bird that has recently come from the direction of Washington reports that the P. O. Department are going to withdraw the new 2c stamp, so that its life will be of short duration.

Purple and Lilac as Color Names

BY B. W. WARHURST.

Some recent references to stamps as being purple-blue and lilac-red in color, induces a query as to what is meant by such terms. In the States it appears as if purple was generally in use for what most people elsewhere call violet, and in this way much unnecessary confusion is caused when stamps are being exchanged among friends abroad or ordered from dealers who send shades entirely different from what the receiver expects. The misunderstanding or error is a long-standing one caused by carelessness when first naming colors of stamps in journals or catalogues by persons who had not thought much about what colors were intended by those names originally.

Lilac-blue is occasionally seen as describing a stamp, and as a rule that is the only correct use of the word, the color being simply lilac, which should be a grayish shade of blue with a faint pinkish tint, or a deep lavender, like the tint of lilac-bloom sometimes called white-lilac in contradistinction to the mauve tint of the red-lilac flower. But the actual color of certain flowers does not fix the shade represented by the names, as in the case of rose. Everybody knows that rosy or rose means a reddish color, yet the flowers vary between white, yellow, pale pink (the blush-rose), the real rose color, on to a deep crimson, almost purple, as in the damask-rose. So with the word lilac, which literally means blue. Now in the majority of cases in which the word is used to describe a stamp—especially in the German catalogues—it will be found that it inclines to a red, and would be more correct if given as a dull mauve, or often as a faded or light purple. Sometimes puce is applied to the same shade, and correctly, meaning the color of a flea, but it is not popular, as few of us are given to examining these lively creatures to see what is their peculiar tint, though we may surmise that their particular weakness for imbibing our purplish blood may, after

a big feed, affect their external aspect in the matter of epidermis, shell, or outer coat. We certainly should not call them either blue or lilac in an ordinary way, but might apply stronger language.

Red-lilac or rosy lilac is often used, and so far as the reader remembers the flower tint, it expresses what is meant; but it is a misnomer all the same. It is not usual to call an orange a yellow-red color, or to say blue-yellow when we mean green, but these are equally as strange to the ear, or should be, as the above term, or as red-violet and blue-purple. There are many compounds of reds with blues which may be placed in the following order of names, and if remembered will save many mistakes in description of stamps: Beginning with a dark red, we get to what some call a bluish-red or deep crimson accompanied by shades of purple-lake, and followed by magenta or solferino, which are usually classed with the reds. Crossing here the border line, we arrive at the so-called violet shades, beginning with the correct purple as nearest to deep red or magenta, then mauve as the half-way house between red and blue, merging into the true violet color, violet-blue, and deep blue. Lilac is scarcely distinguishable from a pale or faded violet tint, using the term violet in its correct sense, both as a flower and a blue color with a touch of red in it. All mixtures of red and blue, where the proportions of each appear about equal, ought to be called mauve as a general term, which can be modified by the prefix or addition of red, purple, or violet, just as there seems to be a preponderance of one of those tints in the compound. The gradation of tints is very simple if these general hints are mastered and borne in mind, and should soon abolish the use of such names as brown-lilac or violet-brown, meaning purple-brown; and red-violet or blue-violet, which are really meaningless. A few other remarks on color names may be given later on.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—NO. 9
WHOLE NO. 61

MARCH 2, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

As we predicted, the new stamps are creating very much more interest than either the Trans Mississippi Valley Exposition or Pan-American Exposition stamps did. We believe that they will start fully as many new collectors as the Chicago World's fair stamps were responsible for. We are receiving requests from parties who have not collected for years, who are renewing their interest in stamps and attribute it to the new issue which is now being introduced in the United States.

The stamp papers are announcing the death of Mr. J. F. Johnson, recently of Boston, Mass., who had just retired as a member of the Board of Vice-Presidents of the Philatelic Association. Mr. Johnson has been in failing health and had recently gone to Denver in hope to receive benefit in that climate. His death, however, occurred shortly after his arrival in Colorado.

Stanley Gibbons have mailed a supplement to their catalogue with the *Monthly Journal*.

The Canadian Druggist devotes a page to Philately, and in a recent number comments upon the fact that the 62nd edition of Scott's catalogue lists the 6c. numeral at 5c. apiece used, and observes that the stamp is worth very

much more than that, and that there are a number of Canadian dealers who would buy all that the Scott Co. have for sale at this price.

Criticism of the prices of this and other Canadian stamps were indulged in after the 61st edition catalogue was issued. It would appear that the publishers are careless in attention to small matters of this kind.

Transfer pictures representing imitations of foreign postage stamps have been imported from Europe and have been placed on sale by some of the stationery and novelty dealers in New York who sell them at one cent a sheet.

The attention, however, of the authorities was called to the matter and agents of the Treasury Service recently seized a number of the sheets of these imitation postage stamps, the same being held to be a violation of the law against counterfeits.

The *Revista Philatelica Portuguesa* for January 1903 comes to hand from Porto, Portugal. It is to be published monthly and is the official organ of the Society “Luzo-Philatelica” of Porto. Edited by Jose Pimenta, Junior.

A collection of 1763 different foreign postage stamps, the genuineness of which, and good condition we guarantee. The stamps are mounted on sheets and the catalogue price by Scott's 62nd Edition marked below each stamp—the lot totals \$58.85 and will be sent post free and registered for..... **\$11.75**

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

The "funny man", in writing to the New York *Sun*, remarks that the head of Washington on the new 2c. stamps is a bad example for the youth of our country. He observes that the nose is the color of a toper's and the eyes are bleary with too much liquor and too little sleep. He suggests that the dates given on the stamp must have covered the period of one long, grand spree.

The United Stamp Company of Chicago, which includes the business of F. M. Massoth & Co. and P. M. Wolsieffer, has been incorporated with an authorized capital of \$25,000.

In this connection we notice that P. M. Wolsieffer has announced the fact that a dealer by the name of William B. Hale, of Williamsville, Mass., has placed on the market and is selling an improved stamp card which Mr. Wolsieffer claims to be an infringement of his patent. Patent No. 570,998 was granted to P. M. Wolsieffer, March 2, 1897, for Wolsieffer's Approval Cards and he states that he will claim all protection that such a patent affords him and that collectors and dealers are not to make, sell or buy any card that is an infringement of the patent.

The Pacific Society of San Francisco, at a recent election of officers, chose the following:

- H. J. Crocker, President.
- R. H. Wilcox, Vice-President.
- R. E. Cowan, Sec'y and Treas.
- W. E. Loy, Exch. Superintendent.

A special exhibition of one hundred Australian stamps, used, unused, or both, will be held on the evening of April 13th, at the Collectors' Club, New York, for which the following prizes have been offered by Stanley Gibbons, Inc.:

- First Prize Silver Cup.
- Second Prize Silver Cup.
- Third Prize, Clock and side ornaments.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS:

- March 9th.—U. S. Documentary and Proprietary, Russia, Finland and Poland.
- May 11th.—Egypt and Soudan.

It has been stated that the 6c. Guatemala stamp of the new issue bears the smallest letters that have ever been placed upon a postage stamp. The inscription is on the facade of the Palace of Minerva, which is represented in "Manuel Estrada Cabera Presidente de la Republica a la Juventud Estudiosa." The inscription is well formed and can be read with the aid of a strong magnifying glass although the entire line occupies only ten millimeters space.

We are often asked if we can supply a complete file of *Mekeel's Drummer*, thirteen numbers of which were issued just previous to the introduction of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR. The *Drummer* is out of print and only a few volumes of the paper are available.

Mr. C. G. Moehling of Des Plaines, Ill., writes that he has a complete file of the *Drummer* and Volume 15 of the STAMP COLLECTOR which he will sell for \$3.00. Any one who is interested may communicate with him.

We will supply Volume 15 of the STAMP COLLECTOR for \$2.00.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Issue of 1901—1, 2, 5, 10, 30 and 50c. mint condition, beautiful stamps, catalogued at \$1.53, my price for the above set

ONE DOLLAR.

Did you get one of my packets No. 25, The Flood City Special? Containing fifty varieties, mostly obsolete, and cataloguing from 4 to 5 times the price.

ONE DOLLAR.

Stamps on approval at 50 per cent discount to responsible parties.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

Danish West Indies

Do you wish to make money, do you care to invest a few \$, then buy D. W. I. stamps.

I have a few 1,000 used and unused, in sheets or single. I am willing to dispose of same at a reasonable price.

You can never lose, your money's worth is always there, either it goes up or down. You are bound to be the winner in the end. What more do you want?

Write for prices. "First to mill first grinded." Ad. stands good as long as supply lasts.

H. KOCH, 19 Crawford St., Newark, N. J.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.
 Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,
 411 W. Saratoga St.,
 BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

**Entire U. S. Envelopes,
 Letter Sheets and Wrappers**

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of 'ENTIRES.'

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

**10 WEEKS FOR 10c
 ON TRIAL**

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
 502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

\$11.00 FREE \$11.00

Not exactly that but fine *cut copies*. \$1.00 green, \$3.00 brown, 1898: \$1.00 red, \$1.00, \$2.00 gray, \$1.00, \$2.00 green and black, 1902, Spanish War Doc. Rev.

All you have to do is send me an order of at least twenty-five (25) cents from my 1903 price list.

Send for list at once. Every thing in U. S. except great rarities. Fine line sets, packets etc. at surprisingly reasonable prices.

W. C. PHILLIPS, GLASTONBURY, CT.

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices

J. W SCOTT BEST ALBUM,

1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 59c., post free. Circulars free.

“Revista de la Sociedad Filatelica Argentina,,

Our REVISTA is the most important philatelic journal in this part of the New Continent, and the most eagerly and widely read, chiefly amongst advanced collectors.

Its wide Circulation is the best guaranty of the success of its advertisements.

Collectors desirous of exchanging, buying or selling should try once, and be convinced.

Translation of advertisements free. Sample specimens post free.

Subscription price, \$1.00 per Year.

ADVERTISEMENTS

1 page.....	\$15.00	} Six times, 10% discount. Twelve times, 20% discount.
½ page.....	8.00	
¼ page.....	4.50	
1 line.....	.10	

General Agent: ROBERT ROSAUER, Calle Rivadavia, 522
 Buenos-Aires (Rep. Argentine.)

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A floral design presented by letter carriers at a funeral of a popular fireman in Milwaukee, represented a letter with stamp and address. The envelope was in pink carnations and the stamp in red carnations with address in small purple flowers.

Catalogue for the Chicago Philatelic Society Auction Sale No. 21, at the Club Room of the Philatelic Society February 28th.

Scott Stamp and Coin Co. have issued catalogue of their 159th Auction Sale to be held at the Collectors' Club, March 4th and 5th.

J. M. Bartels Co. have circulated the catalogue of their 17th Auction Sale to occur March 10th and 11th.

The *Australian Philatelist*, in reprinting an article from our paper, simply credits it to *Mekeel's*. Hardly sufficient, as there are two papers commencing with this possessive name.

T. L. Elder, of Pittsburg, has issued a catalogue of a mail auction sale of Coins, Medals, Tokens, Paper Money, etc., to be held March 5th.

The match and medicine U. S. proprietary stamps of the collection of Geo. L. Toppan sold at auction by Wolsieffer in Chicago, are reported to have realized an average of 60 per cent of catalogue.

The numerous very rare and desirable stamps helped to secure this handsome average.

	Catalogued.	Realized.
Brown & Durling 1c. black.....	\$ 50.00	\$ 27.00
Clark, 1c. rouletted	10.00	18.00
Gorman, 1c. black	40.00	30.50
Pierce Match Co., 1c.	50.00	25.50
V. R. Powell, 1c. black.....	150.00	121.00
Barnes 4c. (No. 3295).....	50.00	37.00
Brown <i>pink</i> (No. 3315).....	50.00	60.00
Fleming Bros. 1c. repaired. .	75.00	41.00
Seabury & Johnson 1c.....	25.00	18.25
Laird 3c. pair.....	16.00	10.00

The breaking up of the Mandel collection which is to be sold at public auction in New York, in March, will bring out many choice things in U. S. especially Proofs. Essays and Specimens.

Roy Farrell reene, who has become a national character as a poet and journalist, writes that his *first* work with a pen was done for a Mekeel publication—the *Weekly Stamp News*, when issued by our publishers. Mr. Greene recently wrote:—

“My interest in philately has by no means died out, though, of course, my other duties hinder me from taking the part in its affairs that I once did. I have been much interested in the perusal of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR, and at some time in the not far distant future, when I can secure a bit of time I shall be glad to avail myself of your kind invitation to contribute something to your magazine's pages.”

A “Lend a Hand” Philatelic Club has been organized. Its first meeting was on the 25th of January, Boston. The Club is made up of young men from twelve to eighteen years old. Its object, as stated in the constitution, is

1. To help some other fellows who need help.
2. To help each other to collect stamps.
3. To collect and exchange stamps for our collections.

The following board of officers was chosen:

Herman Roetzel, President, 105 West Springfield Street, Boston.

Daniel Mahoney, Secretary, Lend a Hand office, No. 1 Beacon Street.

Peter Stengel, Treasurer, Dorchester.

BACK NUMBERS == 1902

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

- OF —
- No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
 - No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
 - No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c. “
 - No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
 - No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. each.

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at 5c. each as long as they last, very few of some on hand.

A complete volume for 1902, 52 numbers with index, 728 pages, unbound and unfolded, \$2.00, post free.

A collector who paid one dollar for a subscription to the Volume of 1902 and saved the papers can now realize a profit on this investment. The file is worth twice what it cost.

Subscribe to 1903 Volume Now.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

THE NEW TWO-CENT STAMP

From the *New York Times* of February 6th.

The purchaser of postage stamps at the window of the General Office is now supplied with stamps of the two-cent denomination which he is likely to regard with feelings akin to those which would take possession of him if some one should substitute for his favorite picture a tea-store chromo. The stamp we are used to and which met every requirement of the Postal Service and the public taste was simple, dignified, and in every way appropriate. The picture was a profile of Houdin's bust of Washington, which the designer did not consider it necessary to label. The new stamp gives us Washington in full face, and is probably a caricature of one of Gilbert Stuart's many portraits. The face is smug and weakly amiable, and might be taken for Adams, Madison, or Monroe if not labeled Washington to make sure that no one will doubt for whom it is intended. The border, ridiculously ornate, is composed of draped flags and what seem to be "hands" of tobacco. It is more or less smutted in the printing, which is almost inevitable when microscopic and unimportant detail is overcrowded. The only excuse for a change would be an improvement, and if this is what was aimed at it must be confessed that the experts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will never win trophies for marksmanship. The change is to be regretted.

MISUSE OF TERMS

An auction catalogue from J. M. Bartels Co. of Boston contained the following statement:

"The condition of stamps, as described in this sale should be understood as follows:

"Superb, Extra Fine or Magnificent: Perfectly centered, good color and very fine in every way; full original gum, if unused, and light cancellation, if used; margins all around if imperforate.

"Very Fine: Well centered, clean and good in every way; may not have

o. g. if unused, but lightly cancelled if used; if imperforate, ample margins on all sides.

"Fine, Very Good: Perforations do not cut into design on any side except, perhaps, in such stamps as were printed very close together, such as early Barbados, St. Lucia, U. S. 1869 Issue, some Luxembourg, etc. Cancellation may not always be very light, but is not too heavy. If imperforate, may not have fine margins on all four sides.

"Good: Average 'catalogue' copies. Generally somewhat off center or a little heavily cancelled. Color may not be very bright, but stamps are not damaged. Margins on imperforate stamps may be close on all sides

"Fair: Heavily cancelled, badly centered or poor color; imperf. may be a little clipped on one or more sides or have no margins."

The above certainly seem to be a misuse of words. Imagine—*Fine—Very Good*, when applied to an imperforate stamp *not* having fine margins on all four sides!

Very Fine—not o. g. although unused.

Good—Generally somewhat off center or a little heavily cancelled. Imperforate stamps may be close on all sides—yet *good!*

HAYTI

A *special book* containing used, unused copies of all issues, pairs of perforation varieties and oddities has been prepared, and will be sent on approval to anyone interested in this country. The stamps are not catalogued high, and 25 per cent discount from current quotations will be allowed. HAYTI will take a boom some day! Remember Hawaii—the time will come.

BOOK No. 65 of our 25 per cent Discount Approval Book series is *all Hayti*—this is the book you want, unless you are going into it deeper than ordinary, in that case ask for the *special book* of Hayti.

Book 65a contains Hayti unused in blocks of four. Book 65b contains postally used Hayti only.

One cent blue, 1898, priced 75c in the 62d Edition (No. 46) will be sent post free for 38c, fine copy, o. g. A set of ten different Hayti for beginners, 25 cents post free.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Department of Foreign Relations

From 1888 to 1892 we published a series of **MEKEEL'S STAMP DEALER'S** and **COLLECTOR'S ADDRESS BOOKS**, containing the addresses of collectors in all parts of the world. These books are now out of print. One of the important features was the announcements of collectors and exchangers desiring foreign relations.

No stamp paper of the present day does much to cultivate this kind of business, and as our foreign connections extend into every country and colony we shall make this department an important feature.

Our columns are open to *subscribers only*. Announcements of reasonable length, in the following style \$1.25 per insertion. Payment in advance.

Subscriptions and payment for announcements may be remitted by foreign correspondents in unused postage stamps of the lowest denomination current in their country. Subscription to all foreign countries (except Canada, Cuba and Mexico) \$1.50 per year.

The amount of both subscription and advertisement, \$2.75, must come with first copy. Repetition of the advertisement, \$1.25 each.

CENTRO FILATELICO ARGENTINO

PAUL GEWELKE

Berlin, S. W., Belle-Alliancestr. 103

GERMANY

Specialitat: Argentine, Uruguay, Paraguay, Corrientes, Buenos Ayres, Brazil, etc. old German Stamps, etc.

Wholesale price lists free.

B. ANATOLE & SALE

Rue Navarin 12

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GREECE

Retail and Wholesale dealers in the stamps of Greece Correspondence in French, English, German and Italian.

ELLIS BROS.

8 Pedder's Hill

HONG KONG (CHINA)

Exporters of Asiatic postage stamps. Our 1903 wholesale price list will be sent post free to any address on application, to those who have not received same. The rates in most cases have been reduced about 20%.

JOSE BAUER

Caixa 576

Sao Paulo

BRAZIL

Wholesale and retail dealer. Specialty the stamps of Brazil. Correspondence English or German.

JACQUES WORTMAN

61 Avenue de la Republique

Paris

FRANCE

Solicits exchange by wholesale parcels, can furnish Roumanian, Servian and Bulgarian. Will accept better stamps of all countries in exchange at wholesale prices.

CIRCULO FILATELICO MATRITENSE

Alcala 37

Madrid

SPAIN

Send 15c and postage for our new catalogue for Spain, Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines and Fernando Poo stamps, with the latest quotations, rules for exchanges and instructions how to become a member of the Circulo Filatelico Matritense.

WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

Dunedin

NEW ZEALAND

(Established 22 years). Send for sixteen page price list of stamps, cards, etc. *Bankers:* Bank Australasia.

J. KUHN, JUN.

Groningen

HOLLAND

Wholesale dealer in stamps of Holland and Colonies. Price list for dealers only.

ROBERTO ROSAUER

Rivadavia 522
Buenos Aires
ARGENTINE

Exchange wanted with reliable dealers. In order to complete my stock as far as possible, I wish to receive selections of better class stamps in fine condition, and offer in exchange equal value and equal quality, according to want list, of Argentine Republic, Uruguay and Paraguay. Speculative stamps and remainders are useless to me. Selections under \$25 thankfully declined. With first sending please enclose stamps for return postage.

N. ABUDARAM

Porto Alegre
BRAZIL

Exchange desired with advanced collectors in all parts of the world. Please send me a selection of rare stamps of your country and receive in exchange rare stamps of Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Basis—Scott, Kohl, Tellier, Stanley Gibbons' or Senf's latest catalogue. Common stamps not wanted. President of the "Uniao Filatelica Brasileira."

F. SCHWARZENBACH

Goldbach-Zurich
SWITZERLAND

The largest packet maker in the world. Open to buy lots of South and Central American Stamps. Make quotations.

CAUTION

While we do not publish the announcements of any one but that we believe to be all right, we desire to caution our readers to use good business judgment in all matters of foreign exchange relations, and not to rely entirely upon the fact that the advertisement has been accepted.

FOREIGN NOTES

Subscribers in foreign countries are requested to consider themselves our authorized correspondents for the particular locality in which they reside and all are requested to furnish us early information about all new issues of stamps as well as local news of importance.

EXCHANGE

We will exchange with collectors and dealers in foreign countries.

Wholesale lots will be accepted at current market prices in exchange, and stamps furnished for collection or at wholesale if desired.

Our specialties for exchange are the stamps of the American continent, but we accept the postage stamps of *any country*, as we are general dealers.

Collectors who are particularly interested in Mexico may receive very fine selections in exchange from us priced and classified by either Scott, Gibbons, Senf or Kohl's catalogues.

Special quotations for cash are also solicited. Always send samples and state quantities when making us offers. *We make no bids.*

Address all parcels registered.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. A. J. Chapman has recently sent in a perforated copy of the blue U. S. Playing Card Stamp. This stamp has not been chronicled as coming perforated, but one of the card companies have used a number of perforated stamps on their packages and it remains to be seen whether they were perforated for their own convenience or issued to them in that condition by the Government.

Mr. John A. Klemann entertained the Philatelic Society of New York at their last meeting by the exhibition of a collection of postage stamps devoted to art and architecture as shown on stamps. It is really surprising how many different forms of architecture can be studied from a selected collection of postage stamps. Of statuary and busts there is also a very good showing.

Some Special Offers**U. S. POSTAGE.**

1847—5c red brown (No. 28) unused, o. g. \$4 00
1857—5c brown, reprint perforated 12, mint. . . 3 75
1857—10c green, .. . 3 75

U. S. REVENUE.

\$20 Probate of Will, unperforated, light cancellation, beautiful color, good margins, a *superb stamp* 42 50
10c second issue, *inverted head*, no pen marks on face 12 50

Any of the above will be sent upon approval upon request.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.

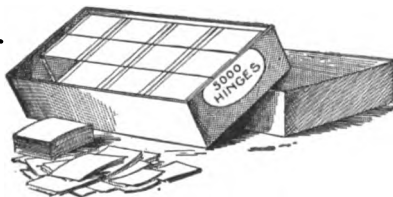
St. Louis, Mo.

(Continued from page 165)

for supremacy in South Africa. In 1870 the Boers issued their first postage stamp, and a crude piece of workmanship it was, designed and engraved in Germany. Till 1877 they printed their supplies of postage stamps in their own crude way from the same crude plates. Then came the first British Occupation, when the remainders of the stamps of the first South African Republic were overprinted "V. R. TRANSVAAL," to indicate British government. Then, in 1878, the stamps of the Republic were replaced by our Queen's Head. In 1881 the country was given back to the Boers, when they in turn overprinted our Queen's Head series in Boer currency, to indicate the restoration of Boer dominion. And now, finally, in 1900 we have the second British Occupation, and a second overprinting of South African Republic stamps "V. R. I," to signalise once more, and finally, the supremacy of British rule in South Africa. The Mafeking stamps are also interesting souvenirs of a gallant stand in the same historical struggle.

The war which Chili some years ago carried into Bolivia and Peru has been marked in a special manner upon the postage stamps of Chili. As in the case of our own troops in South Africa, so the Chilian troops in Bolivia and Peru were allowed to frank their letters home with the stamps of their own country. So also the Chilians further overprinted the stamps of Peru with the Chilian arms during their occupation of the conquered country in the years 1881-2. Chilian stamps used along the route of the conquering army, and post-marked with the names of the towns occupied, are much sought after.

And so the stamp collector may turn over the pages of his stamp album, and point to stamp after stamp that marks, for him, some development of art, some crisis in a country's progress, some struggle to be free, or some great upheaval amongst rival powers. In fact, every stamp issued by a country is, more or less, a page of its history.



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 5c per box.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL—Four months trial 10c, or 50c per yr.

PHILATELIC WEST, Superior, Nebraska.

Oldest, Independent, Philatelic 100 page monthly. Our motto, "The Best and Lots of it." Brim full of interesting matter, pertaining to Stamps, Coins, Curios, Relics, Photography, etc. Illustrates. *Nothing similar or as good.* *Eight associate editors.* The very best of everything, and lots of it. Off. organ of over 23 societies and clubs, over 15,000 members. DO IT NOW. *Write for copy.*

LIKE HOT CAKES

on a cold winter morning—that's the way my packet No. 25, "The Flood City Special," has been going. This packet contains fifty varieties, mostly obsolete issues, and positively catalogues from \$4 to \$5. No two packets alike; many advanced collectors buy two or three at a time.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR.

Stamps on approval at 50 per cent discount. Parties not known to me please send reference.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

WE HAVE MONEY

to invest in Fine Stamps, Rarities, Collections, Stocks, Job Lots, etc. Nothing too large or too small for us to figure on. What have you to offer in rarities?

We make a specialty of buying unused 1c and 2c current stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from 3% to 5% according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg.
CHICAGO, ILLS.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,

1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free.

Circulars free.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 12
WHOLE NO. 64

MARCH 23, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

We have received many **The New** inquiries in regard to the **U. S. 2c** new 2c stamp as to whether it has been "recalled," whether it shall become scarce, how long it will be likely to be in use, and similar inquiries in a hundred forms.

In reply will say that the Post Office Department is unsatisfied with the 2c stamp recently issued and are preparing a new die from which stamps will be issued as soon as it can be brought about. In the meantime millions of the present 2c stamps will have been printed and issued. They will not be recalled. Are not likely to become very scarce. A number of shades due to the different printings of the new 2c stamp have been noted.

A piece of type having fallen out of an advertisement **About** **German** in our last number offering **Hinges** German Hinges has caused no end of trouble. We mailed 6,000 copies of the last paper and it would seem that the majority of people have decided to have a box of German Hinges at 5c per box.

These hinges are imported by considerable trouble and expense and sold by us at 75c per box. The figure seven (7) having pulled out has caused all of this trouble and without replying direct to our many readers we await their further instructions as to the disposition of the 5c remittances that have been pouring in on us.

In this connection we may remark

that the German Hinge referred to is one that has given the greatest satisfaction of any hinge to the people who have adopted its use. It is not a peelable hinge neither is it one of those hinges that when fastened to a stamp is never to be removed. The hinge is small and made of thin paper and pure gum and it is a most satisfactory hinge for all purposes that we know of.

It was first introduced to us by the late C. P. Krauth, of Pittsburg, since which time we have imported them. Many collectors use them exclusively and are not satisfied with anything else. They are put up in neat little boxes containing 5,000; price 75c, post free.



The new Malta stamps were placed on sale March 13th, the ½ penny green and the 2 pence with slate center and mauve frame have come to hand.



The new Express—Special Delivery stamp of New Zealand is illustrated above. Value 6d. in center is red, balance of the design is violet.

STAMPS WITH A HISTORY

There are numbers of stamps that have an interesting history of their own. They mark some official experiment, some curious blunder or accident, some little conceit, some historical event, or some crude and early efforts at stamp production.

What is known as the V. R. Penny black, English stamp, is said to have been designed as an experiment in providing a special stamp for official use, its official character being denoted by the initials V. R. in the upper corners; but the proposal was dropped, and the V. R. Penny black was never issued. For a long time it was treasured up as a rarity by collectors, but now that its real claims to be regarded as an issued stamp have been finally settled, it is no longer included in our stamp catalogues. In the days of its popularity it fetched as much as £14 at auction. It is now relegated to the rank of an interesting souvenir of the experimental stage in the introduction of Penny Postage.

Of curious blunders, the Cape of Good Hope errors of colours are amongst the most notable. In 1861 the 1d. and 4d. triangular stamps, then current, were suddenly exhausted, and before a stock could be obtained from the printers in England, a temporary supply had to be provided locally. This was done by engraving imitations of the originals. Stereos were then taken, and made up into plates for printing. By an oversight a stereo of the penny value was dropped into the fourpenny plate. Consequently, each sheet printed in the required red ink from the penny plate yielded a fourpenny wrongly printed in red instead of blue, its proper colour; and every sheet of the fourpenny likewise yielded a penny stamp printed in blue instead of red. These errors are highly prized by collectors, and are now extremely scarce, even poor specimens fetching from £50 to £60. At the time, copies were sold by dealers for a few shillings each. Similar errors are known in the stamps of other countries.

Now and again the sheets of a particular value have, by some extraordinary oversight, been printed and issued in the wrong colour. In 1869 copies of the 1s. of Western Australia were printed in bistre instead of in green, and a few years later the twopence was discovered in lilac instead of yellow. In 1863 a supply of shilling stamps was sent out to Barbados printed in blue instead of black; but this latter error was, according to Messrs. Hardy and Bacon, so promptly discovered, that it is doubtful if any of the wrong colour were issued for postal use. In 1896 the fastidiously careful firm of De la Rue and Co. printed off and dispatched to Tobago a supply of 6,000 one shilling stamps in the colour of the sixpenny, *i. e.* in orange-brown instead of olive-yellow. Several are said to have been issued to the public before the error had been noticed. Indeed, the firm at home is credited with having first discovered the mistake, and is said to have telegraphed to the colony in time to prevent their issue in any quantity.

Another and much more common error in the early days of stamp production was the careless placing of one stamp on a plate upside down. Samples so placed are termed *tebeche*. They have to be collected in pairs to show the error. The early stamps of France furnish many examples of this class of error. They are also to be found on the 6d. and 1s. values of the first design of the stamps of the Transvaal, on the early issues of Roumania, on some of the stamps of the Colombian Republic, and other countries.

Stamps requiring two separate printings—*i. e.* stamps printed in two colours—have given rise to many curious errors in printing. A sheet passed through the press upside down after one colour has been printed results in one portion of the design being inverted. In the 1869 issue of the stamps of the United States no less than three of the values had the central portions of their designs printed upside down. The 4d., blue, of the first issue of Western Australia is known with the Swan on its head. Even the recently issued

Pan American stamps, printed in the most watchful manner by the United States official Bureau of Engraving and Printing, are known with the central portions of the design inverted, and these errors, despite the most searching examination to which each sheet is several times subjected, escaped detection, and were sold to the public. When, however, it is remembered that stamps are now printed by the million, it will be wondered that so few mistakes escape into the hands of collectors. As a bit of conceit, the issue of what is known as the Connell stamp is probably unequalled. In loyal Canada, in 1860, Mr. Charles Connell was Postmaster-General of the little colony of New Brunswick, which in those days had its own government and its own separate issue of stamps. A change of currency from "pence" to "cents" necessitated new postage stamps. It was decided to give the new issue as much variety as possible by having a separate design for each stamp. Two of the series presented the crowned portrait of the Queen, and one that of the Prince of Wales as a lad in Scotch dress. Connell, apparently ambitious to figure in the royal gallery, gave instructions to the engravers to place his own portrait upon the 5 cents stamp. His instructions were carried out, and in due time a supply of the 5 cents bearing his portrait was delivered. But before many were issued the news spread like wildfire that Connell had outraged the issue by placing his own portrait upon one of the stamps. Political opponents are said to have taken up the hue and cry. The matter was immediately brought before the higher authorities, and the unfortunate stamp was promptly suppressed. Half a million had been printed off and delivered for sale, but very few seem to have escaped the outcry that was raised against them, and to-day copies are extremely rare. Poor Connell took the matter very much to heart, threw up his appointment, and forthwith retired into private life. But the portrait of the bluff mechanic type of countenance will be handed down from generation to generation in stamp

catalogues and costly stamp collections long after the authorities that suppressed him are forgotten.

Some folks question the appearance of the Baden-Powell portrait upon the Mafeking stamps as a similar bit of conceit; but whatever may be said in criticism of Baden Powell's stamp, most people will be inclined to accept it as a pleasant souvenir of an historic siege and a determined and gallant stand against great odds.

But of all the portraits that have appeared upon postal issues, none probably occasioned so much trouble and fuss as that of the notorious King Bomba of Sicily. The most eminent engraver of his day—Aloisio—was commissioned to prepare an exact likeness of His Sacred Majesty. After much ministerial tribulation the portrait was approved and engraved, and to this day is regarded as a superb piece of work. A special cancelling stamp had to be designed and put into use which defaced only the border of the stamp and left the sacred portrait untouched. During the preliminaries necessary to the production of the sacred effigy the fate of ministers and officials hung in the balance. One official was actually marked for degradation for having submitted a disfigurement which turned out to be a carelessly printed, or rough, proof impression.

Numerous stamps have been designed, especially of late years, to represent some historical event in connection with the country of issue. The United States, in 1869, in the confined space of an unusually small stamp, endeavored to represent the lauding of Columbus, and in another stamp the Declaration of Independence. In a much more recent series, stamps of an exceptionally large size were adopted to give scope for a Columbus celebration set of historical paintings, including Columbus soliciting aid of Isabella, Columbus welcomed at Barcelona, Columbus restored to favor, Columbus presenting natives, Columbus announcing his discovery, the recall of Columbus, Isabella pledging her jewels, Columbus in chains, and Columbus describing

his third voyage. Greece has given us a set of stamps illustrating the Olympian Games. But collectors look with considerable suspicion upon stamps of this showy class, for too many of them have been produced with the sole object of making a profit out of their sale to collectors, and not to meet any postal requirement.

Crude productions of peculiar interest belong more to the earlier stages of the introduction of postage stamps. Local attempts at engraving in some of our own early colonial settlements were of the crudest possible description, and yet they are, because of their very crudeness, far more interesting than the finished product supplied by firms at home, for the local effort truly represented the country of its issue in the art of stamp production. The amusingly crude attempts which the engravers of Victoria have made from time to time, during the last fifty years, to give us a passable portrait of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, have no equal for variety. The stamps of the first South African Republic, made in Germany, are very appropriate in their roughness of design and execution. For oddity of appearance the palm must be awarded to those of Asiatic origin, such, for instance, as the stamps of Afghanistan, of Kashmir, and most of the local productions of the Native States of India, marking as they do their own independent attempts to work up to European methods of intercommunication.

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STAMPS AND WATER

BY C. W. RANKIN.

At best, soaking stamps from their envelopes is an unpleasant, messy job and nobody loves it; but simple as the task seems, some ways of accomplishing it seem better than others. Our own stamps and those of France, Italy and many other countries yield readily to plain cold water. Others need coaxing, and are in themselves a comprehensive definition of the word "adhesive." Of all stamps, none cling with more maddening obstinacy than do those of Austria—can it be that the Austrians use them to mend their broken dishes? The Hungarians, too, seem unnecessarily lavish with glue. Possibly they make up for the thinness of their paper by the strength of their mucilage. Americans do not realize what cause they have for thanksgiving — they don't have to lick Austria's horrible, undetachable, gummed stamps.

Warm water with a little soap dissolved in it is far more effectual in removing stamps than is cold water. Far from injuring the stamp, the addition of soap often brightens the color. When stamps are soiled, as specimens obtained from cheap packets sometimes are, a soapy bath is distinctly beneficial. Of course, there are stamps, and stamps. Some stamps should never be soaked at all, and others only with great caution. All red stamps are liable to run, though some of them may be safely soaked. In any case, it is never wise to soak red stamps and those of other colors in the same dish. It sometimes happens that the paper to which the stamp is attached is highly colored. A square inch of such paper is capable of injuring many dollars worth of good stamps.

Our own postage due stamps shed crimson tears at sight of water and simply bleed to death if soaked. They not only spoil their own appearance but ruin that of their fellow bathers. The bi-colored stamps for Russia and the Russian-Levant, the early stamps for Finland and some of the Bulgar-

ian stamps are printed in water colors—which means that they are *not* water-proof. It is appalling to see their designs take flight under careless handling. The best way to soak these is not to soak them at all.

If one wants the best results, it is a mistake to soak stamps in too small a dish. It is a greater one, however, to soak them in the bath-tub—if there are small children around to pull out the plug. A vegetable dish is none too large for the purpose. When the stamps give evidence of being sufficiently soaked, one should carefully pour off the sticky, often really dirty, water, and refill the dish with fresh, clean water. This makes a surprising difference in the appearance of the stamps, and moreover, it frees them from the paper, doing away the necessity of handling them.

To dry stamps, place them face downward upon large sheets of blotting paper. If properly rinsed they will not curl; and often the first stamp is dry by the time one has fished the last one from the water.



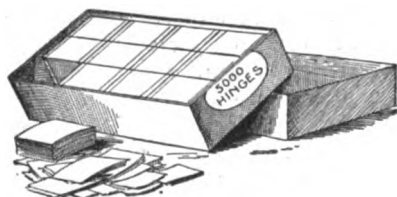
Mr. R. C. Bemis submitted us a specimen of the 10c stamp of annexed type which is one of the series of four that were issued in commemoration of the battle of Managua, 11th of July, 1893. Our correspondent states that they were in use for three days only: January 1st, 2d and 3d and then they were withdrawn.

The colors of the four stamps mentioned above are as follows:

- 1 centavo, emerald green.
- 2 centavos, scarlet.
- 5 centavos, blue.
- 10 centavos, orange yellow.

As the portrait on the 10c is in black we may presume all of the stamps are in two colors.

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NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY

We wonder if the current issue of U. S. will be all out before it is time to have a new set for the St. Louis Exposition. We Americans are having a fairly lively time of late years with our own issues alone.

For a number of years I have been collecting playing-card stamps with the different cancellations. Familiar to everyone is the larged A. D. with date, of Andrew Dougherty. These large red letters with the year directly below have caused many a collector to think they stood for Anno Domini. Now Andrew Dougherty Co. stamped the year on their stamps each year from 1894 to date, and up to 1899 I find only the rouletted stamps, but from 1900 down the stamps come perforated 7, instead of rouletted 5½. On the stamps cancelled by the New York Consolidated Card Co. (N. Y. C. C. Co. and year) I find them rouletted up to 1899 and also beginning to be perforated in 1899, thus showing that about the time the roulette was changed to perforation on the documentary and proprietary issues it was also changed on the playing-card stamp. I have never seen this stamp unperforated as it is catalogued but I have a curiosity in one cancelled by the United States Playing Card Co. (U. S. P. C. Co.) which is rouletted 13 in a very fine handsome roulette.

THE INTERNATIONALITY OF STAMP COLLECTING

Wherever you go you find the stamp collector in evidence. The hobby has its devotees in every civilized country. Its hold is, in fact, international. In Dresden there is a society with over two thousand members upon its books; in out-of-the-way countries like Finland there are ardent collectors and flourishing philatelic societies. The Prince of Siam has been an enthusiastic collector for many years, and even in Korea there are followers of the hobby. Australia numbers its collectors by the thousand, and many of its cities have their philatelic societies, all keen searchers for the much-prized rarities of the various States of the Commonwealth. In India, despite the difficulty of preserving stamps from injury by moisture, there are numbers of collectors; one of the best known rajahs is collecting stamps for a museum, recently founded in his State, and the Parsees are keen dealers. There are collectors throughout South Africa, in Rhodesia, and even in Uganda. Wherever a postage stamp is issued there may be found a collector waiting for a copy for his album. In no part of the world can an issue of stamps be made that is not at once partially bought up for collectors. If any one of the Antarctic expeditions were to reach the goal of its ambition, and were to celebrate the event there and then by the issue of postage stamps, a collector would be certain to be in attendance, and would probably endeavor to buy up the whole issue on the spot. The United States teems with collectors, and they have their philatelic societies in the principal cities and their Annual Congress. From Texas to Niagara, and from New York to San Francisco, the millionaire and the more humble citizen vie with each other in friendly rivalry as stamp collectors.

Many countries are now making an Official Collection, and there is every probability that some day in the near future most Governments will keep a

stamp collection of some sort for reference and exhibition. Under the rules of the Postal Union, every state that enters the Union is entitled to receive, for reference purposes, a copy of every stamp issued by each country in the Postal Union. Hence every Government receives valuable contributions, which should be utilized in the formation of a National or Official Collection. And some day stamp collectors will be numerous and influential enough to demand that such contributions shall not be buried in useless and forgotten heaps in official drawers, but shall be systematically arranged for public reference and general study.

Not a few countries are every year rescued from absolute bankruptcy by the generosity with which collectors buy up their postal issues; and many other countries would have to levy a very much heavier burden of taxation from their peoples if stamp collecting were to go out of fashion.

So widespread indeed is our hobby that a well-known collector might travel round the world and rely upon a cordial welcome at the hands of fellow-collectors at every stopping-place en route.

International jealousies are forgotten, and even the barriers of race, and creed, and politics, in the pleasant freemasonry of philatelic friendships.

ITS GEOGRAPHICAL INTEREST

A few years ago many heads of colleges prohibited stamp collecting amongst their boys. They found they were carrying it too far and were being made the easy prey of a certain class of rapacious dealers. Now the pendulum is swinging in a more rational direction, and many masters themselves having become enthusiastic collectors, judiciously encourage the boys under their care to collect and study stamps as interesting aids to their general studies. They watch over their collecting, and protect them from wasteful buying. In some schools the masters have given or arranged lectures on stamps and stamp collecting, and the boys have voted

(Continued on page 164)

Our February Magazine

The February magazine number of this journal contained 48 pages and cover (contents given below). The number will be sent for ten cents.

For the next two weeks annual subscriptions may commence with the present volume and back numbers will be supplied from January 1st.

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Price—The subscription price is One Dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

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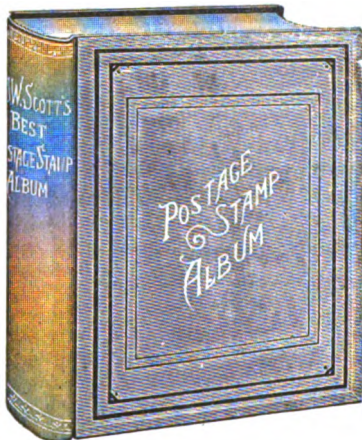
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Mekeel's Stamp Collector

[Continuing the "Philatelic Journal of America"]

Vol. 16—No. 13

MARCH 30, 1903

Whole No. 65

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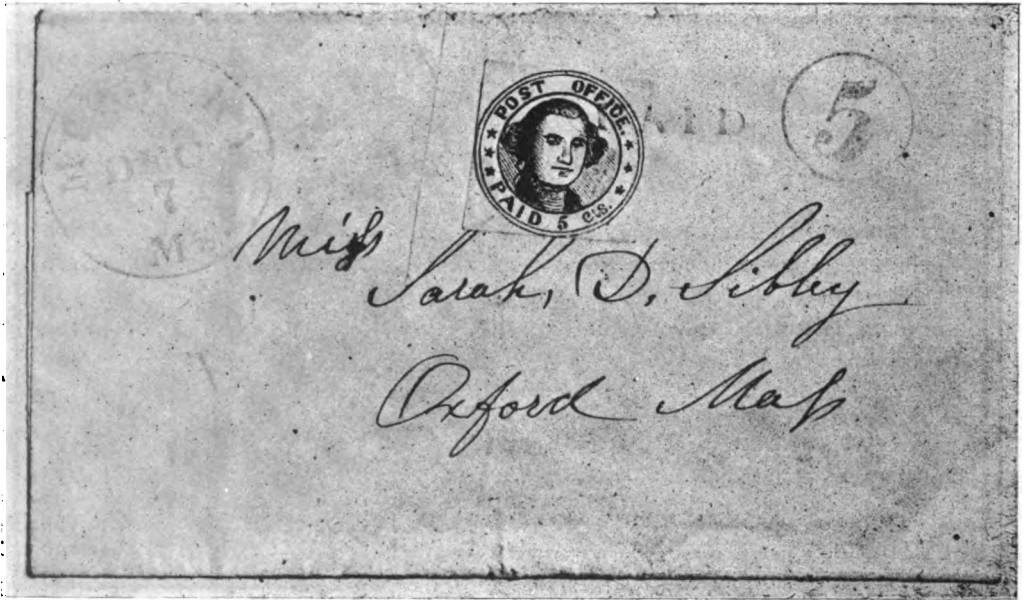
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St. Louis, Mo.



The Millbury

The death of Henry Waterman in Woonsocket, R. I., on the fourteenth instant, at the age of eighty-six years, recalls the famous Millbury postage stamp. Mr. Waterman was a deputy of Col. Waters, the postmaster of Millbury, Mass., at the time the stamp was issued, and it is to him that it really owes its existence.

Mr. Waterman had seen the stamps issued by the New York postmaster and recognizing the convenience of their use, had a block cut in Boston from which a supply of stamps were printed. They were printed in black, on grey-blue wove paper, unperforated.

Although issued in 1845, it was not until 1885 that the existence of these stamps became known to philatelists. The first copy being discovered in a bound volume of letters in the library of the American Antiquary Society at Worcester.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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WHOLE No. 66

MARCH 30, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902, at St. Louis, Mo., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

EDITORS.

CHARLES HAVILAND MEKEEL,
LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH,
STEPHEN B. HOPKINS.

All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

This number of our paper is issued late and under great disadvantage in the midst of an extremely busy season.

The stamp business of our publishers has for weeks been almost overwhelming and has taxed every resource to the utmost.

We shall, after the next weekly number is issued, drop a month out of our calendar as far as the paper is concerned, issuing the next magazine number May 25th, resuming the weekly edition May 11th.

In this way we shall be able to do justice to both departments of the business.

All subscriptions will be extended and we shall make up to our readers in size and character of contents during the balance of the year, when it will be a pleasure to us to devote time to this work.

We appreciate the consideration shown by our subscribers and regret that it has not been possible to reply direct to all letters.

The number of stamp collectors have been largely increased this year, and it will be welcome news to many of the

beginners that Mr. Quackenbush's "Philatelic School-Room" will be resumed in the May magazine, with side talks on the new issue and album questions.

The First Porto Rico Provisional—1898



We are able to present an illustration of the Ponce (Porto Rico) stamp, which was alleged to be the first provisional issued in Porto Rico after the invasion by the American troops in 1898. The outline of our cut simply represents the edge of the paper; the inscription is in a circle, "Postages—5—Corrcos." As a control an impression of the Mayor's official seal is struck over the other impression; the seal being much larger than the stamp, it only shows a portion on each specimen.

The one illustrated gives the Spanish arms and a portion of the lettering, "PONCE."

As the rubber stamp from which the stamp was printed and the control stamp are both in existence, it is needless to say that no fancy prices should be paid for specimens.

We have not seen a satisfactory used specimen, proving that the stamps were actually issued and used for prepayment of postage, although there is evidence of the official authority for their issuance.

From the Editorial Chair

Are we living in philately's golden age? Sometimes it almost seems so—almost seems as if the regnancy and splendor of the philately of to-day could scarcely be exceeded in any future era. Modern philately is, in a good many ways, a showy, spectacular thing. It is no longer the inheritance of the meek and the timid of heart. It is of the world, worldly; and wealth and might have become its sponsors. Never before did philately present so fair a front to the outside world and shine as resplendently or with such pomp and circumstance. This state of things is due, of course, to the favor which philately has found in the eyes of men of wealth and leisure. The philately which is nowadays mostly read about and mostly talked about is the philately which has been nurtured by opulence. The stamps which focus the attention of philatelic commentators are not the ones that are worth pennies, but the ones that are worth dollars. The philatelic exhibitions of to-day, with some occasional exceptions, are devoted to the philatelic worship of the almighty dollar. The collections which sell best are those whose values run up into the thousands in monetary value, and the stamps which bring the nearest to their catalogue quotations are those which are highest in price. We sometimes wonder if this can always continue. We want it to continue, nay, we are anxious that it should continue, but will it? This is, it seems to us, an interesting subject for inquiry; that sort of inquiry which is necessarily inconclusive, because no man can forecast the future, but which is not without some transient value, because it may suggest lines of action which, in certain contingencies, might be useful. "The rich man in philately" is a text often chosen for philatelic discourse. We ourselves have once or twice skirted the outer confines of the subject, but have never quite said our fill upon it. The present is perhaps as

good an occasion as will arise for treating it.

Philately is founded upon the rock. We have so much confidence that it will play a larger and larger part in the life of the generations that shall succeed the present one that we have no fear of philately's permanent eclipse even should men of wealth cease to take part in the pursuit. Philately answers certain subtle mental needs in men of a certain habit of life and thought. There seems no possibility that either its nature or the nature of men shall so change in the future as to rob it of its present hold upon men. But the fact must not be overlooked that, philately being in itself the creation and creature of circumstances, its future welfare is very largely dependent upon the fortuity of circumstances. Suppose so unlikely a thing as that forgers become so expert as to produce imitations of all the greatest rarities that would absolutely defy detection, and that all traffic in stamps was ultimately abandoned, collectors utterly refusing to risk their money in so doubtful a game. What could be the result save that philately would lose its hold on all except those who love stamps so well that they would find delight in collecting them, totally irrespective of their monetary worth—with the factor of monetary worth, indeed, entirely eliminated from philately. This is a novel and appalling supposition. Many might say that it would blot philately out of existence. Barring perhaps the adoption by every land in the world of a universal (or international) series of stamps, no more frightful philatelic mischance is imaginable. Yet philately *would* live and philately *would* in the end regain at least some portion of its sway, with the money side of the pursuit wholly done away with. There were stamp collectors forty years ago when stamps were worth nothing, or next to nothing; and there would still be stamp collectors if stamp

values were to recur to their primeval simplicity. But think how infinite and incalculable, after all, the injury would be. Think what innumerable generations it would take to bring philately back, intellectually, to the point where it is to-day; and measure from this, if you can, the importance of the support which moneyed men give to philately.

It is, of course, true that it is not money, but study, which has made modern philately. Mere money has accomplished nothing in the direct development of the science, but indirectly it has done a great deal, by supplying the incentive for study. Without the presence of wealth in philately, neither the stamp trade or stamp journalism could ever have developed to their present dimensions. Without the presence of wealth, it is unlikely that they can much develop, or even hold their own, in the future. It may be objected by some that the stamp trade has not really accomplished much in the lines of scientific philatelic investigation and the resultant development and broadening of philatelic knowledge. It may with some show of plausibility be said that stamp dealers themselves have made less important contributions to philatelic thought and to philatelic methods than have private collectors. But it must not be forgotten that stamp dealers have, in a certain sense, "been behind" practically every discovery of moment made by amateurs. For they have furnished the supplies which made it possible for the amateur to pursue his studies. They have been the agents of discovery, in that they have collected stocks of stamps from all parts of the earth, as a reservoir of supply for philatelic students. In the old times when stamp dealers carried scanty stocks, philately did not get ahead fast. Its progress was of the slow and plodding sort. But as stamp dealing became a larger and larger business and great stocks of stamps were gathered together, the philatelic student began to find more latitude for his efforts.

Perhaps we have not made our meaning quite plain. Take a concrete instance. Here are Lieut. Napier's notes on the Griqualand "G's," that have been running lately in the *Philatelic Record*

and have been widely praised as one of the most brilliant achievements of recent philatelic investigation. Ten years ago Lieut. Napier could not possibly have achieved such results, because he could not possibly have gathered the requisite material. He would have gone through a few of the great collections of the day, compared a few varieties, deduced a few incomplete theories, and there he would necessarily have stopped. But what does Lieut. Napier do to-day when he starts out to exhaustively study the stamps of Griqualand? He posts up to London, we may presume, and goes to the great stamp house of Stanley Gibbons, and there carefully inspects their entire stock of Griqualand stamps. He proceeds from thence to half a dozen other of the great London stamp shops. Everywhere he goes he is cordially received and "given the run" of the Griqualand stock. He examines thousands and thousands of Griqualand stamps. He bases his work on the results drawn from this examination. And it is not too much to say that if it had not been for those great stamp shops of London and the opportunities which they afforded him, his work on Griqualand would never have appeared at all, because the mysteries connected with Griqualand stamps would have been unfathomable. Of course, Lieut. Napier drew information from other sources, too. He examined the Griqualand pages of many fine specialized collections, and from them learned much of value. But what is it that has made these specialized collections possible? From whence have the specialists' specimens come? Whence but from these self-same dealers (in, probably, the majority of cases) that Lieut. Napier was visiting but a little while ago.

It may seem that we are building up a line of argument that will result in setting the cart before the horse; that will make it seem as though we thought the dealer the creator of the specialist. By no means. The dealer has simply made possible the development of specialism beyond the embryonic stage. Thirty or more years ago one or two very shrewd European stamp dealers began to import quantities of all the

new issues from just such far-away parts of the world as this Griqualand (not specifically from Griqualand, of course, because no such geographical division then existed) and lock them up in their strong boxes, to be brought out in later years when the then current issues would, in the natural sequence of events, have become long obsolete issues, and therefore somewhat scarce. The methods of these one or two found many imitators, and when specialism came into vogue and might else ultimately have perished for want of sustenance in the line of stamps to be studied, lo and behold! these "dealer's hoardings" were brought forward and the specialist at once found a rich and wide field open to him. These Griqualand stamps, for example: did any collector think of buying and laying aside complete sheets of these in 1877? Were other than a very few of them preserved on letters? Where would be these special collections of Griqualand stamps and this interesting monograph of Lieut. Napier's, if certain dealers had not had the foresight to "stock up" on Griqualands in days when they were more easily obtained than now? The great stamp stocks of the world mean much the same to philatelists as do the great libraries of the world to scholars. They are the main repositories of the food on which philately lives. The stamps that they contain are the ones that are in live, active circulation—the ones that count in reckoning up the immediate philatelic assets of the world. The stamps that are in collections may be considered as demonetized for the time being. When they are sold to the dealer again, they again become a factor in the market and a part of philately's tangible personal property.

But all this is beside the point. We were speaking of the important part played by dealers' stocks in providing food for the study of private collectors. There is another side of this matter that is too important to overlook, namely: that a great many of the foremost philatelic experts in the world are either dealers themselves or, in one way or another, very closely allied to stamp dealing. Let no one say that collectors have

done it all; that dealers have been automatic and unthinking agents, knowing nothing and caring less about the wares they dealt in. Some collectors used to cherish this idea. We remember reading some ten or a dozen years ago an account of a debate in a local philatelic society, at that time quite prominent, on the following subject: "Are or are not stamp dealers a detriment to philately?" and, lest any of our foreign readers may think that this was nothing but an ebullient bit of American humor, we may add that it was actually debated as a serious and important question. We remember, further, that in the very first number of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, Dr. Wm. H. Mitchell had an article on very much the same subject. But the day for such queries has gone by. Of course, it never really existed; for, to take an American instance, it would certainly be difficult to cite anyone on this continent who has done more for philately than J. Walter Scott, who has earned his living by selling stamps "any time these thirty years." But we think there are a great many well-posted philatelists to-day who hardly realize how much of the hard work and hard study that has made the science of philately what it is to-day has been done by those who are not "amateurs," but men dependent upon stamp dealing for their bread and butter. All the stamp catalogues of the world, for instance (or, at least, all those worth speaking about), have been compiled by dealers and their associates. Almost all the philatelic magazines of the world that have ever been of any lasting value have been published by dealers, and often edited by dealers also. Who are some of the men, connected actively with the stamp trade, that may be named as famous at the present moment for the good work they are doing for philately in general, as writers and investigators? There are Messrs. Crawford Capen and Jno. N. Luff of New York, Major Evans and Mr. C. J. Phillips of London, M. Arthur Maury of Paris, and many others. Take this quintette of men alone and see if you can recall the names of any five private collectors now living who

have done and are doing so much for philately, in the very broadest sense of the phrase. Now, though comparisons are odious, has not M. Maury, for instance, done a great deal more for philately and philatelists than his famous compatriot, M. De Ferrary, the owner of the finest collection in the world? In England, can it be honestly said that Mr. Castle, Mr. Bacon or Mr. Nankivell have laid philately under as deep obligations as have Major Evans or Mr. Phillips? In America, are such distinguished amateurs as Mr. Andreini, Mr. Toppan or Mr. Holland to be considered as having rendered more signal service to philately than Messrs. Capen and Luff? If comparisons are odious, they are also forceful. It will be difficult for anyone to assert that in the above comparisons the "amateurs" have any advantage over the professionals; and, of course, an infinitely larger number of names might be cited on both sides—though this would not, we think, in any way change the aspect of the comparison. No, it will not do to assume that dealers are not also philatelists and that they are not playing a very large part in the development of modern philately.

We have been making a wide detour around our main subject of inquiry, but not, we think, a futile one, because the point we now get back to is this: Can the stamp trade continue to grow in strength without the rich man's presence in philately? We have tried to show how much present-day philately owes to the stamp trade. We shall not try to show how much the stamp trade owes to the support of men of wealth, because that is perfectly obvious. Forty years ago stamps were sold in the open air by a few poverty-stricken vendors. Today, the head of a large stamp house has his private office, his twenty or fifty or one hundred subordinates, and a capital represented by six figures. The cause of this change ought not to be very difficult to recognize. Stamp collectors have multiplied more than a thousand-fold since Brown and Brennen, and other American pioneers, tacked their stock in trade on a board in New York's City Hall Park. But it

is not the growth of penny transactions that has made the stamp trade what it is, but philatelic brokerage on a larger scale—buying and selling and dealing with collectors whose unit of monetary measurement is dollars rather than pennies. If the rarest stamps in the world could still be bought at a few cents apiece, the stamp trade would be a correspondingly small affair. This may seem a self-evident truth, but it is necessary to mention it in order to render clear our line of argument. And now, granting the truth of all these points we have raised in regard to present-day philately and the present-day stamp trade, let it be again repeated: "Is philately going to keep on growing and gaining in power on any other terms and conditions than those of continuing to hold the allegiance of many philatelists of ample monetary means?" We confess that we can see but one answer to this. We certainly believe that if this golden age of philately comes in time to an end and the pursuit settles down into a diversion of men of ordinary means alone, a good many interesting features of modern philately will be lost. There is a certain intangible fascination in participating in a pursuit which is capable of such altitudinous grandeur as is the philately of to-day. The manner in which rich men collect adds much of color and human interest to the pursuit. It has often been claimed that the wide publication of the high prices obtained for rarities, and the enormous totals obtained for great collections at auction or at private sale, has a tendency to discourage the collector of small means. Undoubtedly it does sometimes so operate. But there is another side to the question and we are of the belief that the monetary magnificence of present-day collecting does more to keep up the interest of impecunious collectors than it does to quench their interest. This monetary magnificence is one of the things that makes philately most interesting. Observe that we do not mean philately the study, or philately the science, but philately the pursuit. There is pride for everyone of us in being connected, however humbly, with a pursuit that flies so high and is carried on

in so regal a manner. We are not members of a humble corps of lean, ascetic students. We belong, rather, to a body in which multi-millionaires and men of title are conspicuous ornaments. It is all very well to speak of the superiority of "the aristocracy of brains." Brains count for as much in philately as in anything else in the world. But when the skeptic turns up his nose at philately and its alleged importance, it is not the aristocracy of brains that we adduce as proof of philately's high standing, but rather the owners of the highest-priced collections, and the men of great name who belong with us. Some may say that it is snobbish to parade the fact that the royal heir apparent of the English throne is a philatelist—to proudly flaunt His Royal Highness in the faces of those who sneer at philately as "a diversion for children." But if it is snobbish, it is also very satisfying. In fact, we do not believe it is in human nature to be so stolid as not to feel a certain amount of gratification in being thus allied in taste, however remotely, with a royal personage. And we believe it is not too much to say that every occurrence which emphasizes anew the favor extended to philately in the high places of the earth, adds fresh zest to the philately which is practiced humbly and in comparatively lowly surroundings.

Here is Mr. Nankivell, in the latest despatches, reported as having sold his great Transvaal collection for a prodigious sum—somewhere between twenty and twenty-five thousand dollars. Here is a learned English judge disposing of his collection at an auction extending over three nights, and realizing therefrom the sum of seven thousand dollars. Here is His Honor, Judge So-and-So, being admitted to membership in the Philatelic Society of India, along with General So-and-So, of important station among His Majesty's troops. Here is Mortimer Menpes, distinguished author, artist and war correspondent, becoming an active member of the London Society. Here is the Earl of Crawford purchasing the Tifany library and starting out to gather together the greatest philatelic library in

the whole world. Here are numberless other men of wealth and station getting their names into philatelic press in all manner of ways. Does not all this add infinitely to the spice of philately?

And then there is another way in which many a rich man is a benefactor to all philately, namely: in the good that accrues from the exhibition of great collections. We have touched on this point before in these columns, but allow us to give it a little attention now. Great collections, when they are owned by public-spirited philatelists, are a standing benefit to the whole collecting world. Not only are portions of them often placed at the disposal of students and writers, thereby vastly facilitating the labor of collecting and tabulating all known facts in relation to certain issues, but the public exhibition of sections of such collections does incalculable good. This good does not so much lie in the line of starting new collectors—for that, in our judgment, is merely a secondary and subordinate function of stamp exhibitions—as enthusing and enlightening those who are already collectors; in giving them a better idea of the true scope of philately and in broadening their philatelic horizon and giving them a greater personal efficiency as collectors. Some months ago we spoke of Mr. Crocker's action, in sending his superb Hawaiian collection "on tour" to the principal stamp centers, in terms of the warmest praise. We ventured the prediction that it would stimulate every true philatelist who had the privilege of viewing it. And we think if it were possible to properly analyze such complex mental factors as philatelic motives and philatelic inclinations—if, in other words, it were possible to lay bare the processes of the human mind so that we might see just what influences operated to produce certain thoughts and acts—it would be found that almost every philatelist who viewed this Hawaiian collection has in some way grown in philatelic capacity—perhaps not markedly so, but enough in the aggregate to justify Mr. Crocker's pains and trouble.

To take another instance, all of us remember the splendid contributions

made by Mr. H. E. Deats to the philatelic exhibit of the World's Columbian Exposition of ten years since. Were not Mr. Deats' treasures a feast to thousands of hungry philatelic eyes that had never before looked on even a passably good collection, and can any one measure the encouragement and the enthusiasm which hundreds of young and, at that time, immature collectors derived from the sight?

These great collections are a boon and a blessing. Without them philatelic knowledge would still be wallowing in comparative chaos. That is one of the reasons why it is such a pity to see these great collections broken up. That is why English philatelists are so anxious that the Tapling collection in the British Museum should not only be kept on view and readily accessible to all who desire to study it, but should also be brought up to date by the addition of current issues. The big collections of to-day are a big thing for philately in more ways than one, and while there may be just as much personal pleasure to the owner in a small collection, it is not well for philately that all collections should be small ones, or all collectors in the poor or the moderately circumstanced class.

We have heretofore said nothing editorially on the recent furore in Europe over the alleged newly discovered reprints of Moldavia, which have, in the event, proven to be no more nor less than forgeries. The matter has been fully treated, both in our news and review columns; but beyond that we have not deemed it necessary to go, since, externally, there seemed little comment to be made. In connection, however, with what we have said above regarding the importance of retaining for philately the full support and allegiance of the wealthy collector, we want to say something about modern forging and faking and the duty of collectors and dealers in regard to it. We believe that the general attitude in America in regard to these Moldavian forgeries is a sort of far-off, no-business-of-ours attitude. "These forgeries," we can picture the

average collector as saying to himself, "are not aimed at me; they are aimed at wealthy specialists, and whatever happens, it is nothing I need particularly care about." Now, in one sense, this is very true, but in another sense it is gross self-delusion. It may probably fairly be said that the consternation in Europe over these Moldavian forgeries is not so much due to their dangerous character in themselves (for, to an expert, their detection is infinitely easy), but because of the light which the occurrence throws on the growing ingenuity and resource of the outlaws and criminals of philately. As it has chanced, a number of other similar occurrences, coming into light almost co-incidentally in different parts of the world, have added emphasis to this point. As always happens when a few frauds of this kind come up at about the same time, the cry of an "epidemic of fraud" is raised, and there is a considerable under-current of uneasiness in philatelic circles. It will not do for any of us to say that such a matter is no concern of ours. For whatever threatens the large collector really threatens the small collector too, if, in the event, it shall in any way check the confidence and dampen the ardor of any of those who are most heavily interested financially in the pursuit. And this being so, it behooves collectors of every grade and class, and dealers, large or small, to in no way countenance or temporize with philatelic faking in any form. It may be said with absolute truth that the future prosperity of philately is largely dependent upon the character of its followers. Rigid standards of honesty must prevail or philately will suffer seriously. Collectors and dealers must model their conduct on the strictest lines of integrity. There has been too much weak, nerveless cowardice in dealing with this matter of fraudulent practice. Dealers and collectors who would not knowingly have anything to do with forgeries or fakes, have been too careless and have taken too many chances. Many dealers have been too ready to buy stamps from any and all sources without really knowing who

they were buying from in a great many cases. Collectors, in their eternal hunt for bargains, have been too ready to buy from unknown dealers when they found good stamps offered at seemingly seductive prices. Collectors and dealers can not exercise too great care in deciding whom it is safe to buy from. The character of those you buy from ought to be known to you before you deal with them. This does not alone concern the interests of your own collection; it concerns the broader interests of all philately. Some day you may want to sell your collection, or you may be constantly putting in better specimens wherever you can and selling the duplicates thus created. Your reputation for probity may be of the highest—so high that your name will be sufficient guarantee for stamps that you really know nothing about that you bought from perfectly unknown sources. There is too much selfishness in philatelic dealing—too much of the everlasting desire to buy cheaply and make greater than normal profits in the selling. It is actually no rare thing for dealers and collectors to buy stamps of men whom they know to be dishonest, trusting in their own sagacity to avoid being "taken in." Can one play with fire and not get his fingers burnt? Ten or a dozen years ago that infamous firm of rascals, Benjamin & Sarpy, were prosecuted and convicted in London of making and selling false stamps. It had for at least two or three years been an open secret that these men were the head of a gang of forgers and fakers, and yet it was brought out on their trial that at least one well-known member of the London Philatelic Society had been a regular customer at their shop, knowing perfectly well the character of the men with whom he dealt, yet trusting to his expert knowledge for protection in his dealing with them. More than that, it was brought out that a number of well-known English dealers were in the habit of visiting the shop of these sharpers in search of bargains, knowing that Messrs. Benjamin and Sarpy had good foreign connections and sold many genuine stamps at extra cheap rates, as

a cloak to their forgery business. Benjamin and Sarpy were convicted and served their terms in prison. What did they do on coming out? What but re-open their old shop and unblushingly start in business again as stamp dealers. That business was continued for several years afterwards and may be in existence yet, for aught we know to the contrary, though we have heard nothing regarding it for a long time. But if they continued to keep up a shop for some years after they had been publicly branded as forgers, it is evident that they must have had customers, else the shop could not have continued to exist. It is to be supposed that every English philatelist knew of their trial and conviction, inasmuch as it created the greatest furore in England of any philatelic occurrence for years; yet collectors must have gone to them and bought of them, knowing their standing. Can any collector excuse himself for buying stamps of a convicted forger (even though he is absolutely convinced that in this instance he is buying the genuine article), when he knows that the money he pays that forger will help him to live and give him fresh capital to prosecute his vile schemes? But this was not the worst. Some time in '95 or '96, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* printed a paragraph to the effect that Messrs. Benjamin and Sarpy had sold their business and stock of stamps to a well-known and reputable English dealer, whom we need not name here. This paragraph may have been intended to harm that dealer, by making him odious in the eyes of all philatelists for having had any traffic whatever with such a pair of contaminated rascals. From this point of view, the dealer might perhaps have had ground for an action for libel against the publishers of the journal in question; but instead of this, Messrs. Benjamin and Sarpy brought action for damages, claiming that the item had seriously affected their business by leading their customers to believe that their shop had been discontinued; and this hopeful pair of cormorants actually succeeded in ob-

taining damages against the *P. J. of G. B.* to the extent of some hundreds of pounds and, furthermore, the *P. J. of G. B.* was obliged to insert a retraction in its next issue and to destroy all copies on hand of the number containing the alleged libel. Did philatelic vice ever before or since win so great a triumph? What a beautifully constructed affair the English libel law must be, when such a result is possible! If the *P. J. of G. B.* had "written them down" thieves and swindlers, even then there would have been no libel, because a libel is a perversion of fact; but that from an item of the kind noted, these men should have been able to tap the purse of a reputable publisher, is a standing disgrace to English philately. One would have thought, that in the interests of philatelic righteousness, the whole stamp trade of England would have banded together to assist Mr. Brown in defending this suit; one would have thought that it would have been seized on as fresh opportunity to indelibly stamp these men as philatelic criminals, but no one lifted a finger; and even the "free and enlightened" philatelic press either did not mention the matter at all, or, under the guise of sympathy for Mr. Brown, chuckled covertly at the discomfiture of a trade rival.

Here is another case in Australia—a fresh and recent occurrence—detailed in the news letters of a month or two ago. A certain Sydney dealer, named F. W. Reid, was found to have been selling faked stamps for a year or more past. Instead of taking immediate steps for his arrest and prosecution, a committee of the Sydney Philatelic Club waited on him for an "explanation." Why was this leniency shown? Why was he given a chance to pack up his belongings and sail away for parts unknown on the next steamer? Was there no way to forcibly detain this man? Is Australian law so different from our own? If a man passes a forged bank note in this country, he is arrested the very first moment that the officers of the law can lay hands on him. It makes no difference if he is a prominent busi-

ness man. He is arrested first and given a chance to do his explaining afterwards. And in this country it is just as great a misdemeanor to pass forged stamps as forged bank notes. It is true that we do not always invoke this law. A case has recently occurred where a body of American philatelists, too, has shown evidences of being weak-kneed. We refer, of course, to the fraudulent surcharges sold by a certain stamp firm in an Eastern city, which boasts one of the largest and most efficient philatelic societies in this country. The matter being brought to the attention of this society, they appointed a committee of investigation. They found out which dealer it was who had sold these stamps. They called on him for an explanation and he declared that the stamps had been sold innocently, without knowledge of their true character. He stated that he had bought them of a man whom he supposed to be all right; but on being pressed to give that man's name, he refused. Now, why, in the name of common-sense, should any dealer refuse to give such information as this? What good and valid reason can any dealer have for attempting to shield any person guilty of any criminal act? We own we can not discover any. It remains to be said that finally, after considerable delay, the dealer in question did consent to tell from whom the stamps came, and published a statement laying all the blame on this party. The man thus implicated was seen by the committee of the society and acknowledged his guilt; but instead of taking steps to bring him to trial, the committee were satisfied with securing from him a signed statement to the effect that he had produced the forgeries in question, that he had destroyed all the remaining stock of them in his possession, and that he would give no further cause of offense in future.

We do not wish to appear in the light of criticising the committee for their action. There were probably reasons why they felt that it would be inadvisable to attempt to secure the conviction of the forger. Probably, for one thing, they did not wish to assume the ex-

pense of prosecution. But the way in which this particular case was handled serves to illustrate the gingerliness, the fear of treading on somebody's feet, which too often characterizes such investigations. We are inclined to believe that if the dealer in question had felt perfectly sure that his name would never be published in the philatelic press as the sponsor of these frauds, he would have persisted in his refusal to deliver up the guilty party; and this is the most inexplicable and unfortunate aspect of the whole affair. A man may have a legal right, but has he a moral right to withhold information of this

nature? Has any philatelist, be he dealer or collector, a right to palter with and protect philatelic fraud? As we have pointed out, all such fraud affects the entire body philatelic. The influence of even one such occurrence may be infinitely far-reaching. The importance of fostering the security and safety of the investments of the moneyed men of philately can hardly be overestimated. And in view of these facts, can any philatelist, or anyone who has the true interests of philately at heart, be too careful that he is not, through negligence, the unwitting agent of philatelic contamination?



Concerning Minor Varieties

BY B. W. WARHURST.

The popularity of stamp-collecting during the last fifteen to twenty years of the departed century developed dangers which were scarcely foreseen by the ardent advocates and diligent students of the previous period of twenty years. The one danger (which at first sight seems the reverse) is the immense flood of new issues, mostly unnecessary, poured forth every year, which only a wealthy collector, with plenty of time on hand in which to buy and arrange his stamps, can attempt to keep up with. The other danger is that brought about by the students who are continually discovering some trifling difference in details of the designs of stamps, or in the much more extensive field of overprinting surcharges for provisional (and occasionally merely financial) purposes.

For the average or medium collector who started with some packets of stamps and a few cheap approval sheets, and has now launched out into an album with spaces marked for a reasonable number of the stamps of every country, the question of varieties is not a disquieting one. Probably there are illustrations of the principal designs on each page and a brief list of the two to six or more values issued of those types, and the owner is pleased and often quite satisfied if he acquires one or two of each design, or even if he can fill on the average five or six spaces on every page. His great object is to get as many different types as possible—complete sets of them do not trouble him at present—and he reasons to himself that the great pleasure of the future will be the picking up of any further values at bargain prices so as to keep up his interest in them. If he could have all the stamps at once, they would be a nine days' wonder for his friends to talk about, but there would be nothing

more to look out for, and in a few months he would dispose of them to take up some other novelty or hobby or fashionable fad of the day.

Happy is the general collector who—having mounted his first thousand—can look at his treasures from time to time and be content with a gradual accumulation of twenty to one hundred a month, according to the size of his purse or his opportunities for acquiring additions from friends in offices where there is a varied foreign correspondence, or by exchanging the duplicates left over from the new packets or sets bought at intervals. But a time comes when a chum of his who has attended the meetings of a philatelic society, or has studied the details of a Scott or Gibbons catalogue, says to him in a casual sort of way: "Have you got the National Bank Note Company's 6-cent?" to which our friend replies: "You mean the Lincoln. Oh, yes; I've got it all right." On examination, however, the chum says it is only a Continental or it may be an American Company's print, and impressively explains that it is printed in a different shade of color and on a different kind of paper, and has the "secret" mark on it which the National has not got, and so on, until the other feels quite cold and clammy at the thought of his ignorance and folly in not having obtained such an important yet simple thing as that. At last, by bothering half a dozen dealers, he obtains one which he is assured is quite the correct thing, though he can not see an atom of difference from his old one, and then shows it in triumph to his friend next time he calls, who agrees, but chills him again by stating that, after all, it is only the dull carmine and he ought to have gotten the deep rose-carmine for that price. He then finds out that there are differences in all the other

values up to 15 cents of the same series of designs printed by the three contractors, and — feeling that the mastery of all the petty details and the difficulties in acquiring them may quickly turn his hair gray—he philosophically decides that, having in his possession a good specimen of each value, he will let the others slide; but if they come along his way he will try and accommodate them.

This is a common-sense way of looking at the matter for the vast majority of collectors. Minor varieties will arise in the best printing establishments, whether official or in private hands, as we have heard there were certain "inverts" produced of a recent issue, which varieties are decidedly in a minority. There are a goodly number of philatelists who have started on general lines of getting everything possible, who are struck with certain peculiarities in the stamps of some countries which they have special opportunities of seeing in large quantities, and therefore resolve to study them in particular, and so become specialists. In most cases nowadays a steel die is prepared of the stamp design and it is mechanically reproduced 100 to 300 times on a metal plate, from which the sheet of stamps is printed, every one as unerringly alike as if each stamp had been printed from the original die itself. There seems to be no possibility of an error or divergence of the smallest description occurring with a plate so prepared — but, after some days or weeks of use, it may happen that by an accident or negligence a hammer or weight falls on it, making slight indentations or scratches which, to avoid censure, are not mentioned by the man in charge. When printed from, this trifling damage shows itself in that portion of the sheet, but may not be conspicuous enough to prevent the sheets being passed for circulation. There may be hundreds, or it may be thousands, of sheets printed before the variety is discovered—which may take the form of being a positive error by the elimination of a letter or figure—and as it is not seriously important,

the stamps are not recalled; but a quick-sighted philatelist discovers one and then commences a hunt. Inquiries are made, blocks or sheets of the stamps obtained, and the exact number or position is located, and if sufficiently obvious, a description finds its way into the magazines and later into the catalogues, and is recognized as a fair and suitable means of securing a big price for a copy, according as the holder has one or twenty in his possession. It will often happen that the real number of sheets printed with this variety on is not known, because the exact date when the flaw or damage occurred has never been reported, and so there is an element of uncertainty as to its relative rarity.

In other cases, where every stamp on a small plate is separately engraved, there will of course be as many varieties as there are stamps on it. This also occurs (though often only to a microscopic extent) when the design is set up from type letters and ornaments for frame as a temporary issue pending production of the steel plates, of which there can be no absolute certainty of every stamp being alike, as the different pieces of type used may vary a fraction of a millimetre in size, or get shaken loose in the process of printing, causing a tiny gap or a faint impression of a particular letter or dot. Occasionally these very minor varieties are positively ridiculous, as can be seen from the various accounts of so-called broken letters and misplaced dots in the Orange State stamps overprinted with V.R.I. and the value repeated. On the other hand, a few of these are so distinctly different, from palpable omissions or wrong types used in the setting, as to be worth recording and acquiring by those who care for pronounced variations from the normal type intended for all.

This last class of printing—that of surcharging a new value or adding a new name to the stamps of another colony or State—is the most prolific source of minor varieties, and to differentiate their relative importance or value as desirable objects to collect, is very difficult, but some attempt will

be made further on to go into a few of these. At present a reference will be made to two issues on similar lines at different times and places to illustrate the difficulty one is placed in when attempting to discriminate.

In 1877 to 1879, the Transvaal territory was occupied by the British and it was arranged to overprint the stamps then in use with the letters V.R. and TRANSVAAL below in capital letters; then a new printing of the stamps themselves was made from the old plates in same colors of ink on colored papers, the word Transvaal appearing in small letters and some of the V.R.'s were in italic or sloping type, mixed in the same sheets, while a later setting had the V.R. in smaller capitals from a different font. These changes with two sizes of rouletting to separate the stamps have resulted in 96 varieties being listed in catalogues, besides minor varieties of missing stops, etc. To the general

collector one specimen of each of the four main types is sufficient, and if one type is of the penny value, another of 3d., and the 6d. and 1 shilling in other types, a very fair representation is shown of the series.

A year or two after these Transvaals there commenced an overprinted series of Straits Settlements (or Singapore) stamps for use in the Native States, such as Johore, Perak, etc., of which there are a great number of palpable differences in type-setting; but for our present purpose of comparison we will refer only to those of Perak prepared about 1889, surcharged in three lines, "One—Cent—PERAK." Owing to the scarcity of capital types there were six variations of the forms of letters used in making up 120 surcharges for a half-sheet or two panes of the ordinary stamps, giving 3 to 62 specimens of each variety, according to the quantities used of the several fonts.

(To be continued.)



U. S. Louisville Carrier Stamps

Supplementing the historical sketch and half-tone illustration of a complete sheet of Wharton's U. S. Carrier Despatch stamps given in our January magazine number, we now give an enlarged sketch of the six important types, the particular variety of which consist of the leaves and twigs upon the branch upon which the eagle stands. Each sheet consists of fifty stamps.

Type I. Two copies.

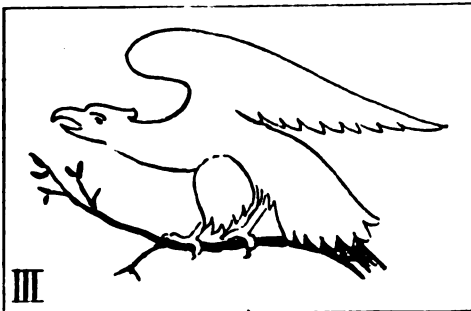
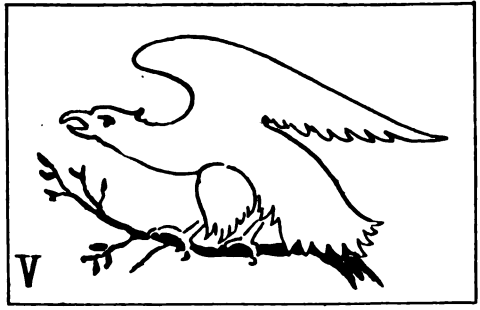
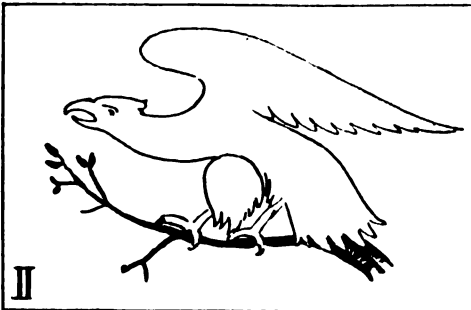
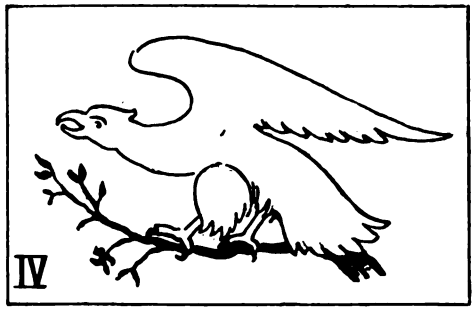
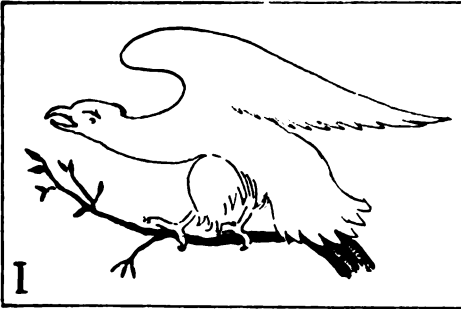
Type II. Two copies.

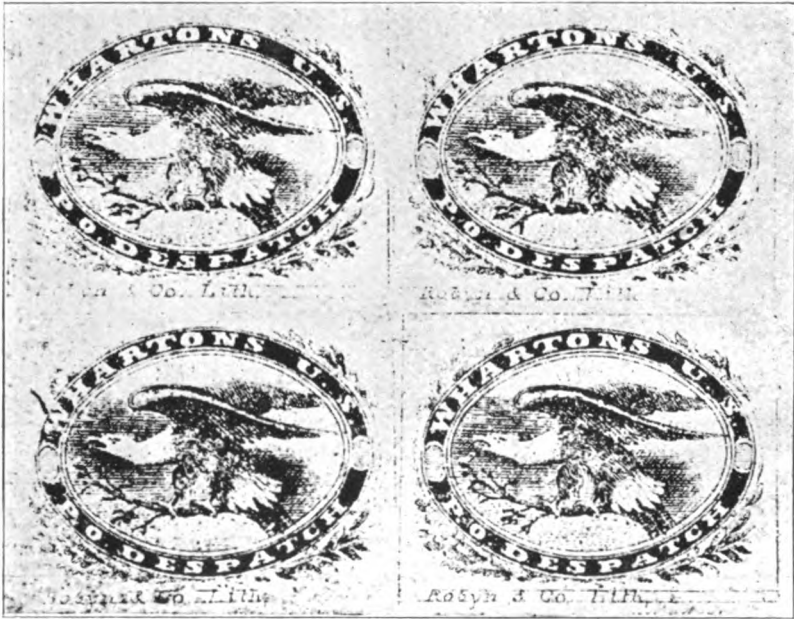
Type III. One copy.

Type IV. Forty-three copies.

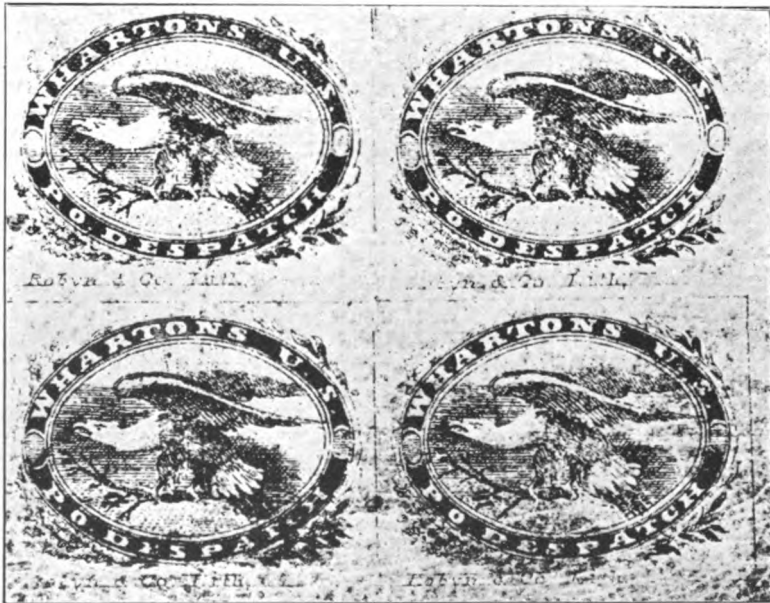
Type V. One copy.

Type VI. One copy.





Block showing Type V, and three specimens of Type IV.



Block showing three specimens of Type IV and Type VI.

Department of Review

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSH

Publishers of philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications regularly to the editor in charge of this department,

LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH, French-Bennett Bldg., Oneida, N. Y.

The Monthly Journal

Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London,
England. Edited by Edward B. Evans.

Jan. 31, 1903.

The January *Monthly Journal* opens with a lengthy editorial on "The Moldavia Case," which is in some ways quite the most sensational affair of its kind that has occurred for some years. The final verdict of Major Evans and other famous European authorities, viz., that these so-called "reprints" are nothing but very recent forgeries, has been already recorded in this journal. Nevertheless, however, as Major Evans' complete summing up of the case, so far as it stands at present, has not yet appeared in these columns, we deem it to our readers' interests to give here, as briefly as we can, the substance of Major Evans' editorial, which is practically conclusive as to the character of these spurious Moldavians. Major Evans remarks, in the beginning, that there seems to be little doubt that some ten or eleven years ago the original dies of these Moldavian stamps were in existence, in a more or less damaged condition; and that Colonel Gorjan, the then Director of Posts in Roumania, *did* have some impressions of them struck off; but there is every reason to believe that all the impressions were taken in *black* on white paper, no one claiming otherwise except the persons interested in the sale of these recent Moldavian "discoveries" in colors on colored paper. That these impressions should have been in black on white paper would certainly be the natural and logical procedure. It is presumed that Colonel Gorjan had these few impressions struck off in an idle mood and employed the paper and ink which would naturally be handiest, namely:

white paper and black ink. Of course, if he had made these reprints at the instigation of an experienced philatelist, he might have taken pains to hunt out colors and papers corresponding, as far as possible, with those of the originals; but it is certainly difficult to figure him as going to any pains in these matters of paper and color, and then using the wrong ones, after all, as is the case in all of these quasi reprints that have thus far been seen. The most important point in the whole matter is this: If Colonel Gorjan did make these reprints in the colors and papers, as claimed by Captain Moroin of Bucharest (who has been discovered to be the person principally interested in their sale and who claims that Colonel Gorjan gave him the five sets of the reprints at the time they were made), why did the latter wait ten years before announcing the reprinting? Why, again, did he not bring them forward before the death of Colonel Gorjan? The time to establish their authenticity, supposing them to be really what they purport to be, was indubitably during the lifetime of Colonel Gorjan, who alone could set all doubts of their character at rest and give them a solid market value. Is it conceivable that, had these new discoveries been genuine reprints, their holder would have waited until his principal witness was dead before attempting to establish their character? These arguments seem to us unanswerable. The conclusion to which they lead, viz., that these Moldavian discoveries are fabrications, pure and simple, is strongly reinforced by the circumstances surrounding their recent advent into public notice. "Paul Paulescu," in a letter to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, was the first to herald their

existence; but now it turns out that Paul Paulescu is a name known to no one, least of all to the editor of the French journal who gave room to his communication. It came to him with no other marks of the writer's identity than the name signed to it, and it was published on the presumption that Paul Paulescu was undoubtedly some eminent Roumanian philatelist whose fame had not yet penetrated as far as Paris; but it turns out that nobody in any way connected with philately in Bucharest, which is one of the liveliest little philatelic capitals in Europe, has ever heard of "Paul Paulescu." And the conclusion is irresistible that the name is an assumed one, used either by M. Moroin or some one associated with him. M. Moroin (or Captain Moroin, as the *Monthly Journal* terms him,) came into the affair as a confirmatory witness in behalf of M. Paulescu's statements; and he has been followed in his turn by one "Argus," who confirms the statements of both the other two. The value of testimony which, in a case of this importance, seeks the cover of a pseudonym, can not be very great. So far, M. Moroin is the only identified sponsor for these so-called reprints, and the fact of his being "behind them" is, in the eyes of Major Evans and other European editors, pretty good circumstantial proof of their spuriousness. It is no need to here recite in detail all the testimony that the *Monthly Journal* adduces as to M. Moroin's character. It is all summed up in the verdict of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, that "Moroin enjoys the worst conceivable reputation." So that if stamps, like men, are to be judged by the company they keep, these Moldavians are unfortunate, to say the least.

Major Evans then comes to an aspect of the matter which we find it difficult to reproduce in any less space than would be occupied by his own words. We will, therefore, quote in full this, the concluding portion of his editorial:

"It is more difficult to understand why these so-called reprints were struck upon entirely wrong papers. Whoever

made them must have been aware that the papers were wrong. We can only suppose that the papers used were the nearest to the originals, in point of color, that could be obtained without taking steps which would have aroused suspicion. Possibly, also, it was recognized that if no experienced collector would pass these specimens as originals, owing to the defective condition of the designs, and it was hoped that less experienced persons would not notice the differences in the papers. Another and extremely probable reason may be the idea that if these impressions on the wrong papers were accepted as *reprints*, another edition on paper of the right qualities might be accepted as originals; and we would warn collectors not to be led astray by the notion that these supposed reprints exist only upon the wrong papers. That attempts have already been made to render some of the papers more like those of the originals we can vouch for, as we have before us copies of the 27 and 54 paras on exactly the same papers as those previously described, but in both cases adorned with fictitious *laid* lines. The lines are very apparent on the surface and look as if they had been produced by ruling with a blunt instrument; on the 54 paras the thing seems to have slipped once or twice, making the lines run into one another in a manner that is both interesting and instructive. This specimen is also *obliterated*. The fact that this 'faking up' has taken place is sufficient in itself to prove that these are not the immensely rare, unobtainable impressions from the original dies for which Mr. Paul Paulescu, Captain Moroin, 'Argus,' etc., succeeded in getting a free advertisement in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.

"Our own belief is that the statement contained in the concluding paragraph of our November editorial is perfectly correct, that these are recent forgeries, very cleverly executed, and very ingeniously launched. It seems curious that so much ingenuity has been expended upon the manufacture of these things, and the advertisement of them as 'reprints,' for which there is no very

extensive sale; let us hope that their authors have not got more dangerous imitations in reserve."

There is no need for us to add anything further to Major Evans' thoroughly comprehensive covering of this subject. He suggests, in the portion of his editorial that we have reproduced, some quite probable theories, explanatory of some of the most enigmatical points in regard to these pseudo reprints, that we have not seen advanced elsewhere, and that we believe will provide our readers with food for thoughtful meditation.

The "New Issues and Varieties" occupy some ten or more pages, and then follows the commencement of a paper on "The Stamps of Lombardo-Venetia," by L. Hancian. This paper gives promise of being both accurate and exhaustive, and its first instalment contains many points of interest, which we will not, however, attempt to go into here, as they are matters more for the eyes of specialists in Austrian stamps (probably a rare genus in this country) than for the general run of collectors.

Following M. Hancian's article comes a short study of "The 1880 Issue of Portugal," by R. Ehrenbach. Mr. Ehrenbach has discovered two distinct types of the 1880 issue of Portugal, which in the article before us are very clearly illustrated and described. Without the use of cuts it is difficult for us to here indicate the essential points of difference between these two types; but perhaps the following quotations from Mr. Ehrenbach's article may be at least of *some* help to our readers in separating the types:

"*Die I*—The dotted lines of shading from the temple to the collar are almost continuous and nearly cover the cheek. The hair is indistinctly delineated, and becomes a confused mass at the back of the head. The white of the collar ends at the back of the ear. The white portions of the ear are badly drawn and the mustache merges into the shading in the cheek.

"*Die II*—The dotted lines of shading are interrupted by a white space to the

right of the eye, which is continued into the cheek. The hair is better drawn and is clearly delineated to the back of the head. The collar goes across to the back of the neck. The white portions of the ear are more clearly marked. The mustache is more clearly shown, and the whole appearance of *Die II* is much clearer than that of *Die I*."

The cuts of the two types shown in the *Monthly Journal* show these differences in a very marked manner, as they (the cuts) are four or five times the size of the original stamps and bring out minor points to much the same effect as a magnifying glass. The head appears to be the only portion of the design that in any way differs in the two types. Presumably it was re-drawn after some portions of the die had begun to show signs of wear. The 5 reis is the only value in the 1880 issue of Portugal in which Mr. Ehrenbach has found two distinct types, and it is probable that no such differences exist in the other values. Mr. Ehrenbach's discovery is certainly an interesting one and furnishes fresh proof (if any were needed) that finality in philatelic knowledge is still a long way off.

Mr. Tamsen's valuable work on the "Stamps of the New Republic," to which we devoted so much space in last month's review, is continued in this January issue. We dare not try to analyze this instalment here, for it deals with matters that are not easily distilled into reviewable shape. We can only urge our readers to refer to it in the original if in the least degree interested.

Mr. Phillip's "Notes and News," which comes next in order, is chiefly notable as conveying the news that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have bought the great Nankivell collection of Transvaals—probably the most celebrated special collection in the world; an event of sufficient importance to justify no little comment, but which we will reserve for consideration in some other portion of this journal, better suited to the discussion of purely newsy matters.

The balance of this month's *Monthly Journal* is given over to the conclusion of Mr. Basset Hull's work on "The

Stamps of Tonga," and to the usual reports of philatelic societies.

Morley's Philatelic Journal

Published by Walter Morley, London, England.
 Edited by L. W. Fulcher.

Dec., 1902.

Jan., 1903.

We give *Morley's Philatelic Journal* entrance to our review this month on the theory that it is well to accord at least occasional recognition to the literature of Fiscalism—of which the journal mentioned is practically the only English embodiment. As we think we have said before in connection with this same journal, it behooves all of us who wish to follow intelligently all current manifestations of philatelic thought to at least keep posted on what Fiscalism is doing; and if the contents of such a journal as *Morley's* are not of direct personal interest to the great majority of us, it is, nevertheless, by no means a misuse of our time to scan its features now and then—not to say, regularly.

The two numbers before us are chiefly notable for a serial by Mr. A. Preston Pearce, on the "Provisional Fiscal Issues of the American Occupation of the Philippines." The article is of special interest, naturally, to Americans, and as we have read it, we have wondered not a little that some of our American journals have not long ere this dealt with this subject. One of our monthly contemporaries is, in each issue, devoting much valuable space to interminable lists of the dated cancellations used on revenue stamps by patent medicine firms during the late war tax period. How infinitely greater in interest are the varieties of which Mr. Pearce treats, being, as they are, of governmental origin, and in their union of American emblems with Spanish inscriptions forming such interesting examples of some of the most interesting phases of recent American history. It is not for us, to whom Fiscalism is practically a sealed book, to attempt a critical analy-

sis of Mr. Pearce's work; and yet, in reading it, one of the things that has most strongly impressed us is how like fiscal stamp collecting is growing to postage stamp collecting in many ways. Here, for instance, in dealing with the "Giro" stamps of the Philippines, we find Mr. Pearce going into a description of Type I, Type II, Type III, and so on, in a way that might quite make us fancy we were reading any ordinary article in the *Philatelic Record* or the *Monthly Journal*. Ah, yes, it is all the same pursuit, after all. To deny recognition to the fiscalist is to fly in the face of manifest destiny. The conscientious, painstaking work which many fiscalists are doing, along just such difficult lines as Mr. Pearce is treating in the work under our notice, fully indicates the worthiness of this branch of our pursuit.

In the December *Morley's*, in addition to the first part of Mr. Pearce's paper, we find an article on "Orange River Colony, Bank Draft, 3d." (which is most interesting, as showing that "plating" is by no means the exclusive luxury of the postage stamp collector); continuation of Mr. Morley's series on "The Newspaper Tax Stamps of Great Britain;" some excellent editorials (by no means devoid to the collector outside Fiscalism's gates); a continuation of a serial on "British Railway Stamps," and the usual Chronicle of New Issues and Discoveries, in Fiscal and Telegraph stamps.

The January number contains the continuation of all the serial features above mentioned, and also the commencement of a catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of Brazil, which appears as the successor of the similar catalogue of the stamps of the Argentine Republic lately concluded in its features. To use a somewhat hackneyed phrase, this feature alone is worth double the cost of the paper; in fact, we do not see how any earnest fiscalist can possibly afford to be without Mr. Morley's excellent magazine.

The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly

Published by Plumridge & Co., London, England.
 Edited by Percy C. Bishop.

Feb. 28, 1903.

It may seem a piece of flagrant partiality to single out one lone number of a fortnightly journal, from all its fellows, for consideration in this review; but in the present case there are the most excellent reasons for such action. For the issue of the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* bearing the date above given is a sort of "splurge" number, of more than usual interest and importance. Like our own American weeklies, the *Fortnightly* is, as a usual thing, a compendium of the philatelic news and chit-chat of the day. Its news and notes and comments range themselves under the same titular subdivisions in issue after issue, thereby somewhat embarrassing the reviewer, who, however desirous of doing their contents justice, can hardly accord mention to these same department headings time after time—about all he could do in his reviewing capacity, since random news notes, however interesting in themselves, do not properly come within the scope of his analysis. But, though we are thus forced to seemingly neglect the *Fortnightly* and its American prototypes the greater part of the time, on those occasions when they depart from their wonted procedure and issue special numbers, more diversified than usual in the nature of their contents, we hasten to accord them recognition. This "Spring Special" that lies before us contains an admirable supply of good reading. We think we can do no better than to quote its table of contents entire, as giving our readers an idea of what our friend, Mr. Bishop (no stranger to the columns of this magazine and therefore, in a sense, a friend to many of our readers), can do in the way of providing a sprightly and varied literary bill of fare. This is his menu in the number under notice:

"Philately at Home and Abroad," "Experiments in Forgery Detection," "Postal Cards and Covers," "Who Invented Post Cards?" "What is Doing in

the Stamp Trade," "Grandpapa's Undoing," "The Frivolous Side of Philately," "Editorial Articles," "Philatelic Frauds and Forgeries," "Stamp Values and Catalogue Prices," "From the Auction Rooms," "Philatelic Societies' Reports," "Twixt Editor and Reader," "New Issues and Varieties," and "An Ideal Album."

Such a list of contents gives promise of much pleasure in the perusal of the paper itself, and the event does not dispel the promise. Let us run through this table of contents as rapidly as may be, and say a little something of what each title stands for. "Philately at Home and Abroad" is a semi-editorial melange of news notes, enlivened with spicy comments thereon, and is in this case, as always, brimful of interest. Following this comes a very interesting article on "Experiments in Forgery Detection." This article is a report of certain experiments lately made by Professor Bruylants, of the Belgian Academy of Medicine, leading toward the detection of erasures and manipulations of papers. Business paper was the class specifically considered; but much of what is said is also applicable to the paper used in postage stamps. Professor Bruylants has found that iodine vapors are an almost infallible detector of any fraudulent alteration of paper, and his discourse on the subject is very interesting, especially to philatelists having some knowledge of chemistry. The article is one which may well be cut out and treasured by every philatelic expert who makes a study of how to detect stamp fakes and forgeries.

In the department on Postal Cards and Covers, we find an article on the errors in the Post Cards of Roumania, which proves that even post card collecting is by no means exempt from minor varieties. Some sixty or seventy different "errors" are mentioned, and evidently the end is not yet, for the words "to be continued" break in suddenly upon the list. The Roumanian post cards seem to have been very carelessly produced, most of the errors being in the misspelling of words in the inscription, as "lanurta" for

"lamurita," "posibil" for "possibil," etc. As these errors occur in cards issued in 1873, there can have been no speculative intent in this; but the number of errors findable in these Roumanian cards could scarcely be exceeded by the present day's most remarkable performances in postage stamp "errors."

Under the heading, "What is Doing in the Stamp Trade," is a sort of review of the present state and prosperity of the leading London dealers, written up in a very happy vein, and wholly free from the fulsome puffery of the ordinary "trade note"—to which these brief sketches of dealers bear no family resemblance.

"Grandpapa's Undoing" is a pleasantly written story which, unlike the usual run of philatelic fiction, is really worth printing. Having given a place to fiction, the *Fortnightly* then proceeds to accord a like honor to humor, in the form of "The Frivolous Side of Philately," a batch of light nonsense that makes really capital reading. Its author is one "Alfred Jingle," who has now and then brightened the *Fortnightly's* pages with similar lightsome vagaries ever since the paper was first established, and who we have always suspected of wearing the same hat as Mr. Bishop himself, who we know to be a very versatile and many-sided litterateur. The editorials in this number are brief, yet pleasing, and are followed by a lengthy article on stamp swindlers (who have of late been bothering British dealers and exchange clubs a great deal) under the heading, "Philatelic Frauds and Forgeries." As its interest is purely local to Britain, we need not deal with it here. Next comes "The Latest New Issues and Discoveries," which is especially notable for the number and quality of its illustrations—being much more copiously illustrated than is customary with new issue columns. Succeeding this is a rather fanciful article (Query: Are not all articles on the subject rather fanciful?) on that eternally present topic, "The Ideal Album." It has no very new or very practicable suggestions to present, but

is, nevertheless, brightly and spicily written and is not undeserving of the space given it. Really instructive philatelic matter is a scarce commodity. In its absence, no philatelic editor can be blamed for utilizing that excellent alternative—the uninformative, but entertaining essay. Turning to the next feature, we find an interesting paper on "Stamp Values and Catalogue Prices," which is stated to have been read (and presumably, therefore, written) by a Mr. Taylor before the Liverpool Philatelic Society. The relation of the two philatelic quantities indicated by this title has been "discussed to a standstill" in the philatelic press of late years. Nevertheless, Mr. Taylor manages to invest his topic with considerable novelty of treatment. He plainly points out that catalogue prices are not, and can not be, an arbitrary standard of value—the real value being a fluctuating quantity, fixed by the mutual agreement of buyer and seller in each individual case, and dependent upon many other considerations besides the rate recognized in the catalogue. Then he goes on to show that such being the nature of stamp values, no catalogue can be more than an approximate guide to values. Considerable space is then devoted to considering the various causes of variation in stamp values, which results in different classes of stamps being offered at such widely varying discounts; and the paper closes with the following sensible "summing up":

"I have only briefly indicated some of the principal causes for the variation of stamp values, but enough has been said to show the extreme difficulty of producing a catalogue which shall be an accurate reflex of all stamp values. A catalogue is only a standard so far as it is recognized as such by collector and dealer. The publishers themselves can not make it a standard.

"This being so, it is really wonderful to what extent the catalogue is accepted as a standard; for, after all, the stamps obtainable at huge discounts are only a small minority. From time to time we read proposals for the compilation of a

collector's standard of values—as if collectors were in a better position to arrive at stamp values than members of the trade. Dealers are said to be interested parties. There are two equally interested parties to every stamp transaction—buyer and seller. To assume that the seller is more interested than the buyer is ridiculous.

“The difficulties in the way of a collector's catalogue are so many that no one, with a practical knowledge of the subject, would entertain it.”

Being himself (we believe we are correct in stating) a member of the trade, Mr. Taylor's conclusions can not be considered as altogether unbiased. Nevertheless, we are inclined to agree with him that a collector's catalogue is an impracticable dream.

The remainder of this special issue of the *Fortnightly* we shall be forced to dismiss briefly, having already prolonged our review of the number to what we fear some of our readers may consider too great a length. From the table of contents, the nature of the remaining features of the *Fortnightly's* “Spring Special” may easily be seen, and, in justice it should be said, every one of them is well worth perusal. Altogether, this special is a most excellent number, and one on which we heartily congratulate our enterprising English contemporary.

The American Journal of Philately

Published by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., New York. Edited by Jno. N. Luff.

Feb. 1, 1903.

Opening to the first page of the current *American Journal of Philately*, we at once light upon interesting matter, in the shape of a very thoughtful editorial article (presumably from the pen of Mr. Luff, than whom philately possesses few more acute observers), entitled, “The Parting of the Ways.” The article is largely prophetic—is, in fact, an attempt to indicate what are most likely to be the lines in which collecting will be carried on in the future. Starting by citing the difficulties of general collecting, in any really comprehensive

form, at the present day, Mr. Luff goes on to point out that specialism is, in multitudes of cases, by no means a fertile alternative. He shows that specialism presents two different possibilities, almost equally disastrous to philatelic interest—first, the specialist may soon obtain most of the stamps he desires and thereafter have little or nothing to look for; or, second, he may have such difficulty in obtaining the stamps as to lose interest by want of progress. These drawbacks to specialism must, in the opinion of Mr. Luff, always keep a great majority of collectors on the generalists' side of the fence, especially that vast number of devotees who do not care to take philately too seriously.

From this, he deduces the moral that general collecting in the future (necessarily having to be restricted in some way or other), will either start or stop at the dividing line between the centuries; and he then proceeds to discourse interestingly on the probable relative popularity of the two new fields of collecting thus created. He thinks that the collecting of twentieth century stamps only will prove a great deal more popular than that of nineteenth century emissions, owing to the possibility of having an approximately complete collection at the very start—if one starts now, at any rate. Of course, a few years hence twentieth century collecting will be a retroactive labor, and even at present it is doubtful if the issues of the last two years could be completed (approximately, of course) with anything like the ease which Mr. Luff seems to think possible. But with the general principle of his idea, we will not disagree. As he says, the difference between having to “make up” the issues of two years and of sixty is a very large one, and it certainly seems probable that a large majority of those who are beginning a general collection now will choose the twentieth century plan, rather than the other. Furthermore, as Mr. Luff points out, the stamps of the new century will find most favor with those having an eye to the speculative side of the matter, the initial outlay being less than is required

in the generality of older issues, and the probability of prices ultimately scoring a substantial advance in many issues now current being an enticing one.

But there are two sides to every question, and having thus considered the advantages of collecting the issues of the twentieth century only, Mr. Luff proceeds to state that side of the case relating to nineteenth century emissions, and in so interesting a manner that we believe we can not do better than use his own words:

"There is another group of collectors who cling to the old issues. In the future, success in this field will require perseverance and ability, and, though the number of these collectors will be reduced, they will retain their places in the front rank of philatelists. It is also quite possible that they may reap a larger financial reward than the buyers of new issues. As the fastidiousness of collectors increases and the supply of fine specimens decreases, prices are bound to advance, and the reward will be to the conservative collectors who cling to the old favorites.

"The signs of a coming increase in the prices of many old stamps are already apparent. Collectors complain that they can not find the things they are seeking, and dealers say that it is more difficult to buy the scarcer stamps than to sell them. At all times a steady deterioration and destruction is taking place among stamps, the result of which is most notable among the older issues. There is also a tendency among the wealthier collectors not to part with their accumulations, but, having completed a country, to lay it aside and take up another. Formerly they would have sold their collections and thus returned the stamps to the market. All these things must inevitably result in a supply too small to satisfy the demands, and a proportionate advance in prices.

"At the same time, the collector of moderate means need not fear that increased prices will bar him from the delights of philately. There are so many stamps to be collected that all can find something to suit both their inclinations and their purses."

We think that all the points propounded in this extract are well taken. We can see how the collector starting in now may find it to his advantage to commence with the twentieth century; but believe that any philatelist who sells any fair sort of old collection, in order to take up the collecting of new issues, is making a sad mistake. One's collection of nineteenth century stamps may be so full of blank spaces that it may seem as though a lifetime of labor would not suffice to fill them. Yet if one avoids discouragement and keeps steadily "pegging away," we think that ten or a dozen years hence he will find cause for congratulation in having chosen to cling to the old love rather than take on with a new one. This is crudely expressed, but the meaning nevertheless should be plain.

Following this editorial comes the continuation of M. Jules Bouvez's work on the stamps of Luxemburg, which is attaining so great a length, in its serial publication, as to bring up memories of Messrs. Collin and Calman's monumental "Catalogue for Advanced Collectors," which ran as a serial in the *A. J. of P.'s* columns for a little matter of ten years or so, if our memory serves us rightly. This work on Luxemburg is, however (as we have stated more than once in this review), of the very greatest value—in fact, practically indispensable to all who care for the stamps of Luxemburg—and we can not therefore cavil at its continued presence in our contemporary's columns month after month.

Next comes a reprinted article from the *Australian Philatelist*, on the faked perforations lately disseminated in Sydney by a dealer who fled upon exposure and is said to be headed for the United States. The reproduction of the account of his misdeeds in Australia, with a list of the faked perforations he has produced, is therefore of timeliness and importance. The matter has already been dealt with in our own news columns, and we need, therefore, accord it no further space here.

Mr. Crawford Capen is represented in the number before us by an article

headed "The Market," which deals, as its name implies, with some of the features of the current stamp market. As no man in the country is in a position to know more of the actual state of the stamp market than Mr. Capen, his treatment of such a subject can not fail to prove interesting—and valuable; for Mr. Capen has adopted an admirable policy in regard to keeping his readers posted as to the exact reasons for such catalogue changes as are bulletined, from month to month, in the pages of the *A. J. of P.* His present article, which is similar to several others that he has lately published in the same journal, deals with a number of cases in which catalogue price changes either have lately been made or are imminent; and tells in detail just why those changes have been or are to be made. We deem the subject of sufficient interest to our readers to justify us in mentioning, in the briefest compass possible, the specific cases adduced, and Mr. Capen's reasoning in each instance. The why and wherefore of any revision of catalogue prices touches the interests of all of us very closely.

Certain stamps of Venezuela dropped heavily in price in the *A. J. of P.*'s January bulletin. This, Mr. Capen informs us, is due to the recent marketing of large numbers of remainders of these issues. On the other hand, the stamps of the French Offices in Canton and Hoi-Hao were decidedly marked up in the bulletin in question; and this, we are told, is due to the discovery that the number of these stamps issued was much smaller than was generally supposed—there being only six hundred copies each of the one franc and five francs of Hoi-Hao.

Another rapidly advancing stamp is the Danish West Indies 2c on 3c with green surcharge. The Scott Co. discovered one sheet of this error in a lot of one thousand or more stamps secured direct from the Danish West Indies, and at first placed upon it a price of \$5.00. Sales at that price were so heavy that it went to \$8.00 in the catalogue and to \$15.00 in the January bulletin. Now Mr. Capen says that it will

without doubt go to \$25.00 before long, basing his prediction both on its scarcity and on the probable political union of the Danish West Indies with the United States—which, it may be said in passing, would undoubtedly cause a general rise in almost all the D. W. I. emissions.

Again, Mr. Capen predicts a big future for the American papers of U. S. Department stamps. These had never been listed up to this year, but fresh information emanating from "inside sources" in the American Bank Note Co. enabled the drawing up of a list for the Standard Catalogue of this year, and Mr. Capen strongly advises his readers not to delay in securing these varieties, as he believes the demand for them is bound to largely increase in the near future.

Turning to the other side of the question, a warning is sounded against No. 1 of Crete. Its catalogue price is \$16.00, but the statement is made that there is a large supply held in certain quarters, and that the Scott Co. was lately offered one thousand copies. Certainly, if existing supplies of this stamp are so large, the catalogue price appears to be unduly high. These Cretan issues are, in any case, of none too reputable a character. The Queen's head stamps of India, bearing different surcharges for various of the Native States, are, in Mr. Capen's view, a good investment; and in a general way he holds the same view in regard to all the Queen's head stamps retired in consequence of King's head stamps "forcing them out." Indeed, Mr. Capen goes further than this, and predicts that the stamps of the nineteenth century will, from this time on, as a rule, appreciate in value; with which prediction and the further statement that the outlook for the future of stamp collecting was never more promising, Mr. Capen brings his remarks to a close. We trust that a similar review of the market is to be a regular monthly feature of our contemporary in future. No adequate review of this kind has appeared in any American philatelic journal since Mr. Geo. L. Toppan conducted an excellent monthly market review in that always-

to-be-lamented journal, the *Boston Stamp Book*.

Following Mr. Capen's review, comes a pleasant little paper reprinted from the *Philatelic Journal of India*, which deals with an old Lallier album and its contents—a subject most fertile of reminiscences, and which in this case is most deftly handled. The usual Notes and Chronicle complete the *A. J. of P.*'s February number.

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Notes from England

BY PERCY C. BISHOP.

London, March 21st.

Regarding the recent "find" of a pair of the incomparable "Post Office" Mauritius stamps on original envelope—so far the greatest philatelic sensation of the year—it is a subject of remark that these have found their way into the hands of a French dealer. The leading French dealers have generally secured a large proportion of such "plums," and the reason is not far to seek. Mauritius, like so many other places that are now portions of the British Empire, is French in many of its traditions and associations, and the finder of a scarce old stamp out there is perhaps more likely to send it to Paris than to London.

There are now, by the way, some twenty-two specimens of the penny and two-penny "Post Office" stamps known to exist. Taking them at the low average value of \$1,500.00 a piece, these twenty-two scraps of paper represent a comfortable little fortune of \$33,000.00.

The stamp trade in London at this time is in a healthier condition than it has ever been since the boom times of 1895-96. In the Strand district and farther west, the many handsome shops now devoted to stamps are standing proof of the extent to which philately has "caught on" among the moneyed and fashionable classes.

More catalogues. Since I last wrote to MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR—quite

a long time ago, I regret to say—I have received a new Scott, a new Senf, a Gibbons, Vol. II, and the fourth edition of Messrs. Whitfield King's "Universal Standard." The last named is a simple, straight-forward book for the less advanced collectors, listing only the standard varieties. I gather from the preface of this "Universal Standard" the interesting fact that Salvador can claim the inglorious distinction of having issued more varieties of stamps than any other country, its total being 446.

Credit must be given Messrs. Chas. Nissen & Co., of High Holborn, for the happy idea of issuing a complete price list of the British stamps of the Victorian Era, including government telegraphs, all the official stamps, the special newspaper stamps, postal fiscals, and all the stationery. Now that the British stamps of 1840-1901 are a closed page, it is probable that the many great varieties that epoch embraces will steadily appreciate in value.

It seems there is still plenty of life in "entire" collecting. There has recently been a scramble among stamp men in London and other cities to secure any bundles or single specimens of the penny King's Head envelope (size "C") that might still linger in the post offices. This particular envelope was officially "retired" by a pronouncement dated February 3d, after an unusually brief existence. It should prove to be scarce.

Chronicle of New Issues

Only adhesive stamps listed.
All are regular postage stamps unless special heading in italics.

All are 1902 or 1903 issues.
Varieties of perforation, unimportant minor varieties and oddities not listed.
Surcharges are in black unless noted.
Native Indian States are not considered, excepting those surcharging British Indians.

Angola

Four new values in current type and four values in new colors. Excuse, Postal Union recommendations. Name and values in black throughout.

15	reils, green.
25	" carmine.
50	" brown.
65	" blue.
75	" violet.
115	" red-brown on rose.
130	" brown on buff.
400	" blue on buff.

Australian Commonwealth

Two more of the postage due stamps have appeared with ornamentation filled in where the blank space was left after the removal of the letters "N. S. W."



Postage Due Stamps.

$\frac{2}{3}$ pence, green.

Cape Verde

New values and changes same as given above for Angola. Name and values in black throughout.

15	reils, green.
25	" carmine.
50	" brown.
65	" blue.
75	" violet.
115	" red-brown on rose.
130	" brown on buff.
400	" blue on buff.

Colombian Republic

Two more locally-produced stamps are reported from Barranquilla. These are perhaps more hideous than some of their various predecessors. The 1p. shows a portrait of General Pinzon and the 10p. has the national arms.



1 peso, orange-brown.
10 pesos, green.



Corea

Surcharges of current currency on the obsolete issue of 1895. The denomination is denoted by means of modern Japanese numerals (see page 725 in catalogue), consisting of one horizontal line for 1, two for 2 and three for 3, these being placed above a character which is the equivalent of the word "cheun."

1	cheun on 25	poon, red-brown.
2	" " 25	" "
3	" " 50	" purple.

Cyprus

Regular type, head of King Edward VII.

30	paras, violet and green.
1	piastre, carmine and blue.
4	piastres, olive-green and violet.
6	" olive-gray and green.
12	" orange-brown and black.

Ecuador

The list of surcharges and varieties given in our February magazine was certainly long enough, but there is, nevertheless, an addition to be made thereto.

"RESELLADA."
5 centavos.



There is also a provisional of a different kind, the 25c. revenue stamp being

converted into a 1c. postage stamp:
 "Correos—Un Centavo."
 1 centavo on 25 centavos, orange.

Eritrea

Current Italian stamps, with portrait of Victor Emmanuel III., surcharged like previous issues.

1	centesimo, brown.
2	centesimi, orange-brown.
5	" green.
10	" claret.
20	" orange.
25	" blue.
40	" brown.
50	" olive-green.
1	lira, brown and green.
5	lire, blue and rose.

We list the 1c. and 2c. with the other values in their proper order intentionally, as there is absolutely no reason or excuse for putting them under a separate head as "newspaper stamps." If stamps are issued and used *solely* to pay postage on newspapers, if they are not receivable for charges on other classes of mail matter under any circumstances, then a separation is necessary and proper; but these stamps of Italy and Eritrea (1c. and 2c. values) are inscribed "Poste Italiane" and can be used for the payment of any postal charges whatsoever, hence the separation is unnecessary—unnecessarily inconvenient and confusing.

We should have stated, before digressing so far, that the Italian postage due stamps ("segnatasse") are to be surcharged for Eritrean use, but particulars as to the character or extent of the surcharge are lacking.

France (Offices in China)

Set of five values in the "droits de l'homme" type with altered inscriptions, as described below.

10	centimes, red.
15	" carmine.
20	" brown-violet.
25	" blue.
30	" lilac.

France (Offices in Crete)

To the set chronicled on page 717 (addenda) of the current catalogue, have now been added the five values in the new "droits de l'homme" type with alterations as described last month for Alexandria and Levant.

10	centimes, red.
15	" carmine.

20	centimes, brown-violet.
25	" blue.
30	" lilac.

Further, the stamps of 50c., 1, 2 and 5 francs issued with this set and catalogued on page 717, are obsolete in unsurcharged condition, having now been issued with surcharges of value in Turkish currency.

2	piastres on 50 centimes, bistre-brown and lavender.
4	" " 1 franc, claret and olive-green.
8	" " 2 francs, gray-violet and yellow.
20	" " 5 francs, dark blue and buff.

France (Offices in Egypt)

Alexandria.

Four more values in the "droits de l'homme" type with altered inscriptions like 10c. listed last month. We list all the values in this type.

10	centimes, red.
15	" carmine.
20	" brown-violet.
25	" blue.
30	" lilac.

Port Said.

Addition of 10c. value with inscriptions similar to those of Alexandria described above.

10 centimes, red.

France (Offices in Levant)

In addition to the 10c. chronicled last month, there is a 20c. with similar alterations and also a 25c. with surcharge of new value, "1 piastre 1."

20	centimes, brown-violet.
1	piastre on 25c., blue.

Cavalle

Stamps of the "droits de l'homme" type with alterations as for the other French foreign offices, the 25c. being surcharged as the Levant variety listed above.

10	centimes, red.
15	" carmine.
20	" brown-violet.
1	piastre on 25c., blue.

Dedeagh

Same outfit as given above for Cavalle.

10	centimes, red.
15	" carmine.
20	" brown-violet.
1	piastre on 25c., blue.

France (Offices in Morocco)

Values in addition to that listed last month, which is repeated here for convenience of reference.

10 centimos	on 10 centimes.	red.
15 "	" "	15 " carmine.
20 "	" "	20 " brown-violet.
25 "	" "	25 " blue.

Great Britain

Official Stamps.

King's head stamps surcharged "ADMIRALTY OFFICE" for use in what we would call, in this country, the Navy Department.

½ penny.	green.
1 "	carmine.
2 pence.	green and carmine.
2½ "	blue.
3 "	violet on yellow.

Hong-Kong

New type, head of King Edward VII.



- 1 cent, lilac and brown.
- 8 cents, violet and gray-black.
- 12 " lilac-brown and gray-green on yellow.

Specimens of these three varieties have been sent us by Messrs. Ellis Bros., of Pedder's Hill. The following are reported by others:

2 cents,	pale green.
4 "	brown on rosy buff.
5 "	orange and gray-green.
10 "	lilac and blue on light blue.
20 "	brown and gray-black.

Iceland

Additional value of the old series with the rehabilitating surcharge, "I GILDI—'02-'03."

3 aur, yellow.

Official Stamps.

Official stamps of the old type made available for further use by the surcharge given above.

5 aur,	brown.
10 "	blue.
20 "	green.
50 "	lilac.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News reports that "in each sheet of 100 of the new 20 aur postage stamp there are two stamps inscribed 'Pjonusta' instead of 'Frimerki' at the right-hand side." This gives us the 20 aur "Pjonusta" or official stamp in the color of the regular issue—in blue and black instead of green and black.

India (Gwalior)

Official Stamps.

Queen's head stamps with usual official surcharge (two lines of native characters). These made their appearance in January, about the same time as the King's head stamps with ordinary surcharge which we chronicled last month.

½ anna,	pale green.
1 "	carmine.

Inhambane

The set of stamps for this place, now a separate Portuguese Colony, has made its appearance as promised. Regular Portuguese colonial type; name and figures of value in black.

2½ reis,	gray.
5 "	orange-yellow.
10 "	light green.
15 "	dark green.
20 "	gray-violet.
25 "	carmine.
50 "	brown.
65 "	slate-blue.
75 "	violet.

Ivory Coast

Postal Packet Stamps.

Postage due stamps of "French Colonies" surcharged "Cote d'Ivoire—Colis - Postaux."

50 centimes,	lilac.
1 franc,	rose on cream.

Liberia

New type, head similar to that on the current 50c. stamp (A26), except that it is almost a profile.



3 cents, black.

Registration Stamps.

Larger stamps in two colors, upright rectangle, portrait of "Old Uncle Ned." Names of towns as before.

10 cents,	blue and black (Buchanan).
10 "	red and black (Grenville).
10 "	green and black (Harper).
10 "	violet and black (Monrovia).
10 "	lilac and black (Robertsport).

Malta

Special designs, head of King Edward VII.



- ½ penny, green.
- 2 pence, slate and mauve.
- 3 " mauve and slate.

These stamps were issued by the Post Office at Malta on March 14th, according to advice (accompanied by specimens of the stamps) received by us from L. Borg - Cardona of Sliema.

New Zealand

Messrs. Wilcox, Smith & Co. and other correspondents gave us early information of the new special delivery stamp which has now been issued. Inscriptions are as follows: "N—Post Office—Z," "Express—6d.—Delivery" and "Secures immediate delivery at a special delivery office." Why should they speak of *express* delivery at a *special* delivery office?



6 pence, violet and red ("6d.").

Paraguay

Still another provisional 5c. This time the 8c. is the victim—the 8c. of 1882, which is still current.

5 centavos on 80 centavos, light blue.

Persia

The new stamps, which were to put an end to provisionals of all kinds, have already been subjected to surcharging. Two new values in the regular series have been produced in this way, also official stamps.

2 tomans on 50 krans, green, blue surcharge.
3 " " 50 " green.

Official Stamps.

Stamps of regular issue, new types, surcharged "Service."

- 5 shahis, red.
- 12 " blue.
- 1 kran, purple.
- 2 krans, blue.
- 5 " pale brown.
- 10 " vermillion.

Portuguese Congo

New values and changes as already given for Angola and Cape Verde. Name and values in black.

- 15 reis, green.
- 25 " carmine.
- 50 " brown.
- 65 " blue.
- 75 " violet.
- 115 " red-brown on rose.
- 130 " brown on buff.
- 400 " blue on buff.

Portuguese India

New values and color changes similar to those reported for the other Portuguese colonies. Name and figures of value in black on all.

- 1½ reis, slate.
- 2½ " pale brown.
- 3 " blue.
- 1 tanga, carmine.
- 2 tangas, brown.
- 2½ " blue.
- 5 " brown on buff.
- 12 " green on rose.
- 1 rupia, blue on buff.
- 2 rupias, gray on buff.

Salvador

Balance of new set, eight values chronicled and type illustrated on page 81, number for February 9th.

- 24 centavos, red.
- 26 " yellow-brown.
- 100 " light blue.

Servia

Another value in the latest style, which began to be introduced in 1901. The set now includes 5, 10, 25 and 50 paras, 1, 3 and 5 dinars.

1 dinar, bistre.

Somali Coast

The elaborate new series for the French interests on the Somali Coast has now appeared in its entirety. We have already chronicled some values of the first design, but give all here in compact form.

Small type shown on page 495, last volume:

- 1 centime, violet and orange.
- 2 centimes, brown and green.
- 4 " blue and red.
- 5 " green.
- 10 " carmine.
- 15 " buff and blue.

Upright type, with camel:

- 20 centimes, violet and green.
- 25 " blue.
- 30 " carmine-rose and lilac.
- 40 " orange and blue.
- 50 " green and carmine.
- 75 " orange and brown.

Larger type, with natives:

- 1 franc, orange and violet.
- 2 francs, green and carmine.
- 5 " orange and blue.

South Australia

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News reports the recent 2s. 6d. (large upright rectangle) has been changed from pale lilac to deep violet. We listed this stamp as "violet" in the first place, but that may have been from an erroneous description; at any rate, we have the paper mentioned above as authority for the two colors and present them here in the regular form.



2 shillings 6 pence, pale lilac.
2 " 6 " deep violet.

United States

Additional values of the "series of 1902," as elsewhere described and commented on from time to time.

- 3 cents, purple.
- 4 " red-brown.
- 10 " pale brown.

In regard to a special series of stamps for the St. Louis World's Fair, or Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the Washington scribe of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* concludes as follows:

"Putting together all the facts, incidents and other information, it seems to me possible to reach but one logical conclusion, to-wit: that a set of stamps has been asked for and that the request will be granted. If my guess shall prove correct—and for the good of philately, I hope it may be—the logic of the situation will still support my position."

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1897	" Jubilee, 50c.	.. 30.	.. 15
1897	" " \$2.00.	.. 1.50.	.. 65
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—OF—

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 14
WHOLE No. 66

APRIL 6, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The new 1c stamped envelope has appeared, and the least said about it the better. It looks like a cheap advertising seal and is about as poor an excuse as the 2c that we have already mentioned in these columns.

Mr. W. C. Sleight of Corning, New York, sent in the first copy of the 1c envelope that we received.

The form of the impressed stamp is round, solid dark green in color, white embossed head of Franklin in center. The lettering is also white. Within a saw-tooth border "United States Postage" appears above and "one 1 cent" below. Below the head in small letters and figures appear "1706-Franklin-1790."

The envelopes are watermarked "U. S. P. O. D. 1903" in a sort of monogram design.

In addition to the two values illustrated in the **New and Horrible Colombians** we have three more to show. The illustrations are even better than the stamps, because they were reproduced from copies that were printed better than the average. Poor plates and poor printing, with a variety of colored inks, unite in giving about as hard a looking set of stamps as we have received for a long time. The peso, which we illustrated last week, has

been received in several new colors. We attach a list of the values and



colors, complete so far as we have received them :

5	centavos, dark blue.
50	" carmine.
50	" light blue.
50	" orange.
50	" blue-green.
50	" vermilion.
1	peso, carmine.
1	" orange-brown.
5	pesos, mauve.
5	" light brown.
5	" blue-green.
5	" green.
10	" yellow-green.

Never in our twenty-six years of experience in the **Stamp Fever** stamp business has the "stamp fever," which comes in the spring, raged as long or as violently as it has this year.

The normal stamp business continues the year round, and the initiated collector finds pleasure in his stamps in all seasons, but in the spring there is the rush of thousands of new collectors who take up stamps for a time.

It is from these that our regular all-the-year-round-collectors are recruited, so that it is our pleasure to give them every possible attention.

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY

Chile is a country that is prominently before the philatelic public at present. The recent excitement over the lithographed 5-cent of the first issue, the so-called retouching of the 1900 issue and the new bi-colored issue have all tended to bring it before the public notice. And Chile is well worthy of having a good deal of consideration. It has a clean record in all its issues, free from speculations. It is the one country that has consistently and persistently done honor to Columbus. The issues are all artistic, with a gradual increase in excellency from the cruder early engravings to the present time. There are few shades or varieties to contend with outside some of the rather scarce watermark varieties of the first issues. There is only one surcharge, which on that account is held rather in esteem than otherwise. There are one or two split stamps of the early issues but as such stamps are not of much account off the original cover they need not trouble the average collector.

Referring to the so-called retouching of the dies of the Chile 1900 issue, it seems to me as if there is a question of there ever being any retouching. The main noticeable point of difference in the so-called varieties is the shading caused by part of the length of the background lines in the top of the oval being heavier near the edges and also by the diagonal shading lines back of the head being very light or missing. The whole set comes with this marked shading but only the first four values, I believe,—the 1, 2, 5 and 10,—in what is called the original die, that is, with all the horizontal background lines at the top of the oval about uniform in thickness and the diagonal shading lines all over the oval. Comparing the two extremes of what is called the original and the re-touched die, there is a very noticeable difference even to the casual observer. But an examination of a great number of stamps of this

issue will show that there are various intermediate forms all the way between, making it look as if caused by wearing. Not only that, but in the most perfect specimens I have seen of what is called the original die there is, under the glass, a slight trace of thickening of the horizontal lines near the edges at the top. The stamps seem to me to have the same status as the U. S. 2-cent claret with and without crossed background, another instance of which is also seen in the 4-cent of 1900. In some of these stamps the diagonal lines of the background, which are thinner than the horizontal ones, have been completely eradicated, yet I think no claim has ever been made of there being any re-touching.

Still keeping to the subject of Chile, there is a matter on which I would like to become the questioner instead of the expositor. Why has Chile been so loyal to Columbus, whose connection with this country is so little apparent in comparison with other countries of the Western Coast of South America? But for the name Colon (Spanish for Columbus) which appears below the portrait, it might be supposed that Pizarro (whose career is a part of Chile's history) was intended, or even merely a type of the Spanish conquistador.

I have just been reading the advertising columns of a foreign philatelic magazine. It is very interesting in spite of the difficulty of laboriously computing pence, centimes and pfennigs in cents. The great standard catalogues in the English language have made it so that standards of value in stamps are pretty uniform the world over, yet for all that English and German collectors look at some stamps different than we do and it is interesting to get at their ideas of comparative value in order to make ourselves well-balanced in the matter of stamp values.

I notice in the want columns of the above mentioned foreign magazine a request for a pair of the 1 penny

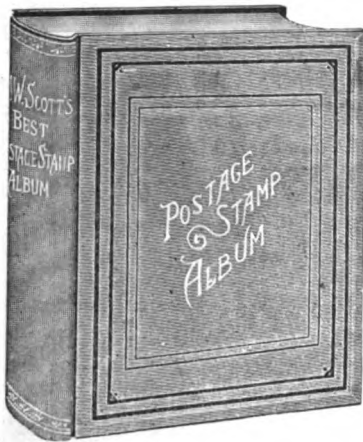
black English with black cancellation and with certain letters in the corners. With what patience this collector must wait for a response. The one penny black is not a rare stamp, nor is it a difficult task to get together a sheet showing all the combinations of letters, but when it comes to getting it in unsevered pairs and with black cancellation, it seems like looking for a needle in a haystack; for the stamps usually come with red cancellation and it is quite uncommon to see even a single specimen with the black cancellation, much less a pair.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.



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WINNEPEG, MAN., CANADA, }

August 1, 1902.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

Gentl men:—Packet No. 114 was duly received and found very satisfactory. Yours truly,

A. J. C. FRIGON.

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,

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- 800 different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$2.50**
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

The number of the COLLECTOR bearing last week's date is a magazine number and will reach our readers a few days later than this one.

The April magazine is now in hand and will be advanced as rapidly as possible, so that we may catch up before long.

Everybody in the stamp line seems to be busy. The new U. S. stamps are undoubtedly responsible for the revival of interest of hundreds of collectors who had put their albums away.

We have been almost overwhelmed with the rush, have increased our force working evenings as well as day and even then have not been able to keep up as well as we wish had been possible.

At the present writing our approval department has 5182 selections of stamps out, catalogue value \$3.16 the lowest and \$1,250.00 the highest.

An entire edition of Popular Albums were exhausted in a few weeks and we are printing again. Thousands of letters of information and advice, in reply to inquiries, are written every week. If our letters and attention to old customers, and the work on the COLLECTOR has suffered, it has been for the above reason.

We crave the indulgence of those who might be inclined to criticize in regard to these matters. A little later we shall have time, no doubt, to do lots of work on the paper, and will make up for the shortcomings of our busy season.

The Stamp Collector of Birmingham, England, in reviewing the 1903 edition of the Scott's Catalogue of New York comments on Chinese Locals, included in that book, in this manner:

"But why, oh tell me why, is all the Chinese riff raff listed, the locals, mind ye, the locals.

Of Ichang and of Kew Kiang,
Of Nankin and of Chinkiang,
Of Amoy, Wuhu and Chefoo,
And all the other rubbish, too.

Would it not be time now to ignore locals in a catalogue of Government issues, and could not our American friend effect a clearing out as others have done."

We have omitted to acknowledge the receipt of a "Catalogue of Books on Philately in the Public Library of the City of Boston," published and circulated by the Boston Philatelic Society, from the press of D. H. Bacon & Co., Derby, Conn. Many of the works were contributed by the Boston Society to the library.

We have received copy of the new 2c envelope in which the "i" in the name of Washington is missing. Due to the letter in the die having been filled up with ink.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES

The New Zealand Stamp Co., Dunedin, inform us that the Post and Telegraph Department has accepted a design for a new penny letter card which is to replace that of the Government Printing Office. On the address side are the royal arms, and the words "New Zealand Letter Card." The stamp at the right-hand top corner is of plain design. On the bottom and left hand is a typical stretch of New Zealand beach, with Maoris and a canoe, a clump of Nikau palms, and cabbage trees appear at the side. On the back of the cards are vignette pictures of New Zealand scenery and genre. The card was expected to appear some time in February.

The same gentlemen forwarded us the copy of the Special Delivery stamp just issued for the Colony of New Zealand, that we illustrated last week in our Chronicle of New Issues. This stamp, which is apparently of local design, is similar in size and shape to the 1½d stamp, and is watermarked single-lined N. Z. and star. The inscription consists of the words "N. Z. Post Office Express Delivery 6d. Secures immediate delivery at a Special

Delivery Office;" and is printed in mauve on white, the figure of value being printed in red. The design is comprised of Maori carving and New Zealand ferns.

In August, 1902, a shop in Chancery Lane, Christchurch, occupied by C. G. Fryer & Co., as stamp dealers, was entered and stamps to the value of about £200 taken. Until lately the police were unable to obtain sufficiently conclusive evidence as to who was the thief, but in December last a man, named Walter E. Rose, occupying adjacent premises to Fryers, was arrested. The trial before Mr. Justice Dennison came off on the 10th of February, 1903, and, after a long trial, lasting over four days, the accused was found guilty and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. Mr. Fryer was in the witness box for over 14 hours, and amongst other witnesses for the prosecution were Messrs. W. L. Hooper, H. W. Mackisack and S. T. Mirams, all of Dunedin, and Messrs. H. B. Oakey and K. S. Williams of Christchurch. Judge Dennison, in sentencing accused, said that the fact that he had always been on most friendly and confidential terms with Fryer, and had then taken advantage of this confidence to rob the shop.

One witness having said that if there was an error in a sheet of stamps that stamp would be worth more than all the rest of the stamps on the sheet together, the Judge seemed rather amused, and remarked that apparently if the printers were a little more careless the wealth of the country would be greatly increased.

The New Zealand Stamp Co. of Dunedin kindly furnished the above notes.

The New Zealand Stamp Co.

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Will be pleased to hear from dealers with quotations and wholesale approval selections. New Zealand Stamps supplied for cash or exchange at lowest current rates. Collectors want lists solicited, but unknown correspondents should send remittance on account.

CONCERNING MINOR VARIETIES

BY B. W. WARHURST

(Continued from March Magazine Number)

It may make the last reference to Perak surcharges clearer if Scott's catalogue numbers of these types are given (from the 60th edition), with the quantities of each type printed on the two panes of sixty stamps each, by which the relative rarity and values of each can be gauged more correctly.

Type (*p*) No. 20 is the normal setting or most numerous, represented by 61 out of the total 120, its price is given as 4 cents; of No. 23 there are 9 stamps, disproportionately priced at 12 cents only; 3 of No. 24 at 125 cents is more correct; 12 of No. 25 given as 12 cents again; 24 of No. 26 at 25 cents, and 6 of No. 27 priced at 35 cents only, though four times as scarce as the previous type. This accounts for 116 stamps—then there are two of 20*a* with italic Roman *K* instead of the block type as in the other letters; one specimen only of No. 21, priced \$2.50; and one only of the rare error, **PREAK** No. 23*a* not priced, completing the two settings. The proportions of each type as sent out will vary somewhat from the above as the actual quantities printed of each pane setting was not the same, and two types on each pane were not on the other. The error (23*a*) was noticed after possibly 200 panes were printed, and the whole setting of the other five types corrected or modified to make them more even, while the printing of the other pane containing the single specimen of No. 21 and the two of 20*a* was going on, so probably there were twice as many panes printed of this setting as of that with the error.

Another type (*r*), No. 22, is given by Scott at 5 dollars, but no such variety is known in England with *PERAK* in sloping Roman caps, excepting the common No. 19 of a previous printing. Whether the description or the overprint itself is wrong, or whether

there was one setting at first with this one type on, which was altered to No. 21, I cannot judge, but no such stamp is mentioned in the splendid book by W. Brown, of Salisbury, issued at 15s. in 1894, that gives photos of all surcharged types of these Malayan States and of many whole panes.

Turning again to the V. R. Transvaal issue to illustrate the uneven prices attached to minor varieties, there was one setting of the overprint which contained a similar error to the above, the latter half of the word being printed "vral." As there were 163 sheets of 89 stamps so overprinted, there were 163 errors produced. The normal stamp is valued at 12 dollars by Scott or 50 shillings by Gibbons, while the error has lately changed hands at figures between £50 and £160, say 250 to 800 dollars, which is proportionate to its present rarity many copies having been lost. Of the PREAK error the exact numbers are not known, because we have no record of what stage of the printing it was found out and corrected, but there cannot have been many more issued than of the Transvaal error, yet it has been selling at one-twentieth of the price; the normal Perak too—or at least some varieties as above—being entirely out of proportion in the prices. Why is there such discrepancy?

The Transvaal stamps for one thing, are twice as old, and it became a matter of patriotism to many English collectors to secure copies. At the time of the overprinting, 1878, arrangements for distributing them outside the territory scarcely existed; Pretoria, the capital, being 1,000 miles from Cape Town, half the distance having to be traveled on horseback or by wagons, so that it was months before stamps got to Europe. When a demand set in, there were fresh settings and varieties, but many of the lower values had then been largely used and probably destroyed locally. In Singapore in 1890 the circumstances were very different. Large quantities of ordinary stamps were in stock, many issues of native states had been overprinted in previous years, and there were plenty of enterprising Eastern

merchants or agents on the spot ready and willing to buy up the surcharges as fast as they could be produced and ship them off to Europe. Continuous reprinting or setting up fresh varieties in haste was the result, and the stamp market being flooded with them, collectors ignored them after the early batches. Gibbons, following Brown's book above-mentioned, listed in their 1895 catalogue about 100 varieties of Perak alone, and a greater number divided amongst Johore, Selangor and Sungei Ujong, etc., in which measurements were recorded varying by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a millimetre in height (one-hundredth of an inch), and half a millimetre in the length of lines, which was the last straw. Collectors (generally very patient and enduring) fancying the surcharges were made for their pockets to discharge, kicked at them, except some wealthy ones who could buy fullsheets or panes, and so got most of the varieties at once without the trouble of measuring and buying singly, and later on these very minor varieties—chiefly due to light or heavy inking and bad printing—were omitted from the catalogue, and some prices were reduced.

Without going so far as to condemn all overprinted stamps, because there is an inordinate quantity of main types as well as of minor varieties as instanced here, it must be admitted that, for the general collector, one distinctive type from a pane or sheet may be sufficient as a representative of the whole printing. In the case of some earlier printings on the Straits Settlements stamps and elsewhere, it is difficult to find whole panes years after, and it is not always clear when more than one type appeared on the sheet, as the present cataloguers do not distinguish or group them in dates even, which they might easily have done by noting them as they came in. In the Peraks, for instance, no date is given for the thirty (formerly more) varieties in Gibbons between 1883 and 1891 when fourteen types are catalogued as one group. When that ideal collectors' catalogue comes along we may, perhaps, be happy in

this respect, *or*, we may find a great many more both major and minor varieties than we shall appreciate.

In the recent overprints of V. R. I. on the stamps of Orange Free State we have seen in English journals the chronicling of trifles gone mad, and in the current catalogues there are close on 200 lines occupied in listing less than a dozen values or real varieties, the rest being made up of missing or misplaced dots and damaged or odd letters. The different printings of those native states that have their names on the stamps of India, are far more varied in their irregularity of spacing of letters and alignment generally, but nobody attempts to minutely describe them nowadays, excepting actual errors of wrong letters or occasionally small capital A's for large ones where there is a run on the types in stock to set up a whole sheet of over 200 settings of such words as Patiala or Chamba State.

There is trouble enough now to get together a fairly representative collection of the world's stamps, without the perplexities of minor varieties, though many overprinted stamps must be obtained as having been genuinely needed in various emergencies, and the collector is to be pitied in his difficulties as to deciding what he ought, or shall, or *will* not collect. The craze for new issues only induces the production of more and more of them, and in many cases there have been stamps surcharged that were utterly unnecessary and which can only be looked upon as such, though brought about in some respects by the greed of speculative buyers on the spot, eager to absorb everything that can be quickly got rid of again at 100 per cent profit, so that it rests largely with collectors themselves to check the output of either class of stamps by declining to buy at first unless in a genuinely used condition. No fixed line or rule can be laid down, but some general principles might be evolved if serious philatelists would take up the matter and get widely published some advisory hints for those less able

to study the various pros and cons of issue.

Taking the British stamps as among the most prolific of any for varieties, though no one can say a word against them as to any sordid motive in their manufacture or of any of them being unnecessary as a matter of issue. In the days of what now seem "long ago," our fathers and grandfathers collected stamps as they were found in actual use. To such a collector, the

"penny red on a letter's brim,
a penny red it was to him"—

and nothing more. Now we try to get an immaculate or "mint" specimen, good color, well centered, fair margins, and have to find out whether it has a small or a large crown for watermark, whether its paper is fairly white, tinted, or distinctly bleute, and whether the red is of an orange-vermilion, a rosy or a brownish hue. In addition we must be clear as to whether the stamp is from Die I or II, whether it was issued in sheets uncut that knew not of Archer's invention and were therefore imperforate, or whether they had been privately rouletted or tentatively perforated on two or all four sides, and whether the regular perforations had fourteen or sixteen denticulations (when separated) in the width of the stamp which measured exactly two centimetres or twenty millimetres. After 1858, another complexity was added to the terrors of the later collectors in the form of plate numbers engraved on the sides of every stamp in a sheet, and to make up a sheet of each of the 150 numbers having 240 stamps each with a different combination of the letters A to T in the four corners of every stamp. Previous to this date, a similar range of different letters is obtainable, but on the lower corners only. These varieties (about 37,000) apply to only *one* value, the first, issued in black in 1840, and in red for nearly forty years. The 2d. value in blue had similar varieties, but less numerous, only seven plates being numbered.

OLD SWISS STAMPS

There are no stamps of which counterfeits are more common in old collections than those of Switzerland, 1843 to 1854. Some years ago we translated from German and published in English with illustrations a monograph by Freiherr C. Von Girsewald on the stamps of Switzerland, 1843-1854.

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- No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
- No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 " - 25c.
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Price, - - - 50 Cents.

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62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 15
WHOLE No. 87

MAY 11, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]



We are under obligations to Dr. J. C. Emmerling for the first specimen of the new French stamp, “The Sower.” Much of the artistic effect of the original design is lost in the reduced size necessary for a stamp.



The Rush Letting Up We shall be able to devote more time to our publication, now that the spring rush is letting up. A large amount of matter has accumulated in this department that we shall work up as fast as possible. The May magazine now in press will be dated the 25th. We have scarcely had time to look at a stamp paper for several weeks. The present volume of business has been the greatest in our experience. The largest approval trade ever done in the history of this company, with a continuing demand that will probably last far into the summer.



We are under obligations **Stamps for** to Mr. W. H. Wilson of **Aitutaki** Napier for direct advice from the general post office at Wellington, N. Z., to the effect that in a very short time the New

Zealand postage stamps will be overprinted for AITUTAKI.

They will be of the following values:

½, 1, 2½, 6 pence and 1 shilling.

From the same source we have received the new letter card and special express stamp which we mentioned from other correspondents in our last.



Illustrations of U. S. Stamps In reply to a number of correspondents who have asked us for Bright & Son's Fifth Edition Catalogue, which includes very good half-tone illustrations of U. S. stamps, will say that we have a limited number of copies, which we can sell at publishers' price—70c., post free.

The illustrations are a great aid to new collectors who are not familiar with the old issues of United States stamps and the catalogue is highly recommended to those who require aid of this kind.

A Collection of 1100 Different

postage stamps, mounted and priced by Scott's 62d Edition Catalogue \$25.65, sent postfree and registered for \$5.16. A bargain for dealer or collector. Fresh stamps, made up out of our stock, condition and genuineness guaranteed.

The best cheap Variety Packet ever offered. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY

Scott's Catalogue lists many stamps of the United States of Colombia in a pen-cancelled state at a large reduction from the quotations for post-marked specimens. Whitfield King & Co., in their new Universal Standard Catalogue, state that "in many old issues the name of place of posting written by hand across the stamp is as often found as a postal obliteration as the ordinary postmark. In Colombia this was the usual method of postal cancellation prior to 1883." Why, therefore, should a pen-cancelled stamp of this country be rated so much lower than a regularly post-marked one? I think that the pen-cancellation is looked upon with entirely too much aversion by philatelists. In our own country a pen-cancellation on the old issues is vastly preferable to a postmarked one in my opinion, on account of the usually light markings.

Roy Farrell Greene, in a monthly contemporary takes occasion to remark that there seem to be few philatelists who are bankers or vice versa. This is just the contrary to my experience. I have found so many philatelists among the bankers as to attract my notice. I know of at least a dozen bankers who are collectors of stamps, four of whom are bank presidents, and I have found it to be a rule that bankers are almost always well posted on the value of stamps. From coins to stamps is an easy change and most bankers in their clerkship days picked up what old coins passed through their hands.

That philatelists are not the only faddists who are bothered by mended specimens is shown also by Mr. Greene, who tells how beetles are repaired and even new species made to order by the skillful piecing together of parts of defective beetles. I confess I had thought our hobby was the only one that was liable to this worry,

until I had read his article. After all, every one has his troubles.

A collector here has just informed me that in a local drug store there are several packages with a strip of three of the ultramarine playing-card stamps used in lieu of the ordinary proprietary stamps. I think a strip of these stamps must be a curiosity as I have never seen even a pair. I shall investigate and report on what they were used.

A stamp collector of this city has a beautiful specimen of the 5-cent rose Vancouver Island stamp, imperforate, on the original cover, together with a 5-cent brown and 2-cent black U. S. stamp of 1861 and 1868 respectively, and the Wells, Fargo & Co. cancellation.

The scarcest stamp of any country is not always indicated by its catalogue price. This will be discovered by collectors when they try to get the last two or three stamps they lack of any country. For instance, I have found No. 18 of Badento to be the hardest stamp of that country to pick up. No. 38 of Norway is harder to get than the high-priced stamps of the first issue and yet only a year or two ago it was listed at about 12 cents. Hong Kong No. 29 is a harder stamp to get than any other from this country, I believe, although there are others much higher priced. One is a little annoyed in finding a cheap stamp is sometimes almost unprocurable and in having to pay double catalogue price for it besides wasting time and many postage stamps in writing for it.

QUERIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

L. C. Lincoln, Dodgeville, Mass., asks: "Why don't the dealers get up a catalogue among themselves so as not to have to depend on Scott's, which is, in my mind, very uncertain and unreliable?" The writer further comments upon stamps that were

listed in one edition being excluded in another. Our reply was as follows:

We hope that the day may come when dealers and perhaps some of the collectors will co-operate in the publication of a catalogue that will be something more than a trade list in which both the interests of a retail and wholesale supply business have to be considered.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for renewal of subscription to MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR which is the ideal stamp paper for the busy man. I keep up to date with stamps while going on the street car to and from business. Success to you.
H. H. Orem,
Houston, Texas.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for subscription to your paper. I have become very much attached to the COLLECTOR and would be at a loss without it. I find it a good help and a source of knowledge.
John R. Powelson,
Norwich, Conn.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for renewal of subscription to MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR. It is the best I've seen.
Francis Bichowsky,
Pomona, Cal.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

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Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps **\$3.75** ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.

1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75

BANQUE D'HOCHELAGA,
WINNEPEG, MAN., CANADA, }
August 1, 1902.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 was duly received and found very satisfactory.
Yours truly,
A. J. C. FRIGON.

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

- 800 different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$2.50**
- 2,000 different postage stamps a collection in itself. **\$13.50**
- 3,000 foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. **\$45.00**

16 OUNCES EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold. \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

VENEZUELA PROVISIONALS

The crudest and most remarkably simple provisionals have come to us from the Venezuela post office of CARUPANO. They consist of the words in two lines

✦ CORREOS ✦
✦ VALE B 1.00 ✦

evidently struck by ordinary rubber

stamp on slips of paper of various colors. The list of values and colors of ink and paper are as follows:

- B 0.05 red on yellow
- B 0.10 green on yellow
- B 0.25 black on vermilion
- B 1.00 violet on blue-gray
- B 2.00 red on green
- B 5.00 violet on blue

B stands for Bolivar, nominally equivalent to the French franc; the Bolivar is divided into 100 centimos.



VENEZUELA PROVISIONALS

A recent issue from the post office of Carupano, Venezuela, merely consisting of an ordinary rubber stamp impression upon slips of colored paper. By far the crudest stamps ever issued.

VARIETIES OF THE MCKINLEY POSTAL CARD

BY L. G. DORPAT.

Admitting that the variety may be due to imperfect printing, we can nevertheless not let it pass without notice. As usually seen the eagle vignette has three distinct rays of light under the right wing of the royal bird, the lowest ray extending quite beyond the point of the middle arrow. In the variety all three rays are less distinct, and the lowest ray is very faint and short. Ordinarily the shield on the eagle's breast is without any shading, and the eagle's tail is very nearly the same on both sides. In the variety nearly the whole right half of the shield is black, and the tail has heavy shading on the right half. In the common card McKinley has the hair near the temples light. In the variety the hair is uniformly shaded dark. There are other differences and the probability is, that some of the working-dies have been re-touched, especially since the A in postal is also different. Possibly there are other varieties. The card or paper is not always the same, sometimes smooth and sometimes rough. The position of the vignettes and imprint varies too, sometimes high, and sometimes as low as the middle of the card.

UNPERFORATED U. S.

From Atchison, Kansas, comes the news of a whole sheet of 100 stamps arriving at the post office *unperforated*. The denomination and issue is not mentioned. The sheet was cut up and collectors must look out for an other. But where there was one, there may be more!

FACTS ABOUT STAMPS

The chapters published in our columns from Mr. Edward J. Nankivell's "Stamp Collecting as a Pastime," published by Stanley Gibbon's, Ltd., at London, have been much appreciated by many of our new collectors. The following extracts taken at random from unpublished chapters will

be found to contain a number of items of far more than passing interest.

As an indication of the value attached to philatelic literature, I may mention the fact that an English collector recently paid over \$10,000.00 for a by-no-means complete collection of works relating to stamp collecting.

The late Mr. Pauwels, of Torquay, made a collection which cost him \$1,800 up to 1871, when it was put on one side and left untouched until 1898. It was then purchased by a London firm for \$20,000 and yielded them a very fair return on their investment.

In 1870 a stamp dealer in London, as a novelty and an advertisement, papered his shop windows, walls and ceiling with unused Ionian Island stamps which were then a drug in the market. The same stamps would now readily sell at \$2.50 per set of three; in other words, the materials of that wall paper would now be worth at least \$25,000

If we turn to the result of experienced collecting we find abundant evidence of the fact that the stamp collector may enjoy his stamps and, when the force of circumstances compels him to abandon them, he may retire without regard for having put so much money into a mere hobby.

Mr. W. Hughes Hughes, B.L., started his collection in 1859, and kept a strict account of all his expenditure on his hobby, and in 1896 he sold to a London firm for close on to \$15,000.00 what cost him only \$345.00.

Shrewd business men are those who frequently invest large sums in stamps. The amounts spent annually by some wealthy collectors range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. One well-known Parisian collector, whose life has been largely devoted to his philatelic treasures, and who employs two secretaries to look after his collection, has, it is estimated, spent at least \$1,000,000 on his stamps since 1870.

(To be continued.)

CONCERNING MINOR VARIETIES

PART III.

Reference has been made to the early stamps of Great Britain because of the large number of different types that appeared in the forty years preceding 1887, apart from the varieties of watermark, perforation, and plate-numbers of certain sheets. As we are not going into the history of English stamps it is not necessary to proceed further than to remark that most of the changes were induced by the fear of forgeries and a consequent loss of revenue. We may incidentally refer, though, to the three catalogues printed in the English language. Scott gives 110 numbers, Gibbons 194, and King only 94 entries up to the date mentioned, when an entirely new series was designed and kept in use to the present time with slight modifications for the current King's head series. For the general collector, either Scott or King may be followed; the former adds in subsidiary lines the plate numbers for those who care to buy these specially. They are not minor varieties in the sense that that term is applied usually, as all the numbers were actually engraved on every stamp of a sheet of 240, for the printing of which an entirely new plate had been prepared, but the difference in the catalogued lists show that Gibbons gives varieties that the others do not, and that it is difficult to advise on general principles as to the minimum a collector should get.

For advisory purposes it would be necessary to explain what is the difference between a main type, a variety, and a minor variety, which the present writer does not feel fully competent to do. To do so would be little more than a lengthy paraphrase of Mr. Wetherell's articles in the *Philatelic Journal of Inaia* early last year, and even then might be considered dry reading, but a brief summary of his points or classification may enable readers (who have not seen those papers) to judge for themselves

as to what is advisable or suited to their own particular circumstances.

Distinctly different designs or types of the same value, or different values of the same type of any country it is competent for anybody to see for themselves. The prime varieties of these would include all different values and designs of stamps, all differences of color and shade where definitely ordered by the government or postal authority, half stamps officially ordered or sanctioned, surcharges officially ordered as being absolutely required, differences in mode of separating the stamps where actually ordered including changes from imperforate to rouletted, or from rouletted to perforated, and differences of gauge, if officially ordered. Also varieties of paper such as colored, tinted, toned or white—whether laid, wove or ribbed, where there is evidence of these being distinct issues, with differences of kind of watermark—always supposing that the stamps are issued by a government for the prepayment of postage.

Tete beche pairs, retouches, plate-numbers, control numbers, syllabic characters, sizes of letters, jubilee frames, double perforations, sizes of holes, thickness of papers, etc., are not included in these main types or prime varieties.

Then there are what may be called major varieties usually catalogued and collected by all—including—varieties of same type or issue caused by perforations being changed,—differences in color not specifically ordered,—slight changes in type, design retouched, etc.,—varieties of paper, thick or thin, pelure, etc.,—printing on the back as in early Greece, posthorn on Swedish, etc.,—re-cut dies as in Bolivia, India and Great Britain,—stamps printed by different firms from same plates or new plates from same original die,—surcharge varieties,—inverted portions of designs,—hair lines, syllabics, plate numbers, and watermarks sideways where indicating distinct issues.

Of other stamps there may be varieties of secondary importance, minor varieties, trivial varieties, curiosities,

flaws on plate, etc., which may be all put together. These consist of, varieties of perforation by different machines, not readily distinguishable; minor differences of shade; types on sheets where every stamp differs from its neighbor as in Sydney Views, Bhopal, Labrador 1879, and others; and sizes or odd letters of overprints; inverted or reversed watermarks (very insignificant), varieties due to wear of plates, flaws, etc.; changes due to chemicals in ink or exposure; doubled or missing perforations; position of stops as in V. R. I. where indicative of separate settings; size of holes of perforations; letters in corners as in early English; with other odds and ends caused by accident, forgeries passed through post, printer's waste, numbers in margins, and such like trivialities.

It would be impossible to classify or catalogue all these varieties of every country that has issued postage stamps, and a waste of time as a rule to attempt to get all in one person's collection. At the same time it is important that every one going in seriously for collecting should form an opinion for himself whether he considers any of the varieties referred to as worth trying for, and not proceed on a happy-go lucky method of getting anything that comes before him and mixing up odds and ends of distinct issues anyhow. There are various fashions of a general style of dress or clothing to suit different sizes or build of persons; what suits one may not look well on another; so even in stamp collecting, it would be useless and impertinent for one philatelist to dictate to all others, that they must or should obtain the same kind of varieties that it suits his taste or purse to collect. We are given though in our simplicity to follow our immediate friends or writers whom we fancy in all they do or say, but having had some general indication as here given of what can be found, we ought to be able to decide for ourselves what we will do in such a simple matter as this of varieties, whether prime, major, minor, or trivial. B. W. WARHURST.

BACK NUMBERS — 1902

— OF —

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, *is out of print.*
 No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
 No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c.
 No. 44, Nov. 3, *is out of print.*
 No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. each.

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at 5c. each as long as they last, very few of some on hand.

A complete volume for 1902, 52 numbers with index, 728 pages, unbound and unfolded, \$2.00, post free.

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Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

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If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
 502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
 Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

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Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

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 1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 59c., post free. Circulars free.

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

OLD SWISS STAMPS

There are no stamps of which counterfeits are more common in old collections than those of Switzerland, 1843 to 1854. Some years ago we translated from German and published in English with illustrations a monograph by Freiherr C. Von Girsewald on the stamps of Switzerland, 1843-1854.

The illustrations and full descriptions given in the little book make it possible for the inexperienced collector to determine the character of the earliest Swiss stamps.

The illustrations are large and very simple. Pamphlet is sixty-four pages and will be sent, post free, for 25 cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

H. B. Seagrave, who will be remembered as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the American Philatelic Association, has again entered the collecting field, and recently attended an auction sale in New York City. He is located at Pontiac, Mich., and is an enthusiastic and progressive philatelist in whatever line he interests himself.

UNSOLICITED, BUT GRATIFYING

No doubt you will be interested as to the satisfaction your 2,000 variety packet gave me, which I purchased of you recently. I added to my collection of 1,140 varieties, 1,608 new varieties, bringing the number up to 2,748. What do you think of that? Isn't it a record breaker? I am perfectly satisfied with it and would recommend it to any collector as the best for the money.

ALBERT H. WOLTERS DORF,
Columbus, Wis

Your packet No. 114 was received and found satisfactory. I was very much surprised to find that there were 800 of the stamps in that packet that I did not have in my collection. I had 1,500 stamps before, and now I have 2,300. It is the finest packet I ever bought. Yours truly,

FRED BENSON,
Youngstown, O.

We have referred in **Missionary Stamps** these columns to the fact that we have given away large numbers of cheap and attractive stamps this year, for the general good of Philately, by starting new collectors and we have asked our readers to be generous in this respect in giving from their duplicates and surplus accumulations stamps that will help make new collectors. We have not solicited stamps sent to us for the missionary cause, but have to acknowledge the receipt of a number of parcels, particularly from Mr. Eugene Wilson of Bardstown, Ky., and others who have requested that their names be withheld. We do not desire this as we should prefer our readers to give the stamps direct to collectors in their vicinity. We have been very much gratified by the results from the Missionary Packets that we have distributed.

The 3d., 6d. and 1 sh. **New Niue** New Zealand postage and **Penrhyn Island** printed for use at Niue and Penrhyn Island. Specimens of all will be found in the books of stamps of recent issues that we are sending to our approval customers at 25 per cent discount.

WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg.
CHICAGO, ILLS.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MY PACKET No. 25, THE FLOOD CITY SPECIAL.

"I am more than pleased with your Flood City Special. Added 48 stamps to my collection. Enclosed please find \$2 for two more of these packets." St. Louis, Mo., Mar. 10, '03. F. J. McK.

"The stamps contained in your Flood City Special catalogued \$5.48—it certainly is a bargain in every sense of the word. Kindly send another one for \$1 enclosed." Philadelphia, Pa., Mar. 25, '03. G. C. S.

THE FLOOD CITY SPECIAL contains 50 all different stamps, mostly obsolete, and catalogues from \$4 to \$5. They please others and will please you. Price..... **\$1.00**
THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. MeKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—NO. 16
WHOLE NO. 68

MAY 18, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Public opinion
New seems to be a powerful
King Edwards factor in stamp mat-
ters abroad as well as
in the United States.

When the series bearing portrait of King Edward first appeared the criticism and dissatisfaction from the fact that the portrait was from a work of art that was made by a foreign artist, together with other criticisms on the detail of certain of the stamps did not pass without notice, and another portrait of King Edward has in the meantime been prepared and has now been approved. Although no statement to the public seems to have been made, plates for new stamps are in preparation and a change in the general issue of Great Britain may be expected at no distant date.

The criticism of the 2c. stamp issued in the United States produced a like result and a new design is shortly to be issued by the Post Office Department, mention of which has already been made, from time to time, in these columns.

Probably the most start-
The Rare ling piece of philatelic
Mauritius news that has occurred for
a year or more is the pur-
chase by a Paris dealer of an envelope
bearing copies of both the one penny
and two pence post office Mauritius
stamps postmarked together. It is said

that the price paid by the dealer for this find was between \$7,000 and \$8,000. It is the only cover known on which the two rare Mauritius are used side by side.

Both specimens were remarkably fine and we understand that the envelope has been sold at a handsome advance.



A new and very sim-
To Develop ple process whereby
Watermarks watermarks may be eas-
ily distinguished stands
to the credit of R. Stewart, of Inver-
cargill, New Zealand, and is com-
mented favorably upon in the April
number of the *Australian Journal of Phil-
ately*. All that is required is the usual
photographic paper, a printing frame
and a bright sun. Place the stamps
(preferably face downwards) on the
paper in the frame, expose it to the
sun and that portion bearing the
watermark being thinner allows the
rays of light to penetrate more rapidly
through the sensitized surface and a
distinct photograph of the watermark
is the result. This information we
believe to be new to the philatelic
world and its simplicity certainly
recommends it, and its value is ap-
parent. We should be interested in
hearing of experiments made by our
readers, of stamps whose watermarks
have been difficult to determine from
the ordinary methods of benzine, chlo-
roform, light and dark surface, etc., etc.
Of course there will be no necessity
of wasting time with stamps whose
watermarks can be seen with the
naked eye or by ordinary aids.

FACTS ABOUT STAMPS

We are continuing from the last number the interesting items selected from Mr. Edward J. Nankivell's "Stamp Collecting as a Pastime," published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., at London.

Many a matrimonial match has probably been due to stamp collecting. Not long ago we are told of a young lady who wrote to an official in a distant colony for a few of the current stamps issued from his office. The stamps were forwarded and a correspondence ensued. There was eventually an exchange of photographs, and finally the official applied for leave, returned home, and married his stamp-collecting correspondent.

In all forms of collecting the hunt for bargains adds zest to the game, and probably more so in stamps than in any other hobby, not even excepting old coins; and, as in other lines of collecting, the bargain hunter must be equipped with the expert knowledge of the specialist if he would sweep into his net at bargain prices the unsuspected gems to be found now and again in the philatelic mart. Many a keen stamp collector turns his years of wide experience to good account as a bargain hunter, and at least one innocent amateur is credited with netting a revenue which would make many a flourishing merchant green with envy.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 1861. *Errors of Color.*—In making up the plate of a provisional issue of triangular stamps, pending the arrival of supplies from



England, a stereo of the 1d. got inserted by mistake in the 4d. plate, and a 4d. in the 1d. plate. Consequently each sheet of the 1d. contained a 4d. printed in red, the color of the 1d.,

instead of blue. And the sheets of the 4d. in like manner, each contained a 1d. which, when the 4d. was printed in its proper color of blue, was also of blue instead of red, the proper color. These errors are very scarce, especially in an unused condition. The 1d., blue, is the rarest of the two, and is worth about \$350.00 used; it is not known unused.

Looking back on the humdrum days of the beginnings of the stamp trade, what opportunities do they not seem to have missed. Could they but have foreseen the present day developments, a few unconsidered trifles, valued at a few pence in those days, put away in a bottom drawer, would today net a fortune. Young Stanley Gibbons, amongst his early purchases, bought from a couple of sailors at Plymouth for \$25.00 a sackful of triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps, a large proportion being the rare so-called Woodblocks, with many of the errors described above. Those errors he disposed of at 62c each. They are now worth from \$300.00 to \$375.00 each. And the ordinary Woodblocks, which were so plentifully represented in that sackful, are now catalogued at from \$12.50 to \$45.00 apiece. Strange as it may seem those were the common stamps of those days, and they are the rarities of to-day.

BRITISH GUIANA, 1850, 2 CENTS — This is popularly known as the 2 cents circular Guiana, because of its shape. A notice in the local *Official Gazette*, dated February, 1851, announces that "By order of his Excellency, the Governor, and upon the



request of several of the merchants of Georgetown, it is proposed to establish a delivery of letters, twice each day through the principal streets of the city." Certain gentlemen were

named as having consented to receive letters for delivery at their respective stores, and it was further announced that "each letter must bear a stamp, for which 2c will be charged, or it will not be delivered, and when called for will be subject to the usual postage of 8c."

A supply of the required 2c stamps was provided by a locally type-set design enclosed in a ring. It is said that this delivery of letters was discontinued soon after it was started, hence rarity of the stamp.

Only eleven copies of this quaint postage stamp are known, and the market value is probably somewhere about \$3,000.00.

BRITISH GUIANA, 1856, 1c.—In 1876 this colony was awaiting a supply of stamps from England, and pending its arrival two provisional stamps were issued, a 1c and a 4c.



These were set up from type in the office of the *Official Gazette*. A small illustration of a ship, used for heading the shipping advertisements in the daily papers, was utilized for the central portion of the design. Of the 1c value only one specimen is known today, and that is in the collection of Mr. Philipp Renotiere (Herr von Ferrary). Doubts have been expressed as to the genuineness of the copy, but Mr. Bacon, who has had an opportunity of inspecting it, says: "After a most careful inspection I have no hesitation whatever in pronouncing it a thoroughly genuine one cent specimen. The copy is a poor one, dark magenta in colour, and somewhat rubbed. It is initialled 'E. D. W.', and dated April 1st, the year not being distinct enough to be read."

This stamp may safely be placed at the head of the great rarities. Of its

value it is impossible to form any opinion. If a dealer had the disposal of the copy in question he would probably want between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for it, with a decided preference for the larger sum.

To the average man it is astonishing that any one in his senses can be so foolish as to give \$5,000 for an ugly little picture that has merely done duty as a postage stamp. He contends that there can be no intrinsic value in such scraps of paper, and that settles the matter in his opinion. But is it not so with the precious stones and pearls? They are of value merely because they are the fashion. There is no intrinsic value in them. If they were not fashionable they would be of little or no value. Long-standing fashion, and fashion alone, has given them their value, and every decade of continued popularity adds to that value as it has added to the value of precious stones and pearls. There is no sign that precious stones are likely to become worthless by the withdrawal of popular favor. Fashion changes from one stone to another without affecting the popularity of precious stones in general. So it is with stamps. Fashions change from one line of collecting to another without in the slightest degree affecting the stability or popularity of collecting as a whole. Precious stones and pearls minister to the pride of the individual, and stamps to his pleasure; and each has its own strong and unshakable hold upon the devotees of fashion and pleasure. There is a fluctuating market in the case of each of these favorites, but I venture to think that there is, and has been for the past forty years, a steadier rise in the value of stamps than in the value of precious stones.

From the foundation of the literature of stamps in 1869, the Philatelic Society of London has set itself the task of studying and writing up the postal history of Great Britain and her Colonies. Towards the accomplishment of this great task, it has already presented its members with splendid

monographs on the Australian Colonies, the Colonies of North America, of the West Indies, of India and Ceylon, two volumes on the British Colonies of Africa, a separate monograph on Tasmania and last, and most ambitious of all, a massive and comprehensive history of the postal issues of Great Britain.

All of these works are expensively illustrated with a profusion of full page plates and other illustrations, and they represent years of patient toil, far-reaching investigation, and untiring research.

The History of the Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe has been written in two volumes by Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, and the same author, in collaboration with Judge Philbrick, some twenty years ago published a work on the Postal and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain. Messrs. W. J. Hardy and E. D. Bacon, in a work entitled the "Stamp Collector," have sketched the general history of postage stamps. Other works, too numerous to mention here, have been written from time to time for the edification of the stamp collector, and the list is continually being increased by the addition of even more important works.

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OLD SWISS STAMPS

There are no stamps of which counterfeits are more common in old collections than those of Switzerland, 1843 to 1854. Some years ago we translated from German and published in English with illustrations a monograph by Freiherr C. Von Girssewald on the stamps of Switzerland, 1843-1854.

The illustrations and full descriptions given in the little book make it possible for the inexperienced collector to determine the character of the earliest Swiss stamps.

The illustrations are large and very simple. Pamphlet is sixty-four pages and will be sent, post free, for 25 cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Texas Philatelic Association was held April 16, 1903, at Galveston, Texas, with seven members in attendance. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer showed a membership of 37 and \$113.75 in the treasury. The report of the Exchange Superintendent showed sales during the past year of \$449.71. The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

President, S. V. Pfeuffer of New Braunfels; First Vice-President, Otto Staerker of Cuero; Second Vice-President, Emil Gerlich of Schertz; Secretary-Treasurer, Edward W. Heusinger of San Antonio; Librarian, G. C. Cuenod of Galveston; Exchange Superintendent, Chas. Roemer of San Antonio; Associate Trustees, H. G. Askew and H. A. Herzog of Austin.

The *New York Philatelist* was retained as official journal and San Antonio was selected for convention seat in 1904. The Texas Philatelic Association was organized in 1896 and is strictly a state organization. Our readers in the Lone Star State who are not members are invited to join. Application blanks and further information may be had by addressing the Secretary-Treasurer, Edward W. Heusinger, 133 and 135 W. Commerce street, San Antonio, Texas.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

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STAMP NOTES

The 1 shilling stamp of Niue mentioned last week is to be withdrawn, the 3 pence came on unwatermarked paper as well as that watermarked single line N. Z. and star. Collectors are looking for the 6 pence and 1 shilling which they believe may also exist on the unwatermarked paper.

News from Washington is to the effect that the drawing of the design of the 2 cents U. S. postage stamp is complete and has been submitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster General for approval.

There seems to be a difference of opinion about the issue of a commemorative series for the St. Louis World's Fair. In quarters where information should be available there seems to be indifference, and from other sources there are conflicting reports. The advertising advantage to the Fair will be lost unless the stamps are issued soon, and an impression prevails that there may be no special issue. If a special series is made there is likely to be only four values, 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c.

* We have seen specimens of the new issue of the Department of Bolivar, Republic of Colombia. Owing to the depressed condition of the Colombian currency and the consequent advance in postage rates, there is little use for low denominations. With the exception of the 20 centavo denominations, which are used for registration, return registration receipt and too-late stamps, there is nothing in the new set less than 50 centavos.

We have seen the 50 centavos, 1 peso, 5 pesos and 10 pesos each in two varieties. The design and shape of the stamps are quite different from anything that they have had before in Bolivar. The three higher denominations reproduce portrait busts on pedestals of:

Fernandez Madrid on the 1 peso.
Rodriguez Toricez on the 5 pesos.
Garcia de Toledo on the 10 pesos.

As we shall give illustrations of the types in our next number we will refrain from further description.

Danish West Indies

By accident a sheet of the 1c. dull blue, of 1893-06 had been overlooked at the P. O. in St. Thomas. It was discovered a few weeks ago and the stamps cut up to make provisional 2c. stamps. I offer a few at a price that even a collector of moderate means cannot pass by.

One copy on envelope.....\$.25
Five copies, containing four different parts of the stamps..... 1.00

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CHEAP COLOMBIANS



	Each.
5c. blue.....	\$0.02
5c. deep blue.....	.02
50c. green.....	.06
50c. brown.....	.06
50c. orange.....	.06
50c. carmine.....	.06
50c. vermilion.....	.06
1 peso, brown.....	.08
1 peso, pale brown.....	.08
1 peso, rose.....	.08
1 peso, carmine.....	.08
1 peso, blue.....	.08
1 peso, deep blue.....	.08
5 pesos, mauve.....	.40
5 pesos, blue-green.....	.40
10 pesos, green.....	.65
Above set of 16 varieties.....	\$3.00
Blocks of four 16 varieties.....	\$3.50

Above stamps are all current issues, and available for postage, owing however to the depressed condition of Colombian currency the above prices are at the moment possible.

NIUE (Provisional on New Zealand)
Fine Unused Copies

3 pence, brown.....\$0.12
6 pence, rose-red..... .25

PENRHYN ISL. (Provisional on New Zealand)

3 pence, brown.....\$0.12
6 pence, rose-red..... .25
1 shilling, vermilion..... .45

Stamped return addressed envelope with orders less than 50c. Ten per cent discount on orders for single stamps of \$1.00 and over.

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ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

800	different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain	\$ 2.50
2,000	different postage stamps a collection in itself.	13.50
3,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector.	45.00
4,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. <i>A great bargain.</i>	100.00

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PHILATELIC SOCIETIES AND THEIR WORK

Most of the great cities of Europe, the British Colonies and the United States have their Philatelic Societies. They are associations of stamp collectors for the study of postage stamps, their history, engraving and printing; the detection and prevention of forgeries and frauds; the preparation and publication of papers and works bearing upon postal issues; the display and exhibition of stamps, and the exchange of duplicates.

The premier society is the Philatelic Society of London, which was founded so long ago as 1869, and has, as its acting president, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. For over thirty years, without a break, this society has held regular meetings during the winter months. Its membership comprises most of the leading collectors in Great Britain and her Colonies and many of the best known foreign collectors. On the membership roll are three princes, several earls, baronets, judges, barristers, medical men, officers in the Army and Navy, and many well-known merchants. This Society has published costly works on the stamps of Great Britain, of the Australian Colonies, of the British Colonies of North America, of the West Indies, India and Ceylon, and of Africa. It publishes an excellently got-up monthly journal of its own, which now claims shelf-room in the philatelic library for ten stately annual volumes. It has held two very successful International Philatelic Exhibitions, one opened by the late Duke of Edinburgh and the other by the Prince of Wales, then Duke of York. At its fortnightly meetings, papers are read and discussed on various matters relating to the hobby. Other meetings are held for the friendly exchange of duplicates.

In the provinces the principal societies are those of Manchester and Birmingham. The Birmingham Society possesses a collection of its own, which it keeps up to date, as a work of reference for its members. Several of the societies hold periodical exhi-

bitions, in which members compete for medals, and in many other ways they lay themselves out to encourage and promote the collection of postage stamps as a popular pastime.

The names of the various societies and the addresses of the Secretaries are published at the commencement of each winter season in Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.

Apart from their pleasant sociability, these societies are of immense help to the collector, especially the beginner. At each meeting papers are read and discussed, in which the most experienced collectors retail, for the benefit of the less experienced, the results of their latest researches, and eminent specialists display their splendid and carefully arranged collections for the inspection, edification and enjoyment of their fellow-members. This continual meeting and comparing of notes, this concentration of study upon the issues of a particular country, gradually ripens even the veriest tyro into an advanced and experienced collector.

Under such conditions difficulties are cleared up and the way made plain for wise and safe collecting. In too many lines of collecting the specialist carefully guards his knowledge for his ultimate personal profit. The philatelist, on the other hand, is more frequently than not generously and candidly helpful to his less advanced fellow-collector, especially if he happens to be a fellow-member of the same philatelic society —E. J. N.

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- 1892, French Guiana, 1fr., Scott No. 41, fine..... .15
- 1862, Cuba, ½rp., green on rose, Scott No. 19, fine .20
- *1892, Johore, 3c. on 5c., Scott No. 27, cat. 60c., at .25
- *1892, Johore, 3c. on 6c., Scott No. 28, cat. 35c., at .15
- 1895, U. S. Postage Due, 30c., Scott No. 1250..... .15
- 1895, U. S. Postage Due, 50c., Scott No. 1251..... .20

*Unused; all others used. Cash with order.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

- No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
- No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
- No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 - 25c.
- No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
- No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. each.

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AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS

By request of Branch 1 of the American Philatelic Association, of Chicago, the following ticket nominated by the Branch is published. Election to be held at the Convention at Clayton, New York:

President, Alex. Holland, of New York; Board of Vice-Presidents, F. H. Burt, of Boston, Gordon Ireland, of Boston, Willard O. Wylie, of Boston; Secretary, E. R. Aldrich, Benson, Minn.; Treasurer, L. L. Annan, Houghton, Mich.; Inter Secretary, E. Doebelin, Pittsburg; Directors, H. B. Phillips, San Francisco, F. W. Corning, New Jersey.

The Branch also endorses J. J. Oesch as a Sales Superintendent and *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for official organ.

Pittsburg was endorsed as the seat of the Convention for 1904.

The reason for the withdrawal of the shilling in Niue stamp for Niue, after a very few copies had been sold, it is stated to have been on account of the wording of the surcharge, which was intended to be *Taha e Seleni*, which is the native for one shilling. The stamps were printed, however, so that the word *Tahae* appeared. It is understood that only a few copies of the error were issued. It is probable that the correction will be made and the stamps issued with the correct inscription.

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1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75

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800	different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain	\$ 2.50
2,000	different postage stamps a collection in itself.	13.50
3,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector.	45.00
4,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. A great bargain.	100.00

16 OUNCES

EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector

[Continuing the "Philatelic Journal of America"]

Vol. 16—No. 17

MAY 25, 1903

Whole No. 69

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Mekeel's Stamp Collector is a Weekly Newspaper and an Illustrated Monthly Magazine in one. It is published every Thursday—fifty-two issues a year. Twelve issues each year are Illustrated Magazine Numbers, containing more pages than the regular weekly issue.

Price.—The subscription price is One Dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

Postage is Prepaid by the publishers for all subscriptions in the United States, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, Guam, Porto Rico, Tutuila Samoa, Canada, Cuba and Mexico. For all other countries in the Postal Union add 52c. for postage.

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C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.



New Series of Stamps for Bolivar, Department of Colombia

(For particulars see Chronicle, page 271)

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 17
WHOLE No. 69

MAY 25, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902, at St. Louis, Mo., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

EDITORS.

CHARLES HAVILAND MEKEEL,
LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

A catalogue for the middle class or general collector, to include only the more important stamps, discarding the minor varieties of paper, perforations, watermarks and surcharges, would be a boon to American philately. The Standard Catalogue, as now published in New York, is a useful book and one that would be in nowise affected by a simple list that is more suitable for the general collector. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, England, publish such a catalogue, and the fourth edition, which has just been issued, is evidence of its usefulness.

The publishers state that the whole number of stamps issued up to date, as included in their catalogue, is 17,382.

When this is amplified by minor varieties and shades, it may be readily seen that a collection of 100,000 stamps is not impossible.

When the death of H. Stafford Smith occurred at Brighton, England, on the 23d of February, one of the old-time

British philatelists passed away. Mr. H. Stafford Smith started in the stamp business at Bath, England, in 1862. With his brother, Alfred Smith, they published the first stamp journal, in 1863—the well-known *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, which ran for many years. Later, Mr. Smith also published the *Philatelist*, which was issued for a number of years at Brighton. At one time he formed a very choice and extensive private collection of stamps, which contained many of extreme rarity.

Jules Bernichon, the well-known dealer of Paris, recently purchased for \$40,000.00 a fine collection of Mons. Marconnet, of Nice, France. That gentleman is well known to philatelists in connection with his work and writings on the stamps of France, and his collection is rich in the French issues.

Mr. Bernichon is to be congratulated on his purchase.

Ernest R. Aldrich, of Benson, Minn., the managing editor of the *Philatelic World*, deserves great credit for the labor of love which is represented by the large special American Philatelic Association number of that weekly paper. It forms a magazine of twenty-eight pages and cover, devoted to the history of the Association, and contains articles by Gordon Ireland, Alexander Holland, A. L. Ammon, W. C. Stone and others.

In this production Mr. Aldrich added a very valuable contribution to philatelic literature.

From the Editorial Chair

It is probable that there has never been a time when so much thought and discussion was being given to methods of collecting as now. Wherever one turns in the philatelic press (or, to speak more correctly, in that portion of our class press which goes beyond the field of mere news-giving into the domain of philatelic dissertation) much matter may be found bearing more or less directly upon this subject. It is the one topic of the hour in which all others seem to ultimately merge; like the centre of a labyrinth to which one is constantly returning, no matter what seemingly divergent path is chosen in the thought of getting away from it. What shall be the general policy, what the exact rules, in forming a good and representative collection?—this is a complicated question, surely, and one that none but a philatelic Solomon could undertake to absolutely decide with infallible exactness. But it is hardly compatible with our duty to our readers not to attempt some sort of analysis of what is being thought and said about this subject and not to draw therefrom what deductions we can as to the probable future course of collecting. Philately seems to be at present on somewhat unsettled ground. Philatelists have painfully elaborated a style of minute philatelic study and of highly comprehensive collecting, both of which are in many respects admirable; but there is a strong feeling among many of the most astute followers of philately that the style of collecting thus fostered is proving a detriment to philately at large, and that some modifications of existing methods must be made in the interests of the general philatelic safety. We have frequently referred in these columns to the "limited specialism" mode of collecting advocated by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, and other English philatelists. From the tenacity with which this "limited specialism" is being exploited abroad, and the amount of at-

tention it is everywhere receiving, it is of some interest to philatelists in general to know exactly what the expression in question stands for; and we therefore feel that some attention should be given to a recent article by Mr. Oldfield which explains in the clearest manner of anything we have yet seen the limitations proposed and the reasons which, in Mr. Oldfield's judgment, render them necessary. The article referred to appeared in the *Monthly Journal* for March, and some comment is made upon it in our regular review; but the space there available was, naturally, not sufficient to admit of such an extended *resume* of Mr. Oldfield's argument as is necessary for a complete understanding of the "limited specialism" idea. And we think that our editorial space (or, at least, a portion of it) can be put to no better use this month than in surveying with all possible thoroughness the exact features of this proposed mode of limitation.

Mr. Oldfield believes that the chief charm of philately is in specialism and in the careful study which specialism of the proper sort implies and necessitates. He does not for a moment believe in limiting the range of the specialist's study. He regards it as indispensable to the proper prosecution of specialistic studies that the student should make the most careful examination of as many specimens as can in any degree help him to solve any unsettled point and recognizes, therefore, that it is often necessary for the specialist to accumulate specimens which at the time appear to be precisely identical. This is a point which no one will, of course, dispute. Bloating for purposes of study not only cannot be helped, but if it had not been for this sort of bloating we would certainly know very much less about many stamps than we do today. What Mr. Oldfield and his followers object to and earnestly attack

is not bloating for purposes of study, but bloating *in the collection itself*. In his study, the specialist accumulates a large lot of duplicates. The most diligent search fails to discover any point about them where they can be considered as distinct varieties. Yet into the collection they go and form a part of its imposing proportions at public or private exhibition. In reading the reports of philatelic exhibitions we are best able to see how this works out. The frequency of such paragraphs as: "This exhibit was remarkable. Of the 5c alone, Mr. So-and-So showed eighteen unused copies and thirteen used ones," serves to point the moral and proclaim its truth. Why, after study has negated the assumption that these redundant copies can ever prove aught but duplicates, should it be considered advisable or philatelically correct to place them in the collection? The one iron-bound basic rule, the one fundamental principle of limited specialism, as expounded by Mr. Oldfield, is this: that no duplicates should be admitted to a collection. It is one of the curious points of modern philately that any such rule should be in any case necessary. One would suppose that it would be one of the primary laws of collecting. The early collectors never dreamed of such a thing as putting in their albums two specimens of the same stamp. Nor have generalists at any time been beset by any similar idea. Does it not look as if specialism as at present practiced were, after all, too narrow, too barren of possibility, when such an expedient is resorted to in so many cases? It is, of course, true that every collector has a perfect right to do as he pleases in such matters. Undoubtedly the possessors of bloated special collections derive pride and pleasure from the existence in their collections of those very conditions that the limited specialist deplors; but are they pursuing a course which tends to increase their own acumen as philatelists? In other words, does not bloating in some sort tend to distort the bloater's philatelic perspective? Does he not, as Mr. Oldfield suggests, get out of the path of true collecting? Those interested in stamps

have always been broadly divided into two classes—collectors and dealers—and the main difference between them has been, not that the collector was not often a seller, not that the dealer was not often an ardent student of stamps for their own sake, but that the former was making a collection in which only one stamp of a kind was required, while the latter was accumulating a stock, in which varieties were duplicated to just as great a degree as was thought advantageous. When this distinction is broken down, as it is by the bloating collector, it is indeed hard to distinguish the professional from the amateur. A carefully classified dealer's stock-book of some special country will often bear so close a resemblance to a bloated special collection that the two will be practically indistinguishable. The bloating specialist would appear to be, both in intent and practice, more dealer than collector; especially as few such collections remain in their owner's hands after completion, but are usually sold on the first profitable opportunity that presents itself. The selling of such collections is, in fact, often an absolute necessity if the collector is to continue his philatelic efforts. Where duplicates are put in a collection indiscriminately, the cost of making it is enormously increased. This, as Mr. Oldfield points out, is one of the most unfortunate results of bloating. If none but the very wealthy collected on this plan it would not so much matter; but whatever becomes the fashion in philately is bound to be followed by a great many people who really have no business to follow it, because other modes of collecting would far better subserve their interests. The rage for pairs, strips and blocks is a case in point. All philately seems to have gone stark, staring mad nowadays on the matter of pairs, strips and blocks. The collector who can show a handsome pair of a reasonably scarce stamp, or a block of the same, gloats exultantly over his brother-collector who has but one specimen to show, and causes the latter to look with envious eyes on what he deems the real superiority of the other's collection. As we understand Mr. Oldfield's idea, one

pair or strip or block of a stamp is not so expressly declaimed against as the presence of a considerable number of them. We see no reason, however, why the principle should not be carried even farther still. Except in the case of imperforate pairs, we do not really see where a pair, much less a block, adds anything of real interest to a collection. The single specimen, if it be a good one, and either unused or lightly canceled, shows every point in relation to the design that it is desirable to know. If it is not a good one, it should remain in the album only till opportunity offers to secure a better specimen. This collecting of blocks and pairs is in reality largely speculative. The principal incentive for such collecting is the idea that in years to come it will be possible to sell the extra copies at a good round profit, leaving one only in the collection. There is nothing to be said against such investments, regarded purely as such—that is to say, if one chooses to put his money into blocks of stamps instead of blocks of stock, it is, to quote the words of a popular song, "nobody's business but his own;" but it appears to us that lots of stamps bought for investment purposes will be more properly placed in a safe deposit box than in the collection itself. The practice of bloating undoubtedly came into being through the desire of such investors to have their treasures where they could be shown; but we are old-fashioned enough to believe that the presence of such investment lots in a collection impairs both its interest and its symmetry. The most of these padded collections present an unbalanced effect. A uniform system is really essential if a collection is to exhibit architectural unity. If the philatelist elected to in no case content himself with single copies, but in all cases to show a pair of specimens, the result would undoubtedly be most pleasing. The same would be true if his album were exclusively devoted to, say, blocks of six; but such a mode of collecting would be almost fancifully impracticable, and is seldom even attempted. The majority of bloated collections are an indiscriminate medley,—some varieties being

shown in single copies, others in pairs, others in strips and blocks, and others still in separate duplicates,—and it is this feature which leads to the stock-book effect. A special collection formed on these lines can never be considered to have attained completeness; because some sections of it will always be less complete than others, because part of it will be normal and the remainder abnormal. Such a collection is, in effect, a formless mass. Where separate varieties, and separate varieties only, are included, a tangible and logical limit is always in view, and there is no overgrowth in one direction at the expense of another. The strongest argument, however, against bloating and the duplication of varieties is the narrowness of view which it usually seems to create. There is a certain inevitable lack of breadth in philatelic specialism of any form. And the smaller the field in which one specializes the more cramped, we should presume, would become his faculty of taking intelligent interest in the broader, more general aspects of philatelic study. An English philatelist lately read before the Philatelic Society of London a paper dealing with the one-penny reds of Great Britain, giving quite a mass of interesting facts in relation to them. If we remember rightly, this philatelist stated that he had carefully examined something like one hundred thousand of the stamps in question in the gathering of these facts. Now is it probable that this philatelist's grasp of current philatelic knowledge in general has at all kept pace with his acquisition of minute particulars in regard to these special stamps? This is an extreme case, but for the purpose of drawing a moral it may be accepted as analogous to the position occupied by multitudes of specialists. They are busying themselves with little things to the exclusion of greater ones. Some one small country is to them the be-all and end-all of philately. A mode of collecting so narrow can not, it seems to us, be conducive to the best interests of either the collector himself or the body philatelic. One of the strongest claims Mr. Oldfield makes for limited specialism is that

it will allow an extension of limit. The specialist who under the bloating system dare not attempt more than one country or colony will be able, if the bloating evil is relegated to disuse, to specialize in an entire group of countries—his expense being no greater than in the one country at present. This would seem a consummation devoutly to be wished. It would be a return to the cardinal principles of specialism. Most of us remember well how, when special collecting first came into favor, the specialist chose as his field, say, one or the other hemisphere, or perhaps the whole of Europe or the whole of North America. These were pleasant limitations. In the stamps of the countries covered under such a system there was ample variety and human interest. If some process can be devised whereby the specialist can again extend his range so as to take in a goodly number of different countries it would, we believe, be a grand, good thing. Of course, if one started out to-day to specialize in the stamps of Europe or of North America, he would be confronted by a larger task than would have been the case in specialism's early days. Few indeed are the countries anywhere in the world that have not of late years figured often in the new issue columns; but, after all, if we were to strip catalogues and hand-books of the secondary varieties which modern minuteness has put into them and get rid of bloating, whether in the form of duplication of single stamps, or of accumulation of pairs, strips and blocks, would it not be feasible for every specialist to considerably extend the range of his collection and thereby widen the horizon of his philatelic pleasures? The phrase, "limited specialism," coined by Mr. Oldfield, is in one sense unfortunate. Instead of limiting the pleasure and interest of a collection, it would seem that by such a plan they would be appreciably enhanced. It is the bloating class

of specialism which is in the truest sense limited—which limits its followers' aims, ideas and philatelic outlook. Specialism at the present time is swathed and bandaged. It is hampered from free movement by ball and chain. In course of time a freer, broader specialism must and will be evolved. Whether it will be on the lines of Mr. Oldfield's plan it would be hard to say, but that plan certainly has many points to commend it.

We would not be understood as thinking or saying that philately's future is in any sense bound up in the future of specialism. The proper methods to be employed in generalism are of even greater importance, because to the end of philatelic time the generalists will always preponderate in point of numbers; but more of the able men of philately are engaged in formulating plans for specialism's future than for that of general collecting, because of the fact that the bulk of our leading writers and thinkers are themselves specialists of one sort or another. Generalism, which is always less spectacular, is, however, gradually evolving methods of its own which bid fair in the long run to do away with many of the things that cause some philatelists to regard general collecting as impracticable. With these methods we will not at this time attempt to deal; but we will record our prediction, which we believe time will amply verify, that general collecting, as practiced by the most astute generalists, will ultimately acquire some of the most advantageous of specialism's methods, and that the specialism of the future will not be by many degrees as far removed from general collecting as it is to-day. That the two should ever come closer to each other in idea and purpose than they are to-day may seem preposterous; but in philately it would often appear that the seemingly preposterous things are the ones that come to pass.

The Philatelic School Room

AN EXPANSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE "TALKS TO
YOUNG COLLECTORS"

CONDUCTED BY LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

Continued from page 113, MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR of February 26, 1903.

Last review we stopped at Montenegro in our survey of the catalogue. As I propose this time devoting only a portion of the space to this trip through the catalogue that we are making, and utilizing the balance of it in touching upon other matters that may drag themselves out to quite a length, we will start in without any unnecessary preface or preamble.

Montserrat, which comes next before us, alphabetically, has issued only a very small number of stamps. They are interesting and handsome, but unfortunately all but one or two of them are over the dollar mark in price. These one or two, however, should be on your want list. As I have so often pointed out, a special effort should be made to get at least one variety in such hard-to-get and high-priced countries. Do not be afraid to spend thirty or forty or fifty cents to get that one variety. It is doubtless true that with the same money you can buy, say ten of the stamps of France and Germany that you lack; but in order to have a well-balanced collection, specimens from all parts of the world are needful; and it is an erroneous policy to try and build up all the easily completed countries before you make any start whatever on the difficult ones. It may be said, incidentally, that if you *do* pay thirty or forty cents for one of the stamps of *Montserrat* (for example), the chance is strong that you will take more pleasure in having the blankness of the *Montserrat* page relieved by that one stamp than you would in the presence of a dozen new specimens of some country whose stamps are more common. Get at least one specimen from every country represented in your album, if you possibly

can. This is advice which I feel can not be repeated too often.

Morocco comes next in the catalogue, and under it appear separate sets for a considerable number of different provinces or states—as *Alcazar-Ouezzan*, *Fez-Mequinez*, etc. The actual philatelic status of these Morocco emissions is not very high, as they belong palpably to the made-for-collectors' class; but their designs are very interesting, nevertheless (being very characteristic of the land from which they emanate), and one specimen of each design may legitimately be placed in the young collector's album—especially as their cost is small. To buy complete sets of these numerous Morocco issues can not, however, be considered in any other light than as a waste of money. One of each is plenty enough, even in the later years when your collection will have assumed large proportions.

Mozambique, which comes next in order, is very similar, philatelically, to other Portuguese Colonies we have before spoken of. A plentiful array can be gotten together without any great cost, but they hardly possess as much intrinsic interest as stamps of countries that do not possess quite such stereotyped uniformity.

Natal is a British Colony in which scarce and, consequently, high-priced stamps are the rule rather than the exception. A few of the recent issues are, however, to be had cheaply.

Netherlands is one of the most interesting of countries to the young collector, because of the appearance on recent issues of the head of Queen Wilhelmina, first as a young girl and later as a young woman. Like the stamps bearing the head of the "Baby King" of Spain, these postage stamp portraits

of Holland's girlish queen have a fascination of a somewhat different sort from that which attaches to the common run of stamps. They are a departure from the conventional in stamp portraiture, and not only that, but they have a decided prettiness of their own that makes them show up "excellently well" on an album page. The issues of 1872 and 1876 are also handsome and interesting enough to make a brave show in the album. Altogether, Holland is a country whose stamps the young collector can revel in. Practically all its varieties, from the 1869 issue onward, are obtainable at small cost. If you wish to taste the joys of completeness, these later issues of Netherlands offer a fine opportunity. You can easily complete the Netherlands page, from 1869 onward—saving and excepting only the few high denominations expressed in guildens. The host of unpaid letter stamps, inscribed "Te Betalen," are not especially desirable. Far better to spend your money on straight postage stamps.

The stamps of *Nevis* are, on the average, pretty costly. What has been said in relation to the stamps of that other West Indian island, Montserrat, may be taken as applying equally to those of *Nevis*.

Every one of the stamps of *New Brunswick* is interesting. Most of them, however, belong to the rarity class. The 5c yellow-green and the 10c vermilion of 1860, coupled with the 2c orange of 1861, are the only varieties probably that you will feel able to afford—at least, in a used state. The 1c red-lilac of 1860 may also be had cheaply, if one cares to buy an unused remainder. You will note that all these *New Brunswick* specimens I have mentioned are much cheaper unused than used. The first impulse of the young would be, therefore, to purchase the unused specimen. This is well enough, in this case, if you feel that you positively can not afford the used one; but even at the higher price the used one is the better bargain. There are vast floods of these *New Brunswick* remainders on the market and no proba-

bility that they will appreciate much in price for a good many years to come. On the other hand, used varieties are continually growing scarcer, and there can be little doubt that if you buy one of them to-day, it will ten years hence be worth twice what you pay for it now. I do not, as a general thing, advise the young collector to buy according to such standards. The speculative idea should have little part in your plans; but where an unused variety sells at two or three cents and the corresponding used variety at twenty or thirty cents, you may be very sure that the unused one is a remainder. I do not, of course, go so far as to say that the young collector absolutely should not purchase remainders. They are legitimate stamps, and, as such, perfectly deserving of a place in your album; but, if you can possibly afford the unused remainder's used prototype, it is far better to buy it, on the grounds of general expediency and the ultimate good of the collection. In such a case as these stamps of *New Brunswick* that have been mentioned, you may very likely find it difficult to secure used specimens in really nice condition; but keep on trying. Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. The possession of good specimens, rather than poor ones, is a source of constantly increasing satisfaction.

New Caledonia need not greatly enchain the attention of the young collector. Its stamps are of very little interest, with the exception of the rare varieties of the first issue, which are practically prohibitive in price. The bulk of the later issues are either produced by means of surcharging or are of the familiar French Colonial types. Two or three of the cheapest specimens will amply suffice for the *New Caledonia* page for the present. If, by and by, when you have become an advanced collector, you decide to become a specialist in French Colonies, all well and good; but the chances are rather strong against your so deciding. These French Colonies stamps of recent issues are all of them plentiful on the ordinary class of approval sheets and temptingly cheap

in price; and, being rather pretty, the novice will often go on buying and buying them until he has them in considerable quantity; but there are many far better fish in the philatelic sea.

The stamps of *Newfoundland* are, from first to last, intensely interesting. In few countries or colonies do we find so great a diversity of design, or designs so decidedly piquant in interest. All the Newfoundland varieties up to 1880 are beyond the average young collector's pocket money—the stamps of the 1857 issue, in fact, being real rarities and very altitudinous in price. Here and there in the issues from 1866 to 1876 you may find specimens—some five or six in all—that can be bought at under fifty cents, and every one of them is an excellent purchase. From the issue of 1880 on, all is plain sailing. A few high denominations call for a thirty or forty-cent outlay, but pennies and nickels will go a long way in buying the lower values. Newfoundland is, by all means, one of the countries to which the young collector can well give careful and special attention.

New Republic stamps are interesting, from their crudeness and oddity, but too scarce to come within the young collector's horizon.

New South Wales contains a host of varieties, some rare, some common, but all interesting. A sprinkling of the later issues can be gathered at comparatively small cost, including the interesting Jubilee issue of 1888. Money spent on British Colonials is always well invested.

New Zealand's issues might be classified in much the same manner as those of New South Wales. Its older issues contain, however, more varieties that are within the young collector's means than in the case of New South Wales. Furthermore, New Zealand's "pictorial stamps" are much more numerous and interesting than the jubilee issue of Australia's leading State. The New Zealand series of 1898-1900, with its many different landscapes, forms as beautiful and unique a set as is to be found in the whole range of issued stamps; and you are certainly adding

much to your album with every one of these stamps you put in it. Of course, the two and five shilling stamps are rather high in price, but if you secure the balance of the series you will not miss these very greatly. Inasmuch as high denominations in any set are almost always costly, you need never feel that these high denominations are absolutely essential. Better let them wait, and put their cost into stamps that will make more of a showing. Four or five stamps of a set are as many as you will, under ordinary circumstances, find it advantageous to get. For with so much to be done, in such a big book as the modern album is, it is hardly judicious to expend too much ammunition on any one page or any one set.

In addition to her regular postage stamps, New Zealand has several other classes of stamps of sufficient philatelic consanguinity to be admitted to the catalogue, where they fill several pages. They are classified as "Revenue Stamps Used for Postage" (these are generally referred to as the "stamp duty" issues, inasmuch as all but a few of them are inscribed with those words); Unpaid Letter Stamps, Newspaper Stamps, Railway Newspaper Stamps, Official Stamps, and Life Insurance Stamps. None of these are worth much attention when one is beginning a collection, although the "stamp duty" issues are extremely beautiful, and the life insurance stamps decidedly low priced; but there are plenty enough regular postage stamps without delving into these side channels.

Nicaragua is one of those countries which philatelists refer to as "Seebeckized." A full explanation of the Seebeck system of postage stamp supply has previously appeared in this department; I need not, therefore, go into it again here. As I remarked under the head of *Honduras*, I do not at all agree with those philatelists who advise young collectors not to collect Seebecks. They were issued for legitimate postal requirements and in mechanical execution are veritable beauties. If their cost were high, the matter might be different; but so little money spent on

the stamps of Honduras or Nicaragua will make such a superb showing that I can not consider the purchase in any other light than as a good investment. It may be added that the Seebeck regime in Nicaragua dates only from 1890, and that no objection can be raised by anyone to the status of any of the earlier issues of the Central American republic in question. The early issues are, moreover, still quite low in price, handsome and attractive. The young collector may well secure as many of them as he can.

The multitude of official stamps, produced by the handy surcharge's artful aid, should not, however, be accorded a moment's consideration. All surcharges are poor stuff for the young collector to meddle with, and particularly so in the case of such issues as these "officials," to collect which means, in effect, to duplicate your sets of the regular postal issues.

Niger Coast Protectorate is a province whose stamps gain some interest from the fact that many of them bear a portrait of Queen Victoria, not as she looked in the heyday of her young womanhood, but as she appeared in the later years of her life. They are also handsome of execution, and not out of reach in price. The great bulk of the Niger Coast stamps, however, are of the surcharge order, the name of the protectorate being surcharged on other stamps, some current English ones and some, those of the Oil Rivers Protectorate—which was the original name for this Niger Coast Colony. With all these surcharges you will, if you are wise, have little to do.

North Borneo furnishes us with some of the most beautiful stamps that appear in our albums. Its issues are uniformly handsome and pleasing, and all young collectors delight in them. North Borneo stamps are not looked on with much favor by advanced collectors, inasmuch as there is no doubt that they are "made for collectors," the postal needs of the region being by no means large enough to justify the production of such handsome and expensively gotten up stamps; but in this day

and age of the world, the post office department of a great many of the world's great nations are not by any means insensible to philately's existence—our own Columbians and Pan-Americans form a case in point—so that young collectors need not be so self-sacrificing as to refrain from collecting North Borneo stamps on that account.

Northern Nigeria is a British Colony whose issues are few, and a few of which, to be bought at easy prices, will suffice amply for present purposes.

Norway is a very eligible country for the young collector. Only a very few of its issues catalogue at more than fifty cents, and, in fact, more than three-quarters of them can be bought at a few cents apiece. Norway is one of those countries which are easily completed. Some collectors may wonder what to do in relation to the set of 1883-84, which differs from the preceding one principally in the post horn being unshaded. I should say, by all means collect them. They are just as common and cheap as the stamps of the set preceding (in fact, they are probably even more easily obtained), and you will find it a pleasure to collect them, just as in the case of those stamps of the German Empire, differing only in the spelling of the word "pfennige." However much it may be desirable for you to postpone the collecting of minor varieties to a later stage of your collecting career, you will find it pleasant to deal with such very open and easily recognized minor varieties as these Norwegian or German ones mentioned.

Let us now leave the catalogue for this month and turn our attention to other matters, perhaps more readable and entertaining, if not more practically valuable.

THE CLAMOR FOR NEW ISSUES.

I want to talk to you awhile now on the question of new issues. Doubtless most of you do not recognize the fact that there is such a thing as a new issue question. Doubtless, in making and building up your collections, you are buying some old issues and some new issues, just as circumstances seem

to warrant—selecting from approval sheets, or buying from catalogue or price list without especially limiting yourself to either old or new issues. This is, from all sound philatelic viewpoints, very right and proper, and there would be no reason why I should devote any time here to considering the relative attractiveness and availability, to the young collector, of current and obsolete issues, were it not for the fact that so many philatelic editors and writers are seemingly doing their utmost to foster the collection of new issues among beginners, to the partial or complete neglect of the older issues.

The action of the publishers of the International album in abandoning the time-honored precedent of placing in their albums spaces for all major varieties of postage stamps, from the very first stamps that were ever issued up to those current at the time the album appears, has served to unsettle the minds of a good many young collectors in respect to their plans for the future. As most of you probably know, the International album now appears in two separate forms. One edition contains spaces for all major varieties of stamps issued up to the end of the nineteenth century, while the other contains a place only for stamps that have appeared since the beginning of the present century. The reasons for this change are: first, the constantly increasing bulk of the album under the old method, which threatened to become altogether too unwieldy for ordinary handling; and, second, the corresponding magnitude of the task which faced the collector who started out to fill one of the old albums. The theory is, that there are now so many varieties of stamps to be collected that the philatelist will act wisely in limiting his efforts to collecting the stamps of either the nineteenth or the twentieth century, to the exclusion of all issues lying across the boundary line. There is reason to believe that, in making this move, the publishers of the album in question had the idea that a majority of young collectors would enthusiastically adopt the twentieth century edition—would welcome with

great enthusiasm an album that contained only a comparatively small number of spaces to be filled—and to be filled, in most cases, by stamps that are current and therefore common and cheap. Doubtless this idea, at first sight, is a fascinating one to many a young collector. He has been collecting, say for a couple of years, and has in his album, let us say, a couple of thousand stamps or so. They do not make much of a showing. Some few pages are half filled, a good many have five or six specimens scattered about, so far apart that the page seems but little removed from utter blankness; and a great many other pages do not bear one single stamp. It would seem, at first sight, as though a young collector would do well to abandon this sort of album and get into one where a small collection will show off better; but in reality I believe that any young collector who does make the mistake of doing this is putting himself out of the way of the best benefits that philately has to give. Limiting one's collection to the stamps of one or the other of the centuries is all right for the advanced collector, but it is all wrong for the young or middle class collector. Let me show you on what I base this assertion.

The advanced collector, as a rule, is more or less beset with the idea of completeness. He wants to complete each page—with the exception of such great rarities as are altogether beyond the reach of his pocket. He has spent years and years in collecting stamps and is familiar with the appearance and designs of practically all the stamps of the world. Furthermore, he is experienced enough in collection-building methods to be able to pretty accurately decide by just what mode of limitation the philatelic ends he has in view will be best capable of accomplishment; but with the young collector the case is altogether different. He is not, if he has any just conception of what he is doing, aiming at completeness yet awhile. What he is doing is studying stamps in general and philately in the rough. He has not yet found his bearings. He

does not thus far know in what way he will want to collect when he becomes an advanced collector. He does not even know whether or not he ever will become an advanced collector. He is simply getting acquainted, in a general way, with one of the most fascinating studies and pursuits in the world, and he certainly can not afford, at this early stage of his collecting life, to cramp his philatelic horizon in any way.

The aim which the young collector should have in mind is the building up of a collection that shall illustrate pretty comprehensively the range of the whole world's postal issues—that shall show the kind of stamps that are in use among different nations, on different continents, in centres of civilization, in out-of-the-way corners of the earth, and *in different epochs of modern life*. If you have been following all that I have said to young collectors in this magazine during the past year, you know that I have emphasized over and over again this very point, namely: the importance of covering as wide a field as possible in your collection, of having at least one stamp from every country represented in your album, if you possibly can; of paying special attention to getting specimens from small, out-of-the-way countries, etc., etc. Now the end and idea of all this was to get you to look at philately in a big, comprehensive way, instead of a little, narrow way. The more diversity of type there is in your collection the more you are going to learn from it. What you want to do is to get acquainted with the stamps of the world. That is primarily what you are collecting stamps for. You started in collecting stamps because you liked their odd designs, because you found it interesting to observe what kind of stamps are used in the different countries of the world; and if you are still a young collector with a small collection, the chances are very strong that there are a great many stamp designs that you are still unfamiliar with, except through the wood cuts in the catalogue. Now what you should do (or rather, what you ought to be doing) is to go after these stamps

of unfamiliar design with all your might and main. You are not collecting everything there is room for in your album. You are collecting the stamps you like and are interested in, without regard to the thousands of others that lie beyond. All this, if you have been able to escape the will-o'-the-wisp of hoping for completeness, which *does* possess the minds of some young collectors. If these talks of mine did not do one single atom of good in any other direction, I should be perfectly content if they taught any young collectors the great truth that the thought of attaining completeness is the very least consideration that ought to enter into their plans. In these first years of your collecting, do not, of all things, take philately too seriously. Do not fret your mind in the least degree over the fact that your collection grows but slowly. As long as its growth is steady, as long as it is not suffered to absolutely stand still, you are on the right track. It is undoubtedly true that if you want quick results, you can get along a good deal faster by abandoning your present collection and going in for the stamps of the twentieth century only; but how much do these "quick results" really amount to? Suppose a new set comes out this month for the Fiji Islands and another for Mauritius and another for Hong-Kong. Perhaps you can buy three or four of the lower denominations of each set at a few cents each and add quite a number of new specimens to the collection at a comparatively small outlay; but what a one-sided, incomplete collection is the one that is built up in this manner. Suppose the novice, who is just starting in to-day without any previous philatelic experience, decides to commence with the twentieth century. Will not his collection be decidedly lacking in some of the most important elements of philatelic interest? What will he miss in France, for example? He will miss the alternating issues of republic, empire and republic that make the French page in the ordinary collection so eloquent of the shifting panorama of French historical events during the latter half of

the century so lately closed. What will he miss in Germany? What but the whole story of German union, of the growth of Imperial Germany from a scattered band of separate States. What will he miss in Italy, save the similar story of united Italy? The issues of to-day tell us what is—a story that lacks in human interest and color. The issues of the past tell us what has been—and in that lies intense interest and animation of event. More than this, the issues of the past are rich in interest in divers other ways. They are more characteristic of the lands from which they emanate than are the stamps of to-day. There is fascination in noting the crudity of manufacture in many of the earlier issues, and to trace their progress step by step up to the fine mechanical execution of to-day. Then, bear in mind, that in collecting new issues solely, one misses the emissions of many nations that have latterly ceased to be classed as stamp-issuing countries. Our albums are full of these when you stop to think of it. Almost every second or third country appearing there is to be numbered among those that no longer have a separate postal entity of their own. Take up your album and count them over. I think their number will surprise.

Of course, the main point of all is the poverty and barrenness of design one meets with in collecting twentieth century stamps only, as compared with the boundless wealth of diversity presented to him when all the world's stamps, from the very beginning, constitute his field. What would be the advantage, if you visited a great art gallery containing thousands and thousands of fine paintings, representing every age and school of art, and declined to stir beyond one room, containing the works of, say, modern English painters? The simile is not perhaps the best that could be chosen, but the cases are analogous. What can any young collector gain by casting in his lot with the new issue school of collectors, and turning his back upon all the philatelic riches of the nineteenth century?

Let those who have studied those issues for a great many years and acquired a thorough knowledge of them, go in for new issues all they will; but let no young collector, with his whole philatelic world before him, so to speak, elect to dwarf his opportunities and diminish his philatelic outlook by becoming a collector of new issues only.

As I have said before in these talks, it is well to give a certain amount of attention to the new issues as they come out. I do not seek to in any way deny their interest. I do not advise the young collector to confine his collection to nineteenth century stamps only, any more than the other alternative. I believe that putting a limit on the young collector in any direction is to handicap him unnecessarily and unwisely; but you certainly must beware of an overfondness for new issues which will lead you to spend practically all your philatelic pocket money on them alone. It is easier nowadays to buy new issues than it is older ones. Not only are they, as a usual rule, light in cost, but dealers handle them in large quantities and they almost monopolize a great many of the cheaper class of "beginners' approval sheets;" but there is no reason why you should buy what the dealer wants you to rather than what you yourself want. There are plenty of the obsolete issues to be had, if only you insist on having them.

IN REGARD TO THE ALBUM QUESTION.

As it is the change in form of our leading American-make of stamp albums that has, to a large extent, created the quandary in many young collectors' minds which makes the above discussion needful, it is well to give some consideration to the question of what sort of album the young collector had best use. As I have pointed out, the average young collector will want an album that provides spaces both for new and old issues. Either of the two editions of the International, taken separately, will not, therefore, fill the bill. By using *both*, space will be provided for all possible needs; but I fancy

that few young collectors will care to spread their collection through two volumes, vastly preferring to have it all in one book. Several alternatives are, in this case, open to you: To keep on with your old album, putting in such new issues as you get on the margins of pages or any pages or parts of pages that are not spaced off for any particular country; to buy J. W. Scott's Best Album, or some one of the English generalist albums that provide spaces for all stamps; or to adopt a blank album. It is very hard to say which of these alternatives will prove most satisfactory in the majority of cases. There are some unfortunate features to all printed albums; for instance, their lack of room for new issues and, more important still, their including spaces for so many varieties that it is not to the young collector's advantage to try to procure. I have been counselling you not to pay any attention to surcharges for the present, and also to taboo envelope stamps, officials, postage dues, etc.; but in almost all the printed albums places are provided for all these things, and very properly, because such albums are made, not for the novice alone, but for all ranks and grades of collectors. It is a pity that some albums, excluding all these things, and expressly adapted to the young collector's needs, can not be made; but doubtless the call for such albums is not large enough to justify their manufacture. A blank album is not, of course, open to these objections; but in other ways it is hardly fitted to the needs of the young collector, unless he is prepared to give great pains and study to the arrangement of his collection. When one has reached a fairly advanced stage of collecting, the change to a blank album should surely be made.

But I feel safe in saying that for most of those who have not advanced so far but that they gain help from the points taken up in these talks, it is best to stick to the printed album—either to the one you are at present using, or to Scott's Best Album, or some one of the foreign makes. If you will look at such an album as a sort of preparatory book—not the permanent home of your collection, but a temporary abode from whence ultimately it is to be transferred to more congenial quarters—you will not be one-half so worried over the blank spaces and the presence of so many pages devoted to "officials," "dues," and other side issues. If you can not find room for new issues, mount them in a little blank book, pending the day when a larger and finer album shall be required—just as I have advised you to do in the case of shades and minor varieties, for which the album provides no room. This album you are using now will not be the kind you will choose when you have become "a big collector"—rest assured of that. Some make-shifts are always required in the early stages of collecting. Do not let their necessity worry you. Fill what spaces you can, and do not be downcast because new issues are constantly coming out for which no room is provided. It is injudicious to buy a new album every year and transfer your collection to it, because wear and tear and handling never improves a collection. If you buy a new album now, do so with the resolve that you will not make another change for two or three years at least. By that time it is quite likely that you will be sufficiently far advanced to change to a blank album and get done forever with the idiosyncrasies of the printed one.



Department of Review

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSH

Publishers of philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications regularly to the editor in charge of this department,
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The London Philatelist

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A month or two since we referred to the *London Philatelist* as being the only English stamp journal of importance that failed to send us a review copy. Since then we have had the pleasure of receiving the first three numbers of the present volume and presume that hereafter we shall be able to each month summarize for our readers the contents of the *London Philatelist's* current issue. It is perhaps hardly necessary to formally introduce this English journal to our readers. It is known, at least by repute, to almost all English-speaking philatelists and probably no philatelic magazine in the world is oftener quoted or pronounces opinions that are more influential in moulding current philatelic thought. The *London Philatelist* appears under the sponsorship of the most celebrated philatelic society in the world. That society, also, is probably the most important philatelic body in the world, inasmuch as it is composed of the wealthiest and most prominent collectors in England, and has for many years exercised a dominating influence over collecting methods in Great Britain and her colonies that has indirectly had great effect on philately in the United States, France and Germany, the other great powers of philately. It is not too much to say that the Philatelic Society of London to a large extent sets the fashions for the whole collecting world. Its membership is principally composed of men of great means, great leisure and great brains—the very elite of philately—and

no philatelic body has ever practiced philately, individually or collectively, on so monumental and magnificent a scale. This body has promoted philatelic exhibitions whose like has never been seen elsewhere. It has published handbooks that have been of vast value to philatelic students. Its services to philately, in all the long years of its existence, have been so many and so varied and are so well understood by the majority of thinking philatelists that it would be presumption on our part to attempt any detailed analysis of them here; but we have deemed it needful to say these few words, because the *London Philatelist* as a periodical gains so much added interest and prestige from the body under whose auspices it appears.

In a journalistic sense, as well as a philatelic one, the *L. P.* is a noteworthy periodical. It is perhaps the most carefully edited of any magazine devoted to our hobby. Every word which appears in it is carefully weighed. No deviation from the sound, the sensible, and the scholarly is ever permitted in either editorial or contributed matter. There is a solidity and a seriousness about all the *London Philatelist's* articles that bespeaks intense earnestness on the part of all who are in any way connected with it, and each one of the numbers before us contains much matter that advanced philatelists will find deeply interesting. With reading matter for those who are other than advanced philatelists, the *L. P.* does not much concern itself, but for the philatelic *cognoscenti* it is certainly a most valuable journal.

The January number opens with a short editorial article on "Insular Collecting." As a sample of the able edi-

torial style of the journal and also as showing that some of the keenest critics in England are not quite satisfied with the present English method of sacrificing all else to "Britain and Colonials," we shall take leave to quote the article, as follows:

"We are commonly accused, as a nation, and accept the accusation with complacency, of being different from all other peoples, this virtue or its negation being ascribed to our insular position. In matters philatelic we are assuredly run on these lines, for, 'in spite of all temptation,' we collect 'the British nation' stamps to the neglect of other countries that are of equal importance and interest. In the preface to their new catalogue Messrs. Bright & Son make an opportune lament on this score, and urge with reason the claims of many countries that would open up a field of discovery and interest that are debarred from the downtrodden paths of British Empire collecting.

"At the first meeting of 1903 of the London Philatelic Society the vice-president dwelt upon this point on the occasion of a display of the stamps of Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg, and he instanced this group as one eminently worthy of the British collector's attention. The early issues of all these three countries—steel-engraved and of highly artistic and picturesque design—are equal to almost any of our colonial stamps, and with the elimination of super-redundant varieties of perforation, official issues, and unpaid letter stamps, this group will be found an undefiled well of philatelic pleasure.

"The same qualities apply to many other countries in various continents, and we are confident that with far less outlay many a collector would reap a far greater enjoyment than by falling down and grovelling before the beloved idol of Great Britain and Colonies. It is as strange as true that with two or three well-known exceptions there is hardly a member of the London Society who takes an interest in or collects aught but the British Empire stamps. This is indeed insularity in its least-loved form, and we would fain see the reproaches removed by some

attempt at cosmopolitanism in collecting."

Straws show which way the wind blows. It is gratifying to find such opinions as the above so freely expressed by so eminent and influential a philatelist—for we take it that Mr. Castle himself penned the article—and is also, we think, indicative of a coming revulsion of feeling in respect to British stamps. Not that we anticipate that they will by any means be totally abjured by the philatelists of Old England. There is no fear or possibility of that, but we do think that many philatelists in England are getting a bit tired of Britain and Colonials, a bit restive under the iron rule of the present day fashion in that regard, and that a good many of those who are at present wholly engrossed in British stamps will gradually drift away into other fields.

Mr. Thomas Wm. Hall is undoubtedly one of the "two or three well-known exceptions" mentioned by Mr. Castle in the editorial just quoted. He has recently come into philatelic notice as discoverer of the lithographed stamps of Chili, so much talked about during the past few months, and in this January issue of the *London Philatelist* is printed a paper by him entitled, "Further Notes on the 1858-67 Issues of Peru"—so that it would seem that here, indeed, is a London Society member who takes a very live interest in realms not under the British flag. These "Further Notes" are very interesting—in fact, they are exceedingly valuable to every student of Peruvian stamps. It would hardly be possible for us here to summarize the entire essay, as it is of the sort in which any attempt at compression destroys the value and intelligibility of what is said. We will, however, pick out a point here and there that may be of some interest to our readers.

The ½ peso of 1858, Mr. Hall states to have been in use for but four months, which accounts for the great scarcity of this stamp. None of the values of the 1858 issues were longlived, the date of their issue having been March 1, 1858, and of their retirement January,

1859. Mr. Hall states that in December, 1860, 8,563 pesos' worth of this issue were burnt—a fact which, coupled with their short term of use, fully accounts for the scarcity of this early Peruvian issue, especially in an unused state. Mr. Hall gives an excellent description of the Arms of Peru, as appearing on the stamps under notice, which we repeat here for the benefit of the younger collectors: "The Arms of Peru present, on a shield in the upper left blue horizontally lined quarter, a golden llama standing on ruddy earth; in the upper right silver (white) quarter, a ruddy tree on a bank of the same color; in the lower red (horizontally lined) half, a golden horn of plenty, fruit of the same and ruddy leaves. The tree represents the coca plant."

Mr. Hall devotes much attention to two retouches of the un dinero stamps of 1860. Students of Peruvians will do well to procure his paper and study what is said on this point. In his description of these retouches he is admirably clear and lucid.

The Peruvian Government did not find lithographed stamps very satisfactory. They were easily counterfeited, the stones wore out quickly, and many defective specimens were produced. Lithography was therefore abandoned, and the embossed issues taken up. These stamps were made by the Lecocq machine, a French invention which printed the stamps one by one on a strip of paper just wide enough to receive the impression and leave a decent margin. These stamps are to be found on two widely differing papers, one a fine white machine-wove paper, such as was in use in France at the time; the other a coarse yellowish hand-made native paper. A number of finished stamps, together with quantities of the paper strips, accompanied each machine from Paris. Mr. Hall states that he has been unable to accurately distinguish between the Paris prints and the native prints on French paper.

Further along, we find that stamps cut in half which have been genuinely used at Peruvian post offices may be frequently met with. Although this mode of prepayment was prohibited by

several different decrees between February 26, 1858, and the present day, Mr. Hall states that he has in his collection used half-stamps of nearly all issues between 1852 and 1874.

One of the most interesting points in the entire essay is Mr. Hall's statement that the original Lecocq machine and the dies for the 1 dinero of 1868 are still in existence and have been in use lately in private hands. The undoubtedly genuine issues, Mr. Hall states, are all roughly printed. He believes all the *finely* printed copies in grey and bright blue to be remainders or forgeries. The President of the Lima Philatelic Society has informed him that the white space on which the llama is standing has an irregular margin at the top in the originals, and a straight even surface in the forgeries.

The closing portion of Mr. Hall's paper is of such historic and philatelic interest that we think we can do no better than reprint it in full, as follows:

"The boundary between Peru and Chili is the river Camerones, as determined by the treaty of peace between these countries in 1883. By the Treaty of Ancon, May 21, 1884, Peru temporarily ceded to Chili the departments of Tacua and Arica, on condition that after ten years the inhabitants should be permitted to decide by a plebescite to which of these states they desired in future to belong. It was agreed that the country in whose favor they should decide should pay to the other an indemnity of ten million dollars. The plebescite was postponed in 1894, and negotiations since then have made no progress, as Peru is unable to give the guarantee that the sum agreed upon shall be paid if the vote was cast in her favor.

"In July, 1882, as before mentioned, the Chilian postal authorities issued Chilian stamps of the 1877-1881 issues, and of the values of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos at such Peruvian post offices as they controlled. The stamps were not surcharged, but can be recognized by the cancellation marks they bear. At the offices of Lima and Callao they were canceled by postmarks with dates, and at other places by postmarks, such

as Paita, Eteu, Ica, Pisco, Mollendo, Tacua, Iquique, etc., etc.

"Although the Chilean occupation of Lima began in January, 1881, the post office there remained under the management of the former Peruvian clerks up to November 30, 1881. During early December, 1881, the Chileans issued ordinary Peruvian stamps of the later issues. They then issued as prepaid stamps the surcharged Peruvian unpaid (deficit) stamps previously used in October, 1881, as unpaid stamps by the Peruvians, with the surcharge 'Lima Correos' in a double circle. About the end of December, 1881, began the issue of Peruvian stamps charged with the Chilean Arms; and finally, in June, 1882, they substituted the ordinary Chilean stamps.

"All these stamps, therefore, to be good and genuine war provisionals, must bear dates between July, 1882, and October 23, 1883, the date when the Peruvian employees again took possession of the post office at Lima. It necessarily follows that the following Chile stamps, viz., the 10c yellow and orange, issued in 1885, and the 20c slate gray, issued in 1886, cannot be found in the above state, and this fact will also account for the great rarity of the 5c blue, it only having been issued a very short time before the war closed."

We have quoted enough of Mr. Hall's paper to show those of our readers who are especially interested in Peruvians that it will be well to secure it in the original. It is an excellent specimen of the sort of philatelic research—pains-taking, thorough, and comprehensive—that is constantly finding publication in the *London Philatelist's* pages.

Occupying the next two or three pages we find an article from the pen of Mr. Castle himself on "The First Issue of Moldavia," dealing, of course, with the so-called Moldavian reprints that have lately caused such a philatelic flutter. At the time Mr. Castle wrote this article the matter was not so thoroughly sifted as it has been since. Therefore, his conclusions, based on less complete premises than have since become available, need not be repeated

here. It may be said, however, that the article is an admirable one, calm, clear and adequately judicial, as are all of Mr. Castle's writings where the examination of disputed facts is involved. Following this, and under the somewhat elastic heading of "Philatelic Notes," comes a number of communications on an alleged retouch in certain 1d stamps of Great Britain, which a certain English specialist thought he had discovered, but which these communications prove to be no retouch at all. The subject-matter of these letters, one of which is from no less eminent a philatelic authority than Judge Philbrick, would not interest many Americans; but the letters are in another way deeply interesting, as indicating the thoroughness with which every most minute point in relation to British stamps is nowadays being studied by Albion's most learned collectors. The study of retouches, different states of different plates, etc., etc., is a very exacting branch of philatelic investigation; but that the leading British philatelists are applying themselves very seriously to it and are achieving really remarkable results is amply shown by the letters mentioned. Their writers display a familiarity with printing and engraving methods as applied to stamps that would be very hard to duplicate among the collectors of America. A trained engraver could not more clearly explain the exact method of producing *taille douce* stamps than does Judge Philbrick in his letter, and the important facts bearing on this alleged retouch which his knowledge of these processes allow him to deduce have proven to us that we in America are making a great mistake in not making the study of the productive processes by which stamps are manufactured a more important part of the philatelic curriculum. Such knowledge is certainly one of the fundamentals of the higher philately. We ought, almost all of us, to be giving more attention to acquiring it.

Some "Occasional Notes," principally referring to the doings, present and future, of the London Society, come next, followed by an excellent New

Issues Department, a considerable number of Society Reports, and two or three pages devoted to quoting the most pregnant of recently realized auction prices. With the features the number closes, and we will, therefore, lay it aside and see what is to be found in its immediate successor, the number for February.

The February issue opens with an editorial on "The Tapling Collection," in which Mr. Castle jubilates exceedingly over the fact that this great collection is at last to be placed on exhibition in the British Museum in its entirety, instead of a few countries at a time, as heretofore. Among other things Mr. Castle says: "We doubt if the great advantages that will be open to collectors and dealers in the permanent exhibition of this superb collection are as yet fully grasped. It will probably be a year or two before the average philatelist will have realized the great fact that in the issues of every country he will always have at command a means of comparison and verification for his own stamps. The system of arrangement is so perfect that it will admit of the placing of any stamp that requires examination quite close to those exhibited, and will allow with ease their comparison, whether as to type, color, or genuineness. In the case of the great rarities which are beyond the ken of the ordinary collector this will be an inestimable advantage. The schoolboy will be able to feast his eyes upon Hawaiians, Guianas, and 'Post Office' Mauritius, and the steady collector will find in the splendid collection—so superbly arranged by Mr. Bacon—a continual source of philatelic education."

Farther on in the editorial, the question of continuing the collection is brought up. There can be no question that it would be very desirable to make this Tapling bequest a sort of world's standard of reference; and in order that it shall properly fill this role it is, of course, requisite that current issues be added. We agree with Mr. Castle that there would be a universal response from the philatelic world were assistance demanded, in order to bring the collection up to date. Mr. Castle states

that its value at the present time is assuredly not less than £100,000, or, in American money, half a million dollars.

In another article, Mr. E. D. Bacon himself, who has had the care and arrangement of the Tapling collection in his hands ever since it came into the possession of the British Museum, gives full details as to the construction and arrangement of the cabinets that are to house this great collection; and it would appear from his description that the difficult problem of providing practical means for the display of so vast a collection has been effectually solved.

The leading feature of this February issue of the *London Philatelist* is a paper by Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall, entitled "A New Collection; or, The Evils of Immersion." It is, from the first line to the last, a decidedly novel and readable contribution. Mr. Marshall collects on very original lines, and of his methods he is a very enthusiastic advocate. The rules for his "New Collection" are two, one relating to unused and the other to used stamps. In unused stamps he advocates the collection of corner stamps or blocks, with the marginal paper attached. He claims that in at least two very large classes of stamps, this mode of collecting greatly increases the interest attaching to them, namely, those which have inscriptions on the margins, such as plate numbers, printer's names, dates or ornamentation, and those which are printed on colored or tinted paper. As to stamps on white paper with blank margins, Mr. Marshall thinks the marginal strips improve their appearance, while the nature of the paper can be examined with greater ease—certainly a strong point in these days when varieties of paper cut so very large a figure.

The rule for used specimens in this "New Collection" is as follows: *These must be taken on a piece of the original cover, cut out so as to show the whole postmark.* Such a method is certainly radically new. It is even at first sight rather startling; but let us see what Mr. Marshall claims for it. Its advantages, he says, are four: Appearance, Interest, Damage, and Preservation. On the score of appearance, Mr.

Marshall does not make out a very strong case, stating simply that he considers stamps cut out in the manner indicated far more attractive than those denuded of all traces of the original envelope in the ordinary way, a point on which most collectors would be likely to disagree with him. In regard to interest, Mr. Marshall is more plausible. Indeed, he really advances some very good points in favor of this mode of collecting. To use his own words, "when a stamp has been used to prepay postage, the postmark is a portion of the whole transaction, recording the place and date. Moreover, a study of the styles of postmark in use at different periods is an interesting adjunct to a collection of the stamps of any country and indeed forms part of its postal history. And a most fascinating study is by this means rendered possible, namely, that of the periods during which various shades and varieties, generally, were in use—a subject on which an ordinary collection gives but very meagre information."

These are not, however, the strongest points Mr. Marshall raises in favor of his new method. The evils of immersion, as his sub-title puts it, or in other words, the damage resulting from soaking stamps in water in order to remove paper from the backs. This common practice receives at Mr. Marshall's hands a terribly scathing arraignment. We shall quote a portion of what he says in this regard, not because we are converted to the new method, but because Mr. Marshall's remarks have instructive value to almost all collectors, regardless of what they may think of the method he promulgates. Among the points in regard to "soaking" stamps which Mr. Marshall raises are the following: "A stamp which is left on the paper, if moderately postmarked, is a much nearer approach to a mint unused copy than an unattached one. The small amount of moisture necessary to dissolve the gum, which is immediately absorbed, chiefly by the envelope paper, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred does not do the slightest harm, not even removing that indefinable quality known as the 'bloom'; but when the

gum is shut up tight between the stamp and the paper, the stewing process which is required in order to persuade them to part company must affect them to some extent, however carefully it is done, especially with stamps of the last twenty years. The danger is only partly obviated by floating the stamps on the surface, or by steaming them, as they are still bound to absorb moisture, which stretches the paper, spoiling the surface, making it spongy and taking off the sharpness, as well as acting on the color to a greater or less degree, depending on the extent to which it is fugitive, and also on the nature of the water, and the odds and ends which it may hold in solution. The effect on the color is threefold: sometimes it is partly dissolved, which gives the stamp a faded appearance; or it tends to run, which is specially noticeable in bi-colored stamps; or a distinct change is produced, oftenest in green and blue stamps. The action of moisture on the surface is shown in a striking manner if a drop of water be allowed to stand for a moment on a post card, and then dried. The surface will be found to be permanently altered.

"The amount of deterioration due to soaking is not half realized by collectors who are unaccustomed to seeing and closely observing used stamps which have not passed through the ordeal by water; but it nevertheless makes itself felt by the great gulf fixed, both in appearance and in most people's estimation, between unused and used stamps. This is only partly due to the latter being defaced, because it is there just the same, however light the postmark may be. The two kinds of stamps are not anywhere within hail of one another, under ordinary circumstances, but anyone working on my plan will find the barrier broken down, and stamps descending by gradual stages from mint unused down to heavily obliterated copies. This is borne out by the effect that water has on unused stamps. Where does one find a really brilliant stamp without the gum? It is not the latter that people pay high prices for; it is immaculate condition, which is never found unless the gum is intact.

For the benefit of those who make a kind of 'fetich' of the original gum, it is perhaps worth while to point out that used stamps collected in the manner suggested undoubtedly possess it."

The fourth advantage that Mr. Marshall claims for his system is that it strongly tends to preserve the stamps for posterity. There is something to take hold of them by, giving them a substantial backbone and lessening the likelihood of creasing—a backbone which is especially valuable for preventing pairs and blocks of perforated stamps from becoming detached from one another.

All in all, Mr. Marshall's system is a very ingenious one and one that we should consider well calculated to appeal to many advanced philatelists, especially those suffering somewhat from philatelic ennui and desirous of trying some radically new mode of collecting. The greatest obstacle to this system's gaining any great degree of popularity with ordinary collectors would undoubtedly lie in the difficulty of securing specimens of the sort required, namely, on part of the original cover, with postmark intact. For those who have much time and money for philately, this obstacle would, however (as Mr. Marshall suggests), only add zest to the chase.

Under the headings, "Philatelic Notes" and "Occasional Notes," much interesting matter is to be found, which we will not, however, attempt to touch upon here, as the March number is yet in waiting. Indeed, we fear that we must dispose of this March number in rather short order. In point of excellence it is fully on a par with those for January and February, but we must steel ourselves to passing by its contents with the briefest, barest mention, else this review will be drawn out to interminable length. The opening article (which is, as usual, in the nature of an editorial leader) is headed, "Collectors and Catalogues," and makes a strong plea for greater simplicity in our catalogues; for the relegation of many classes of minor varieties to the specialist's hand-book, on the ground that their present inclusion in the gen-

eral catalogue causes perplexity and disheartenment to the middle-class collector—a suggestion with which we are most heartily in accord.

Mr. A. B. Creeke, Jr., follows with a "Supplement" to the Wright & Creeke work on British stamps, consisting of addenda and corrections of more or less importance and interest. Mr. Castle himself writes on "The 'O. S.' Stamps of New South Wales," and the balance of the number is devoted to the usual departments.

The Monthly Journal

Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, Eng.
Edited by Edw. B. Evans.

Mar. 31, 1903.

Our old favorite, *The Monthly Journal*, suffers no diminution in glory when placed side by side with the *London Philatelist*. In fact, these two journals are so similar in general character that whoever enjoys the one is pretty sure to enjoy the other also. *The Monthly Journal's* March number is full and running over with interesting features, to which we fear our best efforts will do but scant justice. Major Evans' leading editorial is devoted to that all-engrossing topic, the Moldavian "reprints." It contains no new information as to their status, being, instead, occupied principally by the relation of certain facts regarding the past history of Captain Moroin, the Roumanian philatelist whose name looms up largest in the recent attempts to put these alleged reprints upon the market. Captain Moroin's history, it may be added, is anything but a recommendation for the stamps he now stands sponsor for. The more light there is shed on these Moldavian "reprints" from month to month the lower they sink in philatelic estimation.

Following the always excellent chronicle we find the first installment of a valuable paper on "The 1861 and 1863 Issues of Colombia." Its authors are Messrs. T. W. Hall and E. D. Bacon; serving to emphasize our previous remarks, in reviewing Mr. Hall's Peruvian study in the *London Philatelist*, that there are at least a few members of the upper ten of English philately whose

philatelic studies are by no means bounded by the confines of the British Empire. Messrs. Hall and Bacon preface their paper by some remarks on this very point, lamenting how little attention the bulk of English collectors pay to anything outside their beloved British stamps, and, without directly impugning the wisdom of this insular collecting (to borrow Mr. Castle's phrase), they take pains to point out that "there are others," instancing the earlier issues of Colombia as a series of stamps than which few others will better repay collection and study. An ounce of demonstration, according to the old saying, is worth a ton of theory. The paper before us is a tangible demonstration that Messrs. Hall and Bacon are correct in their assertion. The 1861 issue of Colombia has always been a stumbling block to advanced collectors, because so little has ever been discovered as to the method of production of the stamps. A great many attempts have been made to plate this issue, but with very little result heretofore. Standard authorities have never been able to even say with certainty just how many stamps there were in a sheet; and there has always been more conjecture than anything else in the statements regarding the various varieties of type to be found in the 5c, 20c and 1 peso. Messrs. Hall and Bacon have studied this issue exhaustively, and, aided by a find of certain blocks and strips of some of the varieties, have been able to practically establish some very important points. One is, that the 5c of 1861 was printed in sheets of 54 stamps, made up of six horizontal and nine vertical rows—a fact which probably applies to the other values of 1861 as well, though this is, of course, merely analogy. More important still, after a careful study of the reconstructed sheet of the 5c, which these gentlemen were able to make up out of the find above mentioned, and various strips and blocks of both that value and the 20c, they have come to the conclusion that no types or varieties at all are to be found in either stamp. By a process of very conclusive deductions, which we have not room for here,

Messrs. Hall and Bacon also practically establish that there are no type varieties on the 2½c or 10c, either. In the 1 peso, however, they believe that there are no less than 54 varieties, or one to each stamp on the sheet, the variation consisting in the position of the words "Un Peso." This is pretty well substantiated by an incomplete sheet of 35 specimens of the 1 peso which they have succeeded in reconstructing, in each stamp of which a more or less marked variation of the kind mentioned is discoverable. In this installment, also, considerable attention is given to various known forgeries of the stamps under notice. We cannot too highly commend the paper to the attention of all in any way interested in Colombian stamps.

There are probably few American collectors who would be much inclined to study the stamps of Lombardo-Venetia. We will not, therefore, attempt any analysis of M. Hancian's valuable monograph on these stamps, the second portion of which appears in the number we are reviewing. The work is thorough, painstaking and exhaustive; an excellent specimen of the highest class of philatelic research. Under the heading, "Notes and News," Mr. C. J. Phillips treats on various topics of current interest, his department being this month embellished with a reproduction of the recent remarkable find in "Post Office" Mauritius stamps—a one-penny and two-penny used together, on the original envelope, which *rara avis* is reported to have been sold to a wealthy collector for 65,000 francs, or approximately thirteen thousand dollars. Major Evans' papers on the "Stamps of Some of the Native States of India" are continued in the number before us, the Major still being engaged in elucidating the mysteries of the stamps of Jummoo and Kashmir. And following this comes a sort of joint debate on the subject of limited specialism, the new form of collecting lately brought forward and zealously championed by Mr. H. R. Oldfield. The parties to this debate are Mr. Oldfield himself and Mr. C. J. Phillips, who takes it upon himself to defend "un-

limited specialism." We have before devoted, in this review and elsewhere in this journal, no little space to discussing the limited specialism idea, and have unreservedly commended it. We need not, therefore, go over all the ground covered by Mr. Oldfield in the present instance. Mr. Phillips' presentation of the other side of the question brings forward, however, some points that perhaps deserve consideration. Mr. Phillips' chief contention is that limited specialism puts a damper on philatelic research. He points out with undeniable truth, that if it had not been for "bloating" (to checkmate which is the avowed function of limited specialism), a great many most material facts in relation to the stamps of certain countries would never have been discovered. He adduces various cases in which only by the accumulation of a large number of specimens of the same stamp has it been possible to decide on the arrangement of the plates, to classify the different types, etc., etc. One case he refers to is that of the 5c green, 1866, of Bolivia, in which Mr. Oldfield himself (whose conversion from bloating is comparatively recent) accumulated hundreds of specimens, and after years of study was enabled to separate these 5c stamps not only into the seventy-two varieties on the plate, but into the five or six different retouches, each in seventy-two varieties. In all this, however, Mr. Phillips overlooks an integral part of the platform of limited specialism, as Mr. Oldfield expounds it, which is, that "bloating" *for purposes of study*, for the unraveling of just such points as Mr. Phillips has used in his illustration, is perfectly right and proper, but that bloating in a collection for the purpose of making a big showing is an unfortunate method. All Mr. Phillips' arguments under this head therefore fall to the ground. A more potent and tangible argument in favor of *unlimited* specialism is found in Mr. Phillips' assertion that the greatest specialized collections do not, after all, contain many out and out duplicates. His remarks on this head are interesting. Anent the famous Ceylon collection of Baron de Worms, he says: "To the collector who

has not studied these stamps, the early issues in this superb collection no doubt do show pages of stamps that look just alike, but when we look into them with a critical knowledge and divide up the classes of perforation, the printings in different colors and shades, the different papers in the Crown and CC issue, etc., we hardly find a redundant copy." Again, in regard to Mr. Nankivell's Transvaal collection, he says: "Here we have page after page of stamps of one design, that to the outsider seem the same thing, but after a *very* careful study of this collection during the past two months, I find that it has been formed with great knowledge and care, and hardly two stamps can be considered identical." Such testimony as this would seem to relieve "bloating" of much of the odium under which it is laboring were it further proven that such collections as those cited are typical of *all* big specialized collections. We are inclined to believe that, so far from this being the case, the collections instanced are very exceptional ones. They have been formed by men who may be said to have a genius for philately. In common with a few other great collections formed by men of similar philatelic acquirements, they have served, we are inclined to think, as a pattern for a great many wealthy specialists who have grasped the form but not the spirit of their composition. This last class of philatelists have built up big collections, not by the study and classification of their stamps into every possible variety, but by the simpler process of duplication of rarities, with a total disregard to any differences that may exist between them. This, we take it, is the real state of the case. If all big special collections were built on the same lines as those formed by Mr. Nankivell and Baron de Worms, we fancy that Mr. Oldfield would never have deemed it necessary to start on his present crusade; so that Mr. Phillips' arguments in this instance, also, must be deemed inconclusive. The whole question is a most vitally interesting one and deserves more space than we can give it here; but we can not leave the matter without again wishing Mr.

Oldfield God-speed in his efforts to discourage "bloating," which has, unhappily, gained a considerable foothold on this side of the water as well as in England.

A very interesting article on "The Reprints of British Guiana" is the next thing to meet our attention. We dare not protract this review longer by saying much anent this article, but will quote one paragraph which summarizes the principal information it contains:

"The stamps that have been reprinted (the reprinting took place in 1865) are the two values of 1852, the two values of 1853, and the 1c *rose* of 1860. The whole stock of these reprints, so far as is known, was perforated 12½, whereas the originals of 1852 and 1853 were not perforated at all, and the original 1c of 1860 was perforated 12; therefore, except in cases where dishonest persons have removed the perforations of any of the first four on the list, no collector need be deceived by them, and we may add that the removal of the perforations leaves the copies of the 1852 stamps with very small margins, that the 1c of 1853 is in an *orange-red* color distinctly different from any of the tints in which the originals are found and that the 1c *rose* of 1860 differs from the original not only in the perforation, but also in being on thin paper instead of thick."

"Chatty Notes from Australia," by A. F. Basset Hull; "The Wide, Wide World," by Philologos, and the usual society reports, complete the number.

The Philatelic West

Published by L. T. Brodstone, Superior, Neb.
Edited by E. H. Wilkinson.

March, 1903.

It is in some ways rather a relief to turn from the heavy artillery of the *London Philatelist* and *The Monthly Journal* to the lighter armament of *The Philatelic West*. The tense, strained attention which the former journals compel can, for the nonce, be relaxed, and we can idly enjoy the lighter feast served up to us by this lusty Nebraska journal. The most of *The Philatelic*

West's readers would probably not delve very far into the *London Philatelist* without being seized with mental aphasia. The members of the Philatelic Society of London would probably, on the other hand, care little for *The Philatelic West*; but in the great commonwealth of philately, where the novice outnumbers the expert by the ratio of perhaps a thousand to one, the field of usefulness open to such a journal as Mr. Brodstone's, which caters to the philatelic masses rather than the philatelic classes, must always be a large one. In its field the *West* is undoubtedly the most popular and prosperous journal in America. It is of interest therefore to us older collectors to keep track of what sort of pabulum it is providing for the rising philatelic generation every month—to say nothing of the fact that it is so bright and enterprising that most of us rather enjoy reading it on our own account.

The March number opens with a few editorials, of no particular moment, or, for that matter, any very tangible or connected theme. Mr. Nast's Revenue Department, on the page following, contains a number of items of interest to the growing army of fiscalists. Testimony to the enterprise of the publisher, in the shape of news-letters on stamp matters from Australia and New Zealand, occupies the next two pages. Mr. J. C. Auf der Heide's "Notes From Europe" follow, and then Mr. Steinbrueck's always interesting "Chips." The Foreign Review Department, of which Rev. R. R. Thiele is editor, is justly given large space—being really the feature of the journal. Frank C. Young continues his article on the stamps of British Guiana, which, under the rather pat heading, "A Country of Rarities," was begun last month. Mr. Dorpat's "Department of Inquiry" is of the usual value, and there are a number of other less important short articles which we will not take space to mention here. No subscriber to the *West* can complain of receiving a stinted money's worth.

The Stamp Collector

Published by Margoschis Bros., Birmingham,
England. Edited by Jno. A. Margoschis
and W. Kuhn.

March, 1903.

April, 1903.

We have received two more numbers of the excellent Birmingham journal whose name so closely approximates our own. It may be that on account of this titular relational we are inclined to feel a special fondness for our English prototype in nomenclature. Whatever the reason, we are quite taken with the *Stamp Collector's* character and contents. In the March issue, the scientific and the entertaining are pleasantly blended, not a page being without matter for keen philatelic enjoyment. Last month the *Collector* published an article on the somewhat time-worn topic, "Used versus Unused." This month it prints a further article on the same theme, in which the conclusion is reached that the specialist will find it of most advantage to collect *both* used and unused, while even the generalist will find it very pleasant to do so—a conclusion in which we coincide, though doubting whether the inclusion of both used and unused is in most cases practicable, on account of the added expense of collecting in that manner; which objection, of course, puts the matter back on the same old basis after all.

Mr. Wilhelm Kuhn, one of the *Stamp Collector's* editors, is represented by a paper on "The Correos Stamps of Venezuela," which sums up in concise form a vast amount of information regarding these issues, yet is, withal, not so scientific or technical but that it forms interesting reading to ordinary collectors. The "Interview" this month is with Mr. William Deakin, a Birmingham philatelist, whose portrait proves him to be one of the old guard of philately, and who, as we learn from the interview itself, has been collecting for nearly forty years—another refutation of the frequently published theory that philatelic interest hardly ever endures for an entire lifetime.

Under the heading "A Use for Duplicates," a summary is given of some remarks made by Mr. Jno. A. Margoschis

on the occasion of a recent lantern display before the Birmingham Society. These remarks are so suggestive and interesting that we will take leave to reproduce them in part. We hope that the suggestions he makes may possibly bear some fruit on this side of the water. This is our extract:

"The advancement of philately is served equally by encouraging the beginner and by interesting the outsider.

"To show the usual collection to the man in the street and to explain to him the differences of perforations, water-marks, shades, papers, etc., is, in nine cases out of ten, rather confusing him than instructing him; and though he may view your stamps with admiration and marvel at your keen eye in detecting these varieties, he will at the same time conclude that stamp collecting is too much of a science for him to sufficiently understand even to take up as a pastime. If, however, you can show him how to obtain a maximum of pleasure with a minimum of trouble and expense, he may become far more interested in our favorite pursuit.

"One should not introduce the element of 'value' in putting forward stamp collecting as a pastime; it is with many already too great a consideration, and because stamps have been a good investment in the past, it does not justify the argument that the future is to be equally remunerative in a money view to the investor. It is more necessary to show that stamps are interesting, that collecting them is a pleasing pastime, and that something is to be learned from them; and to do this, one can utilize his duplicates. By gathering together these duplicates and sorting out all the varieties containing: Portraits of Monarchs, Presidents, etc.; Historical Pictures and Scenery, Objects of Natural History, Allegorical Representations, etc., one is soon able to get together a collection of from 100 to 500 varieties, which, mounted in a small book, leaving space below each stamp for a few notes, will make a more interesting collection than one would imagine.

"I have commenced a similar collection myself, and although it only com-

prises about one-third of the possible varieties, it is sufficient to show what may be done. There are a large number of similar stamps among every collector's duplicates that can be treated in such a manner, and a few score of these mounted in an odd book and left on the drawing-room table, along with the monthly periodicals, may be an attraction to some of your friends, and it may be that your few duplicates would form the thin end of a philatelic wedge and result in a few new recruits to stamp collecting."

The *Collector* then goes on to say that Mr. Margoschis, during the course of his lantern show, displayed about 150 attractive varieties along the above lines, giving Presidents of America, biographical notes on the Sultans of Zanzibar and Johore, Napoleon III. of France, Leopolds I. and II. of Belgium, Frederick William IV. of Prussia, George V. of Hanover, King Christian IX. of Denmark, Francis Joseph I. of Austria, Charles I. of Portugal, King of Spain, Kings of Italy, Shahs of Persia, etc., etc.

We should have dearly liked to have seen that picture show and heard Mr. Margoschis' biographical notes. The *Collector* promises, however, to make use of a few of them, in showing how interesting a collection of the kind can be; and in the April number we find the commencement of a "Picture Gallery" modeled after the lantern display, of which we may say a few words when in due order we reach it. Meanwhile, it is well to say that we consider the awakening of interest in the symbolic side of stamp designs, as distinguished from the purely productive, to be a most excellent thing. In this country, Mr. C. A. Howes is busily engaged in teaching us that the significance of designs is fully as interesting a study as the technicalities of production. In India, Mr. Wetherell and the *Philatelic Journal of India* have been laboring to the same purpose; and now in England arises Mr. Margoschis as yet another prophet of the new school of philatelic study. For many years philatelists have made it their business to learn everything under the sun about a

stamp *except* the name of the ruler whose portrait it bears or the kind of plant or flower that forms a border for the design or the location of the landscape depicted. These sort of things hardly anyone has paid any attention to, but it looks now as though they were due to at last come into their own.

Turning to the next page (we are almost fearful that we may have lingered too long on this one) we find the inevitable department of new issues. A little farther along, however, is an original feature, "Our Note Book and Philatelic Diary," in which are gathered a quantity of odd scraps of philatelic information, such as any active collector might naturally jot down in the receptacle referred to. An interesting "Queries and Replies Competition" is another feature which is somewhat out of the ordinary and withal exceedingly useful. Here are samples of the questions, propounded by subscribers; to which answers are invited, a prize of course being given for the best:

"7. What is the difference between the Reay and Plimpton issues of envelopes of the United States?"

"8. Are the so-called 'Interpostals' of Egypt of any philatelic value?"

"9. Borneo and Labuan stamps are postmarked to order. Can anyone explain how to distinguish the genuine postmarks from those imitations?"

These are all queries in whose answers almost any of us can take an interest, because they concern knotty out-of-the-way points. Our contemporary exercises splendid judgment, we should say, in its choice of queries.

"In the Library Chair," which is, of course, a department of review, closes the March number; and we turn to the April one with the hope of finding therein much pleasant matter. That hope is not dispelled in the event. We will, however, have to deal rather briefly with it here, as we find we are being beguiled into spending far too much space over these English journals. An article on the Moldavian reprints opens the number, followed by an article on "The Reay and Plimpton Envelopes of the U. S. A." Next comes a rather amateurish space-filler, by one Sybil

Bishop, entitled "Stampic Items, Past and Present," which has in fact such exceeding little merit that we are much surprised to find it in such good company. Further along is found much more valuable matter in "Hong-Kong Stamps and their Postmarks," by P. T. Deakin, and, following this, we find "Our Portrait Gallery." This last feature we propose making use of as illustrating some points we wish to touch on in our "Philatelic School-Room." Interested readers are therefore referred to that department for the "biographical notes" of more or less famous personages on postage stamps given in this first installment.

Continuing with the *Collector*, we find an interview with and portrait of Mr. Edward White, another of the "mighty stamp men of England," followed by the "Library Chair," the "Note Book" and other lesser features. To the *Stamp Collector* for this time we can give no further attention, but we can surely say that it is a paper that grows upon acquaintance.

The American Journal of Philately

Published by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.,
New York. Edited by Juno. N. Luff.

March 1, 1903.

The March number of the *American Journal of Philately* is not as notable in contents as some of its predecessors for the past few months. Nevertheless, it is, as always, a sensibly written journal, not to be lightly passed over in any critical survey of the philatelic literature of the moment. The editorials at the most are devoted to some very severe criticisms on the designs of some of the more recently issued stamps of Australia, which compare so unfavorably with the beautiful stamps issued by many of the Australian Colonies at an earlier period; and to a little excusable self-felicitation on the character of contributors which the *A. J. of P.* has succeeded in attaching to its standard. Mr. E. J. Nankivell, Mr. E. W. Wetherell and Mr. C. A. Howes being brought forward as illustrations. The last-named gentleman is represented, in the number before us, by another of his very interesting studies of stamp de-

signs. As the *A. J. of P.* editorially says, "Mr. Howes has the happy faculty of taking familiar stamps and showing us that they contain a wealth of details which often has escaped our attention; he also has a pleasing way of telling us the history and meaning of many things which appear on stamps, which are usually new and always interesting." Mr. Howes, in his current contribution, takes up various stamps of New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and British New Guinea. He tells us of such things as the discovery of the black swan on Western Australia's leading river in days before that colony was even thought of, whence came the name Swan River and the use of a black swan on the colony's coat-of-arms and postage stamps; of the early history of British New Guinea and of the name and nature of the strange-looking craft that adorns its postage stamps; of the buildings shown in the half-penny stamp of South Australia, issued in 1900, what they are, their dimensions, their special features, etc.; and of many other such like matters that most of us find mightily interesting, because they are facts that most of us are too busy or too indolent to look up for ourselves. As we have said before, we look on these articles of Mr. Howes' as highly valuable in interesting collectors in stamp designs, as distinguished from the technicalities of their manufacture. The more we see of his work, the more we are inclined to regard it as an excellent innovation in philatelic journalism.

Mr. Nankivell is represented by a short English letter, which is doubly welcome because it furnishes tangible assurance that this famous collector and philatelic journalist has by no means retired from the philatelic arena, even though his mammoth collection of Transvaals has lately been purchased by an eminent firm of English dealers.

Mr. Crawford Capen has a valuable article entitled "The Value of a Standard." Mr. Capen's principal endeavor is to point out how fortunately circumstanced in respect to being able to "get at" values pretty accurately is the collector of stamps, as compared with the

collector of other objects of interest, such as pictures or bric-a-brac. He points out how unstable and fluctuating is the market on works of art, antiques and the like—how intangible a basis to estimate values upon is possessed by the collector of these objects. He holds that in the catalogues the stamp collector, therefore, possesses an invaluable boon; further arguing that the catalogues of the present offers as correct an approximation of value as it is possible to fix. As the active head of the company which publishes the leading American catalogue, and therefore, presumably, the final court of judgment as to the methods by which the prices in that catalogue shall be determined, Mr. Capen's views on the proper manner of determining prices are of far more than ordinary interest. We think, therefore, that our readers will like to read the balance of the article under notice in Mr. Capen's own words. It runs as follows:

"A catalogue, in order to be a standard, need not present an absolutely correct schedule of prices. This is, in the first place, a thing which cannot be done. It takes six months to make a good catalogue, and prices are changing continually during that period. The only thing that is necessary is that the makers of the catalogue shall use their best endeavors to appreciate the values of the stamps which they list.

"The catalogue, in order to be a standard in its prices, must be made on the world's available stock of stamps. The nearer the catalogue makers approach to the understanding of what is the floating stock—that is, the stock which is in the market for sale—the nearer will they be able to come to values and the better standard will the book be. The difficulty of exact pricing, even with a knowledge of what the stock in existence is, is shown by cases which arise from time to time. Confusion, for instance, was the result of a recent sale of stamps of the British West Indies. This lot was part of the total known available stock, but no one expected that it would come upon the market suddenly at a low price. It has depreciated for the moment the value

of these stamps, and they are publicly offered at large discounts from catalogue prices. The lot, however, will soon be absorbed and, since it is not very large, we see no reason why it should materially affect the values of these stamps. There are other cases in which a stamp issued in considerable quantities is 'cornered.' Such, for instance, is the case of the 1c on 3c Cuba, of which there were 150,000 printed and most of them were bought by speculators within a few days. Attempts have been made to market the lot at high prices; but, since the dealers have refused to touch it, the stamp is now offered at a comparatively reasonable price. If the makers of catalogues had priced this stamp on the number in their own stocks, within a few months of the date on which it was issued, it might have been called a stamp worth a dollar instead of twelve cents.

"The method of handling the stamps of Mauritius and the Seychelles Islands has always been speculative, and some values have been invariably bought up as soon as they were issued, and held for a rise. The pricing of these stamps on the stock which any dealer held of them would certainly be an absurdity. This is the fact in regard to many issues and the only reasonable way in which to make prices is upon the world's stock in first hands; that is, the original speculators or the dealers who hold them for sale. If it were the invariable practice of the catalogue makers, as it has been that of the large dealers, to price on the basis of the world's stock, instead of what they may themselves have on hand, the speculative attempts to control the market in relation to the issues of certain countries would be even less successful than they have been in the past.

"The issues of remainders from time to time, and special distributions of large quantities of stamps made by the governments which have issued them, have a distinct effect in changing the prices of the catalogues. New knowledge, also, as to the numbers in existence is continually coming to the catalogue makers, but their effort always

should be and always will be, so far as possible, to make the prices correspond with the values at the date of issue, that the work may be as accurate a standard as possible for the use of collectors."

All of the above is logical and sound. It is well that such explanations as to catalogue causes and effects should be publicly made. It tends to increase the confidence of collectors in the catalogue's figures to thus learn how many points are taken into consideration in the fixing of those figures. Certainly our American catalogue seems to be in the proper hands.

Following Mr. Capen's article comes a communication on U. S. envelopes from that well-known authority on American postal stationery, Mr. Geo. L. Toppan, in which he suggests certain eliminations from and additions to the list of U. S. envelopes, as given in the latest edition of the Standard Catalogue. Envelope specialists alone would take interest in the changes suggested. The remainder of the number is occupied with the usual notes and chronicle which, excellent as they are in themselves, do not provide much fitting material for review.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

Published by P. L. Pemberton & Co.,
London, England.

Feb. 28, 1903.

March 31, 1903.

The February *P. J. of G. B.* opens as usual with a portrait and biography, the "subject" this time being Mr. Wilmot Corfield, who has effected many notable philatelic achievements both in England, his former home, and India, his present place of residence. As former editor of the *Philatelic World* and the *Philatelic Journal of India*; as secretary since 1900 of the Philatelic Society of India, and as an active promoter of the interests of Anglo-Indian philately in many and various ways, Mr. Corfield has had a philatelic career that well merits his enrollment in the *P. J. of G. B.*'s gallery of distinguished philatelists. The chief thing that interests us, however, in the story of his collecting life, is his splendid philatelic platform. Let us repeat it in his own words:

"I draw the line at nothing which is really a government issue (whether postal or fiscal), and, though I have my preferences for some countries over others, believe that the *general* collector, in the long run, is likely to get the most pleasure out of his pursuit. Financial gain does not concern me in the least; a stamp once included in my album remains there, unless replaced by a better specimen. I love *all* stamps and not merely those that are costly. I laid the scheme of my collection down on broad lines, when little more than a child, and have never since regretted the course then decided upon. I notice with sorrow how others dig for a while only in a corner of the great field of philately and then sell their holding at a profit or loss. They may call themselves Philatelists (with a very big P) or special-ists, or whatever else they like; but the generalist resents their dubbing any earnest lovers of our hobby 'magpies,' and talking in a superior way of 'wall-paper' and 'drawing-room lots.'"

This is the kind of talk it does one good to hear. It is, to our mind, a thousand pities that more of the "famous collectors" do not share Mr. Corfield's views.

The next article in the *P. J. of G. B.* is headed "Moldavia Reprints or Forgeries," and is, of course, relative to the much-discussed pseudo-stamps of Moldavia that have recently bobbed up in Europe. The article in question is from the pen of Mr. G. B. Duerst, and does not mince matters in condemning these Moldavian "reprints." Incidentally, the character of Captain Moroin, the sponsor for the stamps in question, is subjected to a severe raking over. In fact, from Mr. Duerst's article was obtained the information regarding Moroin's previous forgeries that was contained in Major Evans' *Monthly Journal* editorial, previously alluded to.

Following Mr. Duerst's article is the continuation of Mr. L. W. Fulcher's interesting paper, "What Kind of Minor Varieties Should be Included in a General Collection?" whose first instalment was spoken of at some length in our review of the *P. J. of G. B.*'s January number. We regret to say that we do

not find ourselves quite in accord with Mr. Fulcher's view in the instalment before us. He deals with the minor variety far too tenderly. He takes in, and pronounces advantageous for inclusion in a representative general collection, a good many things that we should consider not at all necessary to its completeness. He advises including specimens of different dies in the same stamp wherever such exist, and in this we agree with him; but when the assertion is made that it is advisable to collect retouches of line-engraved stamps and such things as the various stages of the plates of the 5c Bolivia, we certainly believe that a mistake is made. It is, of course, all very well for wealthy generalists to include such varieties in their collections if they wish to, but care should be taken in writing on such subjects and laying down rules for the general guidance of collectors, to avoid the possibility of making it appear that such minor varieties as mentioned ought to be included by the ordinary collector. It is a mistake to ask the ordinary collector to do too much. Mr. Fulcher has not, in our judgment, cast out as many kinds of minor varieties as would in most cases be desirable. When we come to his mode of dealing with surcharge varieties, we are more than ever convinced of this. Mr. Fulcher picks out in the Orange River Colony "V.R.I." surcharges the following list as one that may well represent the series in the generalist's album: (1) A series with level stops; (2) two or three of the *commonest* errors, showing different kinds of error, say, with no stop after "V", one with a letter or all three of V. R. I. wanting, and one with value omitted or only partially present; (3) a series with raised stops; (4) a series with thick "V"; (5) two or three specimens—the *commonest* varieties—to show "mixed" stops or other kinds of error. This is a pretty formidable program. Can it be wise for the collector who has ten or twelve or fifteen thousand out of the twenty-three or twenty-four thousand *major* varieties of postage stamps that exist to spend his money or lumber up his album with all

these varieties of surcharges? Had he not far better spend the sum that would be required for their purchase in getting some of the major varieties still lacking in his album? Of course, we understand that this paper was originally read before a body of advanced collectors; but is it likely that the collections of all of these are so absolutely complete that they can make no further additions to their albums without squandering their substance on tiny varieties of surcharge? Die varieties are well enough, because they really present some variation in the original design. Even perforation varieties have some claims to respectability; but when it comes to minor varieties of surcharge, they are, in our judgment, the very last thing on which a collector should spend either time or money. We wish we could take space to note other points in Mr. Fulcher's paper. It is a very interesting one, and the two or three points we have touched upon of course give the reader no real idea of the logic or argument in general; but there are other pages and other journals yet to look at, so we must pass on and see what the balance of the *P. J. of G. B.* has to offer.

Editorially, warm commendation is given to Mr. F. H. Napier's "Notes on the Stamps of Griqualand, West," which, originally appearing as a serial in the *Philatelic Record*, has now been published in pamphlet form. "Notes by the Way" and "New Issues and Varieties" fill the next few pages, and with the usual "Philatelic Review of Reviews," the number closes.

The March number opens with a portrait and sketch of Mr. B. W. Warhurst, who is well known to the readers of the *COLLECTOR* from the interesting articles he has contributed to this paper, and is also known to many of us as the editor, during its existence, of *Stamps*, one of the best and brightest philatelic papers ever published in England. Mr. Warhurst, it appears, is one of the philatelic veterans, the date of his birth having been nearly sixty years ago. The story of his collecting career, as given by our contemporary, is worth repeating, as giving one a flavor of philately's early days. "His collection of

stamps (writes the *P. J. of G. B.*) was fostered by shilling to half-crown packets from the Smiths of Brighton and Bath, and others up to a guinea from Stanley Gibbons, who then conducted his business from Plymouth. It was also added to by selections from the early catalogues of the dealers named and from that of Young and Stockall of Liverpool, by pickings from the waste paper baskets of India and Colonial offices in the sixties, followed in the seventies by purchases at Mrs. Smith's little shop in Nicholas Lane, where he met and exchanged with Mr. De Ysasi and other noted collectors. Following the fashion of those days, he ignored unused stamps as not having developed into postage stamps proper, and it was only in despair of getting used specimens that he began, about 1880, to go in for mint pairs and blocks, with the result that, out of the remains of the sixes and twelves then bought, he has long since repaid the cost of the 15,000 varieties (up to 1890) that he still holds. Since 1892 he has confined his attention almost exclusively to entires, as he found it impossible to keep up with the increasing number of new issues. This collection is now one of the finest in England and was considerably strengthened in 1895 by the purchase of half of T. Buhl & Co.'s (formerly Pemberton, Wilson & Co.'s) stock of entires, including about 3,000 varieties. The collection now numbers over 12,000 different cards, envelopes and wrappers. Over three years ago he started the 'Chelsea Entires Exchange Club,' which has been of considerable assistance to himself and others engaged in this neglected branch of philately. Mr. Warhurst is now one of the foremost authorities on entires and is always ready to use his knowledge for the benefit of others. Two years ago he brought out an album, ingeniously arranged for mounting entires, which is about the best attempt yet at solving the very difficulty which has been more than anything else the cause of the unpopularity of entires."

Many interesting points in relation to Mr. Warhurst's busy and many-

sided life are also given in the sketch, but these we must perforce pass over.

We regret to learn that through chronic rheumatism Mr. Warhurst has been for some years past confined to his own home, an enforced abstainer from active business life; but that, in the quiet of his study, he is one of the busiest of those who labor with the brain rather than with the hands, is amply proven by his many and important contributions to recent philatelic literature.

Delving deeper into the *P. J. of G. B.*'s pages we find an interesting communication from Mr. Wilmot Corfield on "Commemorative Issues." Mr. Corfield protests against the *P. J. of G. B.*'s action in excluding all commemorative issues from the "Catalogue of European Postage Stamps," now appearing serially in that journal. His objection is based on the ground that such exclusion renders the catalogue incomplete—that these objectionable issues actually did postal duty, and that the fact that they were unnecessary or issued mainly in the hope of reaping substantial returns from the sale of them to collectors, cannot alter the fact that they are actual postage stamps. Mr. Corfield remarks that he cannot see on what logical principle a catalogue-compiler can pick or choose, select or discard, and that the compiler's position seems to him analogous, in such cases as these, to that of the magistrate who has to administer an unpopular law. He may himself consider it a grossly unjust one, but he has no power to overlook its presence on the statute books. To all of which, the editor of the *P. J. of G. B.* makes reply that in framing the rule in question he simply believed a plan was suggested which might be followed with advantage by other catalogues, since, if such issues were ignored in all catalogues, they would soon sink into oblivion—a consummation which is certainly devoutly to be wished.

The "European Catalogue" deals this month with Finland, and is as interesting and valuable as heretofore. This is followed by an excellent editorial on "Speculation in New Issues," in which the practice named is strongly con-

demned; which, in its turn, gives way to a paper headed "Entirely About Entires," written by Mr. Warhurst in his usual interesting vein. The New Issues and Review Department furnish the balance of the number's reading matter.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:—The following matter was held over from the review in the March number, having been crowded out.

The Perforator

Published and Edited by A. Herbst and Wm. A. McDonnell, New York.

Jan. 25, 1903.

Feb. 25, 1903.

The Perforator continues to perform excellent service in providing good reading for what many be termed the middle class philatelists—those who are collecting on a modest scale and do not much care for scientific and technical philatelic reading. The January *Perforator* opens with a couple of reproductions of gems from the famous Seybold collection of original covers—the one being of a fine pair of the 3pf. Saxony, of 1850, and the other of a nice single copy of the 4d. on 1sh., St. Vincent.

Following comes an extended and interesting symposium on "The Probable Boom in U. S. Stamps." In its December issue *The Perforator* puts itself forward as a sort of journalistic advance agent of such a boom, promising a series of interviews on the subject from prominent dealers and collectors in a later number. This promise is redeemed in the issue before us, though not with quite the thoroughness that could be wished, inasmuch as only six interviews are given. We presume, however, that for this *The Perforator* is not to blame. Doubtless other prominent dealers and collectors were approached on the subject, but felt an unwillingness to have their views quoted. And probably some of these refrained from uttering any opinion publicly because they did not feel at all certain of a future U. S. boom, and hesitated to cast a damper on the symposium by expressing pessimistic views. The six philatelists who consented to be

quoted are: C. F. Rothfuchs, Miss Amy L. Swift, John N. Luff, E. B. Sterling, W. F. Gregory and Willard O. Wylie. A brief summary of the views they express may not be uninteresting.

Mr. Rothfuchs believes that, while the demand for U. S. stamps within the next year or two may not attain as great heights as during the halcyon days of the early nineties, the call for them will be much greater than it has been for the last few years, and that, on the whole, all classes of U. S. stamps form an excellent purchase at present prices. Miss Swift, on the contrary, sees no signs of a boom, and believes that the demand a year or two hence will be just about the same as to-day, sustained and healthy, but not strong enough to advance prices to any appreciable extent. Mr. Luff is non-committal. He says that, not happening to be gifted with second sight, he can not take it upon himself to forecast the future. U. S. stamps, he remarks, have been rather out of favor for a few years, but on the principle that "every dog has his day," they may, he thinks, be due for a return to favor. As to whether that return is near or far distant, he refuses to express any opinion. Manifestly, his confidence in a boom is not over-great. Mr. Sterling is very optimistic and predicts a greatly enhanced demand in the near future, not only for U. S. postage stamps, but for the revenue stamps also—a class of stamps whose interests, as all of us older collectors know, have always been very dear to Mr. Sterling's heart. Mr. Gregory does not say in so many words that U. S. stamps will boom with meteoric brilliancy, but he does register his belief that the present high discounts on these stamps can not much longer prevail—which is, in this case, tantamount to hopefulness. Mr. Wylie, also, is hopeful. He says: "A change is imminent. Indeed, the prices of *high class* U. S. stamps given you by any first rate dealer will tell its own story. It is my firm belief that an up-grade tendency is in the air and bound to materialize."

These views, we must confess, do not average up to a very high standard of

enthusiasm. One is enthusiastic, two are fairly optimistic, one is lukewarmly hopeful, one is coldly non-committal, and one is frankly pessimistic. This symposium is, however, too scanty and incomplete to be in any sense conclusive—if any expressions of mere opinion *could* be considered as conclusive. It would be interesting to secure the views of some ten or a dozen of the best-posted dealers in America. We think the consensus of opinion would lean toward the "boom" idea. We believe there can be no doubt that it is coming. It may not arrive in a year or two, but it will, in our judgment, be not very many years on the road.

The editorials in the January *Perforator* are largely devoted to reviewing the new Scott and Gibbons catalogues and are written in a sensible and pleasing vein—a comment which also applies to Mr. Herbst's "Department of Advertising" on the next page, a feature whose nature is fully indicated in its sub-title, "Helpful Hints and Suggestions for the Dealer who Advertises." Certainly, in conducting such a department in its columns, *The Perforator* shows decided enterprise. "The Fraud Reporter" is another unique feature of *The Perforator*, which is naturally of more interest to dealers than collectors. It is not, however, unreadable in a general sense.

In addition to the features we have mentioned, the January *Perforator* contains an abundance of short notes and random paragraphs, none of which are without interest. *The Perforator* is, in the best sense of the term, a well-edited paper.

The February issue contains a further treat for the eye (one which may, however, tend to increase the philatelic sin of covetousness) in the shape of illustrations of some more of Mr. Seybold's rare "covers." Then comes a number of prize-winning articles in the "prize manuscript competition" conducted from month to month by our live young contemporary. The first prize is taken by a not very meritorious production, titled "The Point of View." The essay to which the second prize is awarded is,

however, a splendid paper, whose interest lies in its being a plain, everyday account of a collector's practical experiences in collecting the stamps of certain countries. The author is W. L. S., and he writes under the title "Unpopular Countries." It is a recital of his experiences in collecting "neglected stamps," and there is a naive simplicity to his treatment of the subject that is not often found in philatelic writing; for most of us are wont to deal with abstract, more or less intangible matters, rather than with our own personal philatelic experiences. W. L. S. says that he has always sought to give special attention to "neglected countries." One of the first that he took up was Hawaii, at that time languishing in as deep neglect as any country on the philatelic map; and it is scarcely necessary to say that in the case of Hawaii, the investment made by this champion of the philatelically unpopular, turned out, on the accession of Hawaii to the United States, to have been a most fortunate one. Samoa, also, was one of his selections, and here, too, he found rich reward in the end. Of course, not all his "unpopular countries" have turned out so well financially; but in all of them he has found a great degree of pleasure and interest. Siam, he mentions, is another country that has taken his particular fancy; and of Siamese stamps he possesses an almost complete collection, including a number of varieties and errors not mentioned in the catalogue. He states that it has taken several years to bring his special Siamese collection to this state of approximate completeness. Uruguay has been another of his favorites, and here, as in Siamese stamps, no material changes of price have occurred during the past few years. W. L. S. believes, however, that Uruguay stamps are likely to "take a jump" at almost any time. Argentine Republic is another country in which W. L. S. takes special pride. He has most of the older issues unused, and was also fortunate enough to purchase the official stamps of Argentine when they were unpopular—which latter class of stamps has advanced, in many in-

stances, over one hundred per cent in the past year or two. With British Colonials, W. L. S. confesses he has never much bothered his head—and in these days when philatelists are so generally worshipping British Colonials, it is very refreshing, indeed, to find some one who does not at all care for them. W. L. S. admits, however, that there are three exceptions to his distaste for British Colonials, viz., Straits Settlements, Fiji Islands and Ceylon. It is evident that W. L. S. does not, in cleaving to unpopular countries, by any means select only the easy ones, for Straits Settlements, stamps are about as hard a nut as any specialist need care to crack. Indeed, W. L. S. confesses as much, stating that he has tried his utmost to complete them, but has long since given it up as a bad job—though he still adds a specimen now and then. In regard to Fiji, he says that Fijians are his special hobby and that in them he has gone deeper into the minor variety craze than in any other country in his entire collection. This, also, has paid him well, for many New Zealand stamps have appreciated from fifty to two hundred per cent in the last four years. Tonga is one of his more recent loves, his special interest in Tonga dating from not much more than a year back; but here once again he believes there are splendid chances for investment.

We would like to go on with his paper further, but, really, we are devoting too much space to it, and we can see that our bald recital of its points is wholly lacking in the spirit of the original; but we have thought it well to give more than passing mention to the paper, as a sort of object-lesson in showing that one can find philatelic pleasure and profit without bowing down to the British Colonial fetiche—the dominating feature of present philately. We can not refrain from making one more citation from this essay, namely, the author's selection of good countries for the budding specialist to turn his hand to. He mentions Hong-Kong, Sierra Leone, Bulgaria, Malta, Argentine Republic and Brazil. The list might, of course, be much extended, but as it stands it certainly presents a very good range of choice for him who wishes to specialize "on the side" in one or two not too difficult or too costly countries.

Having devoted so much space to this portion of *The Perforator*, we hardly feel that we can spare any great amount of space to the balance of the journal. Suffice it therefore to say that the editorials (which fill two large pages) are really excellent and that the balance of the journal is filled up with practically the same features as have been mentioned in connection with the January *Perforator*.



Chronicle of New Issues

Only adhesive stamps listed.
 All are regular postage stamps unless special heading in italics.
 All are 1902 or 1903 issues.
 Varieties of perforation, unimportant minor varieties and oddities not listed.
 Surcharges are in black unless noted.
 Native Indian States are not considered, excepting those surcharging British Indians.

Abyssinia

We should have mentioned the discovery, as announced in the English papers, of copies of the 4, 8 and 16 guerche in type A1 (head of the Menelik). These are familiar with the postage due surcharge, and the question arises whether they are stamps regularly issued in Abyssinia or only unfinished specimens or printer's waste from the Paris factory?

Antigua

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new stamps for this colony which were promised (officially, we believe,) for the first of May. The design is to be a local view and not the King's head, and the set is to be used (like the 1899 Virgin Islands set and the U. S. commemorative issues) in conjunction with the regular Leeward Islands stamps.

Argentine Republic

The sale of the 5c. Rosario commemorative stamp, like many another of the same class, was so far from enormous that the promoters found themselves overstocked; but, being government officials, they were not to be bluffed that easily and so had the remainders surcharged for use as ordinary 5c. postage stamps. The surcharge which was used to remove the commemorative taint is as follows: "Valido por 5 centavos—Servicio Interior."

5 centavos on 5 centavos, dull blue.

Bahamas

There was an error in our last chronicle of stamps from this colony. The third stamp in the list on page 135 (February magazine number) should

have been 3 shillings instead of 5, description otherwise correct.

Barbados

The 2sh. 6p. stamp of current type (A8) in new colors.

2½ shillings, lilac and green.

Cape of Good Hope

Continuation of the new series, head of King Edward VII.

4 pence, olive.
 6 " violet.
 5 shillings, orange.

Cayman Islands

Regular type, head of King Edward VII.

1 penny, carmine.

Ceylon

New types, head of King Edward VII.

3 cents, green.
 12 " olive-green and carmine.
 16 " blue.
 25 " yellow-brown.
 30 " violet and green.

Colombian Republic

The 20c. dull blue of the Pie de la



Popa type, which we chronicled imperf. on page 135 (February magazine number), is also reported with sewing machine perf. and regular perf. 11½. We have this same type in a new color, carmine-rose, regular perf. 11½.

We have the following varieties of this stamp in the original color to record:

Printed on both sides, perf. 11½.

Perforated 11½ horizontally and imperf. vertically.

Sewing machine perforation 6; the ordinary is 11½.

- 20 centavos, violet, printed on both sides, perforated 11½.
- 20 centavos, violet, perf. 11½ horizontally, imperf. vertically.
- 20 centavos, violet, sewing machine perf. 6.
- 20 centavos, dull blue, sewing machine perf. and perf. 11½.
- 20 centavos, carmine-rose, perforated 11½.



There are some new colors to report of the above stamps.

- 50 centavos, brown.
- 1 peso, blue.

And last (for the moment) the stamps of the so-called "regular" issue of 1902—A76 to A80 in the catalogue—have come out in new colors. There are three to list at present, but the other two will most likely follow.

- 4 centavos, blue on green.
- 5 " " " blue.
- 20 " " " salmon.

Colombian Republic (Antioquia)

The 2 centavos of the last issue (numeral type) is reported in a new color. It is described as violet but at the same time is said to be much lighter than the 4c. of the same set, which has already been assigned that name.

- 2 centavos, violet.

Colombian Republic (Bolivar)

The State of Bolivar has now gone into the business of producing hideous-looking labels of the cheapest sort, each value in various colors, as indicated in our "stamp note" on page 231 (May 18th). We present herewith a descriptive list of the various denominations, colors, etc. (See illustrations on frontispiece.)

- 50 centavos, blue on pink wove paper, pin perf.
- 50 " purple on greenish blue wove paper, pin perf.
- 1 peso, red-orange on salmon wove paper, pin perf.
- 1 " bronze-green on lavender wove paper, pin perf.
- 5 pesos, carmine on lavender vertically laid paper, pin perf.
- 5 " carmine on brown vertically laid paper, pin perf.
- 10 " dark blue on greenish blue vertically laid paper, unperforated.
- 10 " purple on bluish vertically laid paper, unperforated.

Registration Stamps.

- 20 centavos, red on salmon vertically laid paper, pin perf.
- 20 " red on greenish blue vertically laid paper, pin perf.

Registration Return Receipt Stamps.

- 20 centavos, red on yellow wove paper, pin perf.
- 20 " dark blue on lavender wove paper, pin perf.

Too Late Stamps.

- 20 centavos, carmine on bluish wove paper, pin perf.
- 20 " purple on bluish wove paper, pin perf.

Egypt (Soudan)

As our lists of the stamps on the new paper have been fragmentary and in two values incorrect, we present same complete and correct to date. Also the new official set produced by surcharging same (we did not list the officials produced by perforating).

- 2 millimes, brown and green.
- 3 " green and purple.
- 5 " black and carmine.
- 1 piastre, carmine and black.
- 10 piastres, purple and brown.

Official Stamps.

The 3 and 5m. and 1pi. of this new set, with the 1, 2 and 5pi. of the old, have been surcharged for official use "O. S. G. S."

- 3 millimes, green and purple.
- 5 " black and carmine.
- 1 piastre, carmine and black.
- 1 " yellow-brown and blue.
- 2 piastres, blue and black.
- 5 " green and brown.

Elobey, Annoben y Corisco

As a still further subdivision of Spain's colonial possessions, these three little islands in the Gulf of Guinea, with a total population of about 3,000, are to be provided with a complete set of stamps of their very own! These are to be inscribed with names in full and the date 1903, and there are to be no less than 18 values, from ¼c. to 10 pesetas. These islands, as well as Spanish Guinea, formerly used the stamps of Fernando Po; now there are three sets instead of one.

Eritrea

There was an omission in our list of the new stamps, as given on page 206 (March magazine number). The figures for the 45c. were omitted and its color

assigned to the 50c. We give them correctly herewith.

45 centesimi, olive-green.
50 " " violet.

Postage Due Stamps.

Current Italian postage due stamps provided with the usual surcharge for use in this colony.

5 centesimi, orange and brown.
10 " " " "
20 " " " "
30 " " " "
40 " " " "
50 " " " "
60 " " " "

Fiji

There were three errors in our descriptions of the new King's head Fiji stamps on page 66 (January magazine number). The 1 penny has name and value in black instead of being simply



"lilac on red." The 3 pence has name and value in mauve and the 4 pence in black, instead of "brown" and "blue" as reported in our previous list.

1 penny, lilac and black on red.
3 pence, " " mauve.
4 " " " black.

France

We illustrate the new 15 centimes



referred to in a former number.

15 centimes, slate-green.

Military Stamp.

The 1902 issue of 15c. stamp (the re-engraved or type A19) has now been surcharged "F. M."

15 centimes, carmine.

France (Offices in Crete)

To the list of stamps surcharged with new values, as given on page 206

(March magazine number), we have to add—

1 plastre on 25 centimes, blue.

The question now arises as to the unsurcharged 25 and 30 centimes stamps listed on the same page. Is the 30c. to be issued with surcharge? It is possible that the stamps above 20c. were chronicled too previously and do not exist without the surcharge. If there are two complete sets from 25c. up, the unsurcharged will likely be rare—unless Paris has plenty of *remainders*.

France (Offices in Egypt)

Port Said.

Completing the "droits de l'homme" series with the now familiar alterations.

20 centimes, brown-violet.
25 " " blue.
30 " " lilac.

France (Offices in Levant)

Completing the "droits de l'homme" series as above.

15 centimes, carmine.

France (Offices in Zanzibar)

The *droits de l'homme* type has been brought into use for these offices by means of alterations similar to those noted for the other French foreign offices and also surcharges giving the value in "annas."

1 anna on 10 centimes, red.
1½ annas " " 15 " " carmine.
2 " " " 20 " " brown-violet.
2½ " " " 25 " " blue.

Guatemala

On page 136 (February magazine number) we listed five official stamps. It was reported at the time that these were printed in strips of five, one of each denomination. The highest value was printed "20" and afterwards altered to "25." A correspondent of an eastern weekly now has information of these stamps (or similar ones) printed in sheets of 100 and of a 25 centavos (printed "25") in blue. From this he tries to throw discredit on the printing in strips and also on the surcharged stamps. It does not seem to have occurred to him that there might have been a provisional issue, such as was originally described, and now a more

permanent arrangement with the stamps in sheets, "each value separately," and the highest value correctly printed. This latter would naturally be in a different color to more clearly distinguish it from the provisional. We have no information as to the colors, or shades, of the other values.

Official Stamps.
25 centavos, blue.

Hongkong

Additional values in the new type, head of King Edward VII.



- 30 cents, blackish green and light green.
- 50 " purple and light green.
- 1 dollar, yellow-green and purple.
- 2 dollars, red and slate.
- 3 " blue and black.
- 5 " blue-green and lilac.
- 10 " brown and gray-violet on blue.

Iceland

Stamps of the old issues re-habilitated for this year's use by means of the surcharge, "I GILDA—'02-'03."

- 4 aur, rose and gray.
- 5 " yellow-green, red surcharge.
- 16 " brown.
- 100 " lilac and brown.

Official Stamps.
3 aur, yellow.
4 " gray.
16 " carmine.

India

Continuation of new series, head of King Edward VII.

- 2½ annas, blue.
- 4 " olive.
- 8 " red-violet.

Official Stamps.

King's head stamps with usual (On H. M. S.) surcharge.

- 2 annas, violet.
- 2½ " blue.
- 4 " olive.
- 8 " red-violet.

India (Chamba)

Last issue Queen's head stamp with usual surcharge.

"Chamba—State," 2 annas, violet.

King's head Indian stamp with same surcharge.

"Chamba—State," 3 pies, gray.

Official Stamps.

Last issue Queen's head stamp with usual surcharge.

"Service—Chamba—State," 2 annas, violet.

India (Gwalior)

Official Stamps.

King's head Indian stamps with usual surcharge.

- 3 pies, gray.
- ½ anna, green.
- 1 " carmine.

India (Jhind)

Official Stamps.

Last issue Queen's head stamp with usual surcharge.

½ anna, green.

India (Patiala)

Official Stamps.

King's head Indian stamp with usual surcharge (Service—Patiala—State).

½ anna, green.

Inhambane

Additional values provided for this new colony (new as an issuer of stamps, except for some surcharges which are catalogued under Mozambique). All are in the regular colonial type, figures of value, etc., in red on the 500r. and in black on the others.

- 100 reis, blue on blue.
- 115 " orange-brown on pink.
- 130 " brown on straw.
- 200 " violet on pink.
- 400 " blue on straw.
- 500 " black on blue.
- 700 " gray-black on straw.

Liberia

The 3 cents "inland postage" chronicled and illustrated on page 207 (March magazine number) has also



been issued for official use with surcharge of fancy letters "O. S.," stamps so decorated being further distinguished by being printed in green.

Official Stamps.

3 cents, green, red surcharge.

Malta

Continuation of the new series, head of King Edward VII.



1 penny, carmine and gray.
1 shilling, violet and gray.

Mauritius

We now chronicle the actual issue of the 5 cents stamp of current (arms) type with value in black instead of violet, the probable appearance of which we announced some time ago in these columns.

5 cents, lilac and black on buff.

There is also a new 4 cents stamp, the type unchanged, but a new combination of colors.

4 cents, gray-green and purple.

Mozambique Company

Instead of an extensive outfit of new issues, as chronicled elsewhere, for the various Portuguese colonies, this company appears to be satisfied (for the present, at least.) with a single new value, the Postal Union rate.

65 reis, blue.

Natal

Several additions to the King's head series are now reported as having been placed in use.

2½ pence, blue.
4 " brown and red.
4 shillings, orange and lake.

New Zealand

Current types, pictorial series, now issued on watermarked paper. The 4 pence was at first issued perf. 11, but changed very soon after to perf. 14; the former is said to be rare.

4 pence, yellow-brown and blue, perf. 11 and 14.
8 " blue, perf. 11.

Nicaragua

Two recent provisionals are surcharged on the lithographed 10 centavos, itself a 1902 issue. They are described as follows by the *American Journal of Philately*: "6 Centavos (ap-

parently an error in spelling) across the bottom, a small figure '6' over the '10' in each upper corner, and a group of irregular lines (made by two pieces of border type) in the center. The second has the surcharge '1.00 PESO' across the center and '1.00' in each lower corner."

6 centavos on 10 centavos, violet.
1 peso on 10 centavos, violet.

The same paper announces the discovery of some provisional official stamps, made by surcharging with a hand-stamp on the orange postage due stamps of 1896 the mystic words "Franqueo Oficial." It is said to be "somewhat irregularly struck, so that we find varieties with inverted and double surcharges and pairs in which one of the stamps has escaped the surcharge."

Official Stamps.

2 centavos, orange.
5 " "
10 " "
20 " "

Niue

Current New Zealand stamps with surcharge of name and value in the Niuean dialect.

Tolu e Pene—3 pence, yellow-brown, blue surcharge.

Ono e Pene—6 pence, rose, blue surcharge.

Taha e Sileni—1 shilling, red, blue surcharge.

Taha e Sileni—1 shilling, red, blue surcharge.

The latter being an error in the Niuean surcharge of value ("Taha e Sileni"—thief shilling, instead of "Taha e Sileni"—one shilling) and was immediately withdrawn from sale and all copies recalled as far as possible. We understand they even cabled to London for some that had gone there. The stamp with correct inscription was immediately issued.

Orange River Colony

Continuation of the new series, head of King Edward VII. In the higher values, the head is printed in carmine.

½ penny, green.
2 pence, brown.
2½ " blue.
3 " red-violet.
4 " olive and carmine.
6 " lilac and carmine.
1 shilling, brown-yellow and carmine.

Paraguay

Further provisionals of those apparently much required values, 1 and 5 centavos.

1 centavo on 1 peso, slate (1900).
 5 centavos on 10 centavos, red (1902).
 5 " " 60 " orange (1892).
 5 " " 80 " blue (1892).



Also the long-expected new issue, illustrated and described by us some time ago. This is said to be very cheap-looking, the poorest lithographic work yet turned out by or for this little republic.

1 centavo, gray.
 2 centavos, green.
 3 " " blue.
 5 " " orange-brown.
 10 " " pink.
 20 " " blue.
 30 " " violet.

Official Stamps.

This same new set, surcharged OFICIAL in black (diagonally).

1 centavo, gray.
 2 centavos, green.
 5 " " blue.
 10 " " orange-brown.
 20 " " pink.
 30 " " blue.
 60 " " violet.

Penrhyn Island

Current New Zealand stamps with surcharge of name and value, the latter in native dialect.

Toru Pene—3 pence, yellow-brown, blue surcharge.
 Ono Pene—6 pence, rose, blue surcharge.
 Tahi Silingi—1 shilling, red, blue surcharge.

Persia

Further surcharging on the new issue.

2 shahis on 3 shahis, green, blue surch.
 12 " " 10 krans, vermilion, blue surch.

Official Stamps.

Surcharged "Service" in black.

1 shahi, lilac.
 2 shahis, gray.
 3 " " green.
 10 " " brown.
 2 tomans in blue on 50 krans, green.

The European papers are much stirred up over some new sets of provisionals (that is to say, newly discovered—they are supposed to have antedated the new regular issue) of type similar to A25, some denying their au-

thenticity and others asseverating that they are all right. There are three sets with values expressed in "Chahis" and "Krans" instead of "CHAHIS" and "KRANS," and one mixed set with an entirely new type of surcharge, as follows:

1. Surcharged with the "disappearing" lion in red,
 - 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12 "Chahis."
2. Surcharged with "Provisoire 1319,"
 - 1, 2, 3, 5, 12 "Chahis."
3. Surcharged "P. L. TEHERAN,"
 - 2 "Chahis."
4. Surcharged "arms in a circle in the center, surrounded by an oblong octagonal flame, inscribed *PROVI* SOIRE*, with a fourth star in the center below, and date 1321 (in Arabic) at left and 1903 at right" in blue (description of surcharge and list of values taken from *Erwen's Weekly Stamp News*).

1 "Chahi," gray.
 2 "Chahis," red-brown.
 5 " " pale red.
 10 " " olive-yellow.
 12 " " dark blue.
 1 "KRAN," purple.

We understand these stamps all have the buff background, the same as the earlier and more familiar varieties.

Peru

Postage Due Stamp.

Provisional 1 centavo postage due stamp produced by surcharging the 10 soles postage due stamp of 1899 with the inscription "Deficit—Un centavo."

1 centavo on 10 soles, brown-violet.

Portuguese Colonies

In our March magazine number we listed new values and changes of color for Angola, Cape Verde, Portuguese Congo and Portuguese India. Other sets of similar character were crowded out and will now be grouped under this head.

For the five other African colonies (Guinea, Lourenzo Marques, Mozambique, St. Thomas and Prince Islands and Zambezia) there are sets precisely similar to those given by us for Angola, Cape Verde and Portuguese Congo—list repeated herewith:

15 reis, green.
 25 " " carmine.
 50 " " brown.

65	reis,	blue.
75	"	violet.
115	"	red-brown on rose.
130	"	brown on buff.
400	"	blue on buff.

The list for Portuguese India is peculiar to itself, as given. Then for the island possessions of Macao and Timor there are separate lists, which we present herewith as given in the *American Journal of Philately* (all these Portuguese colonials have the name and figure of value in black throughout).

Macao.

2	avos,	gray-green.
3	"	slate.
4	"	carmine.
5	"	pale yellow-brown.
6	"	red-brown.
8	"	gray-brown.
10	"	dull blue.
12	"	lliac.
13	"	gray-violet.
18	"	orange-brown on pink.
20	"	brown on straw.
31	"	violet on pink.
47	"	dull blue on straw.

Timor.

2	avos,	gray-green.
3	"	carmine.
6	"	pale yellow-green.
9	"	red-brown.
10	"	gray-brown.
12	"	dull blue.
13	"	lliac.
15	"	violet.
22	"	orange-brown on pink.
30	"	brown on straw.
47	"	violet on pink.
78	"	dull blue on straw.

Roumania

If plans were carried out as announced, this country was provided on May 15th with an elaborate new outfit of stamps. Two types were announced, four of the values to appear in both types. For these and the lower values a design has been prepared showing a mail coach drawn by six horses, oblong. The higher values have a portrait of the present king, a view of the General Post Office and a mail coach, upright rectangle.

1	ban.	olive-brown.
3	bani.	brown-lliac.
5	"	green.
10	"	rose.
15	"	black, both types.
25	"	blue. " "
40	"	green. " "
50	"	yellow. " "
1	leu.	brown.
2	lei.	red.
5	"	violet.

Some of the postage due stamps have now been issued on the current paper with rose tint on back (some call it "rose gum," which seems to be a mistake).

Postage Due Stamps.

2	bani,	green.
5	"	"
10	"	"
30	"	"

St. Christopher

The set of stamps with local view, to be used in conjunction with the regular Leeward Islands issue (see note under Antigua in this number) appears to be still in the air. Collectors have waited long and patiently for these issues, St. Christopher especially having been promised at various dates for a year and a half, the last being April 1st.

St. Lucia

Continuation of new series, head of King Edward VII.

2½	pence,	lliac and blue.
3	"	yellow.

Salvador

The official stamps accompanying the new (statue) set are not surcharged (like their predecessors), but have the words "Franqueo Oficial" engraved on the design across the lower part of the statue.

Official Stamps.

1	centavo,	green.
2	centavos,	rose.
5	"	blue.
24	"	red.

Servia

Two more values of current type, introduced in 1901.

15	paras.	violet.
20	"	orange.

Seychelles

Colonial type, head of King Edward VII.

2	cents,	orange-brown and green.
3	"	green.
6	"	carmine.
12	"	olive-brown and green.
15	"	blue.
18	"	yellow-green and carmine.
30	"	blue-lliac and green.
45	"	brown and carmine.
75	"	yellow and purple.
1	rupee	50 cents, black and carmine.
2	rupees	25 cents, violet and green.

South Australia

Official Stamps.

The recently issued 1 shilling stamp with the crown S.A. watermark has been surcharged for official use, tall "O.S." close together.

1	shilling,	red-brown.
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Tasmania

The current American catalogue lists two "revenues used for postage" with the "REVENUE" surcharge. These were on sale and available for postage for about 14 days in November, 1902, and there were two others in the bunch! The stamps listed are the 3 pence "platypus" and 2½ shillings "St. George and dragon," while the two others are the 10 shillings "St. George and dragon" and 20 shillings "Queen's head." This latter is probably the £1 green and yellow, which was surcharged for "REVENUE" purposes and is thus catalogued as used for postage in the English catalogues.

Victoria

The "Government Printer" at Melbourne has introduced a new perforating machine, the gauge being 11. This will result in many new varieties for those collectors who go in for this sort of thing, not only Victorian stamps but Tasmanian and West Australian being manufactured here. The 1 and 2 pence Tasmania and the ½ and 1 penny Victoria are already reported with the new gauge. There is even a half-penny Victoria perf. 12 on three sides and 11 on the other, so that compounds are to be looked for also.

West Australia

Four more Melbourne-printed stamps, designs similar to those recently produced locally for the 1 and 2 pence values. The 8p. imitates the 1 penny, the 4 and 9p. are like the 1 shilling and the 10 pence resembles the latest 2½ pence. *Erwen's Weekly Stamp News* states that these local productions are photo-etched, which would account for their coarse appearance when compared with their predecessors. They are all watermarked V and crown.

4	pence, red-brown.
8	" green.
9	" orange.
10	" vermilion.

This same paper reports the new 2 pence yellow perforated 11, from the new Victorian machine.

GENERAL NOTES

Under this head will be given from time to time notices of such discoveries in old issues and minor varieties of all kinds as it is not desired to list in the regular chronicle; also information in regard to stamps withdrawn from issue, obsolete stamps again placed on sale or re-issued, etc.

Danish West Indies

On account of the great amount of attention, philatelic and otherwise, that has been focused on these insignificant islands of late, there has been much excitement in regard to a "split provisional." The current 4c. brown and blue has been cut diagonally and the halves used as 2c. stamps. How long this practice was resorted to and how many of the "splits" were used, are points in regard to which there is great diversity of opinion. We would say, however, that there seem to be plenty of them and that, in our opinion, it would be a mistake to pay fancy prices for them.

French Soudan

It is reported that the official name of this colony is to be changed to "Senegambie et Niger," an opportunity which would doubtless be made use of for the issue of a complete new outfit of stamps.

Hungary

The addition of a 12 fillers stamp to the current set is reported by European papers as probable. This value, if found of sufficient utility, would likely be made a feature of the Austrian and Bosnian sets also.

New South Wales

The proposed 9p. stamp (die of old 1s. black with altered value) is being held up on account of an objection from some quarter to the further use of the Queen's head, or at least to the introduction of new stamps bearing same. It is not quite clear why this should be all right in Canada and not in New South Wales, but perhaps a more detailed statement will be obtained later. The proposed 2s. 6p. stamp will not be effected, as the lyre-bird design will be made use of for that.

Portuguese Colonies

In addition to the changes of color and additional values in the regular series of the several colonies, now being listed, it is reported that *each of the colonies is to be provided with postage due stamps about July 1st!* We give a list of values now and other particulars will follow when the 112 stamps have actually been issued.

For each of eight African colonies (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea, Lorenzo-Marques, Mozambique, Portuguese Congo, St. Thomas and Prince Islands and Zambesia): 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 100, 130, 200 and 500 reis.

For Macao: $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 20, 40 and 50 avos and 1 pataca (100 avos).

For Timor: 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 50 avos and 1 pataca (100 avos).

For Portuguese India: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 reis; 1, 2, 5 and 10 tangas and 1 rupia.

Queensland

Australian philatelists appear to have a good sized mystery on their hands in the appearance of a certain 6p. stamp. It will be remembered that this value passed from the "no figures of value" type (A5a) to the "four figures" type (A14), skipping two intermediate types. Recently, however, a single specimen is reported of a 6p. stamp with two figures only, type A12. The Queensland Post Office Department denies that this stamp was ever issued, although it admits the existence of the type and states that a single specimen is attached to the records and marked "essay." It is also said that a block of four was printed, hence the problem as to what became of the other three. It is likely that it is one of these that started the discussion.

The *Australian Philatelist* states that, although a design for a 9p. stamp has been prepared, its appearance is problematical. The delay in approving the design may be due to the same hesitation about issuing a Queen's head stamp at this late date that has caused a hitch in the proceedings in New South Wales (q. v.). The same paper states definitely that there is no intention of issuing a 2s. 6p. stamp.

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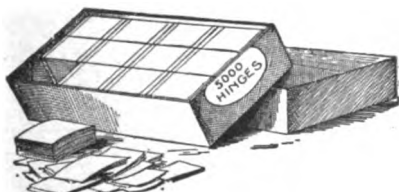
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Unused 1902, Germany, 3 pf., error Df.	" "	" "	.20

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Stamps on approval at 50% discount.
 Parties not known to me please send reference.

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Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."
 Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895, and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

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 St. Louis, Mo.

BACK NUMBERS==1902

—OF—

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
 No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
 No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 " - 25c. "
 No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
 No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. "

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at 5c each as long as they last; very few of some on hand.

A complete volume for 1902, 52 numbers with index, 728 pages, unbound and unfolded, \$2.00, post free.

A collector who paid one dollar for a subscription to the volume of 1902 and saved the papers can now realize a profit on this investment. The file is worth twice what it cost.

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Anto. Je. Esteves Barbosa,

383 Andradas 385,

Porto Alegre (Brazil).

Advanced Collector. First-Class References.

Wants exchanges with advanced or medium collectors and dealers of postage stamps, used and unused, and correspondence desired with collectors of all parts of the world, preferring collectors of all British Colonies and Central and North America. Want postage stamps on approval, basis: Scott, Stanley Gibbons. Sent or Yvert and Tellier. In exchange I will give old and scarce Brazilian, Uruguay, Argentine, etc., stamps.

Send me 200-500 good postage stamps (no common wanted) of his country, will receive from me same number and value in exchange of Brazil and South American stamps. Answer always, return mail, guaranteed Correspondence: English, Spanish and French languages.

MOROCCO

PACKET SULTAN, containing one complete set of stamps, Tanger—Tetuan; one complete set Tanger—Arzila; one complete set Tanger—Fez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez Taxe; one complete set Fez—Sefro; one complete set Mazagan—Marrakesh; one complete set Saffi—Marrakesh; one complete set Mogador—Marrakesh; one set French Post of Morocco Postage Due 5, 10, 30, 50; one set French Post id 5, 10, 20, 25; one set Gibraltar 1/2d, 1d, 2d; one set Gibraltar Morocco Agencies, 5, 10, 25; one set German Post 3, 5, 10, for \$2.00.

PACKET containing only five sets at the choice of the buyer, for.....\$0 80
 Each of the complete sets of local posts 25
 PACKET 250 assorted Morocco..... 1 50

Payment in advance or good references.

Cash by Postal Order.

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411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. MeKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—NO. 18
WHOLE NO. 70

JUNE 1, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

We understand from the **The New** telegraphic press despatch-
U. S. es from Washington that
Two Cent the Post Office Department
Stamp have approved a design of
the new 2c. stamp, but no
further particulars are available and
it is stated that none will be until the
stamps are actually printed. They
are expected in a short time.



The U. S. Proprietary
A Find of stamp of the issue of
Proprietaries 1871-'75 is a philatelic
treasure that is coveted
by many a collector, but the figures
\$350.00 which have adorned the cata-
logue have seemed to be an unsur-
mountable obstacle to its possession.
The estimator of value is now puzzled
to know what effect thirty, forty or
fifty or more of these copies will have
on the market value.

A good sized lot have recently come
on the market and seem to be scat-
tered in many hands. Copies that
we have seen have been simply su-
perb as to color, centering, condition
and light cancellation, some stamps
bearing the full imprint.

It is hard to discover facts in regard
to “finds” of this kind, where differ-
ent interests encourage the circula-
tion of different stories.

One of the stories which is preva-
lent which we give for just what
it happens to be worth, is to the effect
that a party bought some old cologne

barrels and soaked forty or fifty of
these stamps off and believing that
they might be of interest and value to
collectors of revenue stamps, he took
ten of them to a stamp dealer in New
York where they were displayed to a
clerk. The clerk said that the party
who had charge of the buying was out
at the time but thought the stamps
might be bought for \$50.00—meaning
\$50.00 a piece.

The party having them for sale
took this to mean \$50.00 for the lot
and would probably have closed the
sale at that time, if the party who had
buying authority had been in the
store, but contented himself by buy-
ing a catalogue and departing.

Of course the study of the catalogue
produced a surprising effect on the
seller so that when he called again he
readily negotiated a different kind of
a sale and is said to have departed
with a check for \$1,500 for the ten
stamps, the buyer supposing that this
constituted the whole lot.

However, thirty, forty or fifty more
copies were said to have been held
back and reports of them from various
sources would seem to justify the
statement.

At all events the number of fine
copies of \$5.00 Proprietary stamps on
the market is of interest to collectors.
Those who do not buy them too
quickly at too high a price, will have
the satisfaction of adding a very de-
sirable stamp to their collection. Even
the greatest number that has been
stated in connection with the “find”
will be quickly absorbed, although,
of course, the market value will likely
to be materially reduced for the time
being.

WHAT TO COLLECT AND HOW TO COLLECT

The questions, "What to Collect" and "How to Collect" are much more easily asked than answered. Each individual will differ in taste, in inclination, in method, in time at his disposal, and last, but not least, in the depth of his pocket. The most that can be done is to outline a plan, founded upon general experience.

Collectors are divided into two classes—the general collector and the specialist. The general collector takes everything that comes in his way, and knows no limitations, no exclusions of this country or that. The specialist, on the other hand, confines his attention to the stamps of one or more particular groups or divisions, or even to one particular country.

The most experienced collectors, whether general or specialist, almost invariably advise the beginner to start as a general collector. As a beginner he will have no experience to guide him in the choice of a particular group or division; and until he has travelled over the ground as a general collector it will be difficult for him to make a choice which he may not have cause to regret. As a general collector he will gather together a general knowledge of stamps in all their peculiar varieties, which can scarcely fail to be immensely useful to him even should he subsequently drift into specialism. Indeed, it is an accepted truism that the man who starts as a general collector invariably makes the best specialist in the end. Starting, then, as a general collector, the beginner purchases an album and a catalogue, setting forth the prices at which stamps may be purchased.

One of the very first questions to be settled at the start will be the choice that must be made between the collection of used and unused. The general collector who wishes to collect economically should certainly start with what is the cheapest and as the common stamps are cheapest in the used condition, used should be selected. When a collector can afford

to spend his money liberally, the best and safest, and cheapest in the long run, will be stamps unused and in the pink of condition. Such stamps generally turn out to be a safe and not infrequently a splendid investment.

The beginner will find that he can fill up a large proportion of the spaces in his album with apparently common stamps and these are much more economically purchased in the form of cheap packets. The blanks that remain will then represent stamps worth searching for separately, and buying singly as good opportunities occur. Many may be obtained in exchanging duplicates with other collectors.

After some experience as a general collector, preferences will gradually materialise, and the utter hopelessness of making a thorough collection of the postal issues of the world will be apparent. At this stage the collector generally sells the bulk of his collection, reserving only a few countries to be followed up in future on specialist lines. The remedy and the change are drastic, and, like most drastic remedies, are much too sweeping. Wiser and keener philatelists now-a-days retain their general collections as far as they have gone with them, and upon their basis give play to their specialist limitations. That is to say, they single out a country, and work at that exclusively on specialist lines; and when they tire of that country, or exhaust it as far as their means allow, they have in their general collection a nucleus of another country with which to build up another specialist collection. On this plan a collector can always be working in sympathy and on the lines of the fashionable country of the day. He can take up and open out whatever country happens to be the vogue. In this way a neglected country every now and again comes to the front, and the nucleus of that country which may be found in the general collection may suddenly acquire an interest and a value never dreamt of. A recent case in point is that of the Orange Free State. Its stamps went a-begging for purchasers, Then

trouble, and unrest, and war brought them into notice, and now the almost worthless stamps have become valuable, and the pence have run into shillings and the shillings into pounds. For many persons, however, limitations and exclusions are necessary from the start.

A glance at a priced catalogue will be the best guide for selection. If it must be an economical selection, the catalogue will speak for itself. There is abundant choice in every direction.

There are colonies with few and simple and inexpensive issues, and there are others that require ample means and patient research. But the cheapest countries, from an expenditure point of view, are foreign countries—such as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, German Empire, Italy, Chili, China and so on.

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY.

In the old days, when a person was siezed with the stamp-collecting mania, he had only to ransack the treasured family correspondence consisting of old love letters and the like, to get a fairly good start and some really good stamps. To-day there is only the dealer's packet entrance to Philately, for alas, the collectors of yesterday have ruthlessly denuded every old envelope of its stamps, saving even the common ones of their time for wholesale trade. It is rare indeed to find old family correspondence or business files without every stamp removed except those too common to warrant seizure. A search in the most unexpected quarters will reveal the extent to which stamp-collecting has invaded household archives.

Although Baden is not one of the countries rated as common by the younger collector, none of its stamps cataloguing one cent and quite few below ten cents, still it is a comparatively easy country to complete. The hardest stamp to get, in my experi-

ence, is the No. 18, although catalogued at only 85 cents while No. 25 is marked \$4.00. I am still looking for a good copy.

One of the most striking stamps among thousands is No. 50 of Tonga, type A 24. It is a "bird" in more senses than one.

Those who protest against the laws preventing the illustration of any U. S. stamp in this country, with the plea that as used in illustrating catalogues it would not lead to counterfeiting on account of the crudeness of the cuts, would have no argument if they had ever seen the illustrations of the U. S. Columbian series printed a few years ago in, I think, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. The whole set was illustrated in black by a photographic process and was so clear and excellent that by cutting carefully out along the perforations the 50 cent and \$5.00 values which are black, could have gone through the mails absolutely undetected. And this in spite of the fact that there was printing on the other side of the page. It was intended as an illustration but the plate in irresponsible hands would have printed more perfect counterfeits than I have ever seen of any stamp yet.

I wonder how many collectors ever use the German and French vocabularies in the front of Scott's catalogue in their foreign correspondence. It is a very useful thing for those who have a slight smattering of foreign languages, for by means of it a translation may be made of almost any letter from a German or French collector with regard to stamps. Of course one needs to know the words of common use but with them learned one can go into quite deep technicality by use of these vocabularies.

Salvador numbers 226 to 236 are described in a very misleading manner, if not in error, by Scott. They are given as type A 62 but as will be seen by the heading "surcharged on

1898 issue," they are really type A 60 with surcharge as shown in type A 62. If intentional, it is a very misleading description.

The new two-cent envelope which at first came in a very poor vermilion shade is now observed occasionally in a deep brick red color many shades darker than the original ones. It is rather more than the ordinary variation in shade caused by over or under inking or by light causes.

The usual increase of new collectors attendant on a new issue of U. S. stamps is noticeable all over the country.



We have received our supply of the 1 sh. Niue stamp correctly surcharged. Unfortunately none of the errors came our way. The error of the surcharge seems to be a trifling one to those who do not understand the native language, but it was quite important because the error made the stamp read "Thief shilling" or "Stolen shilling."

THE EVER INCREASING SALES

of my packet No. 25—The Flood City Special—prove conclusively that the value you receive for your money cannot be matched anywhere. The contents—50 mostly obsolete stamps, all in fine condition. The price—

ONE DOLLAR.

This packet *positively* catalogues from \$4 to \$5.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

HIGH WATER AT ST. LOUIS

We have been asked by several correspondents, who have read the reports of high water and river floods prevailing at points on the Mississippi River, if our business was affected in any way.

We are not interfered with in any way; our office is located in St. Louis County—is on high ground, far removed from the flood districts and business is dispatched promptly as usual.



The newspapers have **The Head** entertained us with a description of the new series **Napoleon** of the stamps to be issued in commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held in St. Louis in 1904, which is to contain among others, a stamp bearing the portrait of the Great Napoleon. This, to use a hackneyed expression, is indeed interesting if true. The portrait of Napoleon on a stamp issued by the great American Republic would of course be a decided novelty and a departure from anything that has occurred in the way of stamps before. At this time we are unable to substantiate any statements that have appeared in the newspapers in regard to commemorative series of stamps for the St. Louis Exposition, but it is not unlikely that a series of four stamps will take place.

WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

Dunedin, New Zealand.

CHEAP AUSTRALIANS

(All Soon Obsolete)

LONG SET AUSTRALASIANS

(Fine Presents)

THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties	\$1.00
New South Wales, 24 varieties .....	.30
Victoria, 30 varieties .....	.75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties	1.00
Queensland, 30 varieties	1.00
The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash...	\$3.75

Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency registered.

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

DUNEDIN, May 5, 1903.

When in Sydney, some months ago, I was fortunate enough to obtain from one of the leading Sydney dealers a very interesting set of the New Zealand issue of 1874.

They were overprinted with the word "Specimen" in thin block letter. They were, however, not "Specimens" as usually understood, but were really "colour proofs," as, with the exception of the 1 sh. value, all the values are different in color from those actually used. The penny is red-brown, the two pence blue, three pence violet, four pence rose carmine, six pence bistre-brown, one shilling green, all perforated 12 and the water mark N. Z. and Star.

I am not aware of any other set in any New Zealand collections. Several of the colors look very well, and in some cases are an improvement on those eventually selected. Speaking of this issue of 1874, I see by a wholesale catalogue recently issued in England that a dealer offers the 6d. and 4d. at 1½d. and 2d. each. Judging by the current catalogues and the rarity of the stamps in New Zealand, 1 sh. or 1sh. 6d. would be cheap for the 6d. and 4sh. or 5sh. for good copies of the 4d.

In another catalogue of list I see the recently issued 4d. on single line Star and N. Z. paper perforated 11. offered at 4½ each. I expect to see that same stamp touch 4sh., as it already is in demand at 2sh. 6d. to 3sh. English dealers and collectors do not understand how limited the supply is of some of the pictorial values above 1d. and have hardly yet discovered the result of the introduction of our 1d. postage rate. Values above 1d. are much less used than formerly and the higher values of the Colonially printed series on unwatermarked paper will eventually be scarcer than those of the London prints.

The separate issues of the overprinted stamps for New Zealand's outlying tropical Islands will comprise the full series. It is said that

the necessity for distinguishing the stamps of the various islands is to keep the revenue accounts separate.

Several stamp papers have suggested that the postal authorities of N. Z. are making the issues of Island stamps and the various quick changes of late for revenue purposes, but you may be assured that nothing of the kind is happening or likely to happen. Every change or addition has been made for some good reason.

Ewen's Weekly describes some specimens of stamps surcharged diagonally O. P. S. O. These are surcharged by the officials of the General Post Office, Wellington, and are used only for matter mailed out of New Zealand by the General Post Office.

All values as required are liable to be so surcharged. The lower values are surcharged in sheets. They are not often seen and cannot be procured at any office. They have been used since 1891.

A. HAMILTON.

STAMPS IN PACKETS

- Packet No. 15, contains 500 varieties from all over the world. This is quite a collection in itself, and the price, only..... \$1 65
- Packet No. 18, contains 40 varieties U. S. Postage Stamps, all obsolete, no Revenues or Locals, a great bargain at..... 25
- Packet No. 25, The Flood City Special, contains 50 varieties, mostly obsolete, picked specimens. The stamps in this packet catalogue from \$4 to \$5. The price..... 1 00

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

- No. 1 - Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
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A Collection of 1100 Different

postage stamps, mounted and priced by Scott's 62d Edition Catalogue \$25 65, sent postfree and registered for \$5.16. A bargain for dealer or collector. Fresh stamps, made up out of our stock, condition and genuineness guaranteed.

The best cheap Variety Packet ever offered. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

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Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps **\$3.75** ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.
1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

- 800** different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$ 2.50**
- 2,000** different postage stamps a collection in itself. **13.50**
- 3,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. **45.00**
- 4,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. **100.00** *A great bargain.*

16 OUNCES EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

STAMPS AS WORKS OF ART

Some artists scout the idea of attempting anything that may be considered a work of art in the ridiculously limited space of a postage stamp. The restriction of a postage stamp when viewed alongside a canvas measuring several yards in length and height is probably hopeless enough. Nevertheless, many a stamp collector who is not devoid of art can find stamps which seem to him to be entitled to rank high even in the art world. In beauty of design, in the exquisite workmanship of the best modern steel engraving, aided by the most delicate machinery, and in unequalled printing, there are many gems within the very limited space of a postage stamp that excite and deserve, and not unfrequently win, the admiration of the most exacting critics. There are scores of little medallions mostly on the postage stamps of foreign states, that surely would pass muster with an impartial judge of art. They are not the rarities of the stamp album. Some are even regarded as weeds in the philatelic garden. They are too often made to serve the revenue-producing necessities of the issuing state, and for that reason probably, more than for any other, they are made as attractive as modern art applied to stamp production can make them.

Great commercial countries, producing their postage stamps by hundreds of millions, are as contemptuous in their consideration of the art possibilities of a postage stamp as the cynical artist whose days and years are devoted to the disfigurement of wall space.

Great Britain has no cause to be proud of the designs or printing of its postage stamps. The chief consideration seems to be a low contract price for the production of recognizable labels for the indication of the prepayments of postage. That is the commercial view. And yet there are some foolish people who believe that an artist who could design an effective and acceptable postage stamp for the British Empire would add materially

to his own fame and to the art standard of the Empire itself.

Brother Jonathan across the sea is not unmindful of art in the production of his postage stamps, despite his commercial inclinations and training. From the first he has put his patriotism into his postage stamps. The portraits of the Presidents, from George Washington to Lincoln, and from Lincoln to McKinley, who have ruled, wisely and well, the destinies of the great Republic, Jonathan engraves in his best style, in his own official engraving establishment, and proudly places upon his postage stamps for the admiration of all good citizens and the edification and envy of the effete old countries beyond the seas.

We, with our richer memories and our stately galleries of great men who have ruled or governed or fought through the centuries, must be content with an Empire postage stamp, that is little better, from an art point of view, than an ordinary beer label. and we must be content to be told that it is the penalty of success, of the dire necessity of long numbers, and of a needy treasury that sorely hungers for still greater profits from the post office.

Meanwhile, small struggling states revel in beautiful stamps. The latest trend is in the direction of miniature portraiture. The Argentine Republic and Bolivia have in recent years issued some very fine examples in this direction. A very useful innovation is the addition of the name under the portrait. In this way thousands have been familiarised with the names and faces of men who before were almost unknown beyond their own country. Historic features, such as those of Columbus and Pizarro, have occasionally been added to the growingly interesting gallery of stamp portraits.

The recently issued New Zealand picture series, illustrating most effectively some of the choicest bits of colonial scenery, and some of the rarest birds of the colony, engraved by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, afford an interesting and successful experiment in an art direction. As a result

it is said that a strong demand has been generated in other colonies for similarly beautiful and localised designs in preference to the stereotyped mediocrity supplied by the ordinary label process.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES." Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
509-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of five, o. g. Mint, 6c.

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Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

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High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards
\$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free.
Circulars free.

62nd Edition Catalogue FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

SOMETHING NEW!

1903. Paraguay, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60c, all unused, the set for.....	\$0 65
Short set of four varieties, 1, 2, 5 and 10c.....	15
1902. Guatemala, 1 and 2p, used.....	60
1901. British Protectorate, North Borneo, 1c to 50c, 14 varieties, fine.....	1 00

50 PER CENT DISCOUNT.

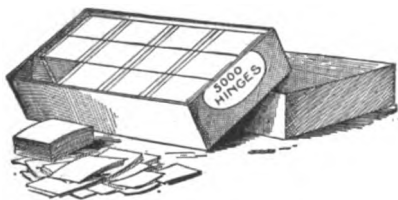
Fine stamps sent on approval at 50% discount. Parties not known to me please send references.

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WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 75c per box.

10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scotts' No. 291

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

An early change may be looked for in the stamps of Tonga, as we are advised that a change is anticipated in the postal affairs of the Friendly Islands.

No series of postage stamps have ever been as popular as those bearing the portrait of the British King's head. How long will they last? What will they be worth five years from now? These questions cannot be answered, but it is quite certain that the higher values will show a very substantial profit within the next few years. Dealers do not stock up on high-priced stamps because they have not the money to invest. It is not a question of buying one hundred five dollar stamps but of buying that number of hundreds of different issues, and that is impossible. Here the collector has the best of the bargain. Admitting that the collectors of the world hold a vastly larger number of these stamps than all the dealers, the collectors cannot all sell at once, so there is always a market for such of the amateurs who conclude to offer their stamps at auction, to the dealers, or at private sale. One hundred dollars spent in the colonial stamps of Edward the VII. will show better returns than the same amount of money put out at interest or invested in any other way known to us.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

A MOUNTED AND PRICED COLLECTION OF

1092 Postage Stamps Amounting to \$30.60

SOLD AS A LOT, \$6.25 POST FREE

Includes a nice lot of clean stamps from many countries, including Alexandria; Angola; Anjuan; Canada 20c and 50c; Cook Islands; Colombia, new 50c and 1 peso; Canton; China; nice lot Cuba; Dominican Republic; Dutch Indies; Ecuador; Finland; Guynea; Hayti; Ivory Coast; Indo China; Martinique; New Foundland, Persia; North Borneo; Porto Rico; Phillipines; Tunis; West Australia; some single stamps in the lot cataloguing over one dollar. A bargain \$6.25.

"SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED"

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., - - - St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 19
WHOLE NO. 71

JUNE 8, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The reports published all over the country in regard to the high water and river flood prevailing at points on the Mississippi, particularly in the vicinity of St. Louis have lead many of our correspondents to believe that we were for the moment out of business. We desire to state that we are not affected in any way, as our office is located in St. Louis county far remote from the flood districts and our business is dispatched promptly as usual.

The May number of our magazine under date of 25th is being mailed simultaneously with this number. The June magazine under date of 22d will be issued on time. The rush of Spring business being over we shall be able to make up to our subscribers what they have lost during the busy season.

The *Australian Philatelist* says that there is a rumor that the various states of the Australian Commonwealth will be supplied with one uniform design of the De La Rue type with King's head with the name of each state inserted in the name label at top, and that these stamps shall continue in use until the expiration of the book-keeping period. This change may be due, perhaps, to the fact that an intimation, or Order-in-Council, has been received from the Home authorities, desiring that the King's head should be substituted for the design now in use.

NEW ZEALAND

THE HALF-PENNY "PICTORIAL" AND
PENNY "UNIVERSAL" ISSUES
OF 1900-1902

BEING A DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY OF THE
VARIOUS PAPERS, PERFORATIONS
AND WATERMARKS DURING
THAT PERIOD

By C. A. GILLES, in *The Australian Philatelist*

From time to time articles bearing upon the above subject have appeared in most of the journals devoted to Philately, but they have been so scattered and spread through so many numbers that collectors seem to find some difficulty in distinguishing these interesting varieties, and it is my purpose, accordingly to endeavor by explaining the details and differences of and between the various emissions to help the average collector avoid the pitfalls into which he is likely to stumble.

The matter hereof is, of necessity, not altogether original, but I am able, through the courtesy of the Secretary of the new Zealand G. P. O., to add some particulars, which help to throw more light upon the subject.

In the first instance, I would point out that the many papers which were brought into use in so short a space of time came to be so used—not, as it would appear many are under the impression, owing to the indifference of the authorities—but in reality because the Government was endeavoring to obtain a paper which would better come up to the standard which they considered requisite.

The paper supplied by Waterlow & Sons not being deemed satisfactory, a

supply was obtained from the Basted Mills, but this in turn (why, I have been unable to ascertain) gave way to that manufactured by Messrs. Cowan & Co., the cause of the first supplies of this latter consignment coming on unwatermarked paper being that the Government printer was pressed for material and could not wait until the "bits" for impressing the watermark could be prepared and set up.

I must not omit some reference to the so-called "ribbed" paper. As a matter of fact this "ribbing," if I may term it such for want of a more suitable expression, is unintentional, and undoubtedly arises owing to the wires of the frame upon which the pulp is stretched during the course of impressing the watermark leaving their impression upon any sheets which have been placed thereon in an unusually damp state. When the gum is subsequently applied to the stamps all traces of this "ribbing" disappear.

Before dismissing the subject of the various papers used I will endeavor to explain how they may be distinguished.

The paper first used was that known as "Waterlow," and although the watermark is, whilst generally indistinct, similar to that on the subsequent "Basted" paper—*i. e.*, double-lined—still this variety when unused can easily be picked out, inasmuch as it is a good deal thicker and softer than the "Basted" or any of the other succeeding papers. Moreover the gum is either dull or gritty—often flaky—in appearance, and the paper decidedly opaque.

Next came that from the Basted Mills. This, whilst thinner in texture, is a tough semi-transparent paper, and rough to the touch. The gum is also clearer and whiter, and if the stamp be held up to the light face outwards the color shows through much more brightly than in the case of the former variety.

I have seen it stated elsewhere that these two papers are easily distinguishable, inasmuch as the watermark in the former (Waterlow) is N. Z. *over* a star, whilst in the latter

(Basted) the N. Z. is *under* the star. This test is, however, unreliable, as I have the latter with the watermark either way.

Following upon this came the first lot of paper supplied by Cowan & Co., and which was unwatermarked. This paper is also thin and tough, but more opaque than the Basted variety.

Finally—at least—let us hope so—came the Cowan watermarked paper, differing from the previous "Waterlow" and "Basted," more especially in that the watermark is a single-lined one and stands out very distinctly. The marginal letters, NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE, in all three varieties of paper, are, however, double-lined, and in that respect the watermarks are similar.

With regard to the seeming complexity in the varieties of perforation, the real explanation is that the Government printer as a matter of urgency, used the two machines, guaging respectively 11 and 14, simultaneously, in order to expedite the supply.

The varieties of double compound perms. which are to be found, may, perhaps, be accounted for by the suggestion that many sheets which were found—whilst experimenting with the new machine guaging 14—to be badly centred, were re-perforated by means of the machine guaging 11, this machine, owing to its smaller size, being more easily handled.

This system of re-perforation, is also most probably the reason of certain varieties which, as referred to at a later part of my paper, I have termed errors. In reality they are freaks, or "accidents of perforation," as their existence apparently depends solely upon the circumstances that a few odd sheets escaped perforation either on one or all sides, and being subsequently discovered, the missing perforations were supplied by the 11 machine. In support of this argument I think it will be generally admitted that the Government Printer would hardly be likely to go to the trouble of specially perforating one sheet of any particular variety "just for the fun of the thing."

[As a matter of exactitude, there

are really three machines in the Government Printing Office at Wellington, two guaging 11 and (the new) one guaging 14.]

It may not be considered out of place for me to draw attention here to the fact that the ½d. and 2d. Queen's Head re-issue of 1900 were printed upon Waterlow paper.

In order to avoid any possible confusion, I propose to deal with the two denominations separately, starting with the ½d. value, and which I have subdivided into the following groups :

L.

½d. green ("pictorial")

A. Perf. 11.

PAPER—"Waterlow"
WMK.—Double-lined N. Z. over star
GUM—Bright (thick) to Dull (thin)
DATE OF ISSUE—March 10th, 1900

This stamp, the shades of which vary from apple green to yellow and deep green, succeeded the London printed ½d. pictorial. The plate was prepared in London by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, who also struck off the first printing in purple there. All the subsequent printings in green were the work of the Government Printer at Wellington, to whom Messrs. Waterlow & Sons had forwarded the plates of all the "Pictorial" series.

B. Perf. 14

14 x 11
11 x 14

PAPER—"Waterlow"
WMK.—As before
GUM—Yellowish to white and gritty
DATE OF ISSUE—November, 1901

This, with the 1d. Waterlow, was the first time the new machine guaging 14 was brought into use.

These varieties were also the first of the "compound," and are by far the commoner.

C. Perf. 14

14 x 11
11 x 14
11

PAPER—"Basted"
WMK.—As before (inverted)
GUM—Bright to clear
DATE OF ISSUE—December, 1901

Of this issue attention must be drawn to the variety perf. 11, which must be quite the scarcest of all the recent ½d. and 1d. varieties, as only one sheet appears to have been so

perforated. I regard this, however, as an error of perforation.

D. Perf. 14

11

PAPER—"Cowan" (1)
WMK.—None
GUM—White to dull
DATE OF ISSUE—January, 1902

As the paper from which this variety was printed was only used as a stop gap this stamp will probably become as scarce as the previous compound varieties. The second variety of perf. on this paper is again an error.

E. Perf. 14

14 x 11
11 x 14

PAPER—"Cowan" (2)
WMK.—Single-lined N. Z. over star
GUM—White and shiny
DATE OF ISSUE—May 1902

The two latter varieties of perf. may also, I think, come under the heading of errors, as I gather that at the most there were only a couple of sheets of each so perforated.

II.

1d. carmine ("universal")

A. Perf. 12½—16 (London Print)

PAPER—"Waterlow"
WMK.—None
GUM—White
DATE OF ISSUE—January 1, 1901

This stamp was engraved by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, who printed a supply of two millions, which they forwarded to the colony together with the plates. There is little difficulty in distinguishing this printing from any of the locals (perf. 14) for not only are the perforations clean cut, but the color is in a deeper shade, somewhat approaching lake.

B. Perf. 11

PAPER—"Waterlow"
WMK.—Double-lined N. Z. over a star
GUM—Bright (thick) to Dull (thin)
DATE OF ISSUE—March 10, 1900

This was the first stamp locally printed, and varies greatly in shade—from pink, scarlet, rose and carmine to dull red brown.

The dull gum was applied to the last printings only of the ½d. and 1d.

C. Perf. 14

PAPER—"Waterlow"
WMK.—As before
GUM—Yellowish to white and gritty
DATE OF ISSUE—November, 1901

Although the ½d. Waterlow exists in the two compound perms. it is to be noted that the 1d. Waterlow does not.

D. Perf. 14
14 x 11
11 x 14
11

PAPER—"Basted"
WMK.—As before
GUM—Bright to clear
DATE OF ISSUE—December, 1901

These are the only compounds of the 1d. to be found (other than the errors elsewhere chronicled) Of the variety perf. 11 I believe there were only one or two sheets, and this I also list amongst the errors.

E. Perf. 14
14 x 11

PAPER—"Cowan" (1)
WMK.—None
GUM—White to dull
DATE OF ISSUE—January, 1902

The second variety here is again an error. So far as I know, only one sheet was ever found.

F. Perf. 14
14 x 11

PAPER—"Cowan" (2)
WMK.—Single-lined N. Z. over a star
GUM—White to shiny
DATE OF ISSUE—May, 1902

Here, again, we may put down the above compound varieties as errors. Probably two or three sheets of each exist (*to date hereof*).

SYNOPSIS.

For convenience of reference I append a summary of above papers and perforations, adding to the latter such of the minor varieties known to exist as I consider worthy of mention.

The papers may be divided into four groups, viz.:—

- "WATERLOW"—Thick, soft and opaque paper. Watermark double-lined N. Z. over star; generally indistinct.
- "BASTED MILLS"—Thin semi-transparent paper. Watermark double-lined N. Z. over star; sometimes indistinct or inverted.
- "COWAN" (1)—Thin tough paper, slightly opaque. Unwatermarked.
- "COWAN" (2)—Thin roughish paper. Watermark single lined N. Z. over star, and generally very distinct.

Of these the perforations are as follows:

WATERLOW.

½d. Perf. 11 1d. Perf. 14 x 16 (London)
14 14
14 x 11 11
11 x 14 14
Variety (a) Perf. 11 x Imperf.

BASTED.

½d. Perf. 14 1d. Perf. 14
14 x 11 14 x 11
11 x 14 11 x 14
11 (error) 11 (error)
Variety (a) Vertically Imperf. 14 a o

COWAN (1).

½d. Perf. 14 1d. Perf. 14
11 (error) 1d. Perf. 14 x 11 (error)
COWAN (2)—current.

½d. Perf. 14
14 x 11 (error)
11 x 14 (error)
1d. Perf. 14
14 x 11 (error)
14 x 14 (error)

Variety 1d. horizontally Imperf. x 14.

DEALERS' ASSOCIATION NOTES

Information is wanted in regard to a party who has solicited stamps on approval by the name of Grace Kimball, giving the address No. 150 Nassau St., care C. M. Dunn, New York.

Parties who have sent lots to this or similar address, which have not been returned, are invited to communicate with a view of taking action against the party who is evidently using the United States mails for the purpose of defrauding dealers.

It may be of interest to some of our dealer readers to know that a Dealers' Protective Association has been formed and that it hopes to aid greatly in eliminating some of the "birds of prey," as well as in preventing their securing any meat, by the sending of bi-monthly confidential bulletins to all the members.

This is clearly a case of strength in union, and it is hoped many dealers will join. The undersigned will gladly give further information on this important subject to inquirers.

C. F. RICHARDS,

326 West Twentieth St.,
New York City, N. Y.

SUMMER BARGAINS In Old Cubans.

1862. ½rp. lilac on rose, cata. \$0 40, my price, 20c
1868. 5. 10. 20 and 40 " 1 06, " 50c
1866. 10. 20 and 40c. " 96, " 45c
1870. 40c rose, v. scarce. " 1 50, " 75c
1871. 1p. pale brown, fine " 50, " 25c

All of the above used. Cash with order.
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1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75

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On July 1st I shall award to the highest bidder, the above stamps and envelopes *without reserve*. Stamps are returnable if not satisfactory and will be submitted for inspection.

N. W. Chandler, Collinsville, Ill.

All stamps used unless otherwise noted. All envelopes unused unless otherwise noted.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

- 1847 5c No. 28, unused \$ 7 50
- 10c No. 29, close margin..... 4 00
- 1851-56 1c type II, unused, o. g., fine copy 2 50
- 3c unused, o. g., fine copy 1 50
- 1857-60 1c type II, unused, o. g., fine..... 10 00
- 6c " I, red brown; good copy... 6 00
- 5c " III, brown..... 2 00
- 10c green, unused perf. close at bottom..... 2 50
- 12c black, unc..... 2 50
- 30c orange, closely perforated..... 6 00
- 1861 3c rose, laid paper..... 7 50
- 3c pink..... 7 50
- 12c black, unused..... 2 00
- 30c orange, unused. Crease at bottom, not apparent on face..... 5 00
- 1862-66 5c brown, unc., no gum, fine copy 4 00
- 24c lilac, unc., no gum..... 4 00
- 1867 2c black, 11 x 13, unc..... 3 50
- 3c rose unused, o. g., superb copy..... 5 00
- 15c black, 11 x 13..... 4 00
- 1c green, 9 x 13, unused. Narrow margin at left..... 4 00
- 5c brown, 9 x 13, good copy..... 4 00
- 10c green, " unused, o. g..... 5 00
- 15c black, "..... 1 00
- 1869 1c unused, no gum, off center at left 1 25
- 3c " o. g..... 75
- 6c " o. g..... 4 00
- 15c pen cancellation..... 1 50
- 24c wide margin at right..... 5 00
- 30c..... 2 50
- 90c off center..... 14 00
- 1869 Reissue 1c No. 123, no grill, unused, o. g., centered. Superb copy..... 5 00
- 1c No. 123, no grill, used, centered 5 00
- 2c No. 124, no grill, unused, o. g., fine..... 7 00
- 2c No. 125, no grill, unused, o. g., imp. on right..... 12 00
- 1c No. 133, no grill, unused, o. g., slightly off center at bottom..... 1 50
- 1870-71 7c vermilion, No. 138, centered, imp. on left..... 3 00
- 6c carmine, No. 148, unused o. g., no margin at top..... 3 50
- 7c vermilion, No. 149, unused, no gum, fine copy..... 6 00
- 24c purple, No. 153, fair..... 1 50
- 90c carmine, No. 155, unused, perf. close at left..... 15 00
- Same used..... 1 25

U. S. Entire Envelopes.	
10c buff die 2, used, No. 1317.....	\$2 00
10c " " 4, " 1318.....	2 00
1c " unused " 1328.....	1 00
10c white " " 1336.....	1 00
10c buff " " 1337.....	1 00
2c orange " die 2, No. 1349.....	2 00
24c white " Reay size 7, No. 1386.....	4 00
10c white " Plimpton, No. 1410.....	4 00
2c green on buff, used, die A, No. 1561, fine copy, rare.....	12 00
6c No. 8, white Centennial w'm'k, (B 408 N. P. S. 559).....	2 0
6c red on amber 3 B. 203, N. P. S. 259, unused.....	2 50
2c green on white B. 1096, N. P. S. 1211 unused.....	3 00
2c green on amber B. 1100 " 1220.....	3 00
4c carmine on white B. 1113 N. P. S. 1258.....	4 00
4c " " amber B. 1115 " 1262.....	5 00
2c brown on amber die B. 2, unused, good margins, 1432. Cut square.....	10 00
2c another copy, used, closer margins, 1432. Cut square.....	10 00
U. S. Department Stamps.	
AGRICULTURE 15c No. 506, close margin.....	\$ 3 50
EXECUTIVE 1c specimen.....	2 01
3c good copy.....	6 50
INTERIOR 24c No. 521, unused, o. g., fine.....	1 00
JUSTICE 1c and 2c, unused' o. g., top margins slightly wider than others.....	4 50
6c and 10c, unused, o. g.....	5 50
12c unused, o. g.....	3 07
15c No. 530, unused, o. g.....	6 00
NAVY 12c unc., no gum.....	1 50
15c unc.....	3 00
30c wide margin at top.....	3 00
POST OFFICE 12c unused, o. g.....	1 00
24c unused, o. g.....	1 00
90c unused, o. g., fine.....	2 51
STATE 1c unused, o. g.....	2 50
2c good copy.....	5 00
7c unused, o. g., no margin at top.....	3 00
10c unused, o. g., good copy.....	3 00
Same used.....	2 50
15c unused, o. g., fine.....	4 50
24c used, o. g., (slightly off centre) lightly cancelled.....	8 50
TREASURY 90c unused, o. g., narrow margin left.....	2 00
Same used.....	60
WAR 7c unused, o. g., fine.....	2 00
Same, used, light cancellation.....	2 00
12c unused, o. g., fine.....	1 00
90c unused, o. g., fine.....	1 00
ARGENTINE REP. 10c No. 9, cut close at left, otherwise fine.....	25 00
BADEN 18 kr., No. 24, good copy.....	3 00
30 kr., " 25, good.....	4 00
1 kr., " 29, fine.....	1 50
BAHAMAS 4d No. 14.....	1 25
4d on 6d No. 25.....	7 50
BARBADOS Green, No. 1, uncancelled, cut close.....	6 00
Blue, No. 6, uncancelled, cut close.....	3 50
6d No. 8, cut close.....	4 00
1sh No. 9, cut close.....	1 85
BOLIVIA 100c No. 34, unused, o. g., fine.....	1 25
BREMEN 5gr. No. 2, fair.....	5 00
Another, two slight breaks at side.....	5 00
7 gr. No. 3, cut close at top.....	14 00

CANADA 1852 6d No. 5, on cover, fine.....	5 00
3d No. 8, trimmed, uncan.....	7 50
3d No. 12, fair.....	3 00
1c No. 14, unused, fair.....	3 00
6c No. 25, yellow-brown, uncan., break on left.....	3 50
10c env. square, unused, No. 202.....	2 50
CHILI 10c and 20c Nos. 12 and 13, uncan.....	1 30
COLOMBIAN REP. 20c, No. 88, good.....	1 50
CONFEDERATE STATES 10c No. 204, unused, slightly clipped at top, fine.....	5 00
DOMINICA 6d No. 2, cc12½, good copy.....	10 00
DOMINICAN REP. ½r No. 13, fine.....	2 00
GUATEMALA 4r No. 5.....	3 00
GREAT BRITAIN 5 sh No. 56.....	1 25
10 sh No. 72, little soiled, good.....	7 00
1 £ No. 124, specimen.....	.....
GOLD COAST ½d No. 4.....	1 25
HAMBURG 1s No. 2, unc., cut close.....	2 00
HANNOVER ½gr No. 26, good.....	5 00
HAWAII IS. 5c No. 21, close cut.....	16 00
12c No. 36.....	1 50
15c No. 41.....	2 50
100c No. 49, mended.....	10 00
JAPAN 10 sen. No. 45, plate 5.....	5 00
MEXICO 25c No. 83, good copy.....	4 00
NATAL 3d No. 1.....	11 00
1sh " 17, wide margin at left.....	1 00
1d on 7d, No. 62.....	2 00
1d No. 152.....	.....
NEWFOUNDLAND 3d No. 3, fine.....	3 50
4d " 18, cut close.....	4 00
10c " 26, heavy canc.....	1 00
NEW SOUTH WALES 6d No. 16, sides clipped.....	11 00
10sh " 75.....	2 50
NEW ZEALAND 3d No. 20, close margins.....	2 50
6d " 21, close margins.....	1 00
1sh " 32b, rouletted.....	7 50
NORTH BORNEO 8c on 2c No. 3, fine.....	5 00
8c on 2c " 4, fine.....	15 00
NOVA SCOTIA 3d No. 2, close trimmed on sides.....	2 00
10c No. 12.....	1 50
OLDENBURG 1-15sh No. 2, narrow margins.....	1 00
PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS 6d No. 3, fair.....	7 00
2d " 5, good.....	56
5d " 7, slight break at bottom.....	2 00
RUSSIA 20k env. cut sq., No. 82.....	6 00
ST. CHRISTOPHER 1d No. 10, good.....	10 00
ST. LUCIA orange No. 10, fair.....	2 25
2d No. 109.....	.....
SPAIN 5r No. 9.....	2 50
2r " 43, unc., fine.....	2 00
4 onza No. 353.....	1 00
SHANGHAI 20c on 40c No. 109.....	4 00
20c on 90c " 113.....	3 00
20c on 100c " 114.....	3 00
SWITZERLAND 2½rp No. 10, light canc., clipped on right.....	3 00
TUSCANY 9cr No. 7, unused, slightly clipped at top and bottom, otherwise fine.....	20 00
1qr No. 17, little nick at bottom, narrow margins.....	2 25
1cr No 19.....	1 00
WEST AUSTRALIA 6d No. 4, cut to shape, fair.....	17 50
WURTEMBERG 18kr No. 40, fair.....	3 00

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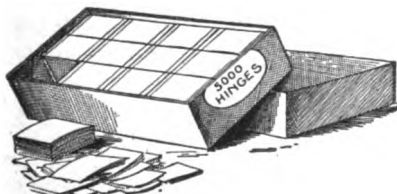
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Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency registered.

"The collector-dealer, or as he or she should be rightly termed, the stamp-peddler, has come in of late for a good deal of hostile criticism from those who have the true interests of Philately at heart. And from what we have read, and our own comments, published at various times, the censure of these parasites of Philately is thoroughly deserved."

The *Australian Philatelist* for May refers to Mr. Nankivell's remarks on those of this class made in our December magazine, and reproduces an extract, with the following comment:

"We, however, think he puts the case mildly by stating that the amateur-dealer hankers after a share of the profits of the successful dealer. Our experience has taught us that it is not a share, but a profit greater than that of the bona-fide dealer, will satisfy some of the fry. And this is not the only indictment we have against them. We have come across a few, unscrupulous in their dealings, dishonest in the shape of fraudulent manipulations of stamps, and other delinquencies, which many victims, to their sorrow, give ample testimony of. Although the amateur dealer is one to fight shy of by bona-fide collectors, there are some of that class who do not go beyond selling duplicates to other collectors, the purpose being to get a better value for them than they can from the recognized dealers, and to purchase with the amount received, stamps they not already have. While we cannot defend this method of collecting, we can at least separate them from the despicable class we have just mentioned. Unfortunately the illegitimate collector has become a quantity that will be difficult to suppress. The leading philatelic societies could have minimized the evil years ago, had they grasped the result of their shortsightedness, but as they have missed the opportunity, all they can do now is to bar all amateur-dealers from membership. It may not effect a

cure, but it will at once define their status, and it would mean a certain amount of protection to bona-fide collectors. It is evident that Mr. Nankivell has not had much acquaintance with the objectionable class of collector dealer, otherwise he would not have made the statement that 'the bona-fide collector can afford to regard the noisy little game of the speculator, or collector-dealer, with perfect equanimity.'"

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

R. W. R.—The term, "burele," means a narrow band of fancy network, engine turned, similar to that used on bank notes and cheque forms. The Queensland duty stamps were printed on burele paper, but the Government having run short, at times, of the watermarked paper on which the postage stamps were printed, were obliged to use unwatermarked paper, and, as a protection against fraud, printed a burele band (at the back of each sheet) in an unbroken line across each row of stamps. This paper was used for the 1s. full-face Queen's head, 1868-79 issue, on the 1d. and 2d., 1879 81 issue, and on the ½d. and 1d. 1894-95 issue. On the latter issue the burele band is printed in blue.—*The Australian Philatelist*.

Packet No. 130 is a *winner* for the money. I found over *three hundred varieties* which were not in my collection of 1,000 stamps. The stamps were all in fine condition.

H. J. Holmr,
Louisville, Ky.

Packet 130, contains 800 different postage stamps from all parts of the world. \$2.50.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—NO. 20
WHOLE NO. 72

JUNE 15, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Texas Confederates The magazine of May 1902, containing the illustrated article on the Confederate Provisionals of the Texas Postmasters has been out of print for some time and copies of that number have sold as high as \$1.00 each. We shall reprint the article with some additional illustrations in our next number. As our subscription list is nearly three times as large as it was a year ago the matter will be new to a majority of our present readers.

About Original Gum

The following remarks made by Mr. C J. Phillips in his journal about gum in its relation to general condition, are very interesting:

"In unused stamps I consider that well centered copies are of more importance than original gum, upon which I consider far too much stress is laid at the present time. I would certainly sooner have a well-centered stamp, say, of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s printing without gum, than a similar stamp with the perforations cutting into the margins of the stamp but having full gum.

The greatest and most experienced collector of all, M. P. la Renotiere, told me some time ago that he frequently washed the gum from old stamps, such as Austria, etc., as he found that the strong, thick old gums in time cracked the paper of the

stamps, and sometimes quite destroyed valuable specimens.

Of course you must not think for a moment that I am advocating that gum should be generally removed. I only want to make the point that in my opinion well-centered stamps of good colour are preferable to poor copies with gum."

Complete Your Files

While on the subject of back numbers, we would request our readers who keep their papers to look over their files of the current volume and notify us of any missing numbers. We are able now to supply them, and may not be able to do so later. During the busy season the paper was mailed somewhat irregular from necessity, but we shall be able to overcome that in the future, even in a rush. A number of subscriptions have expired during the past three months and we would request renewals without further formal notice.

In the Public Eye

The following is a sample of many letters we are now receiving: "The recent troubles in Servia reminded me that I had a good many blank spaces in that country so I should like to have an approval book of the stamps of that country."

Public affairs have much to do with directing popular demand among general collectors, and the dealer never knows where it will strike next, over twenty requests for stamps of Servia came to our publishers the first Monday morning after the news of the royal murders had been published.

men—a fact which speaks volumes for their integrity—is that not one of them has had a Puerto Principe stamp for sale at any time. They both wonder, of course, at the market value attained by the little strips which passed through their hands.

"Mr. Caballero has been offered large sums for the use of those modest fonts of type still in daily use in the *Dos Republicas*, but he has never sold them.

"The establishment was owned at the time of the stamp issue by Javier Zayas Bazan, but it is owned at present by a brother of Mr. Caballero.

"Gen. Lope Recio, Governor of the Province of Puerto Principe, and who was postmaster at the time the stamps were issued, has proved to be the best friend of collectors and the arch-enemy of counterfeiters. I have on several occasions represented to him the importance of keeping the issue free from ill-repute, not only for his own name-sake, but for the protection of the large capital now invested in this issue by collectors and dealers all over the world. He is, I think, fully determined to help collectors in their efforts to suppress counterfeiters and prosecute counterfeiters in his province, and we can rely upon his endeavoring to keep the issue as clean as possible from fraud.

"As far as we know there have been three counterfeiters at work in Puerto Principe stamps. Their names are generally known to collectors, and what is more important, to the civil authorities of Puerto Principe.

"The manner of working off here the counterfeits which they manufacture in that city is to send a mixture of so-called rare stamps to a small dealer in an obscure town in this State for the purpose of establishing an exchange for other stamps or fancy articles. The small dealer aforesaid has naturally sent the supposed rarities to his New York correspondent for examination and sale and the New York dealer has turned them over to an expert for final decision, which has been, of course, unfavorable.

"Western dealers have received some counterfeits also. We under-

stand that supplies of them have likewise appeared in several parts of Europe.

"The idea seems to have spread among evil-minded people that it is impossible to discover their fraudulent productions. The opposite, however, is the actual fact."

MAIL AUCTION!

On July 1st I shall award to the highest bidder, the above stamps and envelopes *without reserve*. Stamps are returnable if not satisfactory and will be submitted for inspection.

N. W. Chandler, - Collinsville, Ill.

All stamps used unless otherwise noted. All envelopes unused unless otherwise noted.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

1847	5c No. 28, unused	\$ 7 50
	10c No. 29, close margin	4 00
1851-56	1c type II, unused, o. g., fine copy	2 50
	3c unused, o. g., fine copy	1 50
1857-60	1c type II, unused, o. g., fine	10 00
	6c " I, red brown, good copy	6 00
	5c " III, brown	2 00
	10c green, unused perf. close at bottom	2 50
	12c black, unc	2 50
1861	3c rose, laid paper	7 50
	3c pink	7 50
	12c black, unused	2 00
	30c orange, unused. Crease at bottom, not apparent on face	5 00
1862-66	5c brown, unc., no gum, fine copy	4 00
	24c lilac, unc., no gum	4 00
1867	2c black, 11 x 13, unc	3 50
	3c rose " unused, o. g., sub-erb copy	5 00
	15c black, 11 x 13	4 00
	1c green, 9 x 13, unused. Narrow margin at left	4 00
	5c brown, 9 x 13, good copy	4 00
1869	10c green, " unused, o. g.	5 00
	15c black, " "	1 00
	1c unused, no gum, off center at left	1 25
	3c " o. g.	75
	6c " o. g.	4 00
1869 Reissue	15c pen cancellation	1 50
	24c wide margin at right	5 00
	30c	2 50
	90c off center	14 00
	1c No. 123, no grill, unused, o. g., centered. Superb copy	5 00
1870-71	1c No. 123, no grill, used, centered	5 00
	2c No. 124, no grill, unused, o. g., fine	7 00
	3c No. 125, no grill, unused, o. g., imp on right	12 00
	1c No. 133, no grill, unused, o. g., slightly off center at bottom	1 50
	7c vermilion, No. 138, centered, imp. on left	3 00
1870-71	6c carmine, No. 148, unused o. g., no margin at top	3 50
	7c vermilion, No. 149, unused, no gum, fine copy	6 00
	24c purple, No. 153, fair	1 50
	90c carmine, No. 155, unused, perf. close at left	15 00
	Same used	1 25

U. S. Entire Envelopes.

10c buff die 2, used, No. 1317	\$2 00
10c " 4, " " 1318	2 00
1c " unused " " 1328	1 00
10c white " " 1336	1 00
10c buff " " 1337	1 00
2c orange " die 2, No. 1349	2 00
24c white " Reay size 7, No. 1386	4 00
10c white " Plimpton, No. 1410	4 00
2c green on buff, used, die A, No. 1561, fine copy, rare	12 00
6c No. 8, white Centennial w'm'k, (B 408 N. P. S. 559)	2 00
6c red on amber 3 B. 203, N. P. S. 259, unused	2 50
2c green on white B. 1098, N. P. S. 1211 unused	3 00
2c green on amber B. 1100 " 1220	3 00
4c carmine on white B. 1113 N. P. S. 1258	4 00
4c " " amber B. 1115 " 1262	5 00
2c brown on amber die B. 2, unused, good margins, 1432. Cut square	10 00
2c another copy, used, closer margins, 1432. Cut square	10 00

U. S. Department Stamps.

AGRICULTURE	15c No. 506, close margin	\$ 3 50
EXECUTIVE	1c specimen	2 00
	3c good copy	6 50
INTERIOR	24c No. 521, unused, o. g., fine	1 00
JUSTICE	1c and 2c, unused' o. g., top margins slightly wider than others	4 50
	6c and 10c, unused, o. g.	5 50
	12c unused, o. g.	3 00
	15c No. 530, unused, o. g.	6 00
NAVY	12c unc., no gum	1 50
	15c unc.	3 00
	30c wide margin at top	3 00
POST OFFICE	12c unused, o. g.	1 00
	24c unused, o. g.	1 00
	90c unused, o. g., fine	2 50
STATE	1c unused, o. g.	2 50
	2c good copy	5 00
	7c unused, o. g., no margin at top	3 00
	10c unused, o. g., good copy	3 00
	Same used	2 50
	15c unused, o. g., fine	4 50
	24c used, o. g., (slightly off centre) lightly cancelled	8 50
TREASURY	90c unused, o. g., narrow margin left	2 00
	Same used	60
WAR	7c unused, o. g., fine	2 00
	Same, used, light cancellation	2 00
	12c unused, o. g., fine	1 00
	9c unused, o. g., fine	1 00
ARGENTINE REP.	10c No. 9, cut close at left, otherwise fine	25 00
BADEN	18 kr., No. 24, good copy	3 00
	30 kr., " 25, good	4 00
	1 kr., " 29, fine	1 50
BAHAMAS	4d No. 14	1 25
	4d on 6d No. 25,	7 50
BARBADOS	Green, No. 1, uncanceled, cut close	6 00
	Blue, No. 6, uncanceled, cut close	3 50
	6d No. 8, cut close	4 00
	1sh No. 9, cut close	1 85
BOLIVIA	100c No. 34, unused, o. g., fine	1 25
BREMEN	5gr. No. 2, fair	5 00
	Another, two slight breaks at side	5 00
	7 gr. No. 3, cut close at top	14 00

CANADA 1852	6d No. 5, on cover, fine	5 00
	½d No. 8, trimmed, uncan.	7 50
	3d No. 12, fair	3 00
	1c No. 14, unused, fair	3 00
	6c No. 25, yellow-brown, uncan., break on left	3 50
	10c env. square, unused, No. 202	2 50
CHILI	10c and 20c Nos. 12 and 13, uncan.	1 30
COLOMBIAN REP.	20c, No. 88, good	1 50
CONFEDERATE STATES	10c No. 204, unused, slightly clipped at top, fine	5 00
DOMINICA	6d No. 2, cc12½, good copy	10 00
DOMINICAN REP.	½r No. 13, fine	2 00
GUATEMALA	4r No. 5	3 00
GREAT BRITAIN	5 sh No. 56	1 25
	10 sh No. 72, little soiled, good	7 00
	1 £ No. 124, specimen	.....
GOLD COAST	½d No. 4	1 25
HAMBURG	1s No. 2, unc., cut close	2 00
HANNOVER	½gr No. 26, good	5 00
HAWAII IS.	5c No. 21, close cut	16 00
	12c No. 36	1 50
	15c No. 41	2 50
	100c No. 49, mended	10 00
JAPAN	10 sen. No. 45, plate 5	5 00
MEXICO	25c No. 83, good copy	4 00
NATAL	3d No. 1,	11 00
	1sh " 17, wide margin at left	1 00
	1d on 7d, No. 62	2 00
	1d No. 152	.....
NEWFOUNDLAND	3d No. 3, fine	3 50
	4d " 18, cut close	4 00
	10c " 26, heavy canc.	1 00
NEW SOUTH WALES	6d No. 16, sides clipped	11 00
	10sh " 75,	2 50
NEW ZEALAND	3d No. 20, close margins	2 50
	6d " 21, close margins	1 00
	1sh " 32b, rouletted	7 50
NORTH BORNEO	8c on 2c No. 3, fine	5 00
	8c on 2c " 4, fine	15 00
NOVA SCOTIA	3d No. 2, close trimmed on sides	2 00
	10c No. 12	1 50
OLDENBURG	1-15sh No. 2, narrow margins	1 00
PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS	6d No. 3, fair	7 00
	2d " 5, good	50
	5d " 7, slight break at bottom	2 00
RUSSIA	20k env. cut sq., No. 82	6 00
ST. CHRISTOPHER	1d No. 10, good	10 00
ST. LUCIA	orange No. 10, fair	2 25
	2d No. 109	.....
SPAIN	5r No. 9	2 50
	2r " 43, unc., fine	2 00
	4 onza No. 353	1 00
SHANGHAI	20c on 40c No. 109	4 00
	20c on 90c " 113	3 00
	20c on 100c " 114	3 00
SWITZERLAND	2½rp No. 10, light canc., clipped on right	3 00
TUSCANY	9cr No. 7, unused, slightly clipped at top and bottom, otherwise fine	20 00
	1qr No. 17, little nick at bottom, narrow margins	2 25
	1cr No 19	1 00
WEST AUSTRALIA	6d No. 4, cut to shape, fair	17 50
WURTEMBERG	18kr No. 40, fair	3 00

MAIL AUCTION! On July 1st I shall award to the highest bidder the above stamps and envelopes *without reserve*. Stamps are returnable if not satisfactory. Will be submitted for inspection if desired.

N. W. CHANDLER, - - - - **Collinsville, Ill.**

example, on consulting the different tariff lists, that a half-ounce letter posted to a local address costs half-a-cent, two, three, five, or six cents, according as it is posted in the Chinese, British, Japanese, German, or Russian post offices respectively. A letter to Shanghai costs one cent by the Chinese post office, but three cents by the Japanese, four cents by the British, five cents by the German, and six cents by the Russian offices; and a letter to Hongkong costs four cents by the Chinese or British offices, whereas the Russians want seven cents for doing the same service and the Germans and Japanese require ten cents. It is three cents to Japan or Korea by the Japanese post office, but ten cents by all the other offices except the Russians, who charge eight cents. These rates also apply to foreign countries, with these exceptions, viz.: to Russia, the Russian post office charges five cents, and to British possessions the British post office charges four cents, except to Australia, to which the postage is ten cents.

"All the post offices take newspapers at the rate of two cents for two ounces, except the German, which wants two and a half cents, and they all charge the same for samples as for newspapers, except Japan, whose minimum charge is double the others.

"A post-card costs four cents by the Japanese, Chinese or British offices, but only three cents by the Russian, whilst the German charge is five cents.

"There are several other anomalies about the postal service of Chefoo, but one further example may suffice for the present. The Russian post office charges eight cents for a ten-copeks stamp, but a four-copeks stamp costs three cents and a three-copeks stamp costs two cents, so that seven cents will buy ten copeks in one four and two threes. Similarly a seven-copeks stamp is charged for at the rate of six cents, but one four-copeks and one three-copeks cost together five cents. Finally, a twenty-copeks stamp costs sixteen cents,

while you can buy four four-copeks stamps for twelve cents.

"These and other numerous differences may be founded upon reasons which appear excellent to the various governments, but all we can make of it is to utilize any advantage one post office gives us over another."

MISTAKEN ECONOMY

BY C. W. RANKIN.

Long ago when I first began to collect stamps, my guides, philosophers and friends were small boys, who offered me everything they didn't want themselves—bless 'em. They gave me stamps, advice and hinges. The stamps were more or less damaged, the advice was often bad, but the hinges were totally beyond redemption. Most of them were made from druggists' labels and were thicker than the stamps themselves and only too durable. Others were torn from the long gummed strips that come with stamps from the post office. The boys had assured me in good faith that they would stick. There was never any doubt about that part of it—they certainly stuck like grim death. Sometimes, however, even the supply of makeshift hinges gave out, but the thoughtful boys had prepared me for even this emergency, by recommending flour paste. Moreover—this, I admit, is a shocking confession—I was told that, as a last resort, it was perfectly proper to *lick* the unused stamps. When I licked, I licked generously; when I pasted, I was positively lavish with the paste; consequently no stamp of mine, once it was anchored in the safe harbor of my book, ever escaped.

It was not until I attempted to remove a collection of some five thousand stamps from an old album into a new one that I realized the utter depravity of that advice, the powerful grip of those home-made hinges, and the enormity of my own offense. It was only by cutting my precious old book into minute sections and soaking each section until the stamps

themselves all but melted that I was able, finally, to free those unfortunate stamps from all incumbrances. You may rest assured, however, that they went into the new book with the very peelablest of all peelable hinges.

Collection for Sale

925 stamps including U. S. Revenues, Canada, Austria, Bavaria, Barbados, China, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Nicaragua, Labuan, Tasmania, Spain, etc. (no two stamps alike). Collection cost me \$30.00. Highest bidder before July 1st gets the lot including C. H. Mekeel's \$2.50 Album. Send stamped return envelope with bid. Purchaser to pay delivery charges.

RAYMOND E. DAVIS,
1422 Gardner Ave., Spokane, Wash.

GOING! GOING! GOING!

There's not a day but what I receive some orders for my packet No. 25—The Flood City Special. And there's a reason for it. "Better value for the money than anywhere else obtainable." This packet contains 50 choice stamps, mostly obsolete, and positively catalogues from \$4 to \$5. The price

ONE DOLLAR.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

NIUE, 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three 70c
PENNEYN ISL. 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of
three 70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black \$8 00
Great Britain, £5 orange, fine 8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine 8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

THE CUBAN PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONALS

When the United States troops reached Puerto Principe there were none of the surcharged U. S. stamps available, and a provisional issue was prepared for postal use, the work of over-printing being done in a local newspaper office, stamps from the stock on hand being used for the pur-

pose. The interest in these stamps manifested by American collectors and the rarity of some of the varieties have given the series as a whole a very high market value.

Mr. J. M. Andreini, a member of the Expert Committee and a well-known philatelist, has recently made a trip to Cuba, and in a letter published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* gives some very interesting facts in regard to these stamps; we extract some of the important points of information for the benefit of our readers:

"No counterfeiter has as yet made anything in the shape of a Puerto Principe surcharge that cannot be detected with a little care and study. The causes of this are not far to seek.

"The typesetting, the spacing, the placing and the printing are difficult to match, let alone the fact that the type itself, being worn out by constant use, is unmatched in certain minute particulars.

"The typesetter in the printing establishment of *Las Dos Republicas*, Enrique Terradas Escobar—an intelligent young man—told me that it would be extremely difficult, perhaps impossible, for him to prepare and duplicate the surcharge to-day!

"Julio Caballero Arango is the gentlemanly manager of the printing establishment above mentioned. I had the pleasure of calling upon him and he willingly told me all about the manner of printing the strips. He used an old Gordon foot-press, and he had to do the work at night in order to avoid the crowd of curiosity seekers always to be found around a newspaper office in a small city. He was warned about the delicacy of the work, and he felt its responsibility. He was nervous and he was asked to hurry the printing, and working as he was in an indifferently lighted room, it is no wonder that he made so many mistakes in printing the strips.

"Then his ink was inferior, especially the red one, which he had to mix with some vegetable compound in order to dilute it sufficiently to make it workable.

"A singular fact about these two

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY.

In a recent stamp publication appeared a list of the different cancellations found on the stamps of Hong Kong. I have noted two not mentioned therein. B62 is the most common cancellation found, but I have in the unwatermarked issue one specimen cancelled 62B in blue. This is rather out of the ordinary. In the C. C. watermark stamps I find the postmark "Canton," as well as in the C. A. issue.

Who will explain for us why the stamps of Paraguay display a lion. Is it for the good old reason that there are no lions there?

Should postmasters be prohibited from collecting stamps? I take the negative, decidedly, although it is a law in some countries. An earnest stamp collector is the strongest opponent of new issues and speculation in stamps; he keeps more thoroughly posted on the use and abuse of stamps of the postal system and knows something of the best systems in use among all nations; a stamp-collecting postmaster will not abuse his position to cater to philatelic friends nor will he entirely overlook their wishes in the matter of centering, etc.; he will not stoop to the removal of scarce stamps from letters passing through his hands, for if the temptation may sometimes be strong, the penalty is severe and complaint almost sure to arise—no one knows this better than the stamp collector.

I have the following circular issued by the postmaster at St. Helena, and mailed on April 30, 1903:

"St. Helena joined the Postal Union on October 1st, 1896. The Stamps of New Issue on sale at the post office are:

10d brown	2d yellow
5d violet	1d red
2½d dark blue	½d sea green

Single and Reply Post Cards.

T. R. BRUCE,
Postmaster."

This doubtless has reference to the Queen's Head issue and the letter

was prepaid by the old 2½d surcharged on 6d ultramarine. It will be noticed that the official colors as given above vary in three instances from Scott's description, viz: 2½d dark blue, instead of ultramarine; 1d red, instead of rose; ½d sea green, instead of green.

For unparalleled nerve commend to me the person who wrote to a paper asking the editor to publish an appeal to all dealers who advertised the Danish West Indies provisionals at the first high prices to refund to all purchasers what he calls overcharges, in view of the later drop in prices. He calls it by the obnoxious name of "skinning." He is evidently one of those persons who buys a stamp when it is in demand and on the rise, with a view to making monetary gain, and when it goes down squeals and wants his money back. How about it if it had advanced as so many stamps do? He paid his price and got his stamp and why should he complain unless it was for profits he was aiming rather than the interest of collecting. The dealer's part was legitimate business. He doubtless bought high and sold at a small margin. If all business were conducted on the plan this person urges, all business would cease, for no one can sell anything from pins to real estate with a guarantee that it shall never sell for less. He thought he was getting something good for his money, that would soon double in value and when the slump came was disgusted. It is the old story of speculation in stamps. I should not wonder if he was related to the man who tried to corner the dollar value Columbians. Sometimes a dealer, controlling a whole line, sells on a guarantee against a decline. This is legitimate. Sometimes a dealer having sold in good faith at a high price, when an unexpected drop comes, gives notice to purchasers that he will refund the difference. He is not required to do this and it is apparently an act of generosity on his part though really a shrewd method of advertising. But to ask all dealers to do this is a good deal of presumption.

Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps **\$3.75** ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.
1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

- 800** different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$ 2.50**
- 2,000** different postage stamps a collection in itself. **13.50**
- 3,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. **45.00**
- 4,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. **A great bargain. 80.00**

16 OUNCES EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold. **\$1.00 per pound post free**, in the United States.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES." Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert. Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.
 (Published to sell at \$1.00)

62nd Edition Catalogue FOR 1903

Post Free for 55 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scott's No. 2991

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

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1862, ½rp, lilac on rose, cata.....	\$0 40,	my price,	20c
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1870, 40c rose, v. scarce,	1 50,	"	75c
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N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

POSTAL AFFAIRS IN CHEFOO, CHINA

The following newspaper clipping from the *Chefoo Express* will give some idea of the postal affairs of that part of China. Kindly sent in by Mr. Gus. Moore, one of our readers in the Orient.

"Few places are more amply supplied with post offices than Chefoo, and if some more were established there would soon be one for each member of the community. This is not 'a consummation devoutly to be wished,' for it would be much more to the general advantage if the different governments, instead of establishing so many post offices, would subscribe the amount of their expenses towards the upkeep of one efficient G. P. O. Meantime the various offices are all run at a considerable loss, and none of them is a model of efficiency.

"Matters might be simplified considerably if the different offices would agree upon a uniform scale of charges, but there is little likelihood of their ever doing this. We find, for

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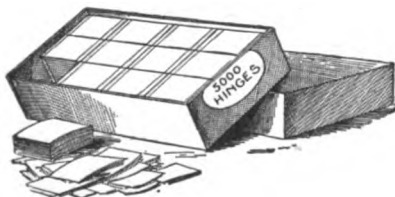
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Mekeel's Stamp Collector

[Continuing the "Philatelic Journal of America"]

Vol. 16—No. 21

JUNE 22, 1903

Whole No. 73

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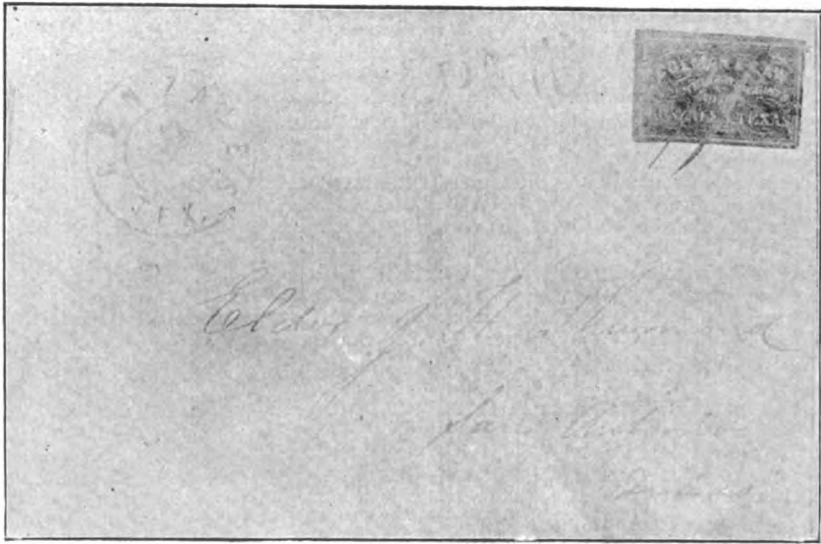
Mekeel's Stamp Collector is a Weekly Newspaper and an Illustrated Monthly Magazine in one. It is published every Thursday—fifty-two issues a year. Twelve issues each year are Illustrated Magazine Numbers, containing more pages than the regular weekly issue.

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Change of Address.—When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent ten days before the change is to take effect.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.



Gonzales, Texas

Confederate Postmaster's Provisional

(See page 325.)

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 21
WHOLE No. 73

JUNE 22, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902, at St. Louis, Mo., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

EDITORS.

CHARLES HAVILAND MEKEEL,
LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Publisher's Notice. For the benefit of collectors who receive this number as a sample copy and are not regular subscribers, we would state that in the magazine editions of our paper we usually include the following departments, which are crowded out this month on account of other matter:

Chronicle of new issues (fully illustrated).

Department of Foreign Relations, including foreign news and announcements of collectors and dealers desiring exchange relations.

Department of Review, covering periodical stamp literature of the whole world, by L. G. Quackenbush.

Answers to Queries; a department which is open to all readers.

We hope that every stamp collector who receives a copy of this paper will become a subscriber and we call particular attention to the liberal subscription offer that we have made on page 346.

The New Series of U. S. Stamps. The United States Government have just completed the handsomest series of postage stamps ever issued by any government in the world. Third Assistant Postmaster-General Madden is to be congratulated upon the result. The new and distinctive series embody several new ideas. All the portraits of the subjects are front views, giving the name of the individual, date of birth and death, with the uniform inscription of "Series of 1902."

Undoubtedly more interest has been aroused in stamp collecting in the United States since the introduction of these new stamps into general use than anything that has happened since the commemorative stamps were issued for the World's Fair in 1892.

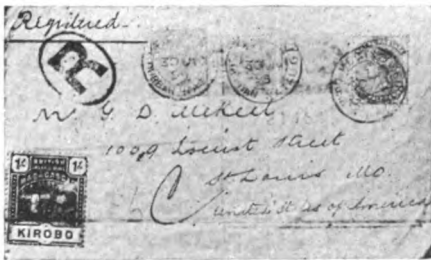


British Madagascar Stamps. *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* (London, England) has made a pretty good case against the admission of the stamps of the "British Inland Mail" of Madagascar in Part I of Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue. As this catalogue is supposed to contain only stamps having the character of governmental authority, and as it is supposed to exclude all "local" issues, it seems from the information at hand that the stamps mentioned above belong in a volume of the catalogue devoted to "Locals."

It also seems to us that they could transfer the stamps of the British Consular Mail with the rest of it. There

were evidently no British Governmental stamps ever authorized for Madagascar, and all of the labels were decidedly "locals" in character. The agitation in regard to the character of the Madagascar stamps was particularly due at this time to the marketing in Europe of a lot of the remainders and to the fact of their being included in Part I of the Gibbon's catalogue, having been used for the advantage of the vendors.

Our contemporary, through an excess of zeal in the matter, has stated that the issue of March 8th was probably never sent to Madagascar at all. This we are in a position to authoritatively deny, because the second Madagascar issue came to us direct from the British Consular office of Madagascar, the same as the previous issue had, and we received a number of them postally used on covers in connection with the Natal postage stamps. A photographic reproduction of a cover bearing the 1 shilling stamp is here given.



We are convinced that proper classification of these stamps, as well as labels of the British Consular Mail, belong to the department of "Locals."

These stamps were illustrated and chronicled by us in our weekly of September 12, 1895, having been received direct from the postmaster of the British Inland Mail at Antananarivo, who informed us that the British Inland Mail had entered into an agreement with the Malagasy Government for the transmission once a month of all mails destined to foreign ports from the interior of Madagascar. Such letters being prepaid by these stamps from Antananarivo to Tamatave on the coast.

TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF STAMP JOURNALISM

April, 1903, was the month of the 26th anniversary of the stamp publications of C. H. Mekeel.

His first printed price list of stamps, as a boy dealer, was issued in April, 1877.

His first regular stamp paper was *The Stamp Collectors' Bureau*, issued in 1881 and 1882. The next, *The Philatelic Journal of America*, which was founded in 1885, and ran through fourteen volumes. No doubt more copies of that journal were printed and circulated than of any monthly stamp paper ever published in the world.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News commenced in 1891 and was published by this concern continually until 1898; it is now conducted as an independent trade journal by the Mekeel-Redfield-Severn Co., from New York City. *The Daily Stamp Item* was an experiment in 1895; 285 numbers were issued. *The Revista Filatelica* was a Spanish stamp paper that was published for 14 numbers, but the comparatively small number of Spanish-American collectors made it a luxury rather than a profitable enterprise. *Mekeel's Drummer*, a freely circulated leaflet, was published for thirteen numbers in 1900 and 1901.

Succeeding the *Drummer* and resuming the numbered volumes of the *Philatelic Journal of America*, this paper began volume XV.

The copy in hand is the seventy-third number of the new series, and seeks the subscription of every stamp collector in America.

For the benefit of collectors of philatelic literature we will quote the following information:

Stamp Collectors' Bureau—out of print.
 Philatelic Journal of America, 14 volumes, \$15.00.
 Revista Filatelica—out of print.
 The Daily Stamp Item, complete, \$3.00.
 Mekeel's Drummer, complete, \$3.00.
 Mekeel's Stamp Collector, Vol. 15, \$2.00.
 Mekeel's Stamp Collector, Vol. 16 to date, \$1.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
 St. Louis, Mo.

A Story About Fruit

BY C. H. MEKEEL

It may seem strange to our readers to find an article in a stamp paper about peaches, apples and pears.

Our readers, scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from British North America to the Gulf of Mexico, will find in this fruit story something

and the best thought of men of great experience in specialized work.

There has recently been incorporated in St. Louis the largest company in the world devoted to the growing of peaches, apples and pears for market. The full scope of the United Orchard Com-



Picking Peaches in the McNair Orchard at St. Elmo, Mo.

that may be of much practical interest and benefit to them.

In this day of combination and organization the opportunity is not often offered the small investor to participate in the profits and benefits of great enterprises that have only become possible by bringing together of great capital

pany, capital \$1,500,000.00, is explained in a condensed prospectus which is set forth in our columns this week.

This is not something in prospect, as many similar propositions are, but an actual going business.

The company having bought the great ranch known as the McNair Or-

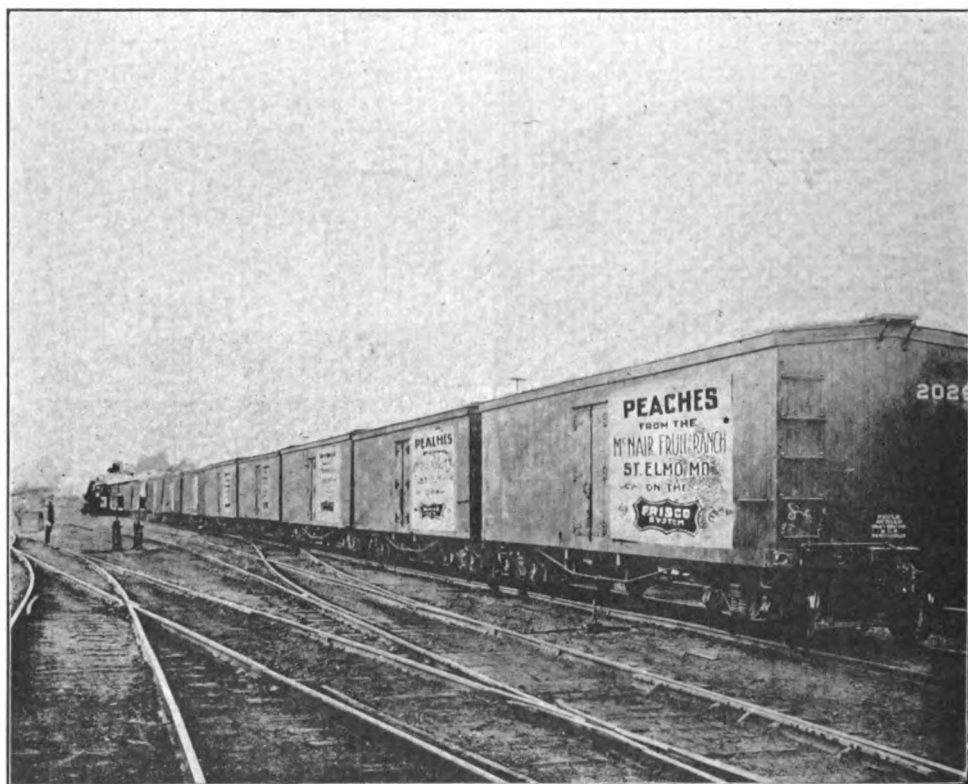
chard in St. Elmo, Mo., consisting of 2,016 acres, with 93,000 peach trees, 20,000 apple trees and 3,000 pear trees, from which \$68,000.00 worth of fruit in a single year has been sold.

Near St. Elmo the company owns another property, known as the Missouri Orchard, of 226 acres, on which they have 10,000 peach trees.

In Clay County, Illinois, which, by statistics, is shown to be the largest

bearing would pay a good dividend on the entire capital, but it is to extend existing orchards and to cultivate fruit lands in new locations that the company has been organized.

Mr. John G. McNair, whose successful business enterprises have been taken over by the United Orchard Company, is the president and general manager. He is a man of high standing in St. Louis and one of successful practical



Solid train load of Peaches shipped from McNair Orchard, St. Elmo, Mo.

apple-growing county in the United States, they own 730 acres, with 35,862 apple trees and 8,484 pear trees.

On the south slope of the Ozarks, at Black Rock in Arkansas, the company has 411 acres, with 58,000 bearing peach trees.

In Georgia, near Fort Valley, their orchard of 1,019 acres has 106,000 peach trees.

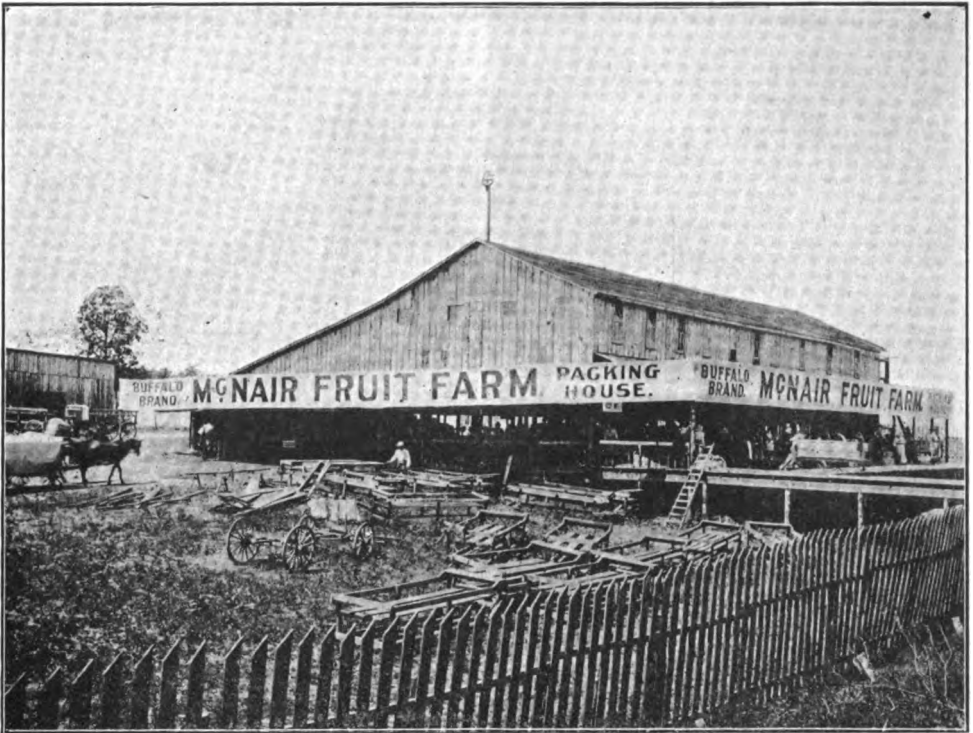
The properties already developed and

business experience in every detail of the commercial fruit business.

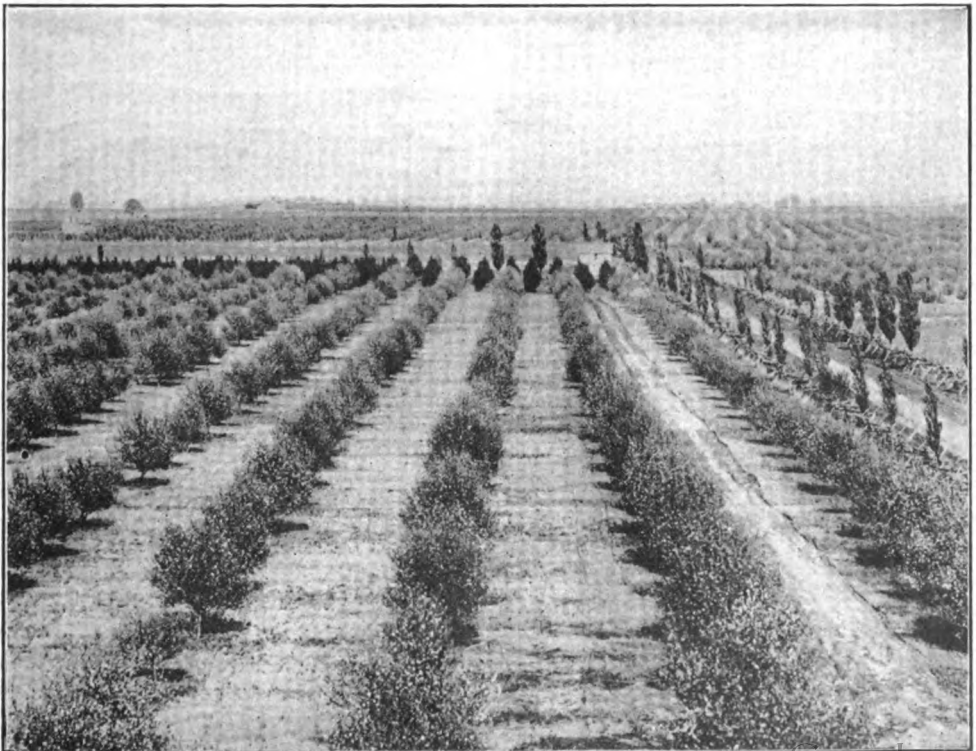
The affairs of the United Orchard Company are under his personal management; his entire time and energy will be devoted to developing the vast properties under his charge.

The Directors of the United Orchard Company form a board of which any bank in St. Louis might be proud.

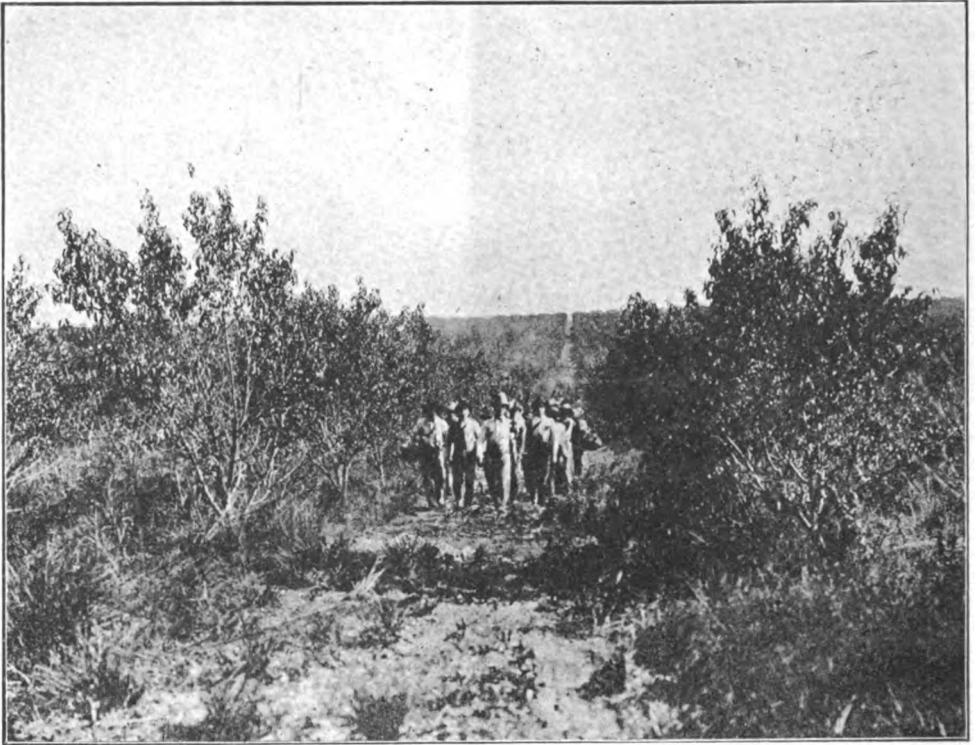
It is the intention of the company



Packing House on McNair Fruit Farm, now the property of the United Orchard Company.



United Orchard Company's Apple Orchard in Clay County, the largest in Illinois.



Pickers going to work on United Orchard Company's Peach Orchard at Black Rock, Arkansas.

to add the following acreage and plant with new trees the following existing orchards:

Missouri, 1,500 acres—64,000 peach trees and 50,000 apple trees.

Arkansas, 600 acres—64,000 peach trees.

add 2,700 acres and 332,000 peach trees.

The new trees now contracted for that will be planted this year number 613,200, the trees in the established orchards number 413,546, giving a total of 1,026,746 trees on over 10,000 acres of land in the best fruit-growing sec-



Georgia, 1,000 acres—102,400 peach trees.

New orchards in Texas and Alabama, in favored parts of these States, will

tions owned in *fee simple* by this company, *with no bonded or mortgage debt.*

For the last six years the McNair orchard at St. Elmo has netted an



average almost of \$1.00 per year per tree. With over a million trees, the possibilities of this proposition are apparent.

The United Orchard Company is capitalized for \$1,500,000, stock full paid and non-assessable. A limited number of \$100.00 shares are offered and upon most favorable terms—\$10.00 in cash with subscription and \$5.00 per month, on each share.

The full details of the subscription for shares will be found in the company's prospectus, but we may say just here that this is a business proposition, and one that no reader of these lines can afford to pass lightly. An income for future years that can be obtained by a comparatively small present outlay is something that is attractive to all. Fruit culture is not an experiment and wonderful results are being realized.

Col. H. D. McKay, of Pomona, Mo., made \$1.80 per tree on his peaches.

Theo. H. Lowing, one of the pioneer apple-growers of Illinois, realized \$4.00 per tree.

Percy Kiser, of Benton Co., Arkansas, realized \$1.00 per tree on his peaches.

W. H. Davy, of Siloam Springs, Ark., made net, in 1901, \$2.10 per tree, and in 1902 over \$4.00 per tree.

The United Orchard Company expects, by its organization and the application of perfected business system, to be enabled to meet conditions in a commercial way that are impossible to individual growers; the shipment of fruit in refrigerator cars to best markets, securing the highest prices for their products.

The utilization of what would be waste under ordinary conditions is an important factor.

Fruits not shipped are evaporated, others not marketable are manufactured into vinegar and other commercial products of great value. Nothing goes to waste in a commercial fruit orchard.

These are, briefly, the facts connected with the proposition set forth elsewhere in this paper.

The standing of the officers and di-

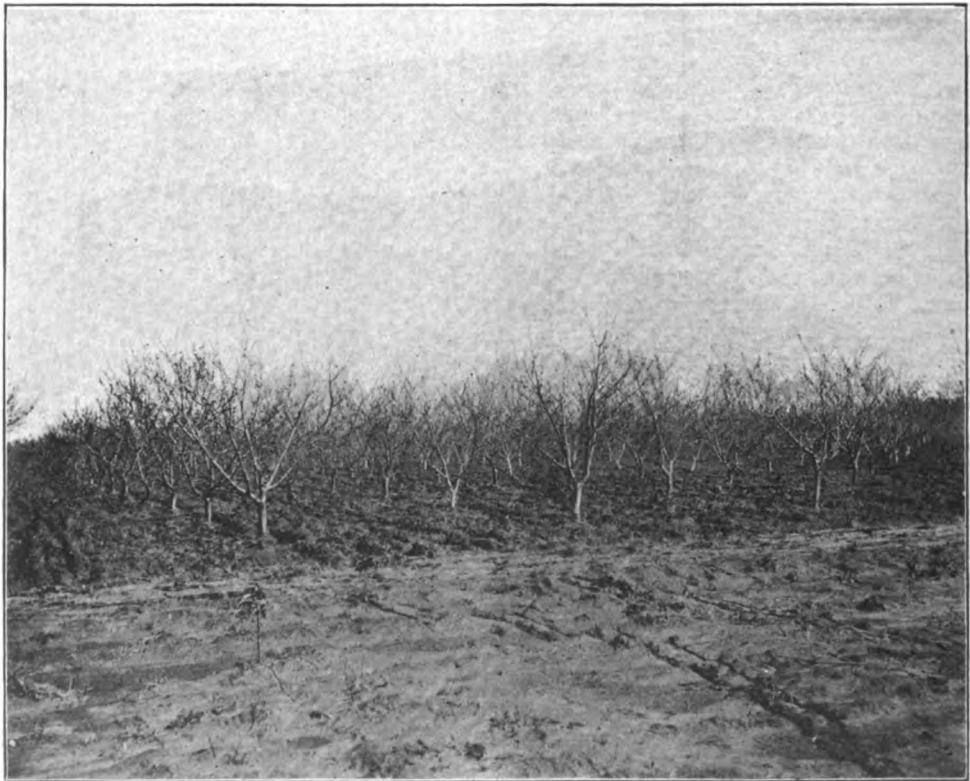




rectors of this company are the highest. and information may be asked of any mercantile agency or bank in St. Louis. The proposition has just been offered to the public, and the announcement made in this paper is the first to be issued.

Only a limited number of shares are

offered for sale, and they will all be sold very quickly. It is an opportunity of the moment. The writer is only interested in the matter as an investor and freely recommends it to his readers as being worthy of immediate and favorable consideration.



**Four-year-old Peach Trees in Orchard of United Orchard Company,
Fort Valley, Georgia.**

Idle Hour Papers

BY OLIVER CRINKLE.

IV. Philately and Silver Hairs.

Gray hairs, albeit the honorable badge of age, and presumably, therefore, of wisdom also, are seldom altogether welcome visitors. Though we gloss it over as we will, their arrival marks the coming of a time of life which few of us look forward to with any joy of anticipation. Most thoughtful men dread old age a little, though perhaps they scarce confess it themselves. It is not so much that the old must learn to count the days of their earthly tenancy and nerve themselves to face manfully the mysteries that lie beyond. We know that "he who lives must die," and that it is futile to bewail a fate that befalls all mankind. It is rather the material ills of old age, the decline of physical powers, the drilling of mental faculties, the forced laying aside of many of the active interests of life, the aimlessness and seeming futility of existence, now that one's hour of labor and achievement has given place to a more or less monotonous inactivity, that makes old age so unwelcome.

He who said "Happy is the man who has a hobby," might justly have laid special stress on the blessings of a hobby to those who have passed the meridian of life.

Ennui is the special tyrant and oppressor of old age, and he who can fortify his declining years against it by falling a slave to some not too exacting hobby of the quiet, placid nature, suited to life's autumn, is a happy man indeed. Perhaps stamp collecting in its highest development does not quite come under the head of a "not too exacting hobby." Scientific philately is, in some ways, a very exacting thing; but one of the happiest features of philately is the latitude it affords its followers. One man may delve deep into its mysteries with as much thought and care as though the fate of nations lay in the work, while

another is content to collect as the whim pleases him, enthusiastically, indeed, but without much regard to definite aim or method; yet both gain much the same amount of enjoyment. Were philately all work and no play, it could hardly be recommended as a pleasant pursuit for an era in life when one has had enough of heavy burdens and desires to occupy the mind with some less onerous interest; but as it is, philately is an ideal pastime and study for one's declining years. Let not the reader think that I would speak slightly of its value to the young man or to those who are in the prime of life. I simply wish to emphasize a side of its attractiveness seldom touched upon, namely: its especial value in lightening the sluggishly moving hours of old age.

Why is it that there are so few graybeards among us? Of men of middle age there is no lack, but where are the philatelic patriarchs, the grand old men of philately? Europe has them in plenty, but America hardly at all, or so at least it seems. Scan over the list of those best known in American philately and see how very few have witnessed three score winters. Perhaps among the rank and file of collectors not specially distinguished there may be a larger proportion of "grave and reverend seigneurs;" yet, after all, in looking over our philatelic acquaintance, how many of us can count more than a pitifully small number that are really past middle life? But be that as it may, it seems to me that old age and philately ought to be better acquainted. They are exactly fitted for each other. It is no longer in the riotous pleasures of their salad days that the old can find enjoyment. These things have outgrown their welcome by the time one starts on the last quarter of life's handicap. The senses are sated of the hurly-burly of life, and the calm sobriety of such a pursuit as philately accords well with the placid tempera-

ment that is the heritage of those "full of years." It gives new currents of interest, new things to think about, new ways to busy the hands; just enough of labor to keep one's hand employed, just enough of thought to keep one's brain from rusting.

Old men seldom know how to employ their time; they are surfeited with leisure. Reading is the readiest resource for those thus afflicted, but old eyes are not as strong as they once were and reading can not but sometimes grow monotonous. The old lady has her needle and a hundred other resources to beguile the leaden hours, that her husband lacks. He has, indeed, if he be a smoker, one great offset; but one's day can not all be consumed in smoke—and then, again, philately and tobacco are sworn allies and comrades. Both are apt to be best loved by men of meditative minds, and they may very easily work together as the twin comforters of age. It is a notion to almost reconcile one to old age's coming; this happy blending of philately's gentle charm and tobacco's soothing fragrance. The train of thought which it conjures up savors somehow of coziness and content. The old are easily pleased. Little, simple things that those less ripe in years deem the dulllest of time-killing devices are often to them a source of unending solace. And stamp collecting is a simple pursuit if one would have it so. The old man need not go very far into its scientific side unless he chooses. He can collect in the old-fashioned way, without troubling his head at all about type varieties and die varieties and surcharge errors, and all the rest of the things that keep the philatelic scientist forever in deep water.

I sometimes fancy that this is the best and true way to collect, after all: that if we all collected more in schoolboy fashion, we would get more pure, unalloyed happiness out of our hobby; that if there were not quite so many deep sea divers, so to speak, who are always fishing up either new things that are worthy of collection, or else new varieties of old things that we had never even dreamed of, to weigh down still

more the ponderous catalogues of our cult, our philatelic life would be better worth the living. How tantalizing it is to be compelled to keep step with the march of philatelic progress, when one would so much rather loll away his philatelic time in idle dalliance here and there and everywhere in the good, old-fashioned way of our philatelic forefathers. And yet, we can not turn back, try as hard as we can. The subtle grip of advanced philatelic study, once it gets a good hold on its victim, never lets go. However much we cry down the over-elaboration of philatelic classification nowadays and sigh for the less complicated collecting methods of two or three decades ago, this same philatelic elaboration is our meat and drink after all. We can not turn back to those old ways, and we would not if we could. We have outgrown them honestly and healthfully; and as in philately itself there is forever noticeable the operations of the law of natural evolution, so in its votaries it may be seen as well.

Some of the old men would, no doubt, be well content to follow philately in the simple, childish way, in which the joy of acquisition, the pleasure of securing new and hitherto unseen specimens, and the delight in arranging and re-arranging them and in studying their bright colors, tasty designs and interesting emblems, is the alpha and omega of endeavor. If the grandsire goes no farther than this, stamp collecting will yet beguile many a weary hour otherwise sacred to the tyrant dullness; and, very likely, make him sweeter tempered and more content with his share of mundane pleasures. But many a one among the old (whose wits are active and whose minds are keen as a rule to a pretty advanced age, in America, at least) would be little by little seduced into the broader fields of philatelic thought and work. They would find it a study of just the right ingredients, neither too trivial or too taxing in its limitations, and the downhill years of life would take on a rosier color. The surest way to banish the terrors of old age is to keep mind and hand ever busy in some pursuit that does not wear away

brain tissue and bone and muscle and nerve, but rather gently lulls them to a sweet repose.

I write not to strengthen you, dear reader, in your philatelic allegiance by the recital of these things. If your only incentive to keep on with philately now were that it might make easier for you the pathway of old age in years to come,

I fear you would be but an indifferent philatelist. But you may happen to know some kindly old fellow who finds time hang heavy on his hands, or, perchance, some grim old cynic who peers hungrily about him for some new means of forgetting the follies of the world, to whom a sight of your album would be the key to philately's Elysian fields.

"ALL STAR" PACKETS

Every one knows that the basis of almost all packets consist of the common class of stamps which go to make up the required *number*. Some of the more advanced collectors have, for that reason, given up buying packets entirely, but we have a series of "all star" packets which have never failed to give perfect satisfaction.

Every stamp in these packets is a "star," no common truck or rubbish. Each packet contains one hundred varieties, the average catalogue price of which is 25c, so that the catalogue value of each of the following packets is \$25.00 or more. Collectors are protected from useless duplicates in buying these packets, as we give them the privilege of exchanging any surplus that they may receive through the medium of the Stamp Exchange, taking from the Stamp Exchange books of other stamps in exchange for any duplicates that may be acquired by the purchase of these packets.

The stamps in the following packets are in first-class condition, whether used or unused, and are each mounted in a neat little book and priced. Catalogue value of each of the packets being over \$25.00.

"STAR" PACKET A—Contains a choice selection of stamps of the British Colonies, including Queen's Heads as well as new varieties of King Edward. Choice specimens from Tasmania, New South Wales, Niger Coast, Strait Settlements, and many others; every stamp being a "star."

Price is \$11.50.

"STAR" PACKET B—Contains selected stamps from Spanish-American countries, including many high denominations and some choice old issues. Including stamps of Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and selected stamps from almost all American-Spanish-speaking countries.

Price is \$9.50.

"STAR" PACKET C—Contains only stamps from the Western Hemisphere, varieties of West Indies, including Hayti, the better Porto Rico, Cuba, including British North America, but no United States.

Price is \$10.00.

"STAR" PACKET D—Contains stamps of the United States, including regular issues, Departments and Confederates; also including varieties of other parts of North America; a very desirable and choice packet.

Price is \$10.00.

"STAR" PACKET E—Contains selected stamps of Asia, Australia, and the Islands of the Pacific, special prominence; contains no American or European stamps.

Price is \$10.00.

"STAR" PACKETS F, G, H, I, J—Each contains one hundred stamps, all of which are different, and contain no duplicates of any of the above-mentioned packets.

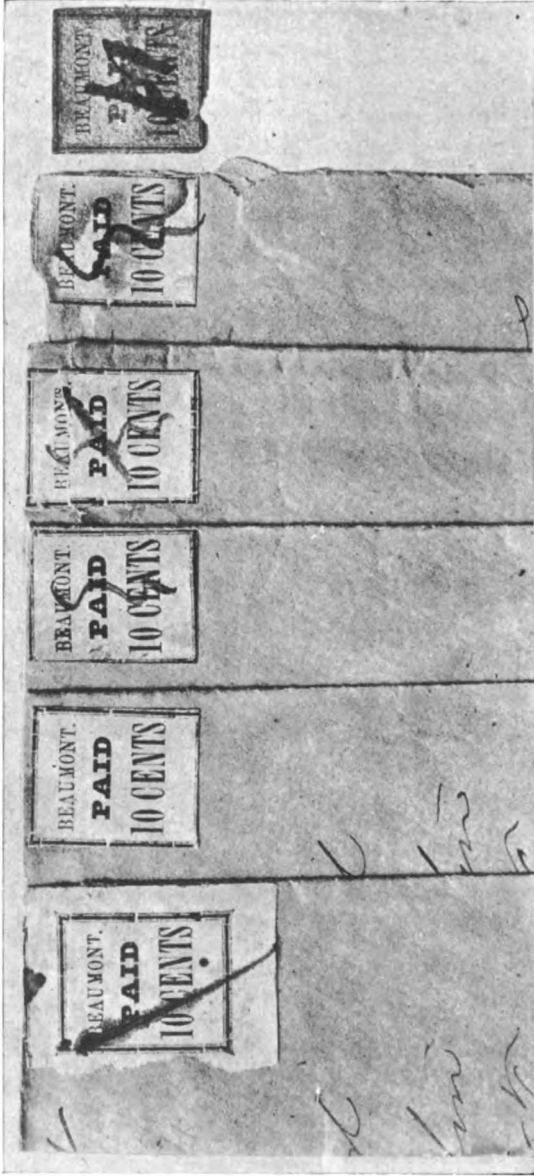
Price is \$10.00 each.

The above series of ten packets contain no duplicates and form a collection of one thousand varieties, cataloging over \$250.00, and entirely different. They will be furnished at one time to a customer for **\$100.00** net. This series of packets may be safely obtained by the class of collectors who do not usually buy stamps in this form, and we agree to exchange any duplicates that may be acquired in the purchase of these packets, through the Stamp Exchange, giving our customers the benefit of over \$25,000.00 worth of stamps to select from in exchange for any duplicates that may be acquired through the purchase of one or more of the above packets.

This, it will be realized, is an exceptional offer and one that we would only make at this season of the year, and we believe that our readers will appreciate it and avail themselves of the opportunity without delay.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING Co.,

St. Louis, Mo.



A \$6,000.00 BUNCH OF BEAUMONTS

The five stamps on envelopes illustrated above were sold by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. for \$5,000.00; the middle one of the five on envelopes was afterwards re-sold by them for the account of the original purchaser for \$1,400.00.

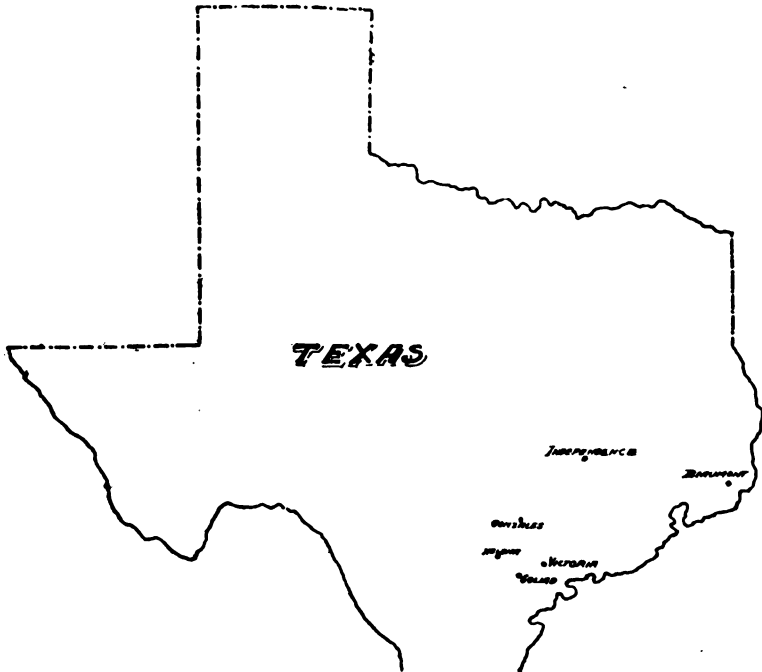
The Texas Group of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals

BY C. H. MEKEEL

We shall probably never know all the stamps that were issued in Southern post offices during the war of 1861-65. Although forty years have passed, new postal history of that time is constantly being developed.

One by one the stamps of the post offices of Victoria, Helena, Beaumont, Independence and Gonzales have been discovered and authenticated from old files of letters.

There is not a doubt but that other



It was only little more than ten years ago that we knew that the postmaster of Goliad, Texas, had issued a special stamp for that post office during the war. Now it is known that at least eleven varieties of Goliad stamps exist, and that a number of other Texas postmasters issued special stamps.

Texas post offices had postal issues during the same period.

There is traditional history of an adhesive stamp for Galveston, but no copy of it is so far known.

We have shown on the map the geographical location of the stamp-issuing post offices of the Texas group, and give a list of the varieties with

the addition of some notes and illustrations of some interesting stamps on original covers with their history.

Beaumont

Type set on colored wove paper, unperforated.



Type I.
10 cents, black on pink paper.



Type II.
10 cents, black on yellow paper.

Goliad

Type set, on white and colored wove papers, unperforated.



Type I.
Authenticated in Ms. by postmaster.
5 cents, black on white paper.
5 " " " gray paper.
5 " " " rose paper.



Type I.
Authenticated in Ms. by postmaster.
10 cents, black on white paper.
10 " " " rose paper.



Type II.
5 cents, black on gray paper.
5 " " " (error) Gollad.
5 " " " dark blue paper.



Type II.
10 cents, black on gray paper.
10 " " " (error) Gollad.
10 " " " dark blue paper.

Gonzales

Lithographed on colored surfaced paper, druggists' labels improvised for use as stamps, unperforated.



(5 cents) gold on dark blue surfaced paper.
(10 ") " " garnet surfaced paper.

Helena

Type set on colored wove paper, unperforated.



5 cents, black on buff paper.
5 " " " gray paper.

Independence

Hand-stamped provisional on buff envelope paper used as adhesive, unperforated.



10 cents, black on buff paper.

Victoria

Type set on colored wove paper, unperforated.



5 cents, red-brown on green paper.
10 " " " " " " " " " " " "

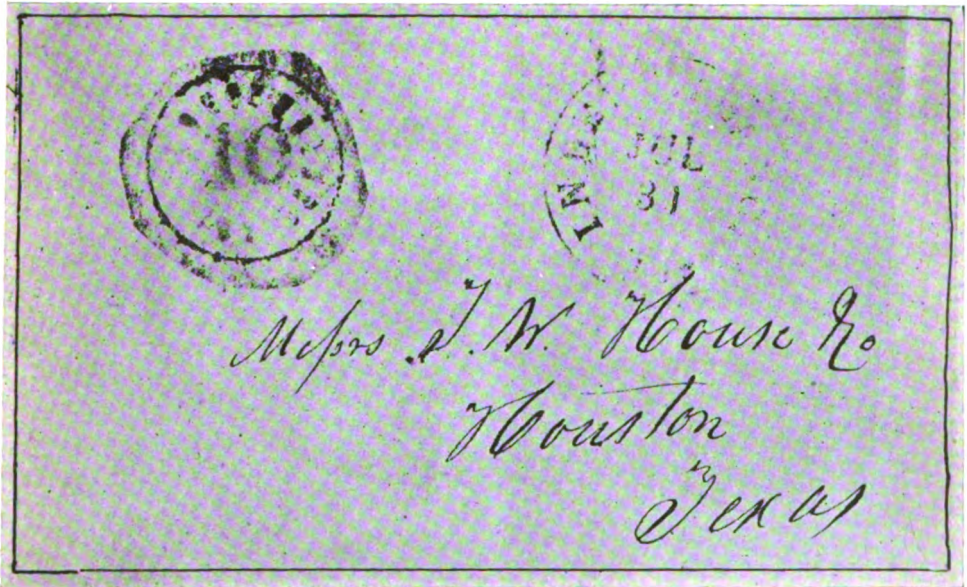
June 25



*Mrs E L Lloyd
Houston
Texas*

BEAUMONT

Showing the 10c black on pink, Type I, used on original cover. Sold by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. for \$1,400.00.



INDEPENDENCE

Showing the 10c stamp. A hand-stamped provisional, black on buff paper, used as an adhesive. Very crude. The property of a famous Parisian collector.



GOLIAD

Showing the 10c black on pink, with manuscript signature of Mr. Clark, the postmaster. Issued in 1861. Confederate flag at the left. This rare cover was recently sold by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company to a famous Paris collector.



GONZALES

Showing a pair of the lithographed druggist labels used provisionally as 5c stamps on a letter. Above cover is for sale; apply to the publishers.

Beaumont

The Type II of the Beaumont stamp, which is 18x20 mm., being 2 mm. shorter than the Type I illustrated, was the first variety known and it was discredited and went begging for a long time.

The stamp was a poor copy, not on the cover, and in the hands of a small dealer who could give no very good account of it. We declined it, but kept a photograph of it when submitted to us.

In 1895, the newspapers of the whole country published columns of stamp stories about the famous "find" of St. Louis stamps, of which we handled many thousand dollars' worth, and the discovery soon after of the 10c Baltimore, which we sold for \$4,400.00, with the result that we received old stamps, good, bad and indifferent, from every quarter of the country. Among others that we bought during those "boom" days were the five Beaumont stamps illustrated on page 320.

These came to us through a column article in the *N. Y. Evening Telegram*, and we sold the whole "find" to one collector for \$5,000.00. Later we re-sold for the owner's account the middle one, not the finest or yet the poorest, for \$1,400.00. These things read like fairy tales when singled out of an experience of stamp dealing of over twenty-six years. This "find" of Beaumonts, Type I on pink paper, established the stamp and proved the yellow paper variety to have been all right, as it was printed from the same type and brass rule, although of smaller size.

Goliad

These were the first Texas provisionals to be recognized. They were type set and of two general types, one with the postmaster's name and the other without. The latter were authenticated by the signature in ink of the postmaster, who usually signed "Clark—P. M." Mr. Albert Steves, of San Antonio, has unearthed several of these interesting stamps by his own research, and it was from the stamp in that gentleman's collection that the above



photograph of the 5c, Type I, authenticated by the signature of Postmaster Clark, was taken.



The above illustrations show beautiful copies of the 10c Goliad Type II, one of them being the rare *error* in which the name of the post office is misspelled "Goilad."

Gonzales

J. V. Law, of the drug firm of Coleman & Law, was the postmaster at Gonzales, Texas, during the war.

There was a scarcity of change, so to facilitate matters, the postmaster sold the drug labels of Coleman & Law for use as postage stamps.

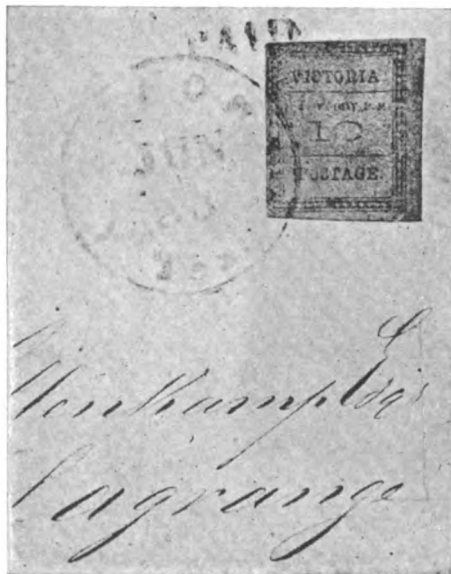
The labels printed in gold on garnet were sold ten for one dollar for use as 10c stamps, and the bronze on blue variety were sold twenty for one dollar for use as 5c stamps.

Our frontispiece this week shows a specimen of the 10c used on cover.

Helena



A stamp evidently copied from those of the Goliad post office. The annexed illustration is from the copy in the collection of Mr. Steves.



VICTORIA

Showing the 10c stamp used on original cover. The property of Mr. Albert Steves, of San Antonio.

Independence The stamp improvised by the Independence postmaster was a hard-looking customer. But a copy on the cover, discovered by Mr. E. D. Dorchester, of Velasco, Texas, established its character, and it was sold at a fancy price to a French collector.

Victoria. Type-set stamps of the Goliad and Helena class, and very rare. We have received a 10c value quite recently, but the finder had torn it from the envelope before he realized the added interest it would possess if entire. The one we illustrate is also in the collection of Mr. Steves.



Information About Stamps

A primer of stamp information for the general public, who are curious to know why stamps are collected, what stamps are valuable, and general information about stamp collecting, was recently issued by our publishers, and the principal points are here reproduced.

History of the Postage Stamp

Originated by Sir Rowland Hill.

Adopted by Great Britain in 1840.

Not in general use in the United States by the Government until 1847.

The prepayment of postage by the means of adhesive postage stamps revolutionized the postal business of the world, making the present means of communication possible.

About 20,000 different postage stamps have been issued by all countries and colonies since 1840.

Why are Stamps Collected

Almost as soon as stamps came into existence there were those who began to collect specimens from each country that issued them.

The natural collecting instinct was instantly appealed to by these little bits of engraved labels, and as the number of stamps increased the number of collectors multiplied.

There is something about some people that makes them like the odd, the curious, the foreign, and stamp collectors sprang into existence in England, France and the United States almost simultaneously. Soon albums were published for their reception, and catalogues compiled recording the new issues as they appeared.

Stamp collecting commenced in 1850 and has never lost any of its force. Old collectors drop out and two new ones take their place, until to-day we could count them by the millions, and they are in every civilized country on the globe. There are serious collectors and those who take it up only as a passing fancy.

The pursuit commends itself to the observing, systematic and intelligent,

but does not appeal to the lazy, careless or thoughtless.

Parents who have given the matter careful consideration are usually inclined to encourage their children in this pursuit, as it trains the mind and develops the perceptive faculties.

A collector involuntarily learns much of geography, history, arms and flags of nations, the difference in money systems, the knowledge of shades and colors, and many useful facts that go to make up a well informed person.

The profitable side of stamp collecting in a pecuniary way has been proved by the fact that a carefully and well-selected collection will almost always reward the maker by bringing, when sold, more than the cost of its accumulation.

This is in a measure true, from the fact that every collector is able to add valuable stamps to his collection by discovery or other means than cash purchase.

These acquisitions are often very valuable, and no old file of correspondence can fail to produce something of interest to a stamp collector.

As an example of the wide range the interest in stamp collecting has taken, we give the following examples from the clients of our publishers:

Members of the leading legislative bodies of the United States, England, France and Germany.

Military and naval officers of various ranks, from ensign to commander, of the above four countries, as well as of Italy, Russia and Austria.

Members of diplomatic corps and consular officers in almost every country.

A number of members of the nobility of various European countries and younger members of the royal families of Great Britain, Russia and Germany.

The Duke of Cornwall and York, heir to the British Throne; the late Duke of Edinburgh, Queen of Holland and King of Siam are stamp collectors.

Judges of all ranks, from the Queen's Bench down to Justice of the Peace, at-

torneys, solicitors, barristers and legal authors. The Church gives us Bishops, Priests, Abbots and Professors—the Roman, Greek and various Protestant denominations being represented. Professional people of every class, scientific, medical, artistic, pedagogical and dramatic. Business men in almost every line, corporation officers, bankers, as well as the wealthy leisure class, among whom the ladies are represented, all have found stamp collecting a most fascinating "hobby" and are among our correspondents.

We must not forget His Majesty, the American Boy, who is, after all, the backbone of stamp collecting.

What Stamps are Valuable

Age does not make a stamp valuable.

The first 1 penny red, the type issued by Great Britain in 1840, is still a very common stamp, because it continued in use for many years, and millions of them were printed.

Scarcity is the keynote of value.

Stamps whose issue has been limited as to number and time of service are naturally scarce, and therefore become valuable for the simple reason that there are not enough to go around among the stamp collectors who want them.

A stamp issued to-day, that for some reason is withdrawn soon after issue, is as likely to become rare, and valuable as some of the old ones.

Cash Paid for Rare Stamps

How to Find Them

Those in the stamp business are in touch with thousands of advanced collectors in all parts of the world, and it is their business to know pretty well where to place almost any rare stamp that may be found.

Our publishers are buying and supplying rarities constantly, and hold the record in the United States for two things:

The highest price ever paid by a stamp dealer for a single postage stamp, and this was to take into stock, and for which they had at the time no immediate customer.

We refer to the 10c Baltimore, for which the party who found it in old correspondence was paid \$2,300.00 in cash.

Some months later this stamp was sold for \$4,400.00, which is also the record price, being the highest price ever received by a dealer in the United States for a single postage stamp.

Many stamps have been sold from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, but, of course, these are stamps that are seldom found. There are many stamps, however, for which from \$1.00 to \$10.00 each are paid, that may be found by almost anyone who has access to files of correspondence from 1840 to 1865.

While the United States Government did not issue stamps until 1847, Local Express Companies and Postmasters issued many stamps from 1841 to 1865 that are very valuable.

Envelopes were not in common use then, so that many stamps will be found filed away on the backs of old letters and business papers.

In 1895 our publishers bought out of one lot of waste paper over \$30,000 worth of rare stamps that were ready to go into the furnace as worthless; their value was discovered just in time to save.

This was the great find of St. Louis Postmasters' stamps of 1845, discovered in the furnace room of the Louisville Court House. The excitement caused by this rare lot was recorded by newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

These things are mentioned to suggest what may be laying idle in some old garret or storeroom to which you may have access.

During the Civil War, 1861-1865, many of the Confederate postmasters ran out of stamps and issued special stamps, privately prepared, in their own localities—many of these are valuable.

There is issued a pamphlet that has illustrations of many of the stamps that may be found in old letter files. It pictures many rare stamps, and shows what to look for.*

*Illustrated list showing what to look for, price 10c., supplied by publishers of this paper.

Stamp Collecting a Pleasant Pursuit

The charms of stamp collecting are only known to the initiated.

The way to experience it is to give it a trial.

The first thing to do is to buy a stamp album, a complete illustrated catalogue of all stamps and a packet of different foreign stamps and then arrange your stamps in the album.

If you have any of the instincts of a collector you will enjoy the pursuit and it will while away many a winter's evening very profitably.

Stamp albums are published from 25c to \$25.00 each, and special albums even higher.

We recommend a 75c book. Our Popular Stamp Album No. 3, 75c post free, is just the thing for a beginner; it has spaces for 6,000 stamps, and is not so good but that you can discard it for a better album when you get further along.

The complete illustrated catalogue costs 58c post free.

The Stamp Dealer

The regular dealer in postage stamps for collectors was the natural result of the development of stamp collecting,

meeting the collector's demand by the employment of brains and capital in the accumulation of stamps from all parts of the world, which he is able to supply at a merely nominal cost, compared with the expense that would have been necessary without his assistance.

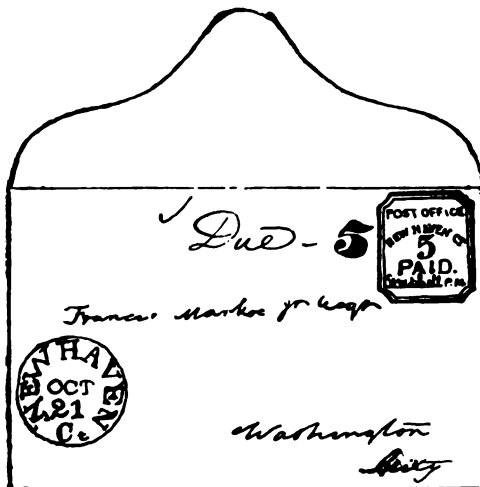
Our business was established by C. H. Mekeel in 1877, incorporated as a company in 1889, and extends into every part of the civilized world.

We buy to sell at a profit. Parties having valuable stamps to dispose of can employ our services to advantage.

We have a system of equitable exchange, whereby collectors may increase their collections by exchange of their duplicates.

Start your collection with a packet and buy one containing as large a number of varieties as you can afford. See list on page 342 of packets of 5,000 down. After your packet has been sorted and mounted, the approval book system affords the best method of adding to a collection.

The fascination of collecting stamps is only realized by one who has tried it, and they say "Once a collector always a collector" when the love of stamps has been developed.



THE NEW HAVEN ENVELOPE.

Numismatic Department

BY FARRAN ZERBA.



A contribution to numismatic cabinets has been issued by Chas. Gregory & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, in the form of a finely executed bronze medal, which is one of a number of issues commemorating the new home of the barons of Wall Street.

The medal is size 24. Obverse: The facade of the new Stock Exchange building in detail lines. Legend: NEW YORK — STOCK — EXCHANGE, 1792-1903.

Reverse: CHAS. GREGORY & CO. Members of the NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. CHAS. GREGORY. WM. T. CALLAWAY. 30 Broad St., N. Y.

The last report of the Treasury Department places all the half-cent pieces ever issued yet to be redeemed. A collector recently sent to the Treasury redemption department two pieces of this diminutive value coin and in due time received a "red tape" voucher and a one cent piece in exchange. This voucher and cent is prized by the collector, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that future records, if accurately kept, will at least record two half-cent pieces redeemed. This denomination was issued from 1793 to 1857 to the value of \$39,926.11. They have all long ago passed from circulation, and that none have ever been presented for redemption has been a subject of much comment. It is the only coinage of our government that records do not show as partly redeemed, and it has now been removed from this unique position.

In answer to an inquiry, the Treasury Department recently stated: "It is supposed that all coins are out of circulation after twenty years."

Minor coins have always been issued from the parent mint at Philadelphia.

With the completion of the new mint at Denver, it is proposed to have it coin minor coins; mint mark bronze and nickel coins will be a novelty.

Will the mint mark D return to our coinage with the operation of the Denver mint? This mint-denoting letter appeared on the issues of the Dahlonga, Ga., mint, which coined gold only from 1838 to 1861, a number being rare. It will be a new mint mark for silver coins.

Few coins have appraised in value like the "stella" or \$4 gold piece. This seeming unnecessary denomination was coined in 1879, and while classed as pattern pieces, 450 were issued. For a few years following their issue they were obtainable at \$5 each; they have rapidly advanced during recent years, selling as high as \$60, and the day is not far distant when they will command \$100.

Of the 250,000 Louisiana gold dollars placed on sale at \$3 each during the closing days of 1902, about 10,000 have so far been sold. Profiting by past experience, the collector and dealer have ceased to be eager purchasers of commemorative and souvenir issues at fancy prices. The Louisiana dollar is the fourth coin of the United States specially issued to commemorate a particular event and the first in any metal but silver. In connection with the World's Columbian Exposition, the Columbian half-dollar and the Isabel quarters were issued. In connection with the monument erected to Lafayette in Paris in 1900, the Lafayette silver dollar was issued. All of these special issues were placed on sale at prices in advance of their currency value, the entire issue of none being sold and the remainders either passed to circulation at face or were sold to dealers at prices below the orig-

inal value placed on them, and the purchasers at original prices found themselves in possession of coins with a depreciated value. It is reasonable to suppose that the quarter of a million Louisiana dollars will not all be sold, and in justice to those who purchase them at \$3 each, some assurance should be given that in the event of there being any remainders they will not be disposed of at a lower price, but will be returned to the government for melting. Such an assurance of price-protection would greatly assist in increasing their sale.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says:—
“It is reported that the War Department proposes to undertake to sell the first 1,000 sets of the new Philippine

coins at \$2 per set, as souvenirs. They figure up 97 cents and there ought to be but little difficulty in disposing of 1,000 sets that way. The coin is quite attractive; in fact, the Director of the Mint considers the design superior to that of our coins.”

Speaking of U. S. coins, it may be noted that a new coin can not be designed until about 1915. The law says the coin may be changed in design only once in 25 years, and the present coin was brought out about 1890. The Director of the Mint is of the opinion that there is too much to the present design, and that the coin would be considerably improved by cutting out some of the unnecessary portions.

Encased Postage Stamps of the United States

BY CLARENCE P. DE KAY.

While seeking for knowledge in philately's well-exploited field, the writer has interviewed many notable veterans of our recent Civil strife, and in consequence thereof, he possesses, in a very slight degree, the following knowledge relative to the peculiar and extremely rare encased postage stamps used in 1862, which have a numismatic as well as philatelic value:

The curious 1, 2 and 5-cent stamps are perfectly round and fit into a little circular tin shield, which, by arrangement with the postal authorities, were made at the time by manufacturers who used them for advertising purposes. I have examined some with the advertisement of Bennett, a manufacturer of cooking flavors, appearing on the back. Protecting the face of the stamp from moisture or from being soiled or torn is a circular disk of mica, that fits under

the rim of the metal shield, holding the stamp firmly in place.

These stamps were issued for the soldiers of the union army, and were accepted in payment for small purchases as readily as cash. Protected from the transparent mica disk, through which one could see the denomination of the stamp from one side and by a tin shield on the other, they could be carried by the soldiers in any pocket through rain and sun without injury to the stamp enclosed within. This curious stamp case was invented by Burnett. When anyone wanted to use the stamp he tore off the mica covering and took out the stamp, throwing away the tin shield, which was of no value in itself. These stamps now have a great many admirers and, because of their scarcity, few collectors have the fortuity to possess the very rare and interesting specimens.

Entire Envelopes and Postal Cards

BY B. W. WARHURST.

The collecting of adhesive stamps on the original covers as sent by mail has been increasing of late years, but is entirely distinct from what is meant by collecting "entires," which word, as previously explained, is applied only to officially issued cards and covers on sale to the public at post offices, each piece having the franking stamp impressed thereon ready for postal transmission. Original covers may be, in fact are, decidedly interesting with adhesives on, especially so if they are such as the Bordeaux school-boy recently found among some old letters from Mauritius, with both the penny and two-penny "Post Office" stamps on, which have just been resold for the nice little sum of 65,000 francs, or close on \$13,000. Such covers are not only interesting but profitable in every sense.

The practice of getting old covers may be regarded as a revival of the older fashion of collecting *used* stamps, a habit which is decidedly on the increase in England if with only a piece of original, as a double protest against the manufacture of new issues of which 80 to 90 per cent are never used postally, and against the obliging ways of postal officials who cancel these new issues in sheets. In a general way, these original covers are unnecessary, and nobody can expect with any amount of dollars at command to obtain full sets of the stamps of any country, excepting Poland, Wadhwan, and a few others whose issues do not exceed in number the fingers of one's hand.

With stamped cards or envelopes there is not much need to go in for used specimens as an evidence of genuineness, as no State yet has been convicted of making these articles merely for sale to collectors, though there might be exceptions taken to the Seebeckized States and such an incorrigible offender as Portugal with its St. Anthony

preaching to the dancing fishes, and the Vasco de Gama series for its colonies, which are seldom to be found used. An "awful example" of this latter kind is useful occasionally, just as the temperance people find the wretched drunkard to be, if only to point out the sort of thing to avoid by letting severely alone. If a collector of cards happens to be a student of caligraphy as well, he may find something to interest if not to instruct him, and many others will certainly find plenty to amuse them in the messages written on these postals. Lovers' appointments, records of family ailments and troubles, orders for groceries, soap and candles, with demands for payment of accounts or return of goods supplied, are occasionally diverting, though they are not strictly philatelic, or specially worth preserving. Indian, Japanese, Persian or Roumanian and some others have one merit, they may be looked at either end up with equal facility and advantage, so far as a discovery of the glowing periods transcribed thereon is desirable.

It mostly happens, then, that unused entires are collected, being as low-priced as a rule as the used copies (except in the country of their origin), for unused cards can be sent in dozens by book-post, but if written upon would have to go as letters or by parcel-post if supplied in quantity to a dealer or buyer. Newsbands or envelopes being frequently torn open anyhow, present a ragged or untidy appearance which does not look well when mounted in a nice book. Various methods of keeping entires are practiced, my own being kept on edge in drawers four inches deep with partitions, but can not well be exhibited to friends in this form; some have books made with shallow pockets or bands pasted across the pages, others use plain scrap books in which a dab of paste at the corners

secures the cards, or they may be held by strong stamp hinges. One of the simplest methods is to have a book, the leaves of which are of tough paper, cut across in five to six-inch wide slits at seven-eighths of an inch apart; the card is slipped under a slit and brought to the front again at next slit, thus being held in position as with a band across lower half—the next card in same way half overlapping the first one, and so again at the back of the leaf. Cards so mounted can easily be removed for examination and be replaced as if in a pocket.

Modern collectors are so used to adhesive stamps on envelopes for franking letters by mail that they can hardly realize the time when stamps and envelopes were unknown to our grandfathers. Yet previously to 1840 in Great Britain, as in most other civilized parts of the world, letters were written on large sheets of paper, then folded and tucked in in such a way that one wafer or a bit of sealing wax secured the inside from prying eyes. The cost of conveying the letter was usually paid by the receiver, so anyone disposed to gossip could do so to his or her dearest friend without having to consider the cost of postage. Now it happens that so long ago as 1818, such sheets of paper were supplied by order of the Italian (or Sardinian) Government as described in the following:

ROYAL DECREE

Whereby His Majesty adds certain facilities to those granted by the Edict of 12th August last, for the transmission of the correspondence of the public by means other than those of the Post Office; ordains the use of a species of paper denominated "*Carta Postale-Bollata*" (Postage-stamped paper), and makes other provisions relative thereto.

Under date of the 7th November, 1818.

Then follows the particulars: "Vittorio Emanuele, by the Grace of God King of Italy, of Cyprus, and of Jerusalem; Duke of Savoy and of Genoa; Prince

of Piedmont," etc., etc., authorizing the size and design of the special paper and its watermark, with the different rates according to distance. Article 5 says: "For the letters intended to travel a distance not exceeding 15 miles a 15 centesimi sheet must be used; for those traveling a greater distance than 15 miles but not more than 35 miles, 25 centesimi, and for any greater distance, 50 centesimi (or 10 soldi). The letters written upon the said paper may be conveyed by any person whatsoever, provided they are single, that is, of one sheet only, and folded so that the stamp may appear on the outside, and that they bear upon the address the information prescribed," etc.

The special paper could not be manufactured quickly, so plain sheets were issued impressed with the different stamps in blue, provisionally, and a fresh proclamation made on 13th November, 1819, that from the 1st of January, 1820, the new paper must be used, which is thus described: "The new Paper will have a design in its substance, or a watermark, depicting a Shield, within which is drawn an Eagle with the Royal Crown upon its head, bearing a Cross on its breast, and to the left of the said Shield is the indication of the value of the three classes of Paper, surrounding the inscription: Direzione generale delle Regie Poste, corrispondenza autorizzata in corso particolare per pedoni, ed altre occasioni."

The size of the sheet before me is barely 16½ by 11 inches, the watermark being a frame all round at one inch from edges of sheet, bearing the latter part of above inscription in outlined capitals, the first five words being in larger script letters surrounding the large eagle in center. The stamp of 50c. is embossed (no color), representing a small child blowing a horn, riding on a large horse at full gallop, enclosed in a beaded octagonal frame with the value below. The other values were in circular and oval frames, otherwise exactly the same. The present values of these sheets are rather higher, and it is questionable whether replacing centesimi

by dollars or even pounds sterling would secure a transfer of these sheets now.

Though these sheets formed an item of postal revenue, it is curious to note that the letters were *not* to be carried by the postal carriers, and if deposited at a post office, would be charged the full postal rate. It was because so many persons evaded the government monopoly of carrying and charging for letters that this legal permission was granted to private people to carry letters to or for their friends, so long as they were written on or enclosed in these sheets, and so far their use may be considered as the formation of an auxiliary service.

A MISGUIDED PARENT.

BY C. W. RANKIN.

I was approached one day some years ago by a boy, who carried under his arm a large book which was easily recognizable as a much-loved stamp album. The boy was visibly agitated; he was obliged to gulp several times before his attempts at speech were at all successful, but by the time I had looked through the album, which he had thrust into my lap, he was able to explain matters.

His grandfather, it appeared, had sent him, as a birthday gift, a five-dollar bill with which he was to do as he pleased. He had pleased to spend, without loss of time, four of those birthday dollars and a large portion of the fifth for what he liked better than anything else—stamps from approval sheets. But when his father inquired into matters, all that remained of that crisp five-dollar bill was a solitary dime, which the young enthusiast had saved only because the town afforded no more stamps for him to buy.

The father, who, though well-to-do, was an ignorant, uneducated person, was angry at what he considered a foolish waste of money. He told the lad that unless he was able to realize five dollars from the immediate sale of his stamps, that he should not only receive a sound thrashing, but that his

book should be burned. In any case, the lad was ordered to give up stamp-collecting, then and there, and for all time.

Although the collection was a very ordinary one, it was not difficult for me to discover four dollars and ninety cents' worth of stamps at half catalogue that I could use. The lad's album appeared little the worse when the forced sale was completed; and the boy departed in a far more cheerful frame of mind. I learned later, however, that this unwise father carried out his threats with regard to the album, claiming that the boy spent all his evenings "fooling with his stamps."

Perhaps he did spend too much time over them. He was undoubtedly very much interested in them and it was a great grief to him to give them up. His father felt, however, that he might be better employed. The boy, at that time, was a quiet, well-behaved lad. He spent all his evenings at home, and his teachers said that he was bright in school; that he not only learned his lessons, but that he was surprisingly well informed upon all geographical and upon most historical points.

Two years later the same boy was spending all his evenings and a large part of his nights upon the streets or in the saloons. He had lost all his interest in his studies, he cared nothing for books, and at sixteen he had left school. He spent his money for cigarettes and for other far more injurious things than stamps; and degenerated rapidly into a common rowdy. By the time he was seventeen he had twice been arrested for disorderly conduct.

Of course, all these things *might* have happened had the boy been permitted to enjoy his stamps in peace, but I have always doubted it; for he was, by nature, a quiet, home-loving lad. It has always seemed to me that the boy might better have been permitted to spend his evenings—and even his money—"fooling with stamps" in his own home, than to be deprived of a pastime in every way so safe and so instructive. If I had a dozen boys, I think I should encourage every one of them to collect *anything* that would keep them contented under the family roof.

ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF STAMPS.

BY REV. L. G. DORPAT.

We may divide stamps into two classes, current and obsolete. The current stamps which may to-day be bought at the post office are in part of unlimited supply. For instance, the new 2 cents of the United States, before it can be changed—if that be done at all—will have been issued in such enormous quantities that, if collectors will only do so, they can save enough of them to last philately for a hundred years, even if the number of new collectors should be very considerably larger than the number of collectors now existing. As a rule, of all the common stamps of large countries, as the United States, Great Britain, Russia, France and Germany, probably more are saved than will ever be needed to supply every school-boy of every country for a long time to come. Those stamps, though, which are issued by small countries, as the Danish West Indies, Iceland or San Marino, and those which are issued by large countries, but much less frequently used than the ones which represent the common letter rate, stamps like the U. S. \$5, are not printed in sufficient quantities to go round. If collectors generally would buy them unused, thereby increasing the demand, the issues would no doubt be increased and the demand supplied; but as a fact most collectors can not and will not do that, and the used specimens that are saved from destruction are too few to supply every collection of to-day, much less that of to-morrow, when the present current issue becomes obsolete.

There is quite a difference, however, between an issue of short duration and an issue running through a whole decade or longer. A stamp which was scarce during the first few years of its life may become common before its retirement. At all events, it seems advisable for a collector to study the numerical size of issues and to acquire

those stamps first, used or unused, which are printed in the smallest edition. The common stamps may be picked up later on with little or no trouble and expense.

Now for the obsolete stamps. These may be found in "old hair-trunks," letter-files, or collectors' and dealers' stocks. All those of the larger countries which were used on common letters within the last twenty-five or thirty years may yet be found by the hundred thousands and millions. Of them there is more supply than demand, though the demand on account of their cheapness is very strong. Some of the common stamps of smaller countries, though quite plenty twenty-five years ago, can now rarely be found in quantities of more than tens or hundreds—some less than that. With the rarer values of large countries, such as the 24c U. S., it is about the same. If every collector in the world would to-day try to buy that stamp, there would certainly be a great lack of supply. There are no doubt many stamps on which dealers would run short very soon, if every collector tried to get them. The collector who tries first has the best chance.

In regard to obsolete issues older than thirty years, the supply is more limited still. But few large finds are made now, and most everything that there is, is "in sight;" that is, it is in the hands of philatelists. Here the supply would be altogether inadequate, if every collector had the will and the money to buy at the present market prices. What makes the supply of part of the old issues seem quite sufficient is the lack of the absorbent power in the beginners. I consider it probable that this power will grow, and as it grows the insufficiency of the supply will become more and more apparent. It is not desirable that prices should rise very rapidly, lest new recruits be discouraged altogether and so the demand become lessened, which would cause a drop; but if collecting increases, as it has done until now, prices for these old issues will go up, because the supply is not adequate to the probable demand.

Amongst these old issues we must seek the extreme rarities, of which perhaps less than a dozen of each exist. These are now far beyond the reach of the average collector; but there was a time when they were comparatively easy to obtain—a time when the supply was quite equal to the demand. As the average collector of to-day can only dream of getting them, he will turn to other stamps when he is awake—to stamps that are within his means. If that were not the case, the price of the greatest rarities might be expected to soar away into the millions, just as the price of unique gems and diamonds for which there is a general demand among the crowned heads of the world. Who knows, though, whether or not someone will find gems to match those which at present are unique? With stamps it is different. We may be quite sure that the actual supply of all the old issues can never increase. On the contrary, the probability is that the supply will decrease whilst the demand increases. If this were generally realized, I should expect a scramble for really old stamps amongst all who have the money to buy. There is something of it to be seen at

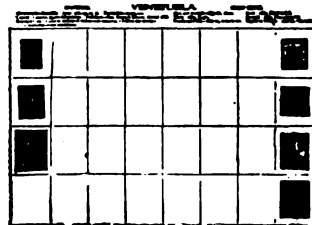
stamp auctions; but many a one who thinks he will wait for a better chance, will be disappointed. If anyone would take my advice, I would say: Make your hay while the sun shines, and get as many of the oldest and the rarest stamps as you can now, for the supply will never be any greater; and when the demand grows you may not be able to compete with other buyers.

The demand depends principally on two things: the number of collectors and the means they have to buy with. If collectors became fewer or poorer or both fewer and poorer, then we might expect that the limited supply would outweigh the demand; but neither is to be expected, because most of the collectors begin in youth, adhere to the hobby and initiate others as they grow in years and wealth. Then stamp collecting is an international pastime, as hardly anything else, and, if the collectors of one country become torpid, those of another show themselves so much more active. It is a pastime that grew with the mails and wealth of nations and is not likely to dwindle except where the post and property of a whole nation falls.

Popular Stamp Album

This album is well named. Its popularity is attested by the immense sales. This is the 21st edition, several hundred thousand having been sold of previous editions. It has now been revised and brought up to date throughout, twenty new countries and colonies having been added, together with complete index.

Spaces for Stamps of all Countries. Over 1,000 Illustrations.



No. 1—Cloth back, board covers. Space for over 3,000 stamps. The best cheap Album made. Post free, 25c.

No. 2—Bound in full cloth, extra pages for new issues. Will hold about 4,000 stamps. Post free, 50c.

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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO., - St. Louis, Mo.



United Orchard Company's Shipping Room.
Sorting Peaches for Shipment in Refrigerator Cars.

A limited number of Shares of the Capital Stock of the

United Orchard Company

Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri for \$1,500,000.00, is hereby offered for subscription on the following liberal terms:

\$100.00 Shares—\$10.00 cash with subscription, balance \$5.00 per month on each share, or all cash if desired.

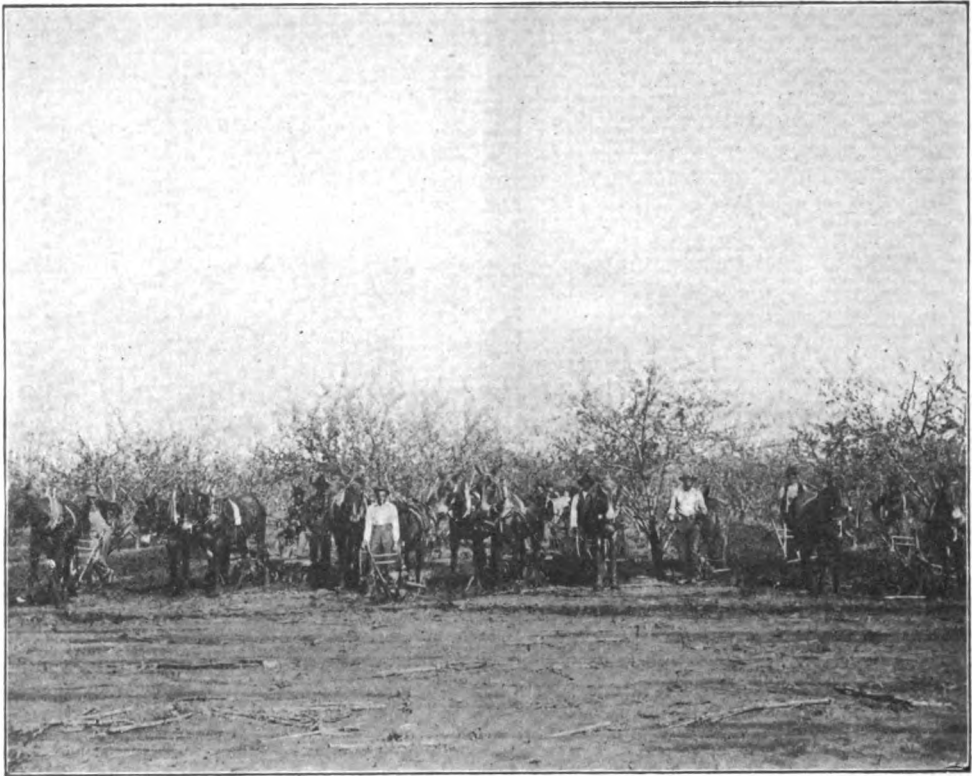
From the date of first payment each subscriber becomes a participating stockholder, and an installment contract is issued by the United Orchard Company.

All the cash is not needed for immediate use, the installments furnishing the funds as they will be used for the development of the properties of the company.

Immediately upon subscription and making the initial payment the subscriber becomes a part owner and participant in the full-bearing orchards of the company, and dividends declared during the existence of the installment contract before certificate of stock is issued will be credited as part payment on the stockholder's contract.

There is only one class of stock in this company and all stockholders share alike.

There is no bonded or mortgage debt. The land now owned, and which is under contract of purchase and will become the property of this company upon



View of United Orchard Company's Peach Orchard at Fort Valley, Georgia.

the sale of the shares, which have been pooled for that purpose, include over 10,000 acres in *fee simple*, and consist of the largest orchards in the following States:

Missouri	3,782	acres
Illinois	730	"
Arkansas	1,011.40	"
Georgia	2,019	"
Alabama	1,200	"
Texas	1,500	"
	<hr/>	
	10,242.40	"

The fruit trees on this property are as follows:

Peach trees	267,000
Apple trees	55,862
Pear trees	11,484
Peach trees to be planted this fall	79,200
	<hr/>
Total in the existing bearing orchards of the company.....	413,546
Peach trees to be planted on new properties ac-	
quired	563,800
Apple trees	50,000
	<hr/>
	613,800
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	1,026,346

If we make 30c a tree it would be 20% profit per annum. It is difficult to say what the stock of this company will pay in dividends, but the returns are certain to be *large*. For the last six years one of our peach orchard properties

has averaged almost \$1.00 net per year per tree; at the same rate our entire property, when in full bearing, would show a profit of 68% per annum.

A comparatively small investment subscribed for now and spread over eighteen months of easy payments will secure you a liberal and ever-increasing income for later years.

The United Orchard Company is the result of years of successful business in the fields of commercial fruit culture, and even now has the largest bearing peach and apple orchards in the world.

All of the illustrations in this periodical are from photographs taken on the properties owned by this company, the entire McNair fruit interests being part of the assets, and Mr. John G. McNair, the president and general manager of the company.

A complete illustrated prospectus mailed upon request. A list of the officers and directors will be found in the advertisement on back page of cover.

A stock subscription blank on reverse of this sheet may be filled out and sent in at once, as the matter in this issue practically covers the subject.



Results!

Results!

Results!

The UNITED ORCHARD COMPANY owns five large orchards (the largest in the world), located in four States, and will increase their present holdings by planting seven orchards, when they will have 1,026,746 fruit-bearing trees, located in six States, as follows:

Georgia—North, Center and South part of the State.
 Missouri—South and Center part of the State.
 Arkansas—North and South “ “ “
 Texas—North and South “ “ “
 Alabama—South part of the State.
 Illinois—Center “ “ “

On account of the different locations of the properties of the UNITED ORCHARD COMPANY, crops are assured each year.

BLANK FOR STOCK APPLICATION ON OTHER SIDE.

Possibilities!

Possibilities!

Possibilities!

Figure the profits on the stock of the UNITED ORCHARD COMPANY on 1,026,746 fruit trees from table of profits below :

If we made 30 cents a tree it would be 20 per cent profit per annum.

If	"	50	"	"	"	"	34	"	"	"
If	"	75	"	"	"	"	51	"	"	"
If	"	\$1.00	"	"	"	"	68	"	"	"
If	"	\$1.50	"	"	"	"	102	"	"	"

Offer!

Offer!

Offer!

You have an opportunity of being part owner in this vast Fruit Organization, where crops are assured and profits certain.

Fill out the blank below and send to the General Office of the UNITED ORCHARD COMPANY, St. Louis, Mo.

Shares, par value \$100.00. \$10.00 cash with application. \$5.00 per month.

Application for Stock in the United Orchard Company.

General Offices, 518 and 519 Century Building, St. Louis, Mo.

I hereby make application for.....shares of the Capital Stock of the United Orchard Co., par value \$100 each, and herewith enclose \$..... as first payment, and agree to pay \$.....per month on each share until full amount is paid.

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....

As only a limited amount of stock is offered, the Company reserves the right to reject any subscriptions. The Contract between the Company and its shareholders is stated in the printed literature issued by the Company, and only the officers of the Company have authority to alter or amend such contract.

STAMPS ARRANGED FOR SALE IN PACKETS

The following series of packets is without any question the finest that is put up by any stamp concern in the world.

These packets are all carefully prepared by our own force of experienced assistants, and their character is guaranteed to be superior to any others.

Nothing but the best selected specimens are included; all used stamps are in good condition, being lightly cancelled; there are no reprints among the unused, every stamp being guaranteed genuine.

It has been estimated that the catalogue price of the contents of our packets average from three times to ten times our charge for the packet.

It is certainly the cheapest way to buy stamps, even if you do get many duplicates and varieties you do not need for your collection; these can be exchanged and traded off for other stamps you need, with your collecting friends.

VARIETY PACKETS contain stamps of different varieties, without particular reference to the geographical origin of the stamps.

CLASSIFIED PACKETS contain stamps of different varieties, but the description of the packets classifies the contents.

MIXED PACKETS.—These contain duplicates and are not all different.

TERMS.

NET, cash with order. Postage free in United States and Canada only.
All previous lists and quotations of packets are hereby cancelled.

VARIETY PACKETS.

No. 75 Our best seller, contains 150 varieties of stamps; many countries are represented, such as Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, Japan, New South Wales, New Zealand, Victoria, etc. **10c.**

150 VARIETIES—10 CENTS.

No. 127 Contains 200 varieties of foreign stamps, including all countries mentioned above and Cuba and China. **15c.**

200 VARIETIES—15 CENTS.

No. 12 A good selection of 40 different stamps, including specimens from Cape of Good Hope, South Australia, Russia, India, Queensland, Tasmania, Servia, Roumania, Denmark and Sweden. **25c.**

40 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 70 This packet consists of 40 stamps from British Colonies only. We name some of them: Cyprus, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, Trinidad, Jamaica, Tasmania, Natal, South Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales, Mauritius, British Guiana, etc. **25c.**

40 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 13 Though this packet bears an unlucky number, the stamps it contains are all right and please every purchaser. There are 40 different kinds from Finland, Colombia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Turkey, Chile, etc. **25c.**

40 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 76 An outlay of 200 varieties of stamps from various parts of the world. Countries like Argentine Republic, Australia, Ceylon, Hungary, Portugal, Porto Rico, New Zealand, Cuba, Mexico, Colombian Republic, Peru, etc. **25c.**

200 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 128 Contains 300 varieties of foreign postage stamps, including Cuba, China, Barbados, Niger Coast, Transvaal, Phillipine Islands, Bahamas, and many good stamps. **50c.**

300 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 83 There are only 130 different stamps in this packet, but some are of a much better quality, making it a very cheap and desirable lot. This packet contains Hawaiian Provisional Gov't (2c. envelope), Greece (Olympian Games), Bulgaria (Prince Boris Jubilee), Guatemala, Deccan, Travancore and Nowanuggur (Native Indian States), Portuguese Indies, etc. **50c.**

130 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 84 A collection of 130 different stamps from all four corners of the world, including Mexico (1888 20c. and 25c. unused, and 50c. of 1884 issue), Paraguay (regular issue and official), Amoy (China), Labuan, Mauritius, Argentine, Japan, Transvaal, Dutch Indies, North Borneo, etc. **50c.**

130 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 85 Fifty picked stamps from different countries, a nice lot, catalogued over \$2.00. **50c.**

50 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 86 Fifty different from those in packet No. 85; all stamps of the better class and catalogued over \$2.00. **50c.**

50 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 87 Fifty different stamps; containing none that are in packets 85 or 86, and catalogued over \$2.00. One who purchases these three packets will have 150 fine stamps from all parts of the world, catalogued over \$6.00. **50c.**

50 VARIETIES—50 CENTS.

No. 11 Contains 250 different stamps, including Hayti, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Turkey, Bosnia, India, etc. A bargain. **75c.**

250 VARIETIES—75 CENTS.

No. 111 Contains 300 varieties of foreign postage stamps, including stamps from Argentine Republic, Cuba, Canada (maple leaf), Chile, Egypt, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Norway, Persia, Porto Rico, etc. **75c.**

300 VARIETIES—75 CENTS.

No. 129 Contains 400 different foreign postage stamps from all parts of the world, Europe, Asia, **80c.**

Africa, North, South and Central America, and the islands of the sea.

400 VARIETIES—80 CENTS.

No. 102 This is a special packet of 400 varieties made up as an inducement for beginners who are about starting a collection. It includes stamps from all parts of the world. 98c.

1000 die-cut gummed hinges for mounting stamps is given free with each of these packets.

400 VARIETIES—98 CENTS.

No. 112 Contains 500 varieties of foreign postage stamps from Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, British Guiana, Cape of Good Hope, Cuba, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Porto Rico, Western Australia, etc. \$1.20

500 VARIETIES—\$1.20

No. 130 Contains 546 varieties of foreign postage stamps mounted in a neat little album, just the thing to sell out of. This lot marked at catalogue prices would afford the seller a handsome profit even when fifty per cent discount were allowed. It contains stamps from all parts of the world and is the biggest bargain of the season. \$1.50

546 VARIETIES—\$1.50.

No. 113 Contains 800 different postage stamps, the biggest value ever offered. Guaranteed to catalogue over twenty dollars. This packet is fully described on another page with a few of the many testimonials it has brought us. \$2.50

800 VARIETIES—\$2.50.

No. 114 The best 1000 variety packet in the world is put up by this company, every stamp genuine. Full count (1010 to make good measure). The catalogue value is guaranteed to be \$25.00 or over. Sent post free anywhere in the world for the price. \$3.75

There is nothing but foreign postage stamps in this packet.

1000 VARIETIES—\$3.75.

No. 151 1500 different foreign stamps arranged alphabetically and mounted on sheets. Very useful for agents or dealers to sell from, as well as for collectors. \$9.85

1500 VARIETIES—\$9.85.

No. 115 Contains 2000 different postage stamps from all parts of the world. A collection of itself and highly recommended. \$15.00

2000 VARIETIES—\$15.00.

No. 152 A collection of 3000 different postage stamps. The best value obtainable. \$50.00

3000 VARIETIES—\$50.00.

No. 116 A big packet of 4000 varieties, a regular collection in itself, being stamps from almost every stamp-issuing country or colony in the world. A great bargain. \$80.00

4000 VARIETIES—\$80.00.

No. 156 A really fine collection of 5000 catalogued varieties of postage stamps from all parts of the world. If ordered at same time as our "Star" series on page 319, will be all different, making a collection of 6000 varieties for \$230.00. \$130.00

5000 VARIETIES—\$130.00.

CLASSIFIED PACKETS

No. 131 Contains 25 United States revenue stamps, catalogued three times as much as the price. 15c.

25 VARIETIES—15 CENTS.

No. 24 Contains 25 stamps from South American countries, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, Bolivia and other good stamps. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 25 Contains 30 stamps from the West Indies. A good packet. 25c.

30 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 26 Contains 25 Central American stamps, from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, old Brazil, Salvador and Honduras. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 50 Contains 30 Oriental stamps, all different, including Egyptian official, Japan, Turkey, Roumania, etc. 25c.

30 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 61 Contains 25 varieties from Africa alone, including Egypt, Mauritius, and Gold Coast. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 62 Contains 25 varieties from Australia, including all the Australian Colonies. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 60 Contains 25 varieties from Asia alone, including Ceylon, Dutch Indies, Portuguese Indies and Shanghai. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 132 Contains 25 different Mexican revenue stamps. These are very interesting stamps and are popular with many collectors. 25c.

25 VARIETIES—25 CENTS.

No. 126 Forty varieties of Cuban postage stamps, 1862 to 1900 inclusive. A bargain. 30c.

40 VARIETIES—30 CENTS.

No. 8 Contains 50 Oriental postage stamps, including Ceylon, Japan, British North Borneo, India, Turkey, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Roumania, Servia, Greece, Hong Kong, Egypt and Finland. One of our best selling packets. 35c.

50 VARIETIES—35 CENTS.

No. 9 Contains 50 different South American postage stamps, almost all the different countries being represented. 40c.

50 VARIETIES—40 CENTS.

No. 133 Contains 80 different United States postage stamps from 1851 to 1900, including Columbians, Omaha's, Special Delivery, Due Stamps, 1853, 3c. red envelope, etc. 60c.

80 VARIETIES—60 CENTS.

No. 123 All from Central American Republics, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador; 100 different varieties. A very cheap lot of stamps, mostly unused. \$1.00

100 VARIETIES—\$1.00.

No. 1 Contains 50 different Mexican postage stamps, 1856 to 1902, including varieties of almost all issues. A splendid bargain; worth three times the money. \$1.00

50 VARIETIES—\$1.00.

No. 117 This packet consists entirely of Porto Rican stamps, 50 different varieties, issues 1882-1899. Habilitados, U. S. surcharges, etc. **\$1.00**
50 VARIETIES—\$1.00.

No. 118 A packet of Persian stamps only, 40 different varieties, all from the domain of the Shah. Issues from 1885 to date, 1c. to 1k. values inclusive. **\$1.00**
40 VARIETIES—\$1.00.

No. 120 All Philippine Islands stamps in this packet, 50 different kinds, from 1882 to 1899 issues, including Habilitados; a choice and desirable lot. **\$1.50**
50 VARIETIES—\$1.50.

No. 136 Stamps of only the U. S. Dependencies, Cuba, Guam, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico, 100 all different and mostly unused. **\$3.00**
100 VARIETIES—\$3.00.

No. 119 A packet containing only the stamps of Cuba, 100 different varieties from 1855 to 1900; a very cheap and desirable packet. **\$3.50**
100 VARIETIES—\$3.50.

No. 137 Contains only stamps of the Baby King type of the Philippine Islands. It is a choice run of all varieties, 1c. to 25c., issued 1889 to 1896; 45 different varieties, all unused. **\$3.85**
45 VARIETIES—\$3.85.

No. 121 A packet containing only the stamps of Central American Republic of Honduras. It is practically a complete collection, being all the regular government issues from 1865 to 1896 inclusive, including the peso values and officials, 94 varieties. **\$4.00**
94 VARIETIES—\$4.00.

No. 138 Stamps of only the U. S. Dependencies, Cuba, Guam, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico; 225 all different and mostly unused. A bargain. **\$7.50**
225 VARIETIES—\$7.50.

No. 48 This packet is a better lot of Mexican postage stamps than can be offered by any other concern. It is a first-class bargain for either collector or dealer. Our unexcelled stock of Mexican stamps and our extended business relations with that country enable us to make this liberal offer. **\$15.00**

Every stamp in the above packet, as well as all our packets, are warranted to be genuine originals.

There are 150 pronounced varieties. Among the stamps that may be prominently mentioned are the 1856 issue, 1861 issue, 1864 issue, Maximilian lithographed, unused; Guadalajara; 1867, Gothic surcharge; 1868, varieties of the perforated and unperforated; the issues of 1872, 1874, 1878 and 1879 are well represented. Of the last mentioned series there are the 25, 50, 85 and 100 centavos; 1882 issue, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10c. brown, 25c. red-brown, 12, 18, 24, 25c. rose, 50 and 100 centavos; 1884, 50c., 1 and 2 pesos; also varieties of the rare unperforated; 1885, 4, 6 and 12 centavos; 1886, 12, 25 centavos; 1887, varieties of pin perforation and ruled lines; 1888, complete; 1895, 1c. to 50c.; new issue 1900; Officials (scarce, red surcharge). Port de Mar, Officially Sealed, Envelopes and Wrappers, cut square.
150 VARIETIES—\$15.00.

MIXED PACKETS

No. 69 This packet is a general mixture of everything cheap, as of course would have to be the case from the exceedingly low price. It is well worth the price, and many good stamps will be found among them. The stamps are principally European. This packet can only be sent in the United States and Canada. **15c.**
500 MIXTURE—15 CENTS.

No. 68 The stamps in this packet are about the same as above; it is a mixture superior to that usually sold by dealers as Continentals. This packet can only be sent in the United States and Canada. **25c.**
1000 MIXTURE—25 CENTS.

No. 140 A mixture of one hundred Mexican postage stamps, a well assorted lot of over twenty-five different kinds. **30c.**
100 MIXTURE—30 CENTS.

No. 141 A fine mixture of one hundred Peruvian stamps; twenty different kinds, mostly of recent issues; a desirable lot. **40c.**
100 MIXTURE—40 CENTS.

No. 142 A good mixture of one hundred, all South American countries; forty different kinds, representing all of the South American Republics. **40c.**
100 MIXTURE—40 CENTS.

No. 143 A mixture of one hundred Cuban stamps from 1872 issue to and including 1900. Thirty-two different kinds assorted; a fine lot. **50c.**
100 MIXTURE—50 CENTS.

No. 139 A mixed packet of one hundred Central American stamps, including only Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador. Well mixed, fifty different kinds in each packet. **75c.**
100 MIXTURE—75 CENTS.

No. 144 A mixture of one hundred Porto Rico stamps, including thirty different kinds, used and unused, surcharged on U. S. stamps, Habilitados of 1898-99, issues of 1876, 1891, 1894, 1896 and 1898. **\$1.00**
100 MIXTURE—\$1.00.

No. 134 This packet contains the "Boss Mixture," 1000 stamps from all parts of the world, well mixed and sure to give satisfaction. **\$1.06**
1000 MIXTURE—\$1.06.

No. 145 A mixture of one hundred Philippine stamps of the regular issues of 1880, 1883, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1896 and 1898; none of the cheap newspaper stamps, 1/4m. to 5m., in this mixture. It is a very desirable lot. **\$1.25**
100 MIXTURE—\$1.25.

No. 146 A mixture of 300 Latin American stamps, 100 from South American Republics, 100 from Central American Republics and 100 from Mexico; over one hundred different kinds, well mixed. **\$1.50**
300 MIXTURE—\$1.50.

No. 147 An approval sheet mixture, suitable for a small dealer, all stamps cataloguing from 3c. to 10c. each, the total value of the lot of **\$1.50**

one hundred stamps, all different, \$6.50; these are less than ¼ catalogue, so they can be sold at 50 per cent discount and your money doubled. When two or more of these mixtures are ordered at once, each will be made different. Stamps all mounted and priced.

100 MIXTURE—\$1.50.

No. 148 A good British Colonial mixture, including both used and unused stamps. Two hundred well mixed stamps from all parts of the world, all British Colonials.

200 MIXTURE—\$2.00.

No. 149 A mixture of U. S. Dependencies, Cuba, Haiti, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. A finely mixed lot of 500 stamps; a splendid lot for a dealer.

500 MIXTURE—\$3.00.

No. 150 A dealer's stock of 5000 stamps, including over 2000 varieties and guaranteed to catalogue over \$150.00 by Scott's 62d Edition Catalogue. A fine stock for an approval sheet trade.

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WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities, and Stocks. We buy unused 1c. and 2c. unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from 3 to 5 per cent, according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette Bldg.,
CHICAGO, ILLS.

OLD SWISS STAMPS

There are no stamps of which counterfeits are more common in old collections than those of Switzerland, 1843 to 1854. Some years ago we translated from German and published in English with illustrations a monograph by Freiherr C. Von Girssewald on the stamps of Switzerland, 1843-1854.

The illustrations and full descriptions given in the little book make it possible for the inexperienced collector to determine the character of the earliest Swiss stamps.

The illustrations are large and very simple. Pamphlet is sixty-four pages and will be sent, post free, for 25 cents.

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St. Louis, Mo.

Series of U. S. Stamps

Issued to Commemorate the

Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo

The finest ever issued; now obsolete and getting very scarce.

- 1c Steamship
 - 2c Railway Train
 - 4c Automobile
 - 5c Niagara Bridge
 - 8c Canal Locks
 - 10c Lake Steamer
- } Each in two colors.

The complete set, unused and perfect, 50c.

- U. S. 1895, \$1.00 black, used..... 32c
- NIUE 1903, 3p., 6p. and 1sh., unused.... 70c
- PENRHYN ISL. 1903, 3p., 6p. and 1sh., unused 70c
- U. S. REVENUE, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine..\$8.00
- U. S. 1869, 90c carmine and black..... 8.00
- GT. BRITAIN £5 orange, fine..... 8.00

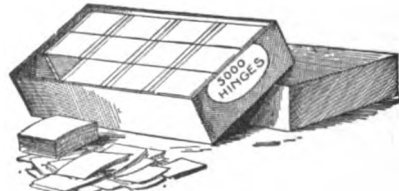
10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scott's No. 2991.

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING Co.,
St. Louis, Mo.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX.



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

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C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

Dunedin, New Zealand.

CHEAP AUSTRALIANS
(All Soon Obsolete)

LONG SET AUSTRALIANS
(Fine Presents)

THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties.....	\$1 00
New South Wales, 24 varieties.....	50
Victoria, 30 varieties.....	75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties.....	1 00
Queensland, 30 varieties.....	1 00
The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash.....	3 75

Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency registered.

MARCHANT PROPRIETARY STAMPS

Mint—Unused, With Gum.

The sole supply of these stamps is now in my hands; all others held by Prof. Marchand have been sent to Washington and destroyed. Buyers have my assurance that these prices will not be undersold—later they will probably be increased.

1/4, 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 3 1/4, 4 1/2 and 7 1/2, complete set of seven \$2 50
 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/4, set of four 75

E. H. BUEHLER,

134 Lake Street, Chicago, Ill.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper, send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
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Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

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High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
 1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues, Gibbons' 60c., Scott's 58c., post free. Circulars free.

SUMMER BARGAINS IN OLD CUBANS.

1862, 1/4rp, lilac on rose, cat. 40c, my price, 20c.
 1868, 5, 10, 20 and 40c, " \$1.06, " " 50c.
 1869, 10, 20 and 40c, " 96c, " " 45c.
 1870, 40c rose, very scarce " 1.50, " " 75c.
 1871, 1p, pale brown, fine, " 50c, " " 25c.

All of the above used. Cash with order.

Stamps on Approval at 50% Discount.

Choice stamps mailed to responsible parties on approval. Parties not known to me please give reference.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRKS."

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechart.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895, and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

BACK NUMBERS = 1902

—OF—

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

No. 18, May 5, is out of print.
 No. 27, July 7, 80 pages - 25c. each.
 No. 40, Oct. 4, 56 " - 25c. "
 No. 44, Nov. 3, is out of print.
 No. 52, Dec. 27, 56 pages - 10c. "

All other numbers may be had by subscribers who wish to complete files at *5c each* as long as they last; very few of some on hand.

A complete volume for 1902, 52 numbers with index, 728 pages, unbound and unfolded, \$2.00, post free.

A collector who paid one dollar for a subscription to the volume of 1902 and saved the papers can now realize a profit on this investment. The file is worth twice what it cost.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

Anto. Je. Esteves Barbosa,

383 Andradas 385,

Porto Alegre (Brazil).

Advanced Collector. First-Class References.

Wants exchanges with advanced or medium collectors and dealers of postage stamps, used and unused, and correspondence desired with collectors of all parts of the world, preferring collectors of all British Colonies and Central and North America. Want postage stamps on approval, basis: Scott, Stanley Gibbons, Sent or Yvert and Tellier. In exchange I will give old and scarce Brazilian, Uruguay, Argentine, etc., stamps.

Send me 200-500 good postage stamps (no common wanted) of his country, will receive from me same number and value in exchange of Brazil and South American stamps. Answer always, return mail, guaranteed Correspondence: English, Spanish and French languages.

MOROCCO

PACKET SULTAN, containing one complete set of stamps, Tanger—Tetuan; one complete set Tanger—Arzila; one complete set Tanger—Fez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez; one complete set Fez—Mequinez Taxe; one complete set Fez—Sefro; one complete set Mazagan—Marrakesh; one complete set Saffi—Marrakesh; one complete set Mogador—Marrakesh; one set French Post of Morocco Postage Due 5, 10, 30, 50; one set French Post id 5, 10, 20, 25; one set Gibraltar 1/2d, 1d, 2d; one set Gibraltar Morocco Agencies, 5, 10, 25; one set German Post 3, 5, 10, for \$2.00.

PACKET containing only five sets at the choice of the buyer, for.....\$0 80
 Each of the complete sets of local posts 25
 PACKET 250 assorted Morocco..... 1 50

Payment in advance or good references.
 Cash by Postal Order.

J. ELMALEH, Tangier, Morocco.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

***** A *****

Special Subscription Offer!

TO INTRODUCE our journal to many of our old friends, we make the following **SPECIAL OFFER** to those who receive this copy, and will mail us 25c by return mail:

From NOW until the end of 1903 the paper will be sent weekly for 25 cents

..... **CUT THIS OUT**

C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

*Enclosed find 25c, for which you will send **MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR** every week until January 1st, 1904, to the following address:*

.....

.....

.....

✂ REMIT IN UNUSED TWO-CENT STAMPS ✂

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 22
WHOLE NO. 74

JUNE 29, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The following are
Stamps to among the stamps to
Avoid avoid, when buying from
an investor's standpoint,
according to Mr. C. J. Phillips in his
article in the *Monthly Journal* on
“Stamp Collecting as an Invest-
ment:”

“1st. *Stamps quoted in advertisements
at one-third to one-tenth part of catalogue
price.*

Remember that if such stamps are
on sale to collectors at such discounts
under catalogue, they are also on sale
to dealers at still greater discounts.

2d. *Avoid all stamps cancelled or post-
marked to order, such as the rubbish of
Labuan and North Borneo. The sup-
ply is unlimited, like picture post-
cards, and when you want to realize
you find that you cannot effect a sale.*

3d. Exercise great care in purchas-
ing *used* stamps that have a much
greater value than similar stamps un-
used, such as Heligoland, Virgin
Isles, Bahamas id., imperf., etc. The
fakers take the genuine stamps, and
apply such good imitations of the post-
marks that often only first-rate experts
can tell the good from the bad.

4th. *Avoid stamps made primarily for
stamp collectors and only secondary for
postal use.*

The most flagrant examples in this
respect are the almost endless series
of what are termed “Seebeck” stamps,
that is, sets of stamps ranging from 1
cent to 10 dollars, and issued from

Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador.

For one stamp of the higher values
that is used postally, hundreds are
sold at a nominal price to dealers,
and when the young investor wants to
part with such things he will find no
market.”



The Postage Stamps
The Tapling on view in the British
Collection Museum will all be on
view to the public about
the end of June.

On May 20th the three large cabi-
nets were in position, being located
nearly in the centre of the King's
Library.

These cabinets are about six feet
high and double-fronted. Each one
contains 396 slides working on brass
runners. Each slide shows four sheets
of stamps, and the slides are in two
rows, one above the other. Under-
neath the slides of stamps there are
pull-out slabs of polished wood, to be
used as tables for taking notes.

The stamps are now being arranged
in alphabetical order, and about
12,000 sheets are in position. Prob-
ably by the beginning of June the con-
tents of the first cabinet will be on
view.

The cabinets are superb pieces of
workmanship—compact, convenient,
well planned and arranged, and re-
flect the greatest credit upon the Brit-
ish Museum authorities, who have at
length recognized the importance of
the valuable bequest of the late Mr.
T. K. Tapling to the nation.

Mr. Phillips, of the *Monthly Journal*,
from which we take this note, is in-
formed that the three cabinets will
cost about \$18,000 (£3,600).

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY.

In the June, 1903 number of the *Bookman* is an evident transgression of the postal laws in the illustration of an entire U. S. stamped envelope of the 1853 issue. It is the 3c die 3, and although reduced in size is an excellent reproduction, clear and distinct, and showing the Boston postmark. The peculiar interest in the envelope for the readers of the *Bookman* is of course not philatelic but literary, it being a facsimile of an envelope addressed by Ralph Waldo Emerson to a Mr. Duykinck.

Since this first issue of U. S. envelopes bears no inscription on the stamp to show that it is U. S. legal tender, the only words on it being "Three Cents," it is a question if any penalty could be legally enforced on illustrating it. This is a peculiar question which I have never seen brought up before. Of course, in all subsequent issues, which bear the inscription, "U. S. Postage," there could be no question.

The recent rumored discovery of a comparatively large number of the \$5.00 proprietary stamp brings to my mind another thought. Several dealers have been very lately advertising sets of U. S. department stamps at prices very much below anything they have been held at for the past six years, and at prices not demanded by any lack of interest in these sets. The only deduction, to my mind, is that a find has turned up somewhere in these or that some lot held back has been turned into the market.

The late Servian tragedy will have its bearing on Philately doubtless. The set hitherto current has, I believe, borne the portrait of the unfortunate victim of the coup-d'etat, so, at least a new issue may be expected,

and soon, too, if the general reports of the execration in which the late monarch were held, are more than half true. We probably will not be able to get at the real state of affairs in Servia until it has become sifted history, but however tyrannical the rule of the murdered sovereigns, it can only be said that their brutal assassination was a shameful act and a disgrace to Servia.

The \$25.00 revenue stamp of British North Borneo, which is of a type somewhat similar to Scott's A 15, is provocation of the thought that taxation must be rather high in a country where the current costume is the waist cloth only, as one would infer from the examples illustrated on the stamps. But then, we all know the tendency to high values in countries of this kind. And perhaps we may wrong the one in question, for the wealth of the Borneo Company was at one time considered fabulous.

The Jewish is not the only nation without a country. Many a collector, striving to work up a profitable foreign exchange, has been surprised at the wide-spread dissemination of the Tartar.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

- No. 1 — Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
No. 2 — Full Cloth, gilt lettering....\$2.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.
\$3.38
1000 VARIETIES—\$3 38

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

- 800** different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$ 2.50**
- 2,000** different postage stamps a collection in itself. **13.50**
- 3,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. **45.00**
- 4,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. **80.00** *A great bargain.*

16 OUNCES EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold. \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."
 Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.
 Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - **50 Cents.**
 (Published to sell at \$1.00)

62nd Edition Catalogue FOR 1903

Post Free for 55 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scott's No. 2991

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

SUMMER BARGAINS In Old Cubans.

1862, 1/2p, lilac on rose, cata.....	\$0 40,	my price,	20c
1868, 5, 10, 20 and 40	1 06,	..	50c
1866, 10, 20 and 40c.....	..	..	45c
1870, 40c rose, v. scarce, ..	1 50,	..	75c
1871, 1p, pale brown, fine ..	..	50,	25c

All of the above used. Cash with order.

Stamps on Approval at 50 per cent Discount.
 Choice stamps mailed to responsible parties on approval. Parties not known to me please send references.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ..	35c	100 ..	1 25
25 ..	50c	250 ..	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

A Packet of 500 VARIETIES Price, \$1.65

Packet No. 15 contains over 500 different foreign postage stamps, and is the biggest bargain ever offered for the money. Guaranteed to catalogue over \$15. It includes stamps from all over the world, such countries as Mexico, India, Argentine Rep., Roman States, Brazil, Lombardy, Egypt, etc. being represented.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

NIUE , 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three.....	70c
PENHRYN ISL. 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of three	7 c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black	\$8 00
Great Britain, £5 orange, fine	8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine.....	8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.
 Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,
 411 W. Saratoga St.,
BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

THE GREAT BRITIAN OFFICIAL STAMP SCANDAL

The postage stamps of Great Britain, surcharged for the official use of the various Departments of the Government, are just now causing a good deal of excitement in the stamp circles of that country. The stamps surcharged "Army Official," "R. H. Official," "Royal Household," "O. W. Official," "Office of Works," and numerous other surcharges are as a matter of fact of extremely little interest, and such as would be passed by most American collectors. They possess no particular quality aside from the fact that they are scarce—the sale to the public not being permitted.

The surcharging is done simply to facilitate keeping the postal accounts of the different departments just as was intended by the use of the special department stamps issued by the United States Government in 1875.

The fact that these Official Stamps of Great Britain were unobtainable through regular channels, and there was a demand for unused copies for advanced collectors who specialize in all stamps of Great Britain, the existing complications have but naturally followed.

Unused official stamps were secured, and if not stolen outright, they were taken and the ordinary postage stamps substituted on some of the mail of the officials. The official stamps thus secured were sold at fabulous prices, resulting in great profit for those who managed the matter.

Mr. A. B. Creeke, a solicitor and member of the great Philatelic Society of London, and author of an important philatelic work, has been arrested and charged in the police court of "illicit dealings in unused government stamps." Two if not three other persons are also under similar charges, besides solicitor Creeke, Alfred Waterhouse, a clerk, and H. J. Richards, cycle maker, were the parties who appeared in the Bow Street Police Court, London, on the 9th and 15th inst. Considerable testimony from stamp dealers and others were taken in the matter and still further proceedings are to follow.

The substance of the present charge is that certain of the Official Stamps surcharged for the use of the "Office of Works" were stolen and sold to stamp dealers. At the time of the arrest of one Percy Richards, he was found to have in his possession a check for £10 from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., which inquiry proved was paid to him for stamps sold to them, which are believed to have been stolen. H. J. Richards, one of the prisoners, sold some official stamps also of the "Office of Works" to David Field of London for \$100, their face value being merely nominal. On the 14th of February a second offer was rejected by Mr. Field, although similar stamps for which he had paid \$100 were then offered for \$40. Mr. Field's reason being that he believed the stamps had been stolen.

Mr. Creeke was alleged to have sold a set of "Office of Works" stamps through one Bigold, who was the intermediary between solicitor Creeke and Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. It is alleged that they paid \$320 (£64) for stamps of the face value of about \$1.25 (5 shillings). It is stated that it will also be proven that Creeke sold stamps to a London dealer by the name of Ginn and that he offered stamps to W. H. Peckett; to the credit of Mr. Peckett it is said that he refused to have anything to do with them on the ground that they were not honestly obtained. The shop manager of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., testified to having bought about ninety of the "Office of Works" stamps from Richards, upon whom was found the check for £10. The examiner inquired of the shop manager if it ever occurred to him that the stamps had been stolen and he replied, "certainly not."

A dealer by the name of Moore, of Villar Street, London, who had purchased some stamps of Richards was asked if he thought that in purchasing these stamps, which were well known to be unavailable to the public, he had done something criminally or morally wrong. He replied that he "would not say 'morally,' but he would certainly not had anything to do with them if he thought there was anything

'criminal' in the matter," to which the solicitor observed that "he was evidently prepared to do something immoral but not criminal." [Laugh er in the Court.]

From these extracts it will be readily understood that much interest and excitement prevails in British stamp circles. While the outsider is laughing at the enthusiastic philatelist who is willing to pay \$320 for \$1.25 worth of stolen stamps, simply because they are not available through regular channels, and inasmuch, as it will probably be proven that parties who took these surcharged stamps substituted other regular postage stamps to the equal face value and that no actual theft, as far as loss to the Government took place, the whole proceedings will simply emphasize the opinion that the outside public take of the transaction.

For our part we should be quite satisfied to get along without these surcharges, that are of secondary importance and quite as undesirable from an artistic standpoint as they would be if the initials of the Department were perforated in the stamp.

The *Monthly Journal* suggests that instead of over-printing the initials of the Department that they be perforated, stating that "no collector would then want such things and that they would be excluded from their catalogue." It is of course simply a matter of opinion as to whether stamps bearing perforated initials are any less collectible than stamps bearing black ink surcharge, and inasmuch as the making of a catalogue is an arbitrary matter only governed by the caprice of issuing dealer, it will of course be the privilege of the catalogue maker to omit any form of an official stamp that did not suit his ideas of collectibility. It is also the privilege of collectors to discriminate in making their collections, the fact of putting in or leaving out certain stamps in a catalogue thus compiled, is of very little actual importance.



RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

J. R. T. The imported German Hinge we handle is the most satisfactory in hot weather, the gum is dry and pure and does not melt. Usually sold in 5,000 boxes at 75c, but for convenience of our readers will be sold in 1,000 lots at 15c during the hot weather. Ordinary hinges are troublesome this time of year and are not handled.

S. Co. Our advertising rates, on accepted advertisements, are \$2.00 per inch net cash for each insertion; we have four thousand paid subscribers, a very large foreign list.

J. P. T. There is no satisfactory "Color Chart."

R. M. V. The current issue of official Uruguay stamps bear a regular printed surcharge of the Spanish word "Oficial" in black running diagonally across stamps. Two perforated star-shaped holes pierce the stamps, one above and the other below the surcharge.

**...VENEZUELA ...
WAR PROVISIONALS**

Type set, series of 1902, issued at CARUPANO, catalogued Nos. 157 to 161 consisting of 5 values, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and 1 bolivar, complete set unused, 80c
Same guaranteed postal cancellation \$1.25 for complete set.

Series of 1903

See illustration of an original cover on page 222 of this paper. The *crudest* postage stamp ever issued by any country in the world. We have some genuine used copies of the series priced singly as follows:

5c red on yellow	\$0 05
10c green on yellow	15
25c black on red	25
50c blue on carmine.....	
1 bolivar lilac on gray ...	} set of four 3 00 values
2 bolivars lilac on green	
5 bolivars lilac on blue.....	

The two sets of War Provisionals described above, fine postally used copies, post free, \$4.00

**C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.**

JULY BARGAINS

- *1882-94, Peru, 25 varieties, cata. \$2.46, my price, \$1.20
- 1901-02, British Protectorate, 14 varieties, cata. \$1.98, my price 1.00
- *1892, Mozambique Co., 5r to 300r, cata. \$1.68, my price .75
- *1898, Nyassa, 2½r to 300r, cata. \$1.88, my price .80
- 1897, North Borneo, 1c to 24c, cata. \$1.06, my price .50
- *1884-88, Mexico, 13 varieties, cata. \$1 21, my price .60

**Unused, all others used. Cash with order.*

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

the colonial mansions of Virginia, who prized many an old piece that had been repaired and re-inforced, gave up stamps entirely after he had heard the remarks of a "condition crank" applied to some of the treasures of his stamp collection.

Viewing stamps from a furniture standpoint some of the repaired stamps of the Paris "faker" would take rank with gems.

E. D.—The file of 52 papers issued in 1902 form a book of 728 pages, \$2.00, post free, and forms a valuable book for the library of a collector. An index showing complete table of contents will be sent free upon request. Collectors who have recently taken up this fascinating pursuit are advised to read a volume of that kind; it will throw light on many obscure points, and there are none too many aids to general philatelic knowledge.

E. D. P.—Since replying to the query about illustrated post-cards last week, we have been informed of the existence of the *Exchange News*, and have received a copy of the July number.

It is a magazine, twelve pages and cover, devoted to collecting and exchanging and is the official organ of the International Souvenir Card Exchange. Address Exchange News, Exchange Building, St. Louis, Mo.

There is also a dealer and publisher of souvenir post cards, Adolph Selige, 106 N. Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

S. Co.—Our advertising rates are \$2.00 per inch per each insertion, for such advertisements as we accept. Our circulation is of the best character, over 600 *paid subscribers* have been added to our list within the last two weeks—a result of the special edition of June 22d.

I. E. B.—Writes that he was interested in the article about mounting postal cards and envelopes in the June Magazine Number.

His plan is to use Niggard Clips.

With these he states the card or envelope can be fastened to the leaf of the book and can also be taken out and examined at any time.

Reply.—We do not deal in postal cards or entire envelopes, but purchasing as we do hundreds of collections, large and small, we accumulate odds and ends and are always ready to make up packets for beginners or those not very far advanced. These packets we sell at \$1.00 and the party who is either interested in postal cards or entire foreign envelopes and has not many in his collection, will make no mistake in ordering a \$1.00 packet as the packet contains big value for the money.

In case two or more packets are ordered at one time the contents will be different.

We cannot undertake to supply cards or envelopes to more advanced collectors as we do not classify the odds and ends that we acquire. Neither can we supply lots of cards and entire envelopes on approval.

B. S.—We do not solicit want lists as our stock is arranged for circulation on approval and, except in special countries, such as Mexico, which is our specialty, and United States and U. S. Colonies we make no attempt to keep up stock books for single orders. Our business is the submission of stamps on approval and we have one of the largest and finest stocks, suited for this purpose, in the world and the collector only has to give us some idea of the character of his collection and we will be able to submit him stamps at lower prices and better discounts than we could if we kept a lot of idle stock for want lists.

WE ARE OPEN TO BUY FOR CASH

10 to 100—	15c	Columbian, <i>used</i>
10 to 100—	30c	" "
10 to 100—	50c	" "
10 to 100—	50c	Omaha
5 to 50—	\$1.00	" "

Stamps well centered, perforated on 4 sides, reasonable cancellation. Quote prices and state quantity. Do not send stamps.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

A MOUNTED AND PRICED COLLECTION OF
1092 Postage Stamps Amounting to \$30.60

SOLD AS A LOT, \$6.25 POST FREE

Includes a nice lot of clean stamps from *many* countries, including Alexandria; Angola; Anjuan; Canada 20c and 50c; Cook Islands; Colombia, new 50c and 1 peso; Canton, China; nice lot Cuba; Dominican Republic; Dutch Indies; Ecuador; Finland; Guynea; Hayti; Ivory Coast; Indo China; Martinique; New Foundland, Persia; North Borneo; Porto Rico; Phillipines; Tunis; West Australia; some single stamps in the lot cataloguing over one dollar. A bargain \$6.25.

"SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED"

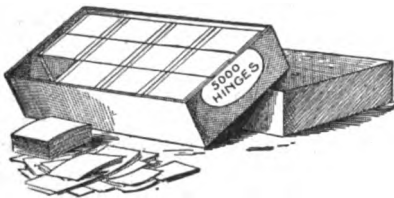
C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., . . . St. Louis, Mo.

WE HAVE MONEY

to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 75c per box.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. St. Louis, Mo.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
 502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City.

- Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.
- Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
- Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
- Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
- Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
- Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.
- Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM, 1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

Dunedin, New Zealand.

CHEAP AUSTRALIANS

(All Soon Obsolete)

LONG SET AUSTRALASIANS

(Fine Presents)

THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties	\$1.00
New South Wales, 24 varieties . . . . .	.50
Victoria, 30 varieties . . . . .	.75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties	1.00
Queensland, 30 varieties	1.00
The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash	\$3.75

Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency registered.

THE GREAT BRITAIN OFFICIAL STAMP SCANDAL

[Continuing the account from Page 351 of the
number of June 29th.]

On June 20th another arrest was made in connection with the thefts of official stamps from Somerset House.

John Walter Richards, a trusted employee and father of the two young men mentioned in the previous account.

The following statement was made in Court on June 22d by the prosecutor :

"Walter John Richards was, until recently, a principal clerk at Somerset House. In the course of inquiries made as to the source from which official stamps sold to dealers really came, it was ascertained the great bulk came from Walter John Richards in circumstances which compelled the Board of Inland Revenue — although with the greatest possible reluctance and regret—to include him in the charge with the other prisoners.

As a principal clerk at Somerset House, he had — together with a Mr. Dewey — the actual custody and control of vast quantities of postage and official stamps. He had one key of the safe in which they were kept, and Mr. Dewey had the other.

Without the concurrent use of the two keys the stamps could not be taken from the safe in which they were kept. Walter Richards, possibly with the concurrence of Mr. Dewey — was the person who had to decide what stamps should be taken out.

On the 23d of January last he decided that four sheets of stamps should be taken out for cancellation — namely, two sheets of half-penny stamps (one red and one green), one sheet of five-penny stamps, and one sheet of ten-penny stamps. These were the stamps which were sold, among others, to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Co. (Limited), who gave the enormous price of £64 (\$340.00) for three sets.

These stamps should have been included in a cancellation warrant made out at Somerset House on January the 30th, but in point of fact they were not so included. What took

place was this—*Walter Richards and Mr. Dewey kept the stamps referred to.*"

The case is not yet concluded. We are under obligations to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, who have made a full report of all proceedings, and in its editorial comments as follows :

"It is a lamentable business throughout, this trafficking in stamps that are known to be dishonorably obtained. Whatever be the result of the prosecution now pending, one thing is certain—that the Government will have to devise some new scheme for controlling its departmental issues. Some people there are who have sound ideas on a subject such as this, but can yet be very innocent when answering questions from the witness-box. The Government, possibly, will resort to a Special Commission as a means of solving the difficulty, and by that time Sir Albert de Rutzen, our only philatelic magistrate, should be so well primed with knowledge on the subject, that he would make an ideal chairman."

A NOVEL USE FOR STAMPS

Canceled stamps were put to an unusual use at a social party given recently by a lady whose household included a stamp collector. The family boy, hearing the hostess express a wish for fifty decorated cards for a favor dance, quietly went to work and provided the requisite number. The cards were to be used for the selecting of partners. From his duplicate stamps, the boy selected two clean copies of each variety, neatly mounting each stamp separately on a small diamond-shaped piece of white cardboard. He used twenty-five varieties of stamps on his fifty cards, choosing of course, only the commonest kinds. The mounted stamps, divided into two equal piles, were distributed among the guests, each of whom began at once to search for the person holding the mate to his own stamp. To many of the guests, a stamp was a stamp and nothing more; but as the work of comparing the curious little bits of paper went on, the guests grew more and more interested.

Some weeks later, the hostess was surprised to learn that numerous results were attributed to her use of stamps as cotillion favors. Four of the men who had collected stamps in their boyhood days, unearthed forgotten albums, and with all their former interest revived, started in enthusiastically to bring their old collections up to date. Three others, for the first time waking up to the fact that there were other stamps besides the common two-centers, became interested, sent for cheap packets, and, in a surprisingly short time, developed into full-fledged philatelists. Thus, a woman who herself did not know a Western Australia swan from a Guatemala parrot, all unwittingly added seven to the ever swelling ranks of the stamp army.

—CARROLL W. RANKIN.

A POUND



16 OUNCES

EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scott's No. 2991

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10	35c	100	1 25
25	50c	250	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

NIUE, 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three	70c
PENHRYN ISL, 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of three	70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black	\$8 00
Great Britain, £5 orange, fine	8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine.....	8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

...VENEZUELA... WAR PROVISIONALS

Type set, series of 1902, issued at CARUPANO, catalogued Nos. 157 to 161 consisting of 5 values. 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and 1 bolivar, complete set unused, 80c

Same guaranteed postal cancellation \$1.25 for complete set.

Series of 1903

See illustration of an original cover on page 222 of this paper. The crudest postage stamp ever issued by any country in the world. We have some genuine used copies of the series priced singly as follows:

5c red on yellow	\$0 05
10c green on yellow.....	15
25c black on red.....	25
50c blue on carmine.....	
1 bolivar lilac on gray ...	} set of four 3 00 values
2 bolivars lilac on green ...	
5 bolivars lilac on blue.....	

The two sets of War Provisionals described above, fine postally used copies, post free, \$4.00

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

OMAHA 4c and 5c WANTED

We want some 4c and 6c Omaha and solicit offers in lots of fifty stamps or over, cash or trade. Make offers; do not send stamps.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Major Evans, editor of the *Monthly Journal Catalogues* talks to the point in his June editorial in regard to catalogues. It is certainly the fault of collectors, if dealers' catalogues are made standard authorities and guides infallible (?).

The Major says:—

"A dealer's catalogue should not be regarded as a guide to what everyone must collect, but rather as a list, and not always a complete and consistent one, of the varieties which exist, and which the collector may collect or not as he chooses. * * *

A dealer's price list is not published from purely philanthropic, or even from purely philatelic motives; its object is to enable its publishers to sell the stamps they have in stock, and to sell as many of them as possible. So long as specialism and microscopic study are in vogue, it will answer the dealer's purpose to make his lists of minor varieties as full and complete as possible, and our own opinion is that this should be the case, believing as we do that all varieties should be noted, and that the simplest method of noting them is to put them in the lists. * * * And leave it to the collectors to exercise their own common sense as to the scope of their collections."

* *

We have previously referred to a fine forger of 5fr. Belgium gery, the Belgium 5 franc, brown, issue of 1878, that were most dangerous. We learn from the European press that the forgery was the work of an engraver, Henri Troch, living at St. Gilles, Belgium, and that he has been apprehended and the plates and cancellation marks seized.

* *

The newspapers report the possibility of the Prince of George Wales visiting the United States. If he comes a first-class philatelic exhibition ought to be arranged.

ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,

M. B. ANDREWS.

800	different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain	\$ 2.50
2,000	different postage stamps a collection in itself.	13.50
3,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector.	45.00
4,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. <i>A great bargain.</i>	80.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

NATIONAL STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

Information is desired with regard to the party signing J. C. Wilburn who has solicited stamps on approval giving his address as Bellaire, Ohio. Dealers who have heard from this party are requested to communicate. The name is probably a false one. The postmaster there reports that he received two registered letters and left.

Mr. C. W. Abbott, of Upper Montclair, N. J., is working up a case against the fraud who used the name Grace Kimball from a New York City address. Dealers who have suffered are requested to give Mr. Abbott the particulars.

The publication of a confidential *Bulletin* will be revived this fall, giving dealers information about unreliable parties who prey upon the trade. Some seven years ago H. K. Sander-son, of Lynn, Mass., conducted a well organized bureau of information for dealers.

Regarding Vindin Mr. M. P. Castle, editor of the *London Philatelist*, makes some remarks in the June number of that paper regarding the matter we referred to on page 354 of our issue of June 29.

Mr. Castle writes:—

"The affair of the reprinted Laureates of New South Wales took place as far back as 1887, and it is perhaps unsavoury work to disinter a body so long dead and buried. It appears, however, that Mr. Dawson A. Vindin, who was so prominently associated with the venture, has recently appeared in London, and has published in the *Monthly Journal*, under the title of 'A Philatelic Mystery,' an account of his connection with these reprints. I think I will therefore borrow from the *Monthly Journal* some paragraphs of Mr. Vindin's 'narative,' especially as it purports to give an account of the destruction of the plates (not the first destruction I have heard of as regards these!). Mr. Vindin further mentions my name, and as he was good enough at one time to 'impute' to me 'other than pure motives,' I think I am entitled to show that he was hardly the guileless person in this series of nefarious transactions that he seems now to make out." * * * *

And finally he says:—

"I have no wish to be vindictive to Mr. Vindin, with whom personally I always got on very well, and indeed had many transactions with him, but it is absurd for him nowadays to pose as an innocent victim. No doubt Van Dyck was the prime mover in the affair; but Mr. Vindin, as he himself states, was fully aware of 'the nature of the animal,' and, no doubt tempted by the chance of making a large sum of money, willfully shut his eyes to all the inherent probabilities of fraud, and plunged blindly into the venture by 'going halves' with the astute Van Dyck. Once having taken the fatal step, he was, as is invariably the case, compelled to stoop to further deceptions and misrepresentations, as it is so well written—

'Oh, what a tangled web we weave,
When once we venture others to deceive!'

In my humble judgment Mr. Vindin would have been better advised to leave 'well' alone; he got out of the scrape 'on all-fours,' and his partner had disappeared. The whole thing had far better have been consigned into the limbo of oblivion. The French, moreover, have it that 'it is the absent that who are always wrong,' a saying that contains a remarkably large percentage of human nature, and in this present case, as Van Dyck is not absent—further than Paris—he might descend into the arena and retaliate on Mr. Vindin with some nasty knocks.

I should not personally have raised this ghost of a departed fraud in this journal had not Mr. Vindin mentioned my name in a somewhat prominent manner, and I therefore thought it right that the unvarnished truth should be placed on record. I was certainly to blame at the outset for believing in these reprints, but I erred in good company. We had been brought up in the philatelic faith of the long-ago destruction of these plates, and though we all clearly recognize the differences between these 'reprints' and the originals, many of us believed that they were a later printing that had never been issued. I will remember that I had all but sent the draft for four complete sets (twelve sheets), having drawn the money from the bank, but by a kindly interposition of Providence I was fortunately saved from making the worst philatelic bargain of my life!"

U.S. Private Proprietaries, 1898

Antikamnia, 2½c	\$0 25
Emerson Drug Co., ¼c	05
C. H. Fletcher, 1½c	10
Hostetter Co., 2½c	15
Johnson & Johnson, ¾c	03
Lauman & Kemp, ¾c	10
Lauman & Kemp, 1½c	20
J. Ellwood Lee Co., ¾c	10
Piso Co., ¾c	05
Radway & Co.	10
Dr. Williams Med. Co., 1½c	10
Catalogue value	\$1 23

The above lot of 11 stamps for 50c

Complete set of seven,
Chas. Marchand, mint slate,
¼, 1½, 1½, 2½, 3½, 4½, 7½c for.....\$2.50

Complete set of five,
J. Ellwood Lee Co.,
¼, ¾, ¾, 2½, 5c for..... .50

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

An auction sale at which **Undeclared** stamps are "bid in for the **Reserves** owner" and the fact of there being a reserve remaining undeclared, is an imposition upon the public.

In his annual report to the members of the Philatelic Society (London), Mr. J. A. Tilleard writes:

"The change which appears to have come over the auction sales is worthy of notice. Although these are more numerous than ever, and are apparently well supported, collectors cannot fail to have observed that sales by auction are no longer so reliable a means either of acquiring or disposing of good stamps as heretofore. Rightly or wrongly, an impression is abroad that most of the lots offered for sale this way are protected by undeclared reserves, owing to a large proportion of the stamps included in the sales being the property of dealers, and if confidence is to be restored some authoritative statement on the subject should be forthcoming by the auctioneers engaged in the trade."

In the same issue of the *London Philatelist* in which this is published appears an editorial article on the subject, concluding as follows:

"The only suggestion we can make is the publication of reserves in all cases where such exist. Needless to say, we are making these remarks in no spirit of antagonism to the auctioneers; we recognize unreservedly that they have been of incalculable value in building up the *stability* of stamp collecting. It is rather on this ground, and because we believe they are so essential to the future of Philately, that we would see them purged of any feature that militates against their holding the entire confidence of the world of stamp collectors."

Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.

1000 VARIETIES—\$3 38

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

No. 1 — Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
No. 2 — Full Cloth, gilt lettering... \$2.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf.....	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark.....	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf.....	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark.....	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c.....	35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue.....	60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp.....	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c.....	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc.....	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds.....	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds.....	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps.....	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c.....	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, - - BELGIUM.

U. S. 1873, 3c Green Fine O. G.

(No. 158 in Catalogue, Priced \$1.00)

Single.....\$0 50
Block of four.....1 75

We have the upper and lower strips with imprint from this sheet subject to offer.
Plate No. 222, Continental B. N. Co.

Also a few No. 184

Single.....25
Block of four.....1 00

Mint condition, never been hinged.

OUR GERMAN HINGES do not stick up this hot weather. 15 cents per 1,000; 5,000 in box, 75 cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 25
WHOLE No. 77

JULY 20, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The 18th annual convention of the American Philatelic Association meets at Clayton, N. Y., August 11-13th. Mr. Ernest R. Aldrich of Benson, Minn., is a candidate for Secretary. Since so earnest a worker is willing to accept the office he should have the support of every member. Mr. Aldrich is capable and worthy and the Association is to be congratulated if it secures such a Secretary.

The *Perforator* for July gives a good illustration of a fine copy of the great Brattleboro stamp of the original cover. The stamp is a beauty, and the illustration will be appreciated by many collectors who can never hope to possess this gem.

The cover has recently become part of the famous collection of Mr. John F. Seybold of Syracuse, N. Y., whose accumulation consists of choice stamps on the original covers.

There seems to be a good reason now, for a special set of stamps for use in the Philippine Islands. The editor of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* thus comments on the matter:

"Now that the Philippines have been supplied with a special set of coins we think it time that a series of stamps of appropriate designs would

not be out of place, especially as the overprinted stamps can no longer be used in this country. Again, the 50 centavo coin is practically a 25c. piece, would it purchase a 50c. stamp? Perhaps this is the reason that the use of overprinted U. S. stamps has been prohibited in this country coincident with putting in circulation the new coinage. It would be rather hard to keep a stock of stamps in the Philippines if they could be purchased there for twenty-five cents and used here for half a dollar. Uncle Sam knows his children and is not likely to supply them with too soft snaps.

The 63rd Edition of the *The New American Catalogue* will be issued much earlier than usual this season—latter part of October it is stated. Such a course would be to the advantage of the trade and we hope it will materialize.

ADD SOMETHING GOOD TO YOUR U. S. COLLECTION

U. S. 1861, 1c blue on laid paper, a fine lightly cancelled copy, Scott's No. 63a, priced \$25...	\$16 00
Pan American 1c with inverted center, a superb mint copy never hinged ...	25 00
Pan American 2c with inverted center, a bonafide used copy, paid postage New York to Victoria, Australia	125 00
Pan American 1c with inverted center, used on original cover	20 00
Same, an unused copy one straight edge but good margins, used mint	17 00
U. S. 1873, 3c green, double paper, unused, Scott's No. 158e, rare unused	10 00
U. S. Carrier, Louisville, Ky., Wharton's 2c bluish-green, No. 841, mint	7 50

Any of above will be sent on Approval.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY.

A clause in the circular of the Deputy Postmaster-General of Canada with regard to the new issue of stamps for that country is, it seems to us a most sensible one:

"Postmasters will please bear in mind that, notwithstanding the new issue, they are not to return to the Department any of the old stamps on hand, but will sell them in the ordinary way. At first, the public may prefer getting new stamps, and if so, there is no objection to this wish being acceded to, but it is also desirable to work off in due course all remnants of old stamps."

This displays both accommodation to the public and economy in conducting the affairs of the Department. Too often, in our own country, have we had circulars from the Department to the effect that postmasters should order no new stamps until the old set was worked off; or, on the contrary, order to return to Washington all old supplies on hand to be destroyed.

C. J. Phillips' proposal to obviate the escape from their proper channels of the surcharged official stamps of Great Britain, by the use of perforated initials of the departments and his reasons, viz: "that collectors would not want them as they are mutilated stamps," and "that his firm would not catalogue them," especial force being laid on this latter reason, is one of the most absurd, not to say conceited, arguments I have seen for a long time. The perforated initials would be just as collectible as the surcharged ones and so regarded by collectors and if Mr. Phillips thinks collectors are going to collect only what he may see fit to admit to his catalogue he is mistaken. If the surcharged issues are collected then perforated ones must be included by any consistent collector.

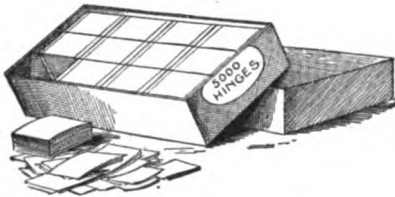
On a recent trip into the high Sierras I was much amused at the operation of the rural free delivery in the

remote districts. The driver of the stage was a new man taken on that day for an emergency. At the first little store away up in the foothills the keeper inquired of our driver where the mail was as we were starting away. The driver looked surprised and asked if he left mail there on which the man explained that he left mail if any, at every place along the road and in every tin can and box on a stick that appeared beside the road. This was news to the driver who said he had been told nothing about it and supposed he only had to throw off the large mail sacks at the post-offices, but a search in the boot of the stage showed several score of small parcels to be delivered along the road. In most cases, where the dwellings were away from the road, a tin can on a stick was the receptacle and where the name was not conspicuous on it of course the driver did not know whose it was. About noon we met the stage making the down trip whose driver informed our driver of what places he had passed where he ought to have left mail and took it back with him to deliver. Here and there in the midst of apparently uninhabited wilderness a forked stick projected out from a bush or tree with a letter on its end, franked with G. Washington's ruddy countenance, and the driver would make a grab at it in passing and toss it into the boot, to be delivered at the first regular post-office where it would be assorted and forwarded to its destination, perhaps three thousand miles away. Now and then a bandit-like character in slouched hat and dust-covered apparel would halt the stage and ask for a dollar's worth of stamps but as the driver was only just becoming aware that he was a rural postmaster of course he did not have any and would have to refer to the next stage, when the request was usually deviated into one for a chew of tobacco with more success. Yet crude and laughable as were most of the experiences rarely is it that ever a letter gets lost and the mountaineers place as firm a faith in Uncle Sam's postal service as we who are delivered our mails six or eight times a day.

WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 75c per box.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. ST. LOUIS, MO.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c	35
100 Holland, 50c. current issue	60
100 Holland, 50c. large stamp	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c.	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, - - BELGIUM.

GOOD STAMPS AT LOW PRICES

Old Porto Ricans this Time, and Every One a Bargain.

1873, 50c brown, fine, at	\$0 25
1875, 50c green, superb, at	40
1877, 5c brown, fine, at	30
1877, 10c carmine, scarce, at	75
1877, 15c green, very rare, at	1 25

All of the above used. Cash with order.

Don't let these Bargains get away from you.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

- Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
 - Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
 - Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
 - Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
 - Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.
 - Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
- High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.
- J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,**
1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

A POUND



16 OUNCES

EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

Entire U. S. Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

THE GREAT BRITAIN OFFICIAL STAMP SCANDAL

*[Continuing the account from Page 366 of the
number of July 13th.]*

On July 6th, at Bow Street Police Court, before Sir Albert de Rutgen a further hearing, in the matter of dealing with, and receiving stolen official stamps of Great Britain took place.

Mr. Edwin Healey, a London dealer, was cross-examined and was in the witness box nearly four hours. On July 13th hearing was resumed.

Ernest Douet, (wrongly printed Dewey in previous reports), a clerk in the Department of the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House, gave his evidence, which showed that regular postage stamps of equal face value were substituted for surcharged official stamps taken from the stock.

His testimony on the subject was:

"On January 23rd witness took from the stock one sheet each of half-penny red, halfpenny green, and 5d. and 10d. official stamps for the purpose of cancellation. Walter Richards had to decide what stamps should be cancelled; cancellation warrants were then issued, and a record of the transaction was entered in the department in which witness was engaged. The stamps referred to were kept in a safe with two locks, witness having one key and Walter Richards the other.

"It was agreed the stamp taken out, ostensibly for cancellation, should be preserved. In fact, they shared them, and, to make the accounts right, put in ordinary postal stamps of the same value. When they shared the stamps, witness said, 'I shall keep them; they may be valuable one of these days.' Walter Richards said, 'I shall do the same.' Witness gave Walter Richards cash for the ordinary stamps which had to be provided to take the place of the overprinted stamps which were supposed to be cancelled.

"Witness took from the stamps he had acquired, four of each kind for his collection. The remainder he placed in a drawer in his safe at Somerset House. On the evening of the 1st of May, witness was at his home

at Epsom, when Walter Richards called and said one of his sons had been arrested, and that upon him a cheque for £10 from Stanley Gibbons Co., had been found. He said that cheque was for the Office of Works stamps which he had taken from Somerset House. He explained that he had locked them up upon arriving home, and that his son Percy had stolen them. * * *

"After this information witness could not sleep, and during the night he got up and destroyed the whole of his collection of official stamps. * * *

"He did not think he was guilty of theft when he agreed with Walter Richards to take some. Some stamps had been substituted for others before this—under an order. He knew of no official regulation against the substitution of stamps for others of equal value. The revenue was not defrauded of a single penny by what witness and Walter Richards did in January. * * *

"Proceeding, witness said he had been in the service nearly 30 years. He wished now that he had not destroyed his collection of official stamps which he started many years ago. It was not complete, and he did not think there was a complete collection in existence. He obtained his first official stamps (Inland Revenue) by getting permission to have ordinary stamps substituted for them. He believed that was done under an order signed by the then controller, Mr. Cosens. Most of the stamps which formed part of the collection he had destroyed were obtained by a process of substitution. He never doubted for a moment that he would have been allowed to substitute one stamp for another if he had applied for permission. He was away from Somerset House about 10 years, returning in 1901.

"When he substituted one stamp for another it never occurred to him that he was doing anything criminal. He thought there was no harm in it if he gave the face value of the stamps which he obtained. * * *

"Walter Richards and myself went before the Board of Inland Revenue

after the matter had been investigated. Sir Henry Primrose, the chairman, said we had given value for value, and there had been no fraud committed, although the Board regarded their conduct as a gross breach of confidence. I said 'breach of trust,' and Sir Henry Primrose said 'I do not think you can go so far as that; it is an error of judgment.'"

Evidence was given to the effect that in May last Creeke sold three pairs of Inland Revenue stamps of the face value of 5s., 10s. and £1 respectively for £28 to Mr. F. R. Ginn, of 143 Strand, and one set of three O. W. Official stamps of the respective denominations of ½d., 5d. and 10d. each for £8 10s. to John William Jones, 444, Strand.

After formal evidence by Detective Sergeant Palfrey, the prisoners were again remanded.

The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* shows great enterprise in giving a full report of the court proceedings, giving ten closely printed pages of testimony taken at the hearings of the 6th and 13th. We are under obligations to that paper for the extracts we have made.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

- No. 1 — Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
- No. 2 — Full Cloth, gilt lettering.....\$2.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

J. C. M. R.—On page 225, our number for May 11th, eighth line of the first column should read Salvador 1879 instead of Labrador 1879. A proof reader's blunder, which we regret.

L. J.—The perforated initials which are sometimes seen in stamps of Europe have no philatelic significance. It is the custom of some concerns to have their postage stamps initialed, in this way to prevent their being stolen by employees. The initials do not interfere with the availability of the stamps as postage and are regarded a safeguard against theft.

PAUL KOHL, of Germany, announces a new catalogue to be ready in August for the season 1903-1904. Parties desiring to book advance orders will remit us 65c. and they will receive same as soon as it is available.

AN INTERESTING ALBINO

Recently discovered; a used copy of the 2c. 1863, Toppan's No. 4115 in the *Advanced Collectors' Catalogue*. Envelope is entire and bears post mark "Boston, Mass., Oct. 19 Paid." Although the stamp is entirely without color it was recognized for postage. This is a very rare and interesting oddity.

U.S. Private Proprietaries, 1898

Antikamnia, 2½c	\$0 25
Emerson Drug Co., ½c	05
C. H. Fletcher, 1½c	10
Hostetter Co., 2½c	15
Johnson & Johnson, ¾c	03
Lauman & Kemp, ¾c	10
Lauman & Kemp, 1¾c	20
J. Ellwood Lee Co., ¾c	10
Piso Co., ¾c	05
Radway & Co.	10
Dr. Williams Med. Co., 1¾c	10
Catalogue value.....	\$1 23

The above lot of 11 stamps for 50c

Complete set of seven.

Chas. Marchand, mint slate.
¾, 1¼, 1½, 2½, 3¼, 4¼, 7½c for..... \$2.50

Complete set of five.

J. Ellwood Lee Co.,
¾, ¾, ¾, 2½, 5c for..... .50

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

HINTS FOR NEW COLLECTORS

BY V. W. HANWAY

The collector in the elementary stages is not receiving much attention at present and he is at a loss to know how and what to collect. Perhaps if more attention was paid to him there would not be so many "here-to-day-and-gone-tomorrow" sort of collectors.

It is simply wonderful the number of collectors who are springing up in all directions at present. Cheap albums and cheap packets are in great demand. Many will tire of it in a few weeks, but still Philately will gain many new recruits. It is to these I would speak.

Many start collections without the least idea of the money, time and study it requires. You buy a cheap album, get one or two thousand cheap stamps, scatter them through the album and then you think you have a collection. If you wish to sell you carefully reckon up catalogue prices, not forgetting to take advantage of every high-priced watermark. When you come to sell you are surprised to find out how little your possessions are worth, quite forgetting that you did not pay a dollar for the album and the stamps did not cost you five dollars.

To the young collector I say, do not make the mistake of buying the cheap packets which flood the market. Get a good album; then get good stamps. Subscribe for one or two of the *first-class* philatelic papers. Also get a good catalogue.

The stamps of the United States are good stamps to buy. In fact if you are in moderate circumstances, I say, stick to the stamps of your own country and get them all. It is better to finish a cottage than dig the cellar of a palace. Still, if you do not care for specialism, you may in time, get a really good general collection. Perseverance will conquer all things. Some of the South American countries issue stamps worth buying, for instance, Brazil. I would not advise you to invest too much of your money

in the stamps of Honduras, Salvador and Nicaragua nor buy the reprints of Heligoland, Hamburg and the Roman States; while these add much to the beauty and interest of a collection, they do not add proportionately to its value. The stamps of the native states of India are also stamps you should beware of. A few varieties will add much to your album's interest, but I would not advise you to go any farther. Turkey is not a favorite country, as its stamps are hard to place.

You may easily get many stamps of Italy, Japan, Portugal, Great Britain, France and colonies, Germany and colonies, United States and colonies, Spain and colonies, as they are comparatively low-priced.

But once more I warn you to be careful on what you spend your money. You can thus make it go twice as far. Only buy of a reputable dealer—a dealer who is willing to guarantee his stamps as genuine.

After you have some good duplicates you may increase your collection vastly by exchanging them with other collectors.

If you are not personally acquainted with any collectors you may exchange by mail. Many philatelic papers contain names and addresses of people who wish to exchange their duplicates for other stamps. In exchanging with collectors in foreign countries, be sure you are corresponding with an honest party before you send them very valuable stamps. I have found collectors in Germany, Holland, Belgium, France and England to be very honest. If you have a good correspondent in either of these countries it is a good idea to have him procure for you stamps in the adjoining countries. He can do it for much less money than you would have to pay if you bought them at home.

There are fashions in stamps as in everything else. Just at present the stamps of Great Britain are afforded the most attention. Soon, judging by present indications, there will be a change. Then the stamps of Germany, Spain, France, Mexico, Italy, Portugal and the countries whose

stamps are so cheap now will command much higher prices. I would advise you to buy as many stamps possible, of Great Britain, for they will always be more or less in favor. Still, you should be on the safe side and invest in the stamps which are at present low-priced. It is safe to say that in the next hundred years, perhaps fifty, likely twenty-five, every country on the globe will have had his turn in being the favorite for philatelists.

Lastly my friends, I would advise you to become familiar with the currency, manners and customs of all countries. Study your stamps. If you follow these directions you cannot help but be successful. And always remember that "the due care of cents is requisite to insure the obtaining of dollars," for this applies to Philately as well as to everything else.



ADDED 300 TO A 1,100 COLLECTION

CHICAGO, April 18.

The packet of 800 stamps was received—very satisfactory, and I have been able to add more than 300 stamps to my collection from it. This is better than I expected, as my collection contained over 1,100 stamps.

Very truly,
M. B. ANDREWS.

- 800** different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain **\$ 2.50**
- 1,000** different postage stamps the best packet of the kind sold in the country **3.25**
- 2,000** different postage stamps a collection in itself. **13.50**
- 3,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. **45.00**
- 4,000** foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. **80.00** *A great bargain.*

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

The five stamps of **Bergedorf** Bergedorf issue of 1868 **Figures** represent a catalogue value of \$1.92.

On June 10th, 1868, the director of Posts of Bergedorf accepted in the name of the Government an offer of 1,000 francs (\$197.25) made by J. B. Moens, a Belgium dealer, for the whole stock that had become obsolete on January 1st, 1868. Moens received approximately the following quantity of the Remainers:

39,000	¼sch
23,000	1 sch
63,000	1½sch
43,000	3 sch
50,000	4 sch

The Remainers which were purchased at seemingly small sum in 1868 would to-day represent a current catalogue value of \$71,410.00.

Mr. Moens also secured plates from which the Bergedorf stamps were printed and many sets of reprints have been printed therefrom, and it is in fact the reprints that one usually sees in collections nowadays.

The vast majority of the original Remainers have been absorbed and the original stamps are not at all common.

The difference between the cost and the current catalogue value is a suggestion of the possibility of absorption in the way of Remainers.

Many stamps comparatively common are ignored to-day and will become exhausted and appreciate very much in value in the near future.

This will not apply, however, to the varieties of issues which have been deliberately made in interest of dealers, such for instance as the Seebeckized issues of Central America, Lauban and Borneo and similar rubbish which have been made in quantities sufficient to paralyze Father Time.

U. S. 1873, 3c Green Fine O. G.

(No. 158 in Catalogue; Priced \$1.00)

Single	\$0 50
Block of four	1 75

We have the upper and lower strips with imprint from this sheet subject to offer. Plate No. 222, Continental B. N. Co.

Also a few No. 184

Single	25
Block of four	1 00

Mint condition, never been hinged.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

WE ARE OPEN TO BUY FOR CASH

10 to 100—	15c	Columbian, <i>used</i>
10 to 100—	30c	" "
10 to 100—	50c	" "
10 to 100—	50c	Omaha
5 to 50—	\$1.00	" "

Stamps well centered, perforated on 4 sides, reasonable cancellation. Quote prices and state quantity. Do not send stamps.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

\$2.00 OMAHA

TRANSMISSISSIPPI SERIES

A lot of 25 copies of this stamp, unused o. g., perforated four sides, catalogued \$3.00, has been placed in our hands for sale at \$2.50 each. An exceptional chance to get a good stamp.

OTHER SINGLE STAMPS.

Single copies of the following stamps are offered at the following net prices:

* Indicates Unused.

*U. S. 1847—10c (The Government counterfeit made to complete display at Centennial Exposition)	2 00
*U. S. 1851—1c, Reprint perforated 12, Type 1.	3 50
*Executive, 1c "Specimen"	1 50
*Justice, 2c "Specimen"	1 00
*Treasury, 24c fine o. g.	1 00
*War, 7c fine o. g.	75
*Newspaper, 1895—\$100.00 purple, original postally cancelled with round punch	1 75

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

A LETTER

One of Many that We Receive Continually

ALBANY, N. Y.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
 St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 received and was surprised to find so much value for the money, and I hand you herewith check for Packet No. 115—2,000 varieties.
C. V. D. LODGE.

Our packets cannot fail to give satisfaction. They are the best value for the money that can be obtained anywhere. The stamps are not only guaranteed to be genuine, but the condition is above the average. Our business motto for twenty-six years has been "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

Packet No. 114 The best packet of 1,000 varieties of foreign postage stamps ever offered. A cheaper packet could be made but no better value for the money is possible.
\$3.25
1000 VARIETIES—\$3.25
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

10c PROPRIETARY, 1878

Catalogued \$12, Scott's No. 2991

A very good copy of this stamp for \$4.90. Sent on approval if desired, or money refunded if not satisfactory.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ..	35c	100 ..	1 25
25 ..	50c	250 ..	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

NIUE, 3p. 6, and 1sh, set of three	70c
PENRYN ISL. 3p. 6p and 1sh, set of three	70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black	\$8 00
Great Britain, £5 orange, fine	8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine	8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,
 411 W. Saratoga St.,
BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

...VENEZUELA... WAR PROVISIONALS

Type set, series of 1902, issued at CARUPANO, catalogued Nos. 157 to 161 consisting of 5 values, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and 1 bolivar, complete set unused, 80c. Same guaranteed postal cancellation \$1.25 for complete set.

Series of 1903

See illustration of an original cover on page 222 of this paper. The crudest postage stamp ever issued by any country in the world. We have some genuine used copies of the series priced singly as follows:

5c red on yellow	\$0 05
10c green on yellow	15
25c black on red	25
50c blue on carmine	} set of four 3 00 values
1 bolivar lilac on gray	
2 bolivars lilac on green	
5 bolivars lilac on blue	

The two sets of War Provisionals described above, fine postally used copies, post free, \$4.00

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
 St. Louis, Mo.

OMAHA 4c and 5c WANTED

We want some 4c and 6c Omaha and solicit offers in lots of fifty stamps or over, cash or trade. Make offers; do not send stamps.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 26
WHOLE NO. 78

JULY 27, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

PHILATELY AND WOMAN-KIND

BY AMY L. SWIFT

The idea of a single issue of stamps for the **Australians** Australian Commonwealth, has been for the time being dispelled. A new general Federal issue of uniform designs is to take place, *but the stamps of each state will bear a distinguishing mark or inscription.* The 9 pence of the Federal series has appeared for Victoria, the same design for New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, South and West Australia, will give us six stamps of this same design differing only in inscription. So that philatelically the consolidation of the Australian Commonwealth is for the time being a failure.

✿ ✿
The current New Zealand **Aitutaki** stamps have been surcharged on **N. Z.** with values in native language for use in the little island of Aitutaki:

Ava Pene, in red on ½p. perf. 14.
Tai Pene in blue, on 1p. perf. 14.
Rua Pene Ma Tea Ana, in red on 2½p. perf. 11.
Toru Pene, in blue on 3p. perf. 11.
Ono Pene, " " 6p. " 11.
Tai Tiringe, " " 1sh. " 11.

There are a few more islands in the vicinity of New Zealand, where various native languages are spoken if not written, so that there may be more anon.

✿ ✿
Colombian The 10 pesos recently issued in yellow-green is **New Color** now appearing in mauve. Wove paper, unperforated.

If philatelic woman could only be induced to talk for publication with the same freedom that she uses in confidential chats with her sisters, then undoubtedly philatelic man would read the columns of his various journals with considerably more respect for her, and considerably less unadulterated admiration for what he believes to be the extra brain power of his own sex. But philatelic woman won't. Moreover, she does not even trouble to set him right when he writes a weighty essay deploring the "undeniable fact" that woman takes no interest at all in stamp collecting, compared with the interest taken by man, dabbles in it with merely the tip end of her finger points, and isn't competent to appreciate rare stamps when she happens to get any, or to write a readable article concerning them. "This is a great pity, and really unexplainable," says one such critic of comparatively recent date, "for in the nature of things it would seem as if woman, with her deft touch, quick eyes, and quick intuition in all ways, not to mention her larger amount of leisure, should lead man in the climb up the philatelic mountain instead of its being the other way about, as it undoubtedly is."

Now all this is a bit (rather a big bit, too) unjust to the philatelic woman, but she doesn't care, not she!

Instead she takes that article to read to some other woman of kindred mind, and they laugh over it together with quiet amusement at the well meaning, but misinformed author, who, because he knows few feminine collectors and lacks acquaintance with any work they have accomplished, leaps to the conclusion that both she and her good works are practically non-existent. Then, still smiling, she lays the journal down, and returns to her labor of helping forward the philatelic researches and other like performances of her husband, big brother or cousin, thoroughly content to let them have all the credit even though the work is mainly hers. I know of one little woman whose interest in stamps is probably entirely unknown outside of her own home except to me, and it was purely by accident that I discovered it. Apparently her husband is the philatelist; exchange and approval selections come to him; it is his name which appears in occasional advertisements (as a small dealer); to him publishers send their journals, and he it is who is a member of numerous societies, yet it is his wife who handles the stamps as they come and go, who keeps the collection properly arranged up to date, who does all of what might be called the manual labor of collecting, and this without once putting herself forward to claim a particle of the honor. He, of course, is proud of his album, and incidentally of her, but it never seems to occur to him that without her advice and assistance he would be a pretty poor apology for a philatelist.

This is by no means an isolated case, even in my own limited circle of acquaintances, and very probably every reader of much experience in philatelic matters will be able to recall similar cases where the philatelic woman has so sunken her own individuality in helping forward the interests of some favored philatelic masculine that all concerned give scarcely a thought to her fitness for the honors she has helped another to win. But as remarked once before, she doesn't care. She does not enjoy

leading anyway, and so long as she knows she is qualified and could take a foremost place if she wanted to scabble for it in regular masculine style, she is content to collect and earn in quiet fashion without making much of a show of her wisdom. Besides, so many generations of humanity have decreed that man must stalk on ahead and woman drudge meekly behind ready to bear the burdens he finds too tiresome, that it has long since become second nature to obey the unwritten mandate, and even philatelic woman, for all her learning and energy, hasn't quite courage enough to face the stares and criticisms liable to be bestowed upon her should she undertake to claim a prominent position in the realm of Stampdom. The few who enter the ranks of dealers do so with a sort of apology by dropping the title showing their femininity, trading and advertising with the Christian name replaced by simple initials, e'en as the men folks do. One such dealer in South Africa has a very large business, and has had for years, handling thousands of the most valuable stamps of the section, yet probably only a very few of her many customers know that "G. Killick" is a woman. Nor is this the only instance within my knowledge. Some retain the "Miss" or "Mrs." in their business dealings, but they are few, and none of them are of very important or prominent position.

If philatelic woman chooses to hide her sex by omitting the point of address which would betray her; chooses to let strangers judge her by her knowledge and work instead of by her sex, is the proceeding in any way objectionable? Surely not. Whisper it, friend, but here is a secret. Philatelic woman has by long experience found out that if strangers suppose her to be of the masculine sex they are far more apt to take it for granted that she knows something, and are therefore less likely to send poor exchanges bristling with counterfeits, and generally miserable specimens fit only for the hospital or waste basket. This may seem inconceivable, and

being such an attack on the much famed chivalry of man to woman-kind, I am prepared to have the assertion questioned, but nevertheless my own experience for many years and like experiences of my philatelic sisters fully bear out the charge. Exceptions there are certainly, as I have personal knowledge (all honor to the makers thereof!) but taken as an ordinary rule, the collector who finds he has a woman to deal with expects to get by far the best of the bargain, and is rather liable to think himself abused if she proves wise enough to resent the injustice, and self assertive enough to demand as good exchanges in grade and condition as she sends. One sister once told me during a social confab over the tea cups that the unmarried philatelic woman received better value from foreign exchange correspondence than the married one, and in answer to my laugh gravely told of the favors accorded her by two such correspondents while they thought her a Miss, and the coldness that immediately followed when she finally prefixed a Mrs. to the address that had at first had no prefix, thus accounting for the mistake made by the foreigner. This is rather of an ungallant proceeding on the part of philatelic man, but many are the womankind who think that the above mentioned sister told only the plain, uncomplimentary truth. Sometimes rather comic results are apt to follow a misunderstanding about sex; I once exchanged for several months with a Switzerland collector who seemed to write and understand English so well, albeit some sentences were quaintly worded, that it puzzled me to comprehend why the envelopes were invariably addressed to Mr. or Mon. Amy L. Swift. Finally I gently hinted that I should prefer Miss, as the only title I had a right to, which brought back the amazed reply: "I never dreamed of your being a woman, though the name like a woman's did seem. You knew so much of stamps that I thought of course you would be a man." Evidently that gentleman had a high opinion of philatelic man,

and a poor one of philatelic woman, but the discovery of one woman who knew something about stamps didn't seem to improve his opinion of the despised sex, for from that mail the exchange languished, and soon came to a dead pause, all because of my unfortunate sex!

Another, and very likely the main, reason why philatelic woman does not enjoy taking too prominent a stand before the world is because she occasionally receives some queer, not to say objectionable, letters, although it is only just to philatelic man to say that he does not thus offend very often. When he does, however, the annoyance is great until one can rise far enough above it to see the silliness and laugh it off. One philatelic woman was astonished a while ago on opening a letter from an entire stranger to find that it read about as follows:

"Dear Madame:—I have read with interest and pleasure your articles in various journals, philatelic and otherwise. Have decided that we'd be congenial. Am 30 years of age, perfectly sound in health, have a good farm, unencumbered, on which I pay tax for \$2,000, an income of about \$1,000 per year, and have some \$3,000 in bank. Am of good character, and for proof of same refer you to the following. (Here came names and addresses of three town officials.) As marriage is a lottery anyway, think I am as likely to draw a prize this way as any other. Kindly advise me at once if agreeable to my offer, in which case I will start for your town immediately.

Yours truly," (Signature.)

In common with most maidens, the surprised recipient of this epistle liked romance, but felt there was either too much or too little (she didn't quite feel sure which) of it in that letter, so, of course, made no response whatever to it. For some time she felt pretty sensitive over the thought that she had written anything to lead people to think they might take that sort of liberty with her, and was just getting where she could joke about it when a very fat

letter of twelve closely written pages came from a Missouri town. This, like the other, was from a complete stranger, and proved to contain another offer of marriage couched in rambling language, interspersed with descriptions of the home, the five grown up children, the dead wife's grave, and a promised settlement of \$5,000, clear and unencumbered, on the wedding day. "No second-hand husband for me, I never liked second hand things," said the young dame, and would have consigned the letter to the same oblivion as the other had not the seventy years and evident childishness of the writer seemed to deserve gentler treatment. So it was answered with a polite negative, which, brief as it was, drew out another long letter similar to the first. This being ignored, a third and then a fourth arrived, whereat the angry maiden wrote another "NO" in as emphatic a style as possible. Back came a cheerful response expressing disappointment, and assurances that she was throwing away a good thing, followed by a final "If ever you change your mind about this, let me know, and if I haven't suited myself elsewhere I'll be pleased to re-open the matter." Whereat a hearty laugh banished annoyance, and with the remark that it was plain his heart wasn't broken, the affair was dismissed from mind.

This same philatelic woman has had other letters during the years her name has been before the public, some silly, inviting correspondence "for fun and what may follow," (never answered, of course), some without any apparent reason at all, and some begging for cash on the plea that she ought to enjoy sharing the nominal returns from her genius for writing, with her needy fellows. One wanted \$2.00 "to buy a pair of shoes" to cover feet he described as frozen to the knees for want of them, and a most pitiful letter it was, except for the dirt it bore, and the strong odor of cigarettes. Others begged for stamps on the plea that she must get "so many nice ones." Others—but why continue the list

since surely enough has been said to show that if philatelic man finds a few rocks and stones in his pathway, philatelic woman is no more exempt than he, although hers may be of a kind unknown to him? Strange, almost incomprehensible as it may seem to some readers, that there can be such silly members of the great philatelic family, the above mentioned letters were absolutely real, and not simply invented for the sake of raising a laugh.

I am not quite sure that it will be safe to revert to my previous charge about philatelic man expecting the best of a bargain in a trade with Miss Philatelic Woman, but am reminded in this connection of a very recent case to that point, so will venture to quote it. The man, a dealer whose advertisements appear in certain journals every month as a general thing, offered to trade some of his stock for duplicates of Miss Philatelic Woman's, making quite a favor of exchanging "at even catalogue" instead of the 25 per cent above which he claimed to usually get for his own lots. She acquiesced, sent her stamps, and found she was supposed to be a very ignorant person indeed, for she was offered a faded-out U. S. 3c. rose of 1861 as the "pink" worth \$7.50; another of the same value and issue closely clipped on one side and with only a small margin, also clipped, on the other, as an "imperforate vertically" worth the same amount; a 3c. 1869 showing parts of two grills, due to imperfect registering of the sheets when printing it, as a "very rare double grille" which he would generously let her have for \$5.00 as it wasn't catalogued; another 3c. of the same set whose grill had been smoothed out until it was almost invisible (but still to be seen by the trained eye) which was marked at \$2.50 on account of being "without grille," and a whole raft of fractional match and medicine stamps, hardly a whole one in the lot of one hundred, yet all marked at the full catalogue price of the scarcest variety, regardless of paper or watermark. Now Miss P. W. had given perfect condition, and good quality, and

being a collector of experience knew enough to feel the full insult of receiving such books, but it took energetic expostulations to get decent stamps, and when they did come you would have thought from the way that dealer wrote that he was being cheated shamefully. Some months later she mischievously sent him several variously clipped U. S. 3c. rose and green asking if he would like to buy them for part perforated or imperforated varieties as sub-listed by Scott, and was gleeful when he (forgetting the way he had pushed the claims of his own like belongings in still more closely cut condition) replied that he couldn't think of buying such things as it was entirely too easy to manufacture them with the scissors!

There are always two sides of a shield. If philatelic woman sees some of the unpleasant side she also sees much, and perhaps more, of the pleasant one, and this is the portion she likes best to contemplate and discuss in public, reserving her opinion of the other for the private chats of the sisterhood. She knows well that as far as visible number and visible accomplished labor are concerned she ranks behind philatelic man, but makes slight attempt to put herself further forward, for she knows also that she does much for the cause of which the world has no record, and knowing all this, she is content to let husband, brother, cousin or son claim, and receive credit for, the collection of which she is really the moving spirit and builder.

U. S 1873, 3c Green Fine O. G.

(No. 158 in Catalogue, Priced \$1.00)

Single \$0 50
Block of four 1 75

We have the upper and lower strips with imprint from this sheet subject to offer.
Plate No. 222, Continental B. N. Co.

Also a few No. 184

Single 25
Block of four 1 00
Mint condition, never been hinged.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

NEW AUSTRALIANS

A correspondent in Victoria, Australia, sends us the following clipping from the *Melbourne Argus* of March 8th in relation to new stamps for Australia:

For some reason, not yet explained, the Postmaster-General intends to shortly issue complete sets of Federal stamps in all the states. It was suggested that this should be done last year, but the central postal authorities explained that the idea was impracticable in view of the bookkeeping provisions of the Constitution Act. At the present time each state postal department is carried on as a separate institution so far as its revenue and expenditure are concerned. If a Federal stamp, exchangeable throughout the Commonwealth, was sold in Melbourne and used in Sydney, Victoria would gain the revenue, and New South Wales would have to perform the service of transmission and delivery. This would not be in consonance with the bookkeeping sections, and consequently the suggestion made over twelve months ago was not entertained.

"Since then some of the state Premiers, fearing that the central administration might be tempted to introduce uniform stamps, have protested against the idea, and pointed out how their interests might suffer by such a departure. Senator Drake, however, sees his way not to interfere with state rights and yet to introduce what he describes as 'Australian stamps.' Designs have not been called for publicly, nor for that matter departmentally, but a design has been received by the Postmaster-General, and it will probably be accepted. 'It is the work of an Australian,' he remarked on Saturday. 'We might get finer draughtsmanship by going abroad, say to the United States, but I prefer to have the stamp designed, engraved, and printed in Australia, so that it may be in every sense Australian.'

"It is understood that the King's head which at present figures on all

state stamps will not appear on the Federal stamps, but that something symbolical of the Commonwealth will be substituted. Beneath this symbol the name of the state within which the stamp will have currency and its value will be printed. By this device of issuing sets for each state separately the Federal stamps will not be interchangeable, and therefore the constitution will be observed. The stamps now sold in the various states will not be withdrawn, but no more will be printed, and as the sheets are exhausted Federal stamps will be sold instead."

A LETTER

One of Many that We Receive Continually

ALBANY, N. Y.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 received and was surprised to find so much value for the money, and I hand you herewith check for Packet No. 115—2,000 varieties.

C. V. D. LODGE.

Our packets cannot fail to give satisfaction. They are the best value for the money that can be obtained anywhere. The stamps are not only guaranteed to be genuine, but the condition is above the average. Our business motto for twenty-six years has been "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

ANOTHER

SOUX FALLS, IA., 7-31-03.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Your packet No. 114 received, and can only say that I am very much surprised at the excellent value it contains.

Yours truly,

E. B. JONES.

- 800 different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain \$ 2.50
- 1,000 different postage stamps the best packet of the kind sold in the country 3.25
- 2,000 different postage stamps a collection in itself. 13.50
- 3,000 foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. 45.00
- 4,000 foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. A great bargain. 80.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

- No. 1 — Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
- No. — Full Cloth, gilt lettering.....\$2.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

- NIUE, 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three 70c
- PENNERYN ISL. 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of three 70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

- U. S., 90c carmine and black \$8 00
- Great Britain, £5 orange, fine 8 00
- U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine..... 8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,
411 W. Saratoga St.,
BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

WE ARE OPEN TO BUY FOR CASH

10 to 100—	15c Columbian, used
10 to 100—	30c " "
10 to 100—	50c " "
10 to 100—	\$5.00 Omaha " "
5 to 50—	\$1.00 " "

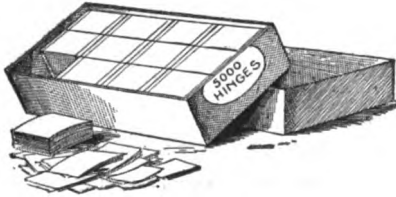
Stamps well centered, perforated on 4 sides, reasonable cancellation. Quote prices and state quantity. Do not send stamps.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 75c per box.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf.....	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark.....	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf.....	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark.....	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c.....	35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue.....	60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp.....	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c.....	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc.....	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds.....	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds.....	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps.....	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c.....	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, - BELGIUM.

THEY KNOW A GOOD THING

When they see it, and that is the reason why so many collectors buy my packet No. 25—"The Flood City Special." This packet contains 50 picked stamps, every specimen perfect, and mostly obsolete issues. The catalogue value of this packet runs from four to five dollars.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR.

No two packets alike. Buy the "Flood City Special" and get satisfaction.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c
ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,

502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

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Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

A POUND



16 OUNCES

EUROPEAN STAMPS

A Great Mixture of Several Hundred Varieties
Sold BY THE POUND.

We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that ran as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, \$1.00 per pound post free, in the United States.

Entire U. S. Envelopes,
Letter Sheets and Wrappers

The most convenient and only satisfactory check list for collectors of "ENTIRES."

Numbers in accordance with Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechart.

Compiled by N. W. CHANDLER in 1895 and absolutely complete up to that date.

Price, - - - 50 Cents.

(Published to sell at \$1.00)

62nd Edition Catalogue

FOR 1903

Post Free for 58 Cents.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO., U. S. A.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

A subscriber anxiously enquires about Mr. Phillips' observation in, "Stamp Collecting as an Investment" that United States stamps "seem rather under a cloud" and the advice to "Avoid Departmentals, Periodicals and Dues."

Mr. Phillips' article is, of course, the opinion of a London dealer and to an American collector is only interesting as a "point of view."

Any well informed American collector knows without going to England for advice, that any investment he may have in U. S. Department stamps is as sound as the best British or British Colonial stamp ever printed.

J. W. L.—The St. Louis World's Fair Gold Coins can still be obtained at \$3.00 each, two varieties, one bearing the head of McKinley and the other Jefferson. They will be sent post free and registered upon receipt of \$6.10. This is simply done as a matter of accommodation to our readers.

A Frequent Question:—"Is the Mourning stamp of Finland genuine, or a bogus issue?" It is neither. This good looking, so-called "Mourning" stamp is not a postage stamp at all, but a Commemorative label issued originally by the Finnish Patriots' Union, on the 4th of August, 1900. On that day, the postage stamps of Finland were used for the last time, henceforth the Russian stamps took their place, and as a mark of national mourning for the last sign of lost independence, the above label was struck on letters besides the proper franking stamp, a proceeding the Russian authorities prohibited at once. The black label with the Arms of Finland and the word "Suomi" (Finnish for Finland) is, therefore, of peculiar interest in itself, but, of course, has no place in a collection of postage stamps.—*The Stamp Collector.*



RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

Unused U.S. Stamps

In fine Mint condition. Order quick.

	Cats. Price	My Price
1861, 3c rose	\$0 15	\$0 07
1862, 2c black	50	23
1869, 2c brown	1 00	50
1873, 2c brown	1 50	50
1879, 15c red orange.....	40	25
1882, 10c brown	30	18
1883, 4c green	12	08
1887, 3c vermilion	12	08
1888, 4c carmine	12	08
1892, 30c Columbias.....	55	40
1892, 50c	75	60
2392, \$2 00	2 50	2 25
1898, 50c Omaha	80	65
1898, \$2 00	3 00	2 50
1901, Pan-American		
Complete Set 1c. to 10c.....	57	50
Special Delivery 10c orange ..	20	15

N. W. CHANDLER,

Collinsville, - - - Illinois.

GOOD STAMPS AT LOW PRICES

Old Porto Ricans this Time, and Every One a Bargain.

1873, 50c brown, fine, at.....	\$0 25
1875, 50c green, superb, at	40
1877, 5c brown, fine, at.....	30
1877, 10c carmine, scarce, at.....	75
1877, 15c green, very rare, at.....	1 25
All of the above used. Cash with order.	

Don't let these Bargains get away from you.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

PLATE NUMBERS

CUBA ON U. S. STAMPS

Three stamps with imprint and plate number, unused mint.

1c green, 564 bottom	\$0 10
565	10
566	10
570	10
571	10
572	10
573	10
574	10
Same number sides each	08
2c carmine, 475 bottom.....	20
(surch. 2½) 556	20
560	20
561	20
568	20
569	20
570	20
571	20
753	20
758	20
759	20
760	20
Same numbers sides, each... ..	18
3c violet 447 Top or Bottom	30
448	30
449	30
5c blue 389	30
390	30
592	30
407	30
408	30
409	30
410	30
Set of 4 plate numbers, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 5c all bottoms	75
Set of 5 single stamps, 1, 2½, 3, 5, and 10c	50

All these are U. S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, and are in fine unused condition.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ills.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 28
WHOLE No. 80

AUGUST 3, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The new series of Canadian stamps bearing the head of King Edward VII., issued July 1st and illustrated in our paper of July 6th, had for its sponsor no less a personage than the Prince of Wales, himself a philatelist. The *London Philatelist* gives the following very interesting information on the subject:

"The Postmaster of Canada, Sir William Muloch, one of the many distinguished visitors to this country during the Coronation festivities, took the opportunity afforded by his visit of approaching the Prince of Wales, and of meeting His Royal Highness's suggestions and advice in the preparation of a new die for the Canadian stamps. The Prince, with his characteristic energy and courtesy, cheerfully undertook the task, with absolute and conspicuous success. H. R. H. wisely decided, in the first instance, that it is advisable to have some continuity of design in succeeding issues, and therefore adopted the frame and groundwork of the then current stamps as his basis. In selecting a portrait of His Majesty the Prince decided to rely upon a photograph giving a true likeness of the King as we knew him, in lieu of an idealised representation by an artist. The photograph eventually chosen, with the full approval of His Majesty, was one taken shortly before the Coronation.

"The likeness is undoubtedly what is termed a speaking one, and with

the addition of the Coronation robes represents as faithful and as pleasing a picture of the King, at the time of his accession to the throne, as it is possible to find. The introduction of the Tudor crowns in the upper angles, which was another of the Prince's innovations, obviates the difficulty that has so often made 'the head that wears a crown' lie 'uneasy' on a postage stamp. These emblems of sovereignty, taken in conjunction with the Canadian maple leaves in the lower angles, complete a design that for harmony, boldness, and simplicity has assuredly not been excelled by any hitherto issued stamps of the British Empire. It is palpable, on analysing the stamp, (1) that the attractiveness of the design has in no way been allowed to militate against its utility, for its country of origin and denomination are clearly expressed; (2) that the boldness of the design has not been detracted from (as is so often the case) by superfluous ornamentation, and that the design has been artistically balanced by the introduction of the *right-sized portrait* and the proper treatment of light and shade.

"The members of the London Philatelic Society most heartily tender their congratulations to their Royal President upon his very successful initial effort as a designer of postage stamps, and they cannot but regard it as a very happy vindication of the useful side of Philately. The Prince of Wales has once more shown that he is no *roi fainéant* in Philately, and the whole collecting world will hope that this happy initiative may be followed by the co-operation of H. R. H. in the production of new stamps for the mother country, an event which, if we are correctly informed, is now engaging the attention of the home authorities."

A GIGANTIC WASTE

Probably the chain letter scheme of a certain Miss Griffin of Sydney, New South Wales, came under the notice of the majority of collectors in the last year. The letter was worded somewhat as follows: "An effort is being made to furnish a ward for children in a small hospital near Sayne Mills, New South Wales, Australia. At present children can only be admitted when there is a vacancy in the men and women's ward. A philanthropic friend has agreed if one million *used* stamps are sent to him on a date named by the government, it will be enough to build a ward, and your help is asked. Please make three copies of this letter and send them to three of your friends. Put on your letter the number next higher than this one is numbered. Return this letter to Miss Griffin, Maylore, New South Wales, Australia. Enclose ten (or more) used stamps, also the addresses of your friends with it. Anyone not willing to help will please send this letter to Miss Griffin that she may know the chain is broken. It may seem a small matter to you, yet breaking the chain involves a serious loss to the cause. Anyone receiving No. 180 will send the copy to Miss Griffin without making any copies as that will complete the chain."

These letters, or a part of them are now being offered for sale by a firm in this country, in an unopened condition, just as received. This firm claims to have bought them, and is offering them at 50 cents per hundred or \$30.00 per ten thousand, express extra. Here is a chance for a good mathematician to do a lot of computation. The promoter of promoters took the precaution to stop the chain by the sentence asking that those receiving No. 180 return it without continuing the chain. They evidently allowed a good margin for persons expected to make a break in the chain, for had it continued unbroken to the 180th degree, the number of letters received would exceed a million million, in fact the figures would be beyond mortal comprehen-

sion, much less handling. But we will assume that there were received the exact sum of one million letters, which is a modest estimate, and one greatly exceeded by a well-known chain letter conducted some years ago in this country. This would mean 500,000 letters with stamps and 500,000 letters returned merely because they were No. 180 and the end of the chain. It is not certain at what price they were sold by the original recipient, but at the rate at which the present holder is offering them they would bring \$3,000 per million. Of course he had to pay freight from Australia on them, so that it is safe to say that he certainly did not pay, and the hospital (if there is one) receive for them over \$2,000 per million. Now, of course, this would build a ward of some kind and accomplish the purpose originally stated, but at what a cost! Every person receiving and continuing the chain letter wasted a sheet of paper, an envelope, and his or her time in writing three letters of the length of above. These, I say, were absolutely wasted and we will not account for them. In addition, each person spent two cents each on the three letters sent to friends, for I notice that in most cases the letters were sent to friends in different localities from that of the writer, and paid five cents postage to send the letter to New South Wales. This makes a total of eleven cents cash for each person, or seven cents to each letter. One million letters at seven cents each is \$70,000. These are now selling at less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent apiece, or \$3,000, making a dead loss or wastage of \$67,000 on each million. We might have built several hospitals for the mere waste this scheme caused. In addition to the above, each person wasted the ten or more used stamps which were enclosed. I purchased 100 of the unopened letters and found them to contain about 3,000 stamps, mostly common U. S. stamps, but there were a few good ones, notably a fine copy of the 12 cent 1872. The advertiser stated that often unused stamps were found in them, people

thinking that unused stamps were wanted instead of used, but I found none in this lot. The letters varied somewhat in wording, often so much so as to make it seem that several original letters of different wording must have been started. In most of the letters it speaks of 1,000,100 stamps as the desired number but in others it speaks of 7,000,000 and 8,000,000.

But the most curious feature of all was the addresses on the outside of the envelopes. Of all the 100 I received there were no two addressed exactly alike and I can in no way account for such a remarkable record. I wonder if I had got ten thousand they would have showed the same variation. They were all mailed from the United States except one from Belgium and addressed to Miss (or Mrs.) Griffin, in New South Wales and doubtless reached their destination as they show the Sydney postmark, but the name of the town or post office is in every case different. The postal authorities had doubtless become so acquainted with the name that had it been addressed to Miss Griffin with no further hint of location it would have reached her. As there are no two names alike I am not able to determine just what the correct address was but it seems, from the majority of evidence to have been something like Malvern Mills or Melvin Mills, near Sydney, New South Wales, and most of the written addresses were mere errors in reading the address, though how such could occur I am at loss to know, for in looking over the 100 letters I find an astonishing excellence of legibility in the writing and the name of the person to be addressed perfectly distinct in every case. Some of the names are far-fetched and it does not become apparent how they could have been obtained; for instance: Bockden, Keepsville, Washingtonville, Hartsville, Huntsville, Wash Shields, Sayne Mills, Moon Hills, etc., but the most of them could be traced to a common origin, such as Malvern Mills, Melins Hills, Malone Mills, Marlin Hill, Merwins Mills, Muldoon Milk, Wal-

den Hills, Meloo Hills, Mooleys Milk, Melvinville, Melyune, Melzine, and scores of other curious variations.

But to revert back to the cause of this article, the enormous waste involved in bestowing such charity. I wish the author of this scheme and all who shall ever try to emulate it might be made aware of the enormity of their offence against good manners, (in such conspicuous begging), against honesty (in bringing artfully in the name of the government), against good sense (in causing such a waste) and against hypocrisy (in veiling such a scheme under the cloak of charity that no one likes to refuse. I think that if the writers of the letters could have known in advance what disposition was to be made of their communications they would have absolutely refused to have anything to do with it, for it is not pleasant to think of having one's correspondence hawked about the country, unopened by the recipient. I wish it might become known to all who helped out the chain what was the destination of their efforts.

Perhaps it may seem strange that I should have purchased and opened these letters, but my object was neither gain by lottery, nor curiosity, but to be able to publish what I can only characterize as a gigantic swindle. CHARLES E. JENNEY.

ADD SOMETHING GOOD TO YOUR U. S. COLLECTION

- U. S. 1861, 1c blue on laid paper, a fine lightly cancelled copy, Scott's No. 63a, priced \$25...\$16 00
- Pan American 1c with inverted center, a superb mint copy never hinged ... 25 00
- Pan American 2c with inverted center, a bonafide used copy, paid postage New York to Victoria, Australia 125 00
- Pan American 1c with inverted center, used on original cover 20 00
- Same, an unused copy one straight edge but good margins, used mint 17 00
- U. S. 1873, 3c green, double paper, unused, Scott's No. 158e, rare unused..... 10 00
- U. S. Carrier, Louisville, Ky., Wharton's 2c bluish-green, No. 841, mint 7 50
- U. S. 1869, 90c black and carmine 8 00
- U. S. Revenue, \$200.00, first issue, fine copy... 8 00

Any of above will be sent on Approval.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

THE KIWI

The 6c New Zealand shows the bird commonly known as the "Kiwi," its scientific name being *Apteryx Mantelli*. It is the lowest form of bird which exists, but is so scarce that scientists are happy to get a specimen in any condition. It is absolutely without wings or tail; its legs are short, stubby, but very strong, and are used by these birds for digging.

The body covering is a cross between hair and feathers—a material which is very coarse. They can develop great speed and put up a desperate fight when attacked. A peculiar trait is that during the day they conceal themselves under rocks or roots of trees, and when at rest resemble to some extent a hedgehog when it is coiled up. Breeding them in captivity has utterly failed, and only few museums can boast of a specimen.

They are now very rarely found in the forests and swamps on the north of New Zealand.

CANADA WANTED

Used lots of any of the following wanted for cash or good trade:

½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c, 1872-'93
20 and 50c, 1893
1, 2, 5, 8 and 10c, 1897
½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Maple Leaf, 1897
½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Numeral, 1898
2c Maps \$3.00 per 1,000, in trade only
2c on 3c, 3.00
7 and 20c Queens Heads
5, 7 and 10 Kings Heads

2c and 5c Registered, \$5.00 per 1,000, in trade only.
Write stating quantity before sending stamps.
None of the common values wanted.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

OFFICIAL STAMPS

On the subject of official stamps with perforated initials to signify their character, Mr. Fulcher, editor of *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, remarks:

"Quite lately we have seen some Australian stamps, which, instead of being overprinted 'O. S.', are perforated with these initials and we have heard a rumour that this method will be adopted by the Board of Education for their stamps, a practice which may extend to the other Government Departments using special stamps. Now will these punctured stamps be

collectible or rather, for anything is collectible, will they be collected and catalogued. For those who collect stamps *surcharged* 'O. S.' or 'I. R. OFFICIAL,' etc., logic seems to compel the collection of stamps *perforated* with these words. But then on the other hand, as a matter of fact, there is at the present time, a decided tendency to ignore the old official stamps of Western Australia, which are only distinguished from the ordinary one by a piece punched out. The topic which thus arises for discussion involves some very nice points, for if 'initial-perforated' official stamps are not worth cataloguing them why catalogue the overprinted stamps and if they are, where, especially in British stamps, is the line to be drawn?"

SURE ENOUGH. WHERE?

The optimist who pens the Washington Notes for the *Metropolitan Philatelist* suggests the following:

"With the numbers of collectors of stamps, and especially United States stamps, steadily increasing, and very few collections being offered for sale, did the question ever occur to you: 'Where will dealers secure their stocks of U. S. stamps ten years hence?'"

STAMP NEWS

Stamps come in for their share of public attention these days. The following from the *World's Events*:

"LOUISIANA PURCHASE STAMP.

"The Postoffice Department is considering the issue of a set of stamps in connection with the St. Louis exposition and which shall commemorate the Louisiana Purchase. If issued, the present idea is that a profile of Jefferson shall appear on one and of Napoleon I. on another, these two being the prominent characters connected with the Purchase. The two other stamps of the proposed series will bear the heads of two personages connected with the later history of the event, and without much doubt that of the late President McKinley would be one of these while that of

President Loubet of France is suggested as the other. The propriety of placing the head of a foreign ruler on a stamp issued by our government is questioned by some authorities. It is a rule of the Department not to place the head of any living American on any stamp, but this may not be extended so as to exclude Loubet. In this connection it may be of interest to recall that in printing the stamps of the Pan-American Exposition series, one sheet of the two and four-cent and two sheets of the one-cent were, by mistake, printed with the black vignette inside the colored border upside down, and were thus sent out to postmasters. Instead of injuring their value, stamp collectors pay \$200 to \$300 for the two and four-cent and \$25 for the one-cent specimens.

Unused U.S. Stamps

In fine Mint condition. Order quick.

	Cata. Price	My Price
1861, 3c rose.....	\$0 15	\$0 07
1862, 2c black.....	50	23
1869, 2c brown.....	1 00	50
1873, 2c brown.....	1 50	50
1879, 15c red orange.....	40	25
1882, 10c brown.....	30	18
1883, 4c green.....	12	08
1887, 3c vermilion.....	12	08
1888, 4c carmine.....	12	08
1892, 30c Columbias.....	55	40
1892, 50c	75	60
2892, \$2 00	2 50	2 25
1898, 50c Omaha.....	80	65
1898, \$2 00	3 00	2 50
1901, Pan-American Complete Set 1c. to 10c.....	57	50
Special Delivery 10c orange.....	20	15

N. W. CHANDLER,

Collinsville, - - - Illinois.

U.S. Private Proprietaries, 1898

Antikamnia, 2½c.....	\$0 25
Emerson Drug Co., ½c.....	05
C. H. Fletcher, 1½c.....	10
Hostetter Co., 2½c.....	15
Johnson & Johnson, ½c.....	03
Lanman & Kemp, ¾c.....	10
Lanman & Kemp, 1¾c.....	20
J. Ellwood Lee Co., ¾c.....	10
Piso Co., ¾c.....	05
Radway & Co.....	10
Dr. Williams Med. Co., 1½c.....	10

Catalogue value..... \$1 23

The above lot of 11 stamps for 50c

Complete set of seven, Chas. Marchand, mint slate, ½, 1½, 2½, 3½, 4½, 7½c for..... \$2.50

Complete set of five, J. Ellwood Lee Co., ½, ¾, 1, 2½, 5c for..... .50

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

BARGAINS FOR DEALERS!

100 Cuba 2½ on 2c U. S. (catalogued 8c each) unused o. g. fine..... \$2 50
 100 Cuba 3c on 3c U. S., a scarce stamp, fine o. g..... 5 00

50 supplied at same rate.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

...VENEZUELA... WAR PROVISIONALS

Type set, series of 1902, issued at CARUPANO, catalogued Nos. 157 to 161 consisting of 5 values, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and 1 bolivar, complete set unused, 80c Same guaranteed postal cancellation \$1.25 for complete set.

Series of 1903

See illustration of an original cover on page 222 of this paper. The crudest postage stamp ever issued by any country in the world. We have some genuine used copies of the series priced singly as follows:

5c red on yellow.....	\$0 05
10c green on yellow.....	15
25c black on red.....	25
50c blue on carmine.....	
1 bolivar lilac on gray.....	} set of four 3 00 values
2 bolivars lilac on green.....	
5 bolivars lilac on blue.....	

The two sets of War Provisionals described above, fine postally used copies, post free, \$4.00

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

PLATE NUMBERS CUBA ON U. S. STAMPS

Three stamps with imprint and plate number, unused mint.

1c green, 564 bottom.....	\$0 10
565	10
566	10
570	10
571	10
572	10
573	10
574	10
Same number sides each.....	08

2c carmine, 475 bottom.....	20
(surch. 2½) 556	20
560	20
561	20
568	20
569	20
570	20
571	20
753	20
758	20
759	20
760	20
Same numbers sides, each.....	18

3c violet 447 Top or Bottom.....	30
448	30
449	30
5c blue 389	30
390	30
592	30
407	30
408	30
409	30
410	30

Set of 4 plate numbers, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 5c all bottoms..... 75
 Set of 5 single stamps, 1, 2½, 3, 5, and 10c..... 50

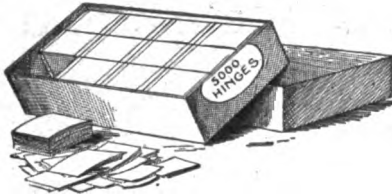
All these are U. S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, and are in fine unused condition.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ills.

WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO. ILLS.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX



IMPORTED GERMAN HINGES.

Many of our correspondents have become accustomed to the non-peelable German hinge and cannot be satisfied with any other.

They come in boxes of 5,000 which are sent post free for 75c per box.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c	35
100 Holland, 50c. current issue	60
100 Holland, 50c. large stamp	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, - - BELGIUM

HERE THEY ARE!

The Biggest Stamp Bargains of the Season.

1903, Paraguay, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60c, all unused, the set for	\$0 65
Short set of four varieties, 1, 2, 5 and 10c.	15
1901, British Protectorate, 1c to 50c, 14 varieties, fine	1 00
1898, Nyassa, 2½r to 300r, complete, unused	75
1892, Mozambique Co., 5r to 300r, fine, unused	75

STAMPS ON APPROVAL:

Fine stamps at 50 per cent discount sent on approval to responsible parties. Reference required.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c
ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

- Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s. Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
- Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s. Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
- Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s., Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues, Gibbons 60c, Scotts 59c., post free. Circulars free.

\$2.00 OMAHA

TRANSMISSISSIPPI SERIES

A lot of 25 copies of this stamp, unused o. g., perforated four sides, catalogued \$3.00, has been placed in our hands for sale at \$2.50 each. An exceptional chance to get a good stamp.

OTHE NGLE STAMPS.

Single copies of the following stamps are offered at the following net prices:

* Indicates Unused.

*U. S. 1847, 10c (The Government counterfeit made to complete display at Centennial Exposition)	\$2 00
*U. S. 1851, 1c, Reprint perforated 12, Type I.	3 50
*Executive, 1c "Specimen"	1 50
*Justice, 2c "Specimen"	1 00
*Treasury, 24c fine o. g.	00
*War, 7c fine o. g.	75
*Newspaper, 1895 - \$100.00 purple, original postally cancelled with round punch	1 75
*U. S. 1869, 90c carmine and black, proof, gummed and perforated	5 00
*U. S. Washington Match Co., 1c black, fine o.g	95
*Gt. Britain, 1867-82, 5s. rose, w'm'k Maltese Cross, o. g., over printed "Specimen" in small black letters	2 25
*Gt. Britain, 1883-84, 10sh ultramarine on blue paper, overprinted "Specimen" in small black letters, worth \$200.00 without surch.	12 50
Gt. Britain, 1867-82, £5 orange, superb copy with small cancellation	8 00
U. S. State Dept., 3c green, ribbed paper, used	3 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO. St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES

The stamps of Porto Rico bearing the surcharge "HABILITADO—17 OCTUBRE—1898" are *fraudulent*. They are being extensively advertised by Bela Szekula of Geneva, Switzerland.

A five krona stamp is in preparation for Sweden. It will be oblong in shape, about the size of the official stamps, and will show a picture of the new Central Post Office at Stockholm. On the back the word *Osalj-bart* (Unsaleable) will be printed, to prevent its being used by the public in place of money.

The following announcement was recently printed in Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*:

"We have to give notice that we have withdrawn from sale *all* kinds of *unused* English Official stamps, including *O. W. Official, Army Official, R. H. Official, etc., etc.*, and in future we do not propose to buy or sell any of these stamps in an unused condition *unless* the authorities decide to sell such stamps at their nominal value."

Collectors will find the "PREMIER COLLECTING ALBUMS" published by Bright & Son very useful in forming and handling a collection until such time as one is ready to make the final arrangement. The albums are also ideal for duplicates and sales books. An extended price-list, with full description, was published in our magazine of June 22nd.

Something is bound to be doing in Servia. Otto Bickel, the European dealer who has gained some reputation in connection with issues of Montenegro and San Marino, has gone to Belgrade.

The first is a surcharged series, on which the Servian arms, obliterate the portrait of the late King.

Peter I stamps will then follow in due course.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERALS

The *Australian Philatelist*, in commenting upon the new Federal 9 penny stamp, says:

"We cannot compliment the authorities on their design; we illustrate the stamp in question and leave our readers to form their own opinion of the abortion. The design was taken from a medal in the possession of Postmaster-General Drake. The order of the names of the States on the arch was so arranged as to place the oldest State nearest to the mother earth from which the arch rears. The *Argus* publishes the following with reference to the design:—'Several hundreds of pounds were expended in obtaining suitable designs for the first Commonwealth flag and seal. But no invitation was publicly extended, or even issued departmentally, to anyone to submit designs for the first Federal stamp to be printed in the union. The new stamp, of which we publish a copy, is not therefore the choice of the Postmaster-General after examining specimens of the best draughtsmanship that Australia can produce, but simply a selection made by Senator Drake from a few designs which were furnished to him by persons whose names have not been disclosed. The stamp cannot be regarded as an artistic triumph, and regret will probably be felt that the Postal authorities should issue what is claimed to be a distinctly Australian stamp without taking the trouble to obtain designs from the best artists available. The new stamp will be issued in New South Wales and Queensland almost immediately. * * * As they are required in large numbers for telegrams the Federal stamp will probably be welcomed. Victoria has a large stock of stamps of all denominations on hand, so none of the new stamps will be issued in this State for the present. The general colour of the Federal stamps will be brown, but the name of the State in which it is to be current and the figure denoting its value will be printed in blue on a white background.'"

COLUMBUS UP TO DATE

Sir William Laird Clowes writes to *Ewen's Weekly*: "On some of the values of the new St. Kitts-Nevis stamps Columbus is shown in the act of sighting land through a telescope. Those who are responsible for the issue might have discovered, had they chosen to make enquiries, that the telescope was not invented until after Columbus's time. The error is as anachronistic as that of the artist who depicted Abraham as about to shoot Isaac with a pistol."

A LETTER

One of Many that We Receive Continually

ALBANY, N. Y.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 received and was surprised to find so much value for the money, and I hand you herewith check for Packet No. 115—2,000 varieties.
C. V. D. LODGE.

Our packets cannot fail to give satisfaction. They are the best value for the money that can be obtained anywhere. The stamps are not only guaranteed to be genuine, but the condition is above the average. Our business motto for twenty-six years has been "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

ANOTHER

SIOUX FALLS, IA., 7-31-03.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Your packet No. 114 received, and can only say that I am very much surprised at the excellent value it contains.

Yours truly,

E. B. JONES.

800 different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain \$ 2.50

1,000 different postage stamps the best packet of the kind sold in the country 3.25

2,000 different postage stamps a collection in itself. 13.50

3,000 foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector. 45.00

4,000 foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. A great bargain. 80.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Stamp Albums

All previous quotations on **International Postage Stamp Albums** are hereby cancelled, we find that the division of the book into 19th and 20th Century Editions makes this work unsatisfactory to our trade, and we do not handle them.

Scott's Best Album

provides spaces for all stamps up to August, 1902, in one edition.

PRICES, POST FREE

No. 1—Board Cover, Cloth Back, \$1.00
No. 2—Full Cloth, gilt lettering.....\$2.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....20c	50 books.....\$0 75
10 .......35c	100 .......1 25
25 .......50c	250 .......2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. g.

NIUE, 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three..... 70c
PENRHYN ISL, 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of three..... 70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black \$8 00
Great Britain, £5 orange, fine 8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine..... 8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,
411 W. Saratoga St.,
BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

WE ARE OPEN TO BUY FOR CASH

10 to 100—	15c Columbian, used
10 to 100—	30c
10 to 100—	50c
10 to 100—	50c Omaha
5 to 50—	\$1.00

Stamps well centered, perforated on 4 sides, reasonable cancellation. Quote prices and state quantity. Do not send stamps.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

The Philatelic School Room

AN EXPANSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE "TALKS TO YOUNG COLLECTORS"

CONDUCTED BY LOUIS G QUACKENBUSH

[Continued from page 212, MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR of May 25, 1903.]

The sessions of this school have been few and far between of late, a state of affairs which no one can regret more than myself. But it is not always easy to do what one wants to do or find the time for even the most congenial tasks. He who addresses you in this department is a very busy man, indeed; and for a few months back has been fairly forced into irregularity as regards the holding of these informal philatelic talks of ours. But for the coming Fall and Winter you may depend upon it that the sessions will be more regular, and also, I trust, more interesting and helpful. Of letters from my readers expressing satisfaction and pleasure in this department I have received a goodly number in the past year; and lately they have been seasoned with complaint and disappointment over our "now-and-then" mode of appearance. But I shall try to "make it all up to you," as the saying goes, during the next year by enlarging still further the scope and interest of the department. This month I cannot promise anything more than usual. But I have it in mind to introduce some fresh features, commencing next month, which I trust you will all appreciate.

For the benefit of new subscribers to the COLLECTOR it should perhaps be said here that the aim of this department is to give aid, instruction, and encouragement to young collectors and to novices in Philately, whether young in years or not. To advanced and experienced collectors, many of the matters taken up herein may appear trivial and commonplace. Therefore, if you are old in philatelic wisdom and have unwittingly wandered into this school room along with

the youngsters, you will very likely save yourself from being sadly bored if you retreat now while there is time before school commences.

In the last session, we proceeded as far as Norway in our rough general review of the stamps of the different countries mentioned in Scott's Catalogue. This review, it should be explained to newcomers, is a rapid-fire one, designed to treat only a few points regarding the availability of the stamps of each country from a young collector's standpoint. It is hoped that these talks will help young collectors to lay out their philatelic pocket money to better purpose. In previous talks many points have been considered and many general rules laid down that render it unnecessary to give attention to like points that otherwise would be dealt with now in some of these countries along toward the end of the catalogue. Newcomers wishing to make use of this department intelligibly will, therefore, probably do well to secure the back numbers containing previous instalments of the department.

Nossi Be is the first country we come to this month and it is not one that should greatly engage the attention of the young collector. A large number of different varieties are listed in the catalogue, but all except a dozen or so are surcharges priced, on the average, at from \$2.00 to \$7.00 apiece. For any young collector to pay these prices for French Colonial surcharges (or, indeed, any surcharges), would, of course, be little short of madness. In fact, few advanced collectors even, on this side of the Atlantic pay much attention to French Colonials on account of their lack of interest, due to unending sameness of type. For a few cents you can buy the 1c, 2c, 4c

and 5c of 1894 and these will be amply sufficient to represent the Colony of Nossi Be in your collection. Of course, if you wish, you can get the whole 1894 set at small expenditure and make a fine showing.

Nova Scotia is a country of rarities. Out of her thirteen varieties, only three are priced reasonably enough to be within range of the average young collector's pocket. By all means have these three on your want list. Nova Scotia ceased issuing stamps of her own a great many years ago; and Nova Scotian stamps yearly grow scarcer. Any one of them in good condition that you can secure for a dollar or less is an excellent purchase. And one such stamp will in the long run give you more satisfaction than a hundred "penny stamps." It takes nerve for a young collector to spend a dollar for some good old stamp, when the market is flooded with new issues at a few cents each; but it pays in the long run.

Nyassa is another country whose stamps do not merit much notice at your hands. The issues of 1897 and 1898 are nothing but Mozambique stamps overprinted "Nyassa" in small letters; and for young collectors to spend money in duplicating sets differing only in the overprint is, as I have often before pointed out, in the highest degree inadvisable. One variety each from the '97 and '98 sets will adequately represent the entire series. The 1901 issue of Nyassa consists of handsome and very showy designs printed in two colors; and of these, for their inherent attractiveness, the young collector will doubtless wish to secure the complete set. Buy uncanceled ones, rather than the canceled, because almost all of the latter on the market belong to the "postmarked to order" class. In other words they are sold, already canceled, to stamp dealers, direct from the Nyassa Company's London offices—very few specimens in collections having actually done postal duty in Nyassaland.

Obock has given us some of the most unique and picturesque stamps to be found in our albums, and her issues

are great favorites with young collectors. The triangular "camel" stamps are a little costly, according to the standard of the novice, but the handsome set of 1894 may be secured complete without extravagant outlay. The Unpays are undesirable for any young collector to meddle with. Their collection (this applies to all Unpays, not simply to those of Obock) is constantly becoming more and more unpopular, and it seems probable that in a few years they will disappear entirely from catalogues and albums. Do not therefore waste your money on a class of stamps that will without doubt ultimately be barred out of all representative collections.

Oldenburg stamps are exceedingly interesting, as having such a flavor of the antique about their design. The majority of them are priced too high for the young collector's purse; but there are some half dozen or so that can be bought reasonably. You will search in vain for them on ordinary approval sheets and had best buy them from the catalogue. Do not buy them of any but a thoroughly high class and experienced dealer, as there are many Oldenburg forgeries afloat. Many small and inexperienced dealers, who would not knowingly handle fraudulent stamps, lack the knowledge to detect the falsity of stamps which they are not accustomed to handling; hence the need of buying such stamps as these Oldenburgs of large and reliable firms.

Next we come to the stamps of the *Orange Free State*, under which head the catalogue gives a long list of varieties. If, however, we leave the surcharges out of consideration (as every young collector will find it to his advantage to do) the list is found to be much shorter and the number of eligible varieties few, indeed. The handful of separate, unsurcharged varieties are practically all within the young collector's means and are interesting and desirable stamps. Nice specimens of these stamps, small as are their catalogue prices, are not over plentiful; the great bulk of those appearing on ordinary approval

sheets being of poor caliber. But, as we have so often said before, it will pay you to wait for the nice specimens. Of course, we cannot expect that stamps of such comparative roughness of execution will exhibit all the beauties of the latest British Colonial; but a fair standard of perfection should be exacted.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Co. stamps need not engage our attention, as, without exception, genuine specimens of them cost several dollars each.

Paraguay is a country in which a fine showing can be secured at comparatively small expenditure. There is pleasing diversity of design and the designs are also of an interesting character. The official stamps may profitably be passed by.

Skipping *Parma* (whose stamps few of you are likely to get a glimpse of until you become advanced collectors and acquire a fondness for high-class stock books) we come next to *Persia*. I regard *Persia* as one of the countries which you will find it profitable to give special attention to. Persian stamps have never been popular, and this is one cause for the lowness of their prices. But to my mind there are few more interesting pages in an album than those containing a nice showing of Persian varieties. You will be astonished to find on studying the catalogue how many of them are listed at less than 25c each. In fact, there are fifty or more varieties listed at less than *ten cents each*; and probably obtainable at 25 per cent discount. *Persia* has issued a large number of different varieties, and if you are ambitious and want to do a little mild specialising, you could select few better countries.

Peru is a country that has issued an enormous number of varieties and which the average young collector finds a very fertile field. The earlier issues are picturesque and interesting, while some of the later issues rank among the most handsome in our albums. Peruvian stamps are also, as a rule, quite low in price, and by patient building up, stamp by stamp, a very nice showing can be

made without heavy outlay. The Chilean occupation surcharges are of more interest than most overprints, because of the historical significance attaching to them; and a few of the cheaper varieties may very properly be added. The Unpaid, also, are so attractive and inexpensive that, however much we may deprecate the collecting of Unpaid, in this instance they may well be given space.

Philippine Islands is, of course, a cardinal favorite with every one of you. Since Uncle Sam took possession of these faraway islands, all sorts and classes of collectors have been eager to complete their Philippine pages and Philippine stamps have experienced an unexampled boom. Get as many of them as you please and you will be working for the good of your collection. I would, however, advise that more attention be devoted to the early issues than to the later ones, inasmuch as the former will undoubtedly grow harder and harder to procure in desirable condition as time goes by. The newspaper stamps are poor stuff—so are the surcharged Telegraphs and Revenues. With these exceptions Philippine stamps may well engage your amplest attention.

Ponta Delgada is another of the many Portuguese Colonies using stamps of precisely the same type. A couple of specimens to relieve the barren blankness of the page will amply suffice here until your collection has reached a more advanced stage.

As regards *Porto Rico*, next in order for consideration, I can hardly do better than refer you to the remarks made in regard to Philippine stamps. Whatever is said of them is equally applicable to the stamps of *Porto Rico*.

Portugal is a country whose stamps possess considerable monotony of design, especially in view of the fact that many of the same designs have also done service for Portugal's numerous colonial dependencies. There are other countries on whose stamps your philatelic pocket money can be better expended. A specimen of each type, so far as is possible, may be considered desirable. The pictorial

issues of 1895 and 1898 are very attractive and interesting, and these you should by all means secure. Though ranking among speculative and unnecessary issues, they are too beautiful to be passed by. And their cost is, in any case, a mere bagatelle. *Portuguese Congo* and *Portuguese India* I need not specially deal with. The stamps of the latter possession are many in number, but even more monotonous in design than those of the mother country. What the young collector should seek is *interesting* stamps—stamps that add appreciably to the interest and attractiveness of his collection—and a few of the stamps of Portugal and its colonials will “go a long way.”

The stamps of *Prince Edward Island* are, unfortunately, most of them in the “dollar class.” Six or seven of them, however, may be secured quite cheaply in an unused state; and these ought certainly to figure in your want list. These good old issues that came out long before governmental officials commenced to issue stamps with an eye to their sale to collectors are the class that is best worth having; and one stamp of *Prince Edward Island*, for instance, will really do more to build up your collection than a dozen “current issues” from the countries that make a business of catering to stamp collectors.

Prussia did not issue a great number of stamps ere her separate philatelic identity was lost in that of the German Empire; and a fair representation on the Prussian page can be secured at reasonable cost. You may not feel as much interested in these plain, rather commonplace Prussian stamps as in some of the more beautifully engraved productions of today; but like those of *Prince Edward Island* above mentioned they are of the ancient and honorable class and possess a permanent, deep seated interest such as few modern issues can inspire. It will not be an easy matter for you to acquire a number of nice specimens of Prussian stamps. Few dealers have many of them in stock, despite the lowness of their list prices.

Moreover, reprints and forgeries of Prussian stamps exist in considerable numbers: hence it is not safe to choose your Prussians from approval lots submitted by small dealers. Despite all these drawbacks, Prussian stamps are worth looking for. There are few series of stamps so long obsolete that still sell at such modest prices. When you get to the stage where you wish to commence to complete the easier countries, Prussia will probably be one of the first to engage your attention, on account of the small number of its varieties. It is well, therefore, to get a good start on it now while your collection is still in the embryonic stage.

Queensland stamps possess the beauty and interest common to practically all the British Colonials; and a great many of the varieties are as cheap as the commonest European stamps. The only advice that need be given in regard to *Queensland* stamps is to be a little fastidious as regards condition. In prime condition, *Queensland* as well as almost all other Queen's head stamps are exceedingly beautiful and a great ornament to one's album. But it takes only two or three heavily canceled or dingy and faded specimens to spoil the whole appearance of an otherwise fine page of them. Therefore, be somewhat particular as to cleanliness, freshness of color, and freedom from absolute disfigurement by cancellation when you buy *Queensland* stamps. Of course, I assume that you will buy used specimens, on account of their lower cost as compared with unused ones. Many unused *Queenslands* are by no means expensive, however, and in some cases it would be preferable to buy them instead of the used ones—as, for instance, when you have been trying for some time to find a good used specimen of a variety needed to complete a set and have failed to secure one wholly satisfactory in character. The newspaper stamps of *Queensland* are odd in design and one or two of them will add interest to the *Queensland* page.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

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\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The Washington correspondents of the stamp papers do not seem to get much inside information with regard to the prospective series of stamps to be issued to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. It seems probable, however, that the work is going forward.

There is no probability of one of the stamps bearing the portrait of Napoleon. The agitation in that line has been confined practically to newspapers.

The new 2c stamp is on the eve of being issued. The Department has kept very quiet about it, but the work has gone steadily forward. The new stamp is now likely to appear at any time. Portrait will be Stuart's Washington facing practically full front. The shading will be coarser, and consequently there will be a less artistic effect, but the printing will likely be cleaner.

The portrait of Mr. **Well-Known** John F. Luff, of New York City, is given as No. 43 of the series of well-known Philatelists in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* for July 31st, with an interesting personal sketch.

Mr. W. C. Peters, of Mobile, Ala., has advised **W. L. Scott** us of the death of Mr. Ledyard Scott, who was well known at one time as a collector

and a dealer to some extent. He was killed by lightning on August 2d, at Point Clear, Ala.

Mr. Scott was at one time a teacher in Japan and resided in St. Louis for a period after his return from the Orient, his residence being in Mobile, Ala.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The American Philatelic Association assembled in convention at Clayton, N. Y., the 11th inst. Secretary reports the membership as 560, the number voting for Board of Directors 245, resulting as follows:

President, Alexander Holland, N. Y.; Vice-Pres.'s, F. H. Burt, Gordon, Ireland and W. O. Wylie; Secretary, D. T. Eaton, Muscatine, Iowa; Int. Sec'y, E. Doebelin, Pittsburg, Pa.; Treas., C. L. Annan, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. E. R. Aldrich received the same number of votes as Mr. D. T. Eaton, but as Mr. Aldrich is also a resident of Minnesota and Mr. Annan of same state was elected member of the Board by a greater number of votes, Mr. Eaton was made Secretary.

The Convention in 1904 will be held in Pittsburg, Pa.

The votes of the Convention were largely by proxy, 259 proxies being represented, the majority being in the hands of the Chicago Delegation, consisting of P. M. Wolsieffer and J. J. Oesch.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News was elected the official journal, having offered its services gratuitously, con-

ditioned upon a paid subscription for each member in the United States, Canada and Mexico at 25c. per year and foreign members at 50c. per year, the latter being practically the cost of postage.

Mr. John J. Oesch of Chicago, Superintendent of Sales, was given the power to reject any books that were not suitable.

A Counterfeit Detector was added to the list of officers, fee to be 5c. for each stamp with a minimum charge of 25c.

The Expert Committee reported that only four examinations had been made and suggested that the lack of interest was due to the fact that the appointment of the committee was not made earlier in the year; \$100.00 was appropriated for the use of the Membership Committee.

The Treasurer reported nearly \$3,000 and various funds on hand, \$2,400 of which was ordered to be placed at interest. Balance of the proceedings was simply routine business of small interest to general collectors.

ZANZIBAR REMAINDERS

Remainders of the Zanzibar 1896 Issue (Old Sultan's Head) ½ anna to 5 rupees are on the market. The fact that the series is catalogued at about \$15.00 and can be sold for \$4.00 is being traded in.

It is the duty of the philatelic press if it has any mission, to state such facts as these plainly. When the new catalogue re-adjusts the prices some of the great bargains now offered will not look so big.

CANADA WANTED

Used lots of any of the following wanted for cash or good trade:

½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c. 1872-'93
20 and 50c. 1893
1, 2, 5, 8 and 10c. 1897
½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Maple Leaf, 1897
½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Numeral, 1898
2c Maps \$3.00 per 1,000, in trade only
2c on 3c. 3.00
7 and 20c Queens Heads
5, 7 and 10 Kings Heads
2c and 5c Registered. \$5.00 per 1,000, in trade only.
Write stating quantity before sending stamps.
None of the common values wanted.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

A LETTER

One of Many that We Receive Continually

ALBANY, N. Y.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 received and was surprised to find so much value for the money, and I hand you herewith check for Packet No. 115—2,000 varieties.
C. V. D. LODGE.

Our packets cannot fail to give satisfaction. They are the best value for the money that can be obtained anywhere. The stamps are not only guaranteed to be genuine, but the condition is above the average. Our business motto for twenty-six years has been "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

SIOUX FALLS, IA., 7-31-'03.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Your packet No. 114 received, and can only say that I am very much surprised at the excellent value it contains.

Yours truly,

E. B. JONES.

800	different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain	\$ 2.50
1,000	different postage stamps the best packet of the kind sold in the country	3.25
2,000	different postage stamps a collection in itself.	13.50
3,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector.	45.00
4,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. A great bargain.	80.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

CLIPPED

An European dealer is offering a four thousand variety packet for 355 marks (\$85.20) It is doubtful if as large a nucleus for a collection can elsewhere be found for such a price — *The Philatelic World*.

Our contemporary is informed that we are selling a 4,000 variety collection of foreign stamps for \$5.20 less than the above price and it contains no common U. S. stamps, which is not true of the foreign dealer's packet.

Four thousand varieties of foreign postage stamps for \$80.00 is indeed a nucleus for a collection. "Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded."

The Philatelic School Room

AN EXPANSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE "TALKS TO YOUNG COLLECTORS"

CONDUCTED BY LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH

[Continued from page 431. MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR of August 10, 1903.]

Reunion, in 1852, issued a pair of stamps that rank among the world's greatest rarities. Its issues from 1886 to 1892 were all produced by means of the surcharge, and the 1892 issue, being the same in design as the stamps of numerous other French colonies, lacks individuality of interest. One or two stamps of this 1892 issue should abundantly suffice to represent the isle of Reunion in your album, for the present, at any rate.

Rhodesia, or *British South Africa*, has issued a considerable number of varieties, including some very handsome stamps. In fact, some of them are to be classed among the most ornate ever issued in any country, their designs being elaborate and well executed. Most young collectors find the possession of such stamps as these highly pleasurable, although older collectors can never quite value stamps issued by a company (as is the case with these British South Africans) as they do those emanating from regularly organized governments. I should not regard setting to work to complete, as far as possible, one's sets of British South Africans as being as desirable a task for the beginner to undertake as aiming at the completion of such a country as Prussia (whose completion, as we have seen above, is comparatively easy, barring a few varieties) for this very reason. A few stamps from British South Africa are an interesting addition to the collection, but for its future good it is not well that considerable sums should be spent in the enrichment of this particular section of the album. There are, in a word, other countries on which these sums can be better spent.

Regarding *Romagna* and the *Roman*

States, I hardly know what to say. No more interesting stamps appear in our albums; and the prices at which they are listed in the catalogues are not at all high. However, it is as well to state plainly that if there are ten thousand Roman States stamps in the stock books of American dealers at the present moment it is beyond doubt that nine thousand nine hundred of them are either remainders or reprints. Genuinely used stamps of either the Roman States or *Romagna* are of the greatest rarity. The prices in the catalogue under the head of used refer to specimens canceled to order; and the unused ones, as they make no endeavor to masquerade in other than their true character, are much to be preferred to their ostensibly "used" brethren. Counterfeits of both *Romagna* and Roman States stamps are also very plentiful; and, all in all, these are two countries whose stamps may well be left severely alone.

Roumania offers us a series of stamps not differing very much in degree of interest or ease of acquirement from those of other European countries which have been issuing postage stamps for a great many years. Roumanian stamps of all the issues from 1866 onward are, with few exceptions, common and cheap. Like France or Austria, or any one of a dozen other European states that might be cited, a big showing can be made at small outlay. And there are many pages on which money might be spent to much worse purpose than on those apportioned to Roumanian issues. The workmanship of the later Roumanian issues is fairly good and the head of its King appears in many different settings, so that Roumanian stamps do not possess the monotony so strikingly exemplified in those of

Portugal, as mentioned a while back. Nevertheless there are many series of stamps whose range of interest, taken as a whole, is much wider.

Russia supplies us with some of the most attractive and interesting stamps in our albums. They are unique and distinctive in design and coloring, and few classes of stamps possess a greater fascination for young collectors. Happily, also, outside of the issue of 1858, and the pair of varieties issued in 1884, they are to be obtained at small outlay. If I were beginning a collection, I should take particular pains to get a nice showing on the Russian pages. There are no others in the whole album in which a finer effect can be secured at moderate cost. The stamps of Russian Liovina are equally interesting and a few of the lower priced of these will add materially to the interest of your Russian exhibit.

Next we come to a trio of British Colonies, *St. Christopher*, *St. Helena* and *St. Lucia*. In each of the three the majority of the varieties are priced rather high; but a few from each colony are, fortunately, within the young collector's reach. The surcharge varieties and the different varieties of perforation require no attention at your hands until you have reached a more advanced stage of collecting. If a stamp is listed in three or four different perforations, buy the one that is priced the lowest.

St. Marie de Madagascar, *St. Pierre Miquelon*, *St. Thomas* and *Prince Islands*, and *St. Vincent* require no comment, the first two being French colonies, the third a dependency of Portugal, and the fourth a British possession; and the issues of none of the four differing essentially from other colonial issues heretofore treated.

Salvador is one of the "Seebeck countries." The Seebeck system has been already dealt with under the head of Nicaragua. To explain its nature here is, therefore, unnecessary. The principle of the Seebeck system is pernicious; but the Seebeck stamps, on the other hand, are wonderfully handsome and attractive. Despite their status, I think the young col-

lector will do well to include a judicious selection of them in his collection—say, one stamp of each type pictured in the catalogue. All Salvador stamps are cheap and easily procured. As between the used and unused I should in every case advise the purchase of the uncanceled specimen. Many Salvador stamps are priced and offered in an ostensibly used condition; but practically all so offered are of the canceled to order brand and, therefore, of not a whit higher status than the unused ones—which are, naturally, superior in appearance to even the most lightly canceled specimens. The Salvador envelopes are almost as numerous as the adhesives; and the purchase of any of these is sheer waste of ammunition—unless one is making a special collection of cut square envelopes, which, I imagine, few of my readers are doing.

Samoa presents a few interesting designs and a number of surcharges. The latter would add nothing to the interest of your collection; therefore, their purchase (for the present, at least, is inadvisable. A couple of specimens of the 1887 issue, preferably the lowest priced ones), the 2½ pence of 1891 and the 5 pence of 1894 will adequately illustrate the different types, with the exception of the Samoa Express stamps, of which genuine copies are not offered over often or over cheaply. Among the surcharges one exception to the exclusion rule might perhaps be made, in favor of one of the German stamps surcharged Samoa—a rather interesting memento of Samoa's brief term of subservience to the German Empire. One of this set will illustrate the historical event as fully as would the entire half dozen.

San Marino has managed to issue quite a large number of different stamps for so small a country; and the oddity of their designs invest them with no little interest. I should not advise, however, the purchase of more than one stamp of each type, as San Marino stamps are not looked upon with much favor by advanced collectors, owing to their obviously

having been changed in design oftener than the postal necessities of so tiny a land would require—the conclusion that they were largely made for sale to philatelists being irresistible. A very few San Marinos are enough for you to buy.

The stamps of *Sarawak* are both interesting and inexpensive. They are not as plentiful on approval sheets as are Europeans or South Americans, but can always be ordered from catalogues and price lists. I trust that, after all the emphasis that has been laid on this point, you no longer depend exclusively on approval sheets for the building up of your collection. If this building up is to be done in a logical way, special attention being given to systematically strengthening the weak countries (that is, those whose stamps are poorly represented in your albums), the exact specimens desired cannot always, or indeed often, be found on the usual class of approval sheets.

Saxony stamps are of the same class as those of Prussia, so far as their availability for young collectors is concerned. A glance back at the remarks on Prussian stamps will fully cover anything that might be said regarding those of Saxony. All but four or five of the stamps of *Schleswig Holstein*, which comes next in catalogue order, are fairly high priced. These four or five are interesting and a good investment.

Servia is a country that has been much in the public eye of late, owing to the recent assassination of the King and Queen, with all its attendant sensational circumstances. And it is safe to say that stamp collectors have been especially interested in these troublous events, on account of their familiarity with the features of King Milan, as depicted on the Servian stamps—an illustration of the manner in which stamp collecting broadens one's insight regarding international affairs. The Servian page is well worth making a determined effort to fill (barring the very earliest issues) as the number of varieties to be gotten is not unduly large and the prices uniformly small. The varieties with

and without silk threads the young collector had best not try to distinguish.

Seychelles Islands has not issued a very large number of varieties (its existence as a stamp issuing colony dating only from 1890) and a small expenditure will secure all except the high values. The stamps are of the usual British colonial prettiness and desirability. The Seychelles envelopes of 1895 are also sufficiently unique as to deserve a place in the collection, even though, in accord with the advice often given in this department, you have foresworn the accumulation of stamped envelopes in general.

Siam stamps do not cost much and show up well. The surcharged Siam stamps are not desirable. Care should be taken to secure clean and lightly canceled specimens, as a great many of the Siamese stamps on the market are in anything but fine condition.

I had hoped to finish up with the catalogue this month; but I do not dare to this time drag out my remarks to greater length than as they stand at present. Next month we will endeavor to make a final ending of the matter, as well as to introduce some of the special features promised in the preamble of this month's talk.

A WORD TO YOU

Are you collecting stamps from the British Colonies? If so, would you like to add quite a lot to your collection without paying big prices? If you do, then here is your chance. My

PACKET No. 33

contains 500 different postage stamps, collected from British Colonies only, many rare ones included. It catalogues many times the price.

\$15.00.

Positively the biggest value for the money.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

A COMFORTABLE COUNTRY

One of the few countries that it is possible for the moderately poverty-stricken collector to complete is Holland, and what a simple, pleasant, uncomplicated little country it is. Except for a few varieties of perforation it is all plain sailing. Indeed it is easier, I sometimes think, to get stamps for this country than it is to avoid getting them for the land of tulips seems to be a favorite with most dealers, and one is deluged with Netherland stamps on approval. Yet in spite of all this, judging from the collections I have handled, collectors generally do not make the most of their opportunities, and this easily completed country is, in most cases, very much neglected.

The seven easily defined sets are small, inexpensive, and easily placed. As is the case with so many other countries, the first beautifully engraved stamps show a mellow richness of coloring that is lacking in later issues. The aristocrat of the first two issues is the fifteen-cent orange, perforated—and it is catalogued at fifty cents!

Although the stamps issued in 1867 lack the velvet-like richness of their predecessors, they possess a quaint charm of their own. They are distinctively Dutch—no country but Holland could have produced them. In some of the values the colors are decidedly pleasing. Possibly the Hollanders themselves realized that the next issue, bearing the country's arms in pale, washed-out tints, was far from beautiful, for it was soon replaced by new portrait design. Of this later issue, the bi-colored two-gulden-fifty cents is the largest, handsomest and most expensive stamp, yet it is easily procurable.

Perhaps the commonest, as well as the least attractive stamps for this country are the numerals issued in 1876. In mint condition, however, they are very far removed in appearance from the battered specimens one usually sees, and they cost very little more, yet few modern collectors have them unused. This is a defect that

should be remedied while the stamps are still obtainable.

All youthful collectors love the "Little-girl-stamps" of 1891—the only little girl in all stampdom; although little, curly-headed Prince Edward, pictured on the Newfoundland half-penny stamp, is often mistaken by youthful admirers for a girl! With the exception of the five-gulden stamp, all the sixteen varieties are easily obtainable, and the sixteen little girls make a most presentable row.

The colors are somewhat brighter and the designs much more elaborate in the issue for 1898, but the grown-up queen does not appeal to the boy-collector as did her younger self. The higher values, however, are very handsome stamps. In every instance, Netherland stamps are more valuable in an unused condition—the inexperienced collector should remember this point.

Holland's colonies are Curacao, Dutch Indies and Surinam. Like those of the mother country, the stamps of the Dutch Indies, with the exception of the five-cent yellow unpaid letter stamp of 1874, are worth more unused. This, too, is a comparatively easy country to complete. Its first stamp is delightfully and characteristically Dutch and is, moreover, a good stamp to own.

Although the catalogue prices are moderate, the stamps for Curacao and Surinam are less common. For both of these countries, the prices in many instances are the same for both used and unused specimens. Where this is the case, it is wisest, perhaps, to collect stamps in both conditions, because, some day, one or the other variety will take precedence, and the collector who holds *both* kinds will be certain, when the day comes, to be on the right side of the fence.

C. W. RANKIN.

OMAHA 4c and 5c WANTED

We want some 4c and 6c Omaha and solicit offers in lots of fifty stamps or over, cash or trade. Make offers; do not send stamps. C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING Co. St. Louis, Mo.

I BUY

Unused United States and Canadian Postage Stamps in any Quantity. All Denominations. Send for Rates.

ALFRED A. ISAACS,

25 Broad Street, N. Y.

Can use Some 50c, \$1.00 and \$2.00 Stamps

It is stated Gibbons' **The New Catalogue** for 1904 will be ready as follows:

PART ONE, Great Britain and Colonies, in December.

PART TWO, Othertoreign countries, about the end of January, 1904.

The above statement is made with regard to the general edition. If an American edition is printed it will probably follow soon after those dates.

The regular 63rd edition, American catalogue is already in press. Advance sheets have been issued, including U. S. It is expected to be on sale in October.



We received Number **Dominican Four** of *El Eco Filatelico Philately* from Puerto Plata, Republic of Dominica. The paper is printed in both English and Spanish, and due credit on the enterprise of the publishers, Messrs. Ash-tou & Villanueva.



Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal opens its fourteenth Volume **Evans** with a new cover—very neat and artistic. Major Edw. B. Evans, the editor, makes some comments on the subject of unnecessary issues. Among other things he says:

"It is the duty of a chronicler to chronicle everything that appears, and it is equally the duty of a cataloguer to catalogue everything that has been issued. We do our best month by month to point out the nature of the things that we chronicle, and our preaching has probably much the same effect as the celebrated sermon of St. Anthony of Padua to the fishes, who, we understand, simply wagged their tails and swam away when the discourse was over, and their conduct remained as fishy as before. * * *

"Specialism may be said to be one of the strongest symptoms of a revolt against the superabundance of stamps to be collected and studied, but it has also unfortunately done much towards causing that superabundance. The specialist, as a rule, is quite ready to acknowledge the iniquity of superfluous issues on the part of countries in which he is not interested (indeed, he is apt to regard all their issues as superfluous, from a philatelic point of view), but he is equally ready to gloat over the minutest varieties of more or less unnecessary additions to the list of his own pet country, and to insist upon their being described in full detail and numbered in the catalogue. We fully sympathize with the enthusiasm of the specialist; we not only acknowledge the excellent work that specialists have done, but we would go so far as to say that no really good philatelic work has been, or can be, without specialising."

\$2.00 OMAHA

TRANSMISSISSIPPI SERIES

A lot of 25 copies of this stamp, unused o. g., perforated four sides, catalogued \$3.00, has been placed in our hands for sale at \$2.50 each. An exceptional chance to get a good stamp.

OTHER SINGLE STAMPS.

Single copies of the following stamps are offered at the following net prices:

* Indicates Unused.

*U. S. 1847, 10c (The Government counterfeit made to complete display at Centennial Exposition).....	\$2 00
*U. S. 1851, 1c, Reprint perforated 12, Type I.....	3 50
*Executive, 1c "Specimen".....	1 50
*Justice, 2c "Specimen".....	1 00
*Treasury, 24c fine o. g.....	4 00
*War, 7c fine o. g.....	75
*Newspaper, 1895—\$100.00 purple, original postally cancelled with round punch.....	1 75
*U. S. 1869, 90c carmine and black, <i>proof</i> , gummed and perforated.....	5 00
*U. S. Washington Match Co., 1c black, fine o. g.....	95
*Nevada State Revenue, 2c to \$20.00, complete set of 10, unused.....	1 25
U. S. Proprietary 1878, 10c, good copy.....	4 90
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.	
St. Louis, Mo.	

WE HAVE MONEY

to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

Unused U.S. Stamps

In fine Mint condition. Order quick.

	Cata. Price	My Price
1861, 3c rose.....	\$0 15	\$0 07
1862, 2c black.....	50	23
1869, 2c brown.....	1 00	50
1873, 2c brown.....	1 50	50
1879, 15c red orange.....	40	25
1882, 10c brown.....	30	18
1883, 1c green.....	12	08
1887, 3c vermilion.....	12	08
1888, 4c carmine.....	12	08
1892, 30c Columbias.....	55	40
1892, 50c ..	75	60
2892, \$2 00 ..	2 50	2 25
1898, 50c Omaha.....	80	65
1898, \$2 00 ..	3 00	2 50
1901, Pan-American Complete Set 1c. to 10c.....	57	50
Special Delivery 10c orange.....	20	15

N. W. CHANDLER,

Collinsville, Illinois.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf.....	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark.....	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf.....	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark.....	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c.....	35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue.....	60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp.....	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c.....	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc.....	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds.....	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds.....	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps.....	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c.....	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, BELGIUM

HERE THEY ARE!

The Biggest Stamp Bargains of the Season.

1903, Paraguay, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60c, all unused, the set for.....	\$0 65
Short set of four varieties, 1, 2, 5 and 10c.....	15
1901, British Protectorate, 1c to 50c, 14 varieties, fine.....	1 00
1898, Nyassa, 2½r to 300r, complete, unused.....	75
1892, Mozambique Co., 5r to 300r, fine, unused.....	75

STAMPS ON APPROVAL.

Fine stamps at 50 per cent discount sent on approval to responsible parties. Reference required.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,

502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s. Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s. Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s., Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c.. post free. Circulars free.

PLATE NUMBERS CUBA ON U. S. STAMPS

Three stamps with imprint and plate number, unused mint.

1c green, 564 bottom.....	\$0 10
565 ..	10
566 ..	10
570 ..	10
571 ..	10
572 ..	10
573 ..	10
574 ..	10
Same number sides each.....	08
2c carmine, 475 bottom.....	20
(surch. 2½) 556 ..	20
560 ..	20
561 ..	20
568 ..	20
569 ..	20
570 ..	20
571 ..	20
753 ..	20
758 ..	20
759 ..	20
760 ..	20
Same numbers sides, each.....	18
3c violet 447 Top or Bottom.....	30
448 ..	30
449 ..	30
5c blue 389 ..	30
390 ..	30
592 ..	30
407 ..	30
408 ..	30
409 ..	30
410 ..	30

Set of 4 plate numbers, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 5c all bottoms..... 75

Set of 5 single stamps, 1, 2½, 3, 5, and 10c..... 50

All these are U. S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, and are in fine unused condition.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ills.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 31
WHOLE No. 83

AUGUST 24, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

There is no better proof of the popularity of stamp collecting and the standing it has gained among all classes, than the activity in the postal administration of different countries and colonies.

The Executive Council of the Leeward Islands have authorized and issued special stamps for Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis, in addition to the regular series of Leeward Island which continue current throughout the Colony.

A circular reprinted from the *Leeward Island Gazette* is printed elsewhere in another column.

We have no sympathy with those who deplore the issue of new and attractive stamps by regularly constituted authority, and the fact that stamp collectors are considered by them, is a triumph and credit to our pursuit.

The S. S. S. S. society was a signal failure and in this country at least, its most active supporters among the trade were dealers who were most active in "Seebeckism," which is not an imaginary enemy of Philately.



All indications point to an early and active stamp season this fall.

Business has been good all summer and the new catalogue will wake things up.

ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS

BY FARRAN ZERBE

If Numismatics and Philately needed a connecting link it could certainly be found in this article's subject, for in their day they were both stamps and money, but fortunately no connecting link is needed; they were long ago "allied hobbies." Encased postage stamps are the products of a patent issued to J. Gault of New York, August 12, 1862, under which the then current postage stamps were placed in a metal frame or case and protected by mica, the reverse side being used for trade cards or advertisements. Being stamps they may be philatelically considered, but they rightly belong to that which is classed as "necessity money," the needs of an acceptable medium for small change purposes prompted their invention, patent and issue. With the breaking out of the Civil War the metal currency of the United States rapidly disappeared from circulation, due to the desire of the timid to save something of actual value from the threatened wreck of the Union and on the part of the avaricious to hoard that which was sure to possess a value regardless of the outcome of the rebellion. Small change was practically out of circulation and many methods were resorted to to meet the demands of trade. Efforts to relieve the stringency first came from individual enterprise; merchants issued notes from 1 cent up, redeemable in merchandise; metal tokens now classed as "store cards" and "war cards" were issued in great

quantity, in various metals of multitudinous variety of devices, all of which readily passed for cents. Street car tickets, milk tickets and many other things that had an apparent exchange value were used in making change; postage stamps, the value of which were seldom questioned, became a general small change medium but their adhesiveness and being easily destroyed or mutilated made them unpractical for the purpose. To utilize stamps in practical form was the object of Mr. Gault's devise, and that the government recognized it as filling a need, is evinced by a patent having been granted, for we do not believe, under ordinary conditions, that this protection would have been obtainable. The general acceptance of stamps as money led to the issue of Postal Currency which was proceeded with by a \$50,000,000 issue of Fractional Currency and of which about \$15,000,000 has never been redeemed, \$8,000,000 having long ago been declared "officially dead!"

But for the issue of small notes Mr. Gault's patent would have proved a very profitable and popular one; not only did they supply a demand, but as an advertising medium they were par excellence, making their use inviting to all tradesmen. The small number of the varieties indicates the life of the business was a short one and that no considerable number of them exist is evinced by the prices they command at sales.

This article is in answer to numerous inquiries on the subject. An authoritative history of Encased Postage Stamps has never come to the notice of the writer and before it is too late the facts should be recorded by some one associated or familiar with their issue. No dealer makes a specialty of them and their price makes them uninviting to the average collector. A number of specimens are to be found in many cabinets, but only a few possess a complete set. The stamp dealers and publishers assign them to numismatists, but no considerable stock is to be found with any of the coin dealers and no selling price lists are issued. Scott's last edition

(1893) Copper and Nickel Coins lists them but no prices are given:—"prices on application." Ben C. Green includes them in his coin checking list. The only approach to a price list that may be considered current was the appreciated article by A. R. Frey in the *Numismatist* some months ago in which he gave the year's auction price records of such as had been offered for sale. They frequently appear at stamp sales but the prices they there command are only a fraction of those realized when offered at coin sales. A very interesting collection of Encased Stamps is to be found in the museum connected with the public library at Buffalo. As a bequest, they came to the library with a life time's accumulation of many interesting things by an ardent collector.

The following list is as complete as we have been able to prepare; the prices given are what they have commanded at auction and for which we are particularly indebted to Mr. Frey's article: Where no prices are given, no sales record are at hand; some are given two prices, about the highest and lowest they have sold for at auction during the past two years. Condition and circumstances of sale govern these fluctuations and a happy medium may be considered their sale value. With a view of preparing a complete descriptive price list we will be glad to receive any "additions or corrections" our readers may have to offer. Using the usual alphabetical arrangement each variety is here for the first time given a number.

ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS

Aerated Bread Co., New York City.

No. 1—1 cent \$3.25 to \$5.10

Ayer's Cathartic Pills.

No. 2— 1 cent 1.55 to 3.80

3— 3	"	O in ornament	} 1.65 to 3.80
4— 3	"	X " "	
5—10	"	O " "	
6—10	"	X " "	

(Ayer's) "Take Ayer's Pills.

No. 7—1 cent
8—3 " 1.90 to 2.50

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

No. 9— 1 cent	} 1.50 to 2.00
10— 1 " "	
11— 3 " "	
12— 3 " "	

1.50 to 3.10

No. 13— 3 cents	1.50 to 3.10
14— 5 "	4.75
15—10 "	2.50 to 4.80

Bailey & Co., Jewelers, Phila.

No. 16— 1 cent	4.50
17— 3 "	4.50
18— 5 "	
19—10 "	5 75

Bates, Jos. L., Boston, Fancy Goods.

No. 20— 1 cent, F'cy Goods	} 1.75 to 5.00
21— 1 " " " "	
22— 1 " " " " "	} 6 50
23— 5 " " " " "	
24— 5 " " " " "	
25—10 " " " " "	

Brown's Bronchial Troches.

No. 26— 1 cent	3.10
27— 3 "	1.75 to 3.60
28— 5 "	2.60 to 4.25
29—10 "	2.60 to 3.75

Buhl, F. & Co., Detroit.

No. 30— 1 cent	8.75
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Burnett's Cocaine Kalliston.

No. 31— 1 cent	4.00
32— 3 "	3.50 to 4.00
33— 5 "	3.50 to 4.25
34—10 "	4.60 to 5.75

Burnett's Standard Cooking Exts.

No. 35— 1 cent	4.00
36— 3 "	2.90 to 3.25
37— 5 "	4.10
38—10 "	2.50 to 5.25

Claflin, Arthur M., Hopkinton, R. I.

No. 39— 1 cent	12.25
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Cook, H. A., Evansville, Ind.

No. 40— 5 cent	7.00
41—10 "	

Dougan the Hatter, New York City.

No. 42— 1 cent	3.40 to 6.25
43— 3 "	6.50 to 8.00
44— 5 "	

Drake's Plantation Bitters.

No. 45— 1 cent	1.75 to 5.00
46— 3 "	1.60 to 2.00
47— 5 "	2.00 to 4.00
48—10 "	2.00 to 4.00

Ellis, McAlpine & Co, Cincinnati.

No. 49— 3 cent	
50— 5 "	
51—10 "	6.50
52—24 "	

Evans, G. G., California Wines.

No. 53— 1 cent	4.25
54— 3 "	4.20
55— 5 "	3.75

Gage Bros. & Drake, Tremont House, Chicago.

No. 56— 1 cent	\$4.50 to \$5.00
57— 3 "	2.30
58— 5 "	2.60 to 4.00
58—10 "	2.30 to 4.00

Gault, J., Patent Aug. 12, 1862.

No. 60— 1 cent	2.00 to 3.00
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No. 61— 3 cents	1.90 to 2.50
62— 5 "	
63— 5 " " Yellow-Brown Stamp	} 2.10 to 5.10
64— 5 " " Rib'd Frame	
65—10 "	
66—10 " " Rib'd Frame	} 1.05 to 2.75
67—12 " .....		10.50
68—24 "	17.50
69—30 "	
70—90 "	

Hopkins, L. & Co., Cincinnati, O.

No. 71— 1 cent	
72— 3 "	
73— 3 "	

Hunt & Nash, Irving House, New York City.

No. 74— 1 cent	} 4.75
75— 1 "	
76— 5 "	} 4.75
77— 5 "	
78—10 "	
79—10 " " Rib'd Frame	
80—12 "	12.00

Kirkpatrick & Gault, New York.

No. 81— 1 cent	3 60
82— 3 "	2.75
83— 5 "	4.50
84—10 "	3.50
85—12 "	14.00
86—24 "	22.50
87—30 "	21.00

Lord & Taylor, New York City.

No. 88— 1 cent	
89— 3 "	3.25 to 4.25
90— 5 "	
91—10 "	5.50
92—12 "	7.00 to 9.00
93—24 "	
94—30 "	

Mendum's Family Wine Emporium.

No. 95— 1 cent	1.75 to 4.25
96— 3 "	3.50
97— 5 "	3.25

Miles, B. F., Peoria, Ill.

No. 98— 1 cent	
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Norris, J. W., Chicago, Ill.

No. 99— 1 cent	
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North American Life Ins. Co., N. Y.

No. 100— 1 cent	} 2.50 to 4.25
101— 1 " " "Ins." curved	
102— 3 " " "Ins." curved	
103— 3 " " "Ins." curved	
104— 5 "	4.00

Pearce, Tolle & Holton, Cincinnati, O.

No. 105— 3 cent	
106— 5 "	6.25

Sand's Ale Drink.

No. 107— 5 cent	
108—10 "	

Schapker & Bussing, Evansville, Ind.

No. 109— 3 cent	10.00
110— 5 "	7.25
111—10 "	5.50 to 8.60

Shillito, John & Co., Cincinnati, O.

No. 112—1 cent	4.25
113—3 "	4.25 to 8.25
114—5 "	6.50 to 7.50
115—10 "	8.25

Steinfeld, S., New York City.

No. 116—1 cent	4.25 to 5.50
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Taylor, N. and G. & Co., Phila.

No. 117—1 cent	3.50 to 4.25
118—3 "	4.25
119—5 "	
120—10 "	

Weir & Larminie, Montreal, Can.

No. 121—1 cent	21.00
122—3 "	
123—10 "	5.00 to 15.50

White, the Hatter, New York.

No. 124—1 cent	2.25
125—3 "	5.50
125—5 "	5.25
127—10 "	

(No Name.)

No. 128—9 ct.—A strip of three 3c stamps encased in an oblong strip of copper, embossed with floral design: in the center an eagle, and make similar to the Fentchwanger cent 6.25 to 18.00

128 varieties.

8 different denominations, 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 24, 30 and 90 cent.

34 different	1 cent.
28 "	3 "
29 "	5 "
1 "	9 "
24 "	10 "
4 "	12 "
4 "	24 "
3 "	30 "
1 "	90 "

NOTE.—The publishers wish it understood that they do not deal in encased stamps and that the above is not a sale price list. Simply an estimate of comparative values. Compiled for the benefit of our readers.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 "	35c	100 "	1 25
25 "	50c	250 "	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

WELCOME LEEWARDS

We print the official circular referred to elsewhere:

"At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands at Government House, Antigua, on Monday, June 29, 1903:

WHEREAS, By Section 3 of the Leeward Islands General Stamp Act, 1890, it is provided (inter alia) that there shall be a uniform stamp or stamps for use throughout the Colony whereby all postage rates and stamp duties shall be expressed; and

WHEREAS, By Section 3 of the Leeward Islands Stamp Act, 1902, it is provided that the Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council, direct that a special stamp or stamps may be used in each or any Presidency concurrently with such uniform stamp or stamps as aforesaid; now, therefore,

It is hereby ordered by the Governor in Council as follows:

On and after the 3d day of July, 1903, special stamps may be used in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, concurrently with the uniform stamps now in use throughout the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

The several values of the said special stamps in the said Presidencies shall be 1½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1sh., 2sh., 2sh. 6d. and 5sh. The post-cards shall be, single ½d., 1d.; reply, 2d. The wrappers shall be ½d., 1d. The envelopes shall be 1d., 2½d. and registration envelopes shall be large and small.

The design of the special stamps for the Presidency of Antigua shall be the same as that on the Public Seal of the Presidency for all values, with the exception of the 5sh., which stamp will bear the design of the head of His Majesty the King.

The design of the special stamps for the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis shall be as follows:

For the ½d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1sh. and 2sh. 6d. values, the design to be Columbus sighting land, taken from the

Public Seal of the Presidency.

For the 1d., 3d., 2sh. and 5sh. values the design to be the group emblematic of the Sulphur Bath of Nevis, also taken from the Public Seal of the Presidency.

The design of the special stamps for the Presidency of Dominica shall be a design showing a view of Dominica from the sea, for all values, with the exception of the 5sh., which stamp will bear the design of the head of His Majesty the King.

The design of the special stamps for the Presidency of Montserrat shall be the design of the central figure in the Public Seal of the Presidency for all values, with the exception of the 5sh., which stamp will bear the design of the head of His Majesty the King.

The post-cards, wrappers and envelopes of the several Presidencies shall bear designs similar to those of the minor values of the postage stamps.

Made in the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, this 20th day of June, 1903

A. E. ELDRIDGE,
Acting Clerk of the Council."

Thus stamp collecting is recognized in the Councils of the British Colonies, much to the chagrin of some of the leading British philatelic lights who have delighted in their philatelic indifference and disdain toward the stamps of the colonies of "other foreign countries."



The new catalogue has taken some of the thunder out of the Cut square envelopes, by cutting prices. Advanced sheets show severe cuts. Collectors who have been led to exchange good duplicates for this class of high-priced speculative rubbish will feel a trifle "sore." The day of the "cut square" envelope is surely passing and it is time that they were cut from both albums and catalogues.



Our Advertising Columns sale at reasonable terms to all first-class dealers in the trade. Correspondence solicited.

A FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Once upon a time I devoted a great deal of energy and much valuable time to collecting the names of foreign philatelists who had publicly expressed a wish to exchange their own stamps for those of America; for at that time I was consumed with a desire to "swap" with other countries—America was far too limited a field for me. I have no doubt that other trustful and over-enthusiastic collectors have been seized with similar aspirations and have wished, subsequently, that they had remained unseized. But I was young and inexperienced; I had never "swapped" and oh! how I wanted to!

But here at last was my opportunity, the chance of a lifetime to obtain an enormous quantity of good foreign stamps for nothing—or next to nothing. I would exchange, and in a few short weeks I should have all sorts of foreign stamps to burn.

Certainly no prospective trader ever prepared his trading stock with greater care. I went through orange-peely waste-paper baskets every day for weeks to find certain values of Pan-American stamps and stamped envelopes. I invaded dusty attics and moldy cellars and incurred the wrath of all my relatives by unpacking carefully packed trunks. I stood on my head in barrels and crawled in spider-webby closets. Surely no other lot of foreign stamp collectors ever got a greater variety or a bigger one hundred than I put into each of those twenty-two precious packets—yes, I was nothing if not ambitious; there were twenty-two of them. Then, not content with making the interior of those packets just the best that ever was, I bought scarce, hard-to-get four and five stamped envelopes and adorned them besides with extra, and in a few cases, entirely superfluous stamps.

Then I addressed and mailed my twenty-two letters, with my own name inside and out, and with my wants modestly stated, to twenty-two persons with unpronounceable names, in

Portugal, Turkey, China, Russia, Persia, New Zealand, Ecuador and fifteen other equally remote places. When the letter box had swallowed those twenty-two fat letters I sat down to await the deluge of foreign mail that was shortly to flood Michigan.

But the expected deluge never arrived. So far as most of those foxy foreigners are concerned, I am still waiting. To be sure, long after I had given up hope, one honest Australian proved honest as well as appreciative and rewarded me with a very clean lot of Australian stamps that had traveled steadily for six weeks before they finally reached me. One intelligent Russian, with a name that looked like a section of barbed-wire fence, followed his noble example with a well selected lot. One Englishman did likewise. Canada and Newfoundland, too, finally covered themselves with glory. The Chinaman, alas! helped himself to what he wanted from my stamps—apparently he wanted most of them—and returned what few there were left; all I got out of him was the solitary Hong Kong stamp that it took to pay the postage on my own rifled packet.

The remaining collectors either dropped dead at sight of those good envelopes of mine or else calmly appropriated my packets, softly murmuring the while, in Persian, Turkish or Portuguese: "*What an easy mark.*"

At any rate, they have my stamps and I have my opinion of foreign exchange. They probably felt entirely safe, knowing that no plain American would ever be able to remember their jaw-breaking names and wierd addresses. —C. W. RANKIN.

CANADA WANTED

Used lots of any of the following wanted for cash or good trade:

½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c, 1872-'93

20 and 50c, 1893

1, 2, 5, 8 and 10c, 1897

½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Maple Leaf, 1897

½, 5, 6, 8 and 10c Numeral, 1898

2c Maps \$3.00 per 1,000, in trade only

2c on 3c, 3 00

7 and 20c Queens Heads

5, 7 and 10 Kings Heads

2c and 5c Registered, \$5.00 per 1,000, in trade only.

Write stating quantity before sending stamps.

None of the common values wanted.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.

St. Louis, Mo.

A LETTER

One of Many that We Receive Continually

ALBANY, N. Y.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—Packet No. 114 received and was surprised to find so much value for the money, and I hand you herewith check for Packet No. 115—2,000 varieties.

C. V. D. LODGE.

Our packets cannot fail to give satisfaction. They are the best value for the money that can be obtained anywhere. The stamps are not only guaranteed to be genuine, but the condition is above the average. Our business motto for twenty-six years has been "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

SIoux FALLS, IA., 7-31-'03.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo

Gentlemen:—Your packet No. 114 received, and can only say that I am very much surprised at the excellent value it contains.

Yours truly,

E. B. JONES.

800	different postage stamps from over 100 countries, a bargain	\$ 2.50
1,000	different postage stamps the best packet of the kind sold in the country	3.25
2,000	different postage stamps a collection in itself.	13.50
3,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, a bargain for dealer or collector.	45.00
4,000	foreign postage stamps, all different, from almost every stamp issuing country or colony. A great bargain.	80.00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

CLIPPED

An European dealer is offering a four thousand variety packet for 355 marks (\$85.20). It is doubtful if as large a nucleus for a collection can elsewhere be found for such a price — *The Philatelic World.*

Our contemporary is informed that we are selling a 4,000 variety collection of *foreign* stamps for \$5.20 less than the above price and it contains no common U. S. stamps, which is not true of the foreign dealer's packet.

Four thousand varieties of foreign postage stamps for \$80.00 is indeed a nucleus for a collection. "Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded."

WE HAVE MONEY

to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

Unused U.S. Stamps

In fine Mint condition. Order quick.

	Cata. Price	My Price
1861, 3c rose	\$0 15	\$0 07
1862, 2c black	50	23
1869, 2c brown	1 00	50
1873, 2c brown	1 50	50
1879, 15c red orange	40	25
1882, 10c brown	30	18
1883, 4c green	12	08
1887, 3c vermilion	12	08
1883, 4c carmine	12	08
1892, 30c Columbias	55	40
1892, 50c	75	60
2892, \$2 00	2 50	2 25
1898, 50c Omaha	80	65
1898, \$2 00	3 00	2 50
1901, Pan-American		
Complete Set 1c. to 10c	57	50
Special Delivery 10c orange	20	15

N. W. CHANDLER,

Collinsville, Illinois.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c	35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue	60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, BELGIUM

DON'T OVERLOOK

This Offer—it Means Dollars Saved.

500 stamps from Central and South American countries for only \$10.00. Send for my Packet No. 68, and get the above bargain lot. This packet contains many rare stamps and old issues generally not found in approval selections and is for this reason eagerly bought by all classes of collectors. Buy Packet No. 68 and get your money's worth.

500 VARIETIES, \$10.00.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,

502-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'd.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,

1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

PLATE NUMBERS

CUBA ON U. S. STAMPS

Three stamps with imprint and plate number, unused mint:

1c green.	564 bottom	\$0 10
	565	10
	566	10
	570	10
	571	10
	572	10
	573	10
	574	10

Same number sides each

2c carmine.	475 bottom	20
(surch. 2½)	556	20
	560	20
	561	20
	568	20
	569	20
	570	20
	571	20
	753	20
	758	20
	759	20
	760	20

Same numbers sides, each

3c violet	447 Top or Bottom	30
	448	30
	449	30
5c blue	389	30
	390	30
	592	30
	407	30
	408	30
	409	30
	410	30

Set of 4 plate numbers, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 5c all bottoms 75
Set of 5 single stamps, 1, 2½, 3, 5, and 10c 50

All these are U. S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, and are in fine unused condition.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ills.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

AMERICAN COLLECTOR'S COMPANY

Again Passes Dividend on Common Stock

Holders of common stock in the American Collector's Co. are informed that no dividends will be paid them, on the business of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903.

The American Collector's Co. is the corporate name of the so-called "STAMP TRUST" that bought up the *Scott Stamp and Coin Co., of New York*, and the *New England Stamp Co., of Boston* and conducts these two concerns as "subsidiary companies" whatever that may mean.

Before the little American Collector's Company gorged itself by swallowing these gigantic toads, it paid cash dividends to its stock holders of 10 per cent annually, and its president in his appeal to the philatelic public to buy its stock two years ago, showed by convincing (?) arguments how 28 per cent might be reasonably expected.

Last year a 10 per cent dividend was allowed by an ingenious arrangement to the "old stock-holders" in the American Collectors Co., but nothing to the "new stock-holders" whose holdings of common stock were largely acquired as bonuses. This year even the "old stock-holders" seem to have been left out as far as common stock is concerned. Dividends on the \$300,000.00 worth of preferred stock have been paid, and this stock with a percentage of "water" really represents the whole actual capital of the concern viewed by an outsider.

Since Henry Calman, holder of \$74,000 worth of preferred stock, not to mention over fourteen thousand shares of common stock, will sell the whole outfit for \$54,000, the value of the whole issue of \$300,000 worth of preferred stock would be figured about \$215,750.00.

Now the company purposes to further burden itself by buying out Mr. Calman's interest, and to do so would issue \$60,000 worth of its notes at 5

per cent payable \$6,000 per year for ten years. These notes are offered for sale at *ten per cent discount* from face value and may be subscribed for in lots as small as \$90.00, (\$10.00 cash with subscription).

If the assets of this company are of the value that they ought to be to justify its previous financial acts and its business is of the profitable character that prospective investors have been lead to suppose, it seems surprising that its 6 per cent preferred stock should be so little appreciated by its present holders as to be offered at a discount. And it is also a surprise that an average rate of 8½ per cent of interest is offered by the company to borrow money.

U.S. Private Proprietaries, 1898

Antikamnia, 2½c	\$0 25
Emerson Drug Co., ¼c	05
C. H. Fletcher, 1½c	10
Hostetter Co., 2½c	15
Johnson & Johnson, ¾c	03
Lanman & Kemp, ¾c	10
Lanman & Kemp, 1½c	20
J. Ellwood Lee Co., ¼c	10
Piso Co., ¼c	05
Radway & Co.	10
Dr. Williams Med. Co., 1½c	10
Catalogue value	\$1 23

The above lot of 11 stamps for 50c

Complete set of seven.

Chas. Marchand, mint slate.
¾, 1½, 2½, 3½, 4½, 7½c for..... \$3.50

Complete set of five.

J. Ellwood Lee Co.,
¾, ¾, ¾, 2½, 5c for..... .50

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Following surcharged on the stamps of New Zealand. Unused o. v.

NIUE, 3p, 6, and 1sh, set of three 70c
PENHRYN ISL. 3p, 6p and 1sh, set of
three 70c

The following are some choice summer bargains:

U. S., 90c carmine and black \$8 00
Great Britain, ½ orange, fine 8 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine ... 8 00

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

OMAHA 4c and 5c WANTED

We want some 4c and 6c Omaha and solicit offers in lots of fifty stamps or over, cash or trade. Make offers; do not send stamps.
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. MeKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 32
WHOLE No. 84

AUGUST 31, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

In the death of J. V. **Death of** Painter, the 14th, at J. V. **Painter** Cleveland, O., American Philately loses one of its most loyal and faithful adherents. Mr. Painter was an ideal collector, a gentleman of refinement and culture who loved stamps. His loss will be a personal one to many of us who have valued his friendship for many years.

UNUSED GERMANS

Unused copies of such of the old German States stamps as were on hand as remainders and sold to dealers years ago, are very much commoner and lower priced than the postally used stamps of the same varieties.

This has led some collectors to believe that the cheap unused Germans were reprints. As a matter of information we print a list of the following German States unused stamps, which are comparatively common of which there have *never been reprints*:

Prussia Arms, Groschen and Kreuzer. North German Federation, Groschen and Kreuzer; official stamps.

Alsace-Lorraine, with correct network.

German Empire, Groschen and Kreuzer.

Schleswig-Holstein, all kinds.

Brunswick, last issue.

Hamburg, all kinds except 1½, 1½ and 2½ shillings.

Lubeck, all issues.
Mecklenburg-Schwerin and M. Strelitz, all kinds.
Saxony, all issues.
Odenburg, all issues.
Thurn and Taxis, especially rouletted ones, Groschen and Kreuzer.

A SALE OF LEEWARD ISLAND REMAINDERS

The Crown Agents called for bids to be in by the 10th of the current month for the remainders of all the Queen's Head series of postage stamps, postal cards, wrappers and envelopes remaining in the hands of the Leeward Islands Government.

The general issue for the Leeward Islands is not to be demonitized and will continue to be good for postage although they will be superceded in general use by new issues of the various Presidencies.

The dies for the general Leeward Islands issue have been destroyed and no further supply can be printed. The quantities that are in existence and are offered for sale are given below. It is of course known that the bid must be in excess of face value.

111,073	¼d.	stamps, green and mauve.
13,867	1d.	carmine and mauve.
7,523	2½d.	blue and mauve.
55,165	4d.	orange and mauve.
21,850	6d.	brown and mauve.
27,927	7d.	gray and mauve.
28,163	1sh.	carmine and green.
13,171	5sh.	blue and green.
1,831	1d.	postal cards, brown.
839	2d.	reply cards, carmine.
1,294	3d.	brown.
240	¼d.	wrappers, green.
12,987	1d.	carmine.
18,509	1d.	envelopes, embossed pink.
17,804	2½d.	light blue.
383	2½d.	registration envelopes.
398	3d.	

WE HAVE MONEY

to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.

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In fine Mint condition. Order quick.

	Cats. Price	My Price
1861, 3c rose	\$0 15	\$0 07
1862, 2c black	50	23
1869, 2c brown	1 00	50
1873, 2c brown	1 50	50
1879, 15c red orange	40	25
1882, 10c brown	30	18
1883, 4c green	12	08
1887, 3c vermilion	12	08
1888, 4c carmine	12	08
1892, 30c Columbias	55	40
1892, 50c "	75	60
2892, \$2 00	2 50	2 25
1898, 50c Omaha	80	65
1898, \$2 00	3 00	2 50
1901, Pan-American Complete Set 1c. to 10c	57	50
Special Delivery 10c orange	20	15

N. W. CHANDLER,

Collinsville, Illinois.

SPECIAL OFFERS

100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf	\$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark	1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf	25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark	50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25c	35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue	60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp	80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c	15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12½, 20, 30, 37½, 50c, 1 franc	1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds	1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds	50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps	65
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c	60

The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN,

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THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ¼p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.,

Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

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1903 Edition.

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1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues, Gibbons 60c, Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

PLATE NUMBERS

CUBA ON U. S. STAMPS

Three stamps with imprint and plate number, unused mint.

1c green, 564 bottom	\$0 10
565 "	10
566 "	10
570 "	10
571 "	10
572 "	10
573 "	10
574 "	10
Same number sides each	08

2c carmine, 475 bottom	20
(surch. 2½) 556 "	20
560 "	20
561 "	20
568 "	20
569 "	20
570 "	20
571 "	20
573 "	20
578 "	20
579 "	20
760 "	20
Same numbers sides, each	18

3c violet, 447 Top or Bottom	30
448 "	30
449 "	30
5c blue, 389 "	30
390 "	30
592 "	30
407 "	30
408 "	30
409 "	30
410 "	30

Set of 4 plate numbers, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 5c all bottoms	75
Set of 5 single stamps, 1, 2½, 3, 5, and 10c	50

All these are U. S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, and are in fine unused condition.

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ills.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

WHOSE HAND-WRITING IS THIS?

The following reproduction is from the letter of a thief who is soliciting stamps on approval from dealers and has been writing under different names from post offices in the vicinity of Bellaire, Ohio. Martin's Ferry is one, and there are others.

We hope that the publication of this specimen of hand-writing will identify the

party who deserves a berth in one of the Ohio penitentiaries.

He has been soliciting stamps under fraudulent names and addresses

Mr. C. W. Abbott, Attorney-at-Law at Upper Montclair, N. J., would be pleased to hear from parties who can give any information that will assist the U. S. Post Office Inspectors in bringing this criminal to the speedy realization of his position.

I would like for you to send me a selection of the stamps of Northern African Countries also some stamps from Mex. and Brazil I wish to Buy stamps at 10 to 60 cts Each net. I have 4200 Vars in my Album and will Buy 800 more this summer
Yours Respy
J. C. Wilburn
Bellaire Ohio

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT. Form No. 1548.

Received from the Postmaster at Bellaire Ohio
(Delivering office.)

Registered Letter Parcel } No. 42 **From Post Office at ST. LOUIS, MO.,**

Addressed to J. C. Wilburn
(Name of addressee.)

Date 3-26 1903
(Date of delivery.)

Whom delivery is made to an agent of the addressee, both addressee's name and agent's signature must appear in this receipt.

J. C. Wilburn
(Signature or name of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

A registered article must not be delivered to anyone but the addressee, except upon addressee's written order. When the above receipt has been properly signed, it must be postmarked with name of delivering office and actual date of delivery and mailed to its address, without envelope or postage.

Stolen Sweets

SEASONED WITH OUR OWN COMMENTS

EDITORIAL NOTE:—For some time past we have felt the need of setting apart a certain section of this journal for the reception of items clipped from current philatelic journals, more especially those published abroad. The editors of this journal each month either clip out or make memoranda concerning a great many items, of one sort and another, appearing in the philatelic press. Some of these relate to current philatelic events; others give information as to newly discovered points in relation to certain stamps; others still contain anecdotes odd or curious, in connection with this or that stamp or stampman. In short, the items thus garnered in are of the most varied nature, it being the custom of the editors to note down for future reference, almost anything that strikes them as being of real interest and therefore likely to recommend itself for editorial comment or for treatment in any other department. As a matter of fact, however, these items are rarely made use of—except in the case of those that are purely and solely news items, which often form the basis for some of our own news notes, the source of the information, of course, being specifically mentioned. The other gleanings of the editorial scissors, the remaining contents of the editorial note book, represent so much selection made for nought—which we have come to think is perhaps the least bit of a pity. We believe there are a good many of our readers who would take some interest in reading these stray odds and ends plucked from so many different sources. And we also feel that in a great many cases there are comments suggesting themselves to us in regard to the subject matter of these items that we would very much like to put upon paper. In fact, few of these items would have been originally singled out for later inspection had they not at the time awakened

some idea or opened up some train of thought that we imagined might ultimately crystalize itself into some form of editorial comment. Therefore we open this department of "Stolen Sweets," as a repository for items of interest not original with ourselves, boldly proclaiming its nature in its name, that it may not be accused of masquerading under false pretenses. We expect it will be a promiscuous and unscrupulous pilferer, and trust this frank announcement of its piratical intentions will placate such of our brethren of the press as may prove its victims.

In a recent number of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Mr. B. W. Warhurst raises a rather pertinent point in relation to stamp designs: "What are Stamps?" Mr. Warhurst enquires: "Are they not paper money to use for payment of the postage of letters, etc., for any part of the world, which was formerly paid in cash; and are they not used in millions to pay small accounts every year? If so, they ought to bear on their face indication of authority in the form of a Ruler's head, Arms, or other national emblem as used on the coinage?" We wonder if many philatelists have ever recognized this aspect of the ethics of stamp design. It is, we think, one that deserves some attention. The pictorial stamp has undoubtedly, in a certain sense, enriched the interest of stamp collecting and has also provided us with effective proselyting material that has brought Philately not a few new recruits. But it has, we think, definitely lessened the dignity of stamp design—cheapened somewhat the character of stamps as a whole. The symbol of authority is lacking in stamps of this type. They want the visible impress of national individuality, that hall mark of identification best supplied by some effigy or emblem

common to practically all a nation's issues. There is a certain majestic simplicity about the page of stamps in which each specimen bears the same emblem, diversity of effect being lent by variation of setting and difference of color. A page of British Colonials, for example, is of a more pleasing nature than a page of Colombians or Argentines. Variety of design is well enough in its way, but its attainment often requires the sacrifice of familiar faces or insignia that much better become the national stamps than the more ornate, but less significant designs that replace them. The pictorial stamp, interesting though it may be, is not, in our judgment, as in Mr. Warhurst's, an innovation to be wholly rejoiced over.

The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* quotes an item from the *New York Sun* placing among the ranks of philatelists Queen Wilhelmina of Holland; Princess Clemantine of Belgium; the late Pope Leo XIII., and the late King Alexander of Servia. Our English contemporary states that as far as it concerns Queen Wilhelmina the *Sun's* item is flatly false, and hazards the opinion that it is probably also inaccurate as regards the other personages mentioned. Very likely such is the case. Yet, after all, would there be anything incongruous in Philately's finding its way not only into palaces, but into the Vatican itself? It is not mere vainglorious bombast to say that Philately is one of the very few secular pursuits, outside the strict range of learning, in which we can without irreverence imagine such a man as the late Pope Leo to have at any time engaged. Men of deeply contemplative minds, whose high position serves to withdraw them from the surging, seething world of men and events, would seem to be the very ones most likely to recognize the subtle charm of philatelic study. The world of Philately is a strange one. Philatelic devotees are often as secret in their practice of Philately as were the masters of the black art of old; and there are more unlikely things than that more than one among the

crowned heads of Europe and more than one among the highest prelates of the Church of Rome may in a quiet way have found pleasure in Philately.

Under the caption "A Philatelic Opportunity," *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* recently reprinted the following item from a London daily:

"Fifty pounds a year is the average rental of a suburban residence. It is also the amount asked by the Colonial office for each of three uninhabited islands, 2,000 miles from anywhere in the South Atlantic Ocean. Their names are: "Inaccessible, Nightingale and Gough Islands."

The opportunity which, as our contemporary points out, is thus presented to some enterprising philatelist reminds one of Baron Harden-Hickey and his stamps for the island of Trinidad. There is, however, little probability that Philately will soon again witness so bold an attempt to place in catalogues and albums a series of stamps for a bleak and barren isle. The waste spots of the ocean are, for one thing, becoming very few. The great sea-powers of Europe have absorbed practically all the isles of the sea, habited or uninhabited. These three islands which are for rent will doubtless some day have stamps of their own, and of good governmental origin, too; if Great Britain continues to follow the precedent set in the islands of Niue and Penrhyn. The white population of either island is stated on good authority not to exceed a dozen people. Whether issues so palpably made for collectors ought to be catalogued and sold is a very serious question.

Speaking of the island of Niue, we think it quite probable that many of our readers will be interested in the account given by Mr. Ewen's journal of the "thief shilling" surcharge of Niue. It will be observed that the purveyors of new issues were not obliged to send their remittances to the little island itself, but were able to purchase Niue stamps direct from

the New Zealand Post Office Department. All told the item sheds, we think, considerable light upon the inside of this thriving new issue trade, which is one of our main reasons for reproducing it.

"As has already been mentioned in these columns the post office at Niue is a sub-office within the Auckland postal district (notwithstanding that it is a thousand miles away more or less). Hence, following the usual custom, it draws its supplies of (amongst other things) postage stamps from Auckland, where the chief stock is kept. The mail from New Zealand to Europe via San Francisco (the quickest route) runs every three weeks and was due to leave Auckland on March 6th. The day before, March 5th, the 3p, 6p and 11sh postage stamps were supplied by the Auckland postmaster to a few collectors, including the agent of the Colonial Stamp Market, who it is interesting to note bought considerable more than every one else put together. This is, however, not saying very much, as apart from those bought by our publishers, only 94 or 96 copies of the 11sh were sold on that day. These quantities only were in time for the outgoing mail. Possibly it would also carry a supply to Niue, but of this we have no evidence.

It seems likely that the stamps were sent direct by the printers to Auckland, or at least without any careful examination (apart from checking quantities) on the part of the authorities of the General Post Office, Wellington, as it does not appear to have been until the following day that the overprint was noticed to be spelt wrongly. Or perhaps the authorities were not skilled in the Niue dialect and the error was not discovered until a specimen fell into the hands of someone who knew it. However, this may be, the authorities did their best to stop the sale and recall such as had been sold, immediately their attention was drawn to the misprint. A telegram to Auckland was all that would be required to effect the first of these objects, but the second was more difficult. Official enquiries were at once

set on foot and elicited that none of the stamps had been sold to dealers except to the agent of the Colonial Trust Market. This information is known here in England to be erroneous as another dealer in this country received fifty specimens. This was evidently not known to the New Zealand authorities who volunteered the inaccurate information in the cable which they immediately dispatched requesting that the Colonial Stamp Market's consignment be returned intact to New Zealand (the other supply not having been traced was not recalled). This has been done, although, needless to say, our publishers only did so under protest. It will be interesting to see whether their right to the stamps will be considered in preference to the desire to suppress the errors. The result will probably make all the difference to collectors who in the one case will have to pay £5 or even £10 for a specimen and in the other only a moderate premium on face value. Meanwhile the stamps are a pure gamble."

The frantic haste of the New Zealand authorities to recall the stamps sold to Mr. Ewen's corporation is the most unaccountable feature of the whole matter. Why should they go to the extent of cabling to England for their return? This is certainly inexplicable; unless, perchance, there are some keen philatelists, thoroughly alive to the money making possibilities of such an error, high up among New Zealand postal authorities—which in view of the eccentricities of many varieties emanating from New Zealand would not be at all surprising.

From a recent number of the *American Journal of Philately* we extract the following item ament the familiar "on H. M. S. surcharge" found on the stamps of India. As the item is from the pen of Mr. E. W. Wetherell, we may depend upon the correctness of his explanation—an explanation that seems to considerably lower the philatelic status of the class of stamps in question:

"The surcharge 'On H. M. S.' is

not fully understood outside India. I have already stated that stamps are usually penmarked before use. The 'On H. M. S.' is practically only a glorified pen mark. It is used in all government offices and stamps so surcharged are not cashable at a post office, hence they are of no value to petty thieves. Officers buy these stamps at the same rate as for ordinary stamps, but only officers of certain grades are allowed to use them, and when using them they have to write their names and official designations in the lower left hand corner of the envelopes and 'On H. M. S.' or 'On — Gov't Service' on the top of the envelope. Native States, such as Mysore have all their official correspondence carried free *within* the State and no stamps are required; they use the "On H. M. S." stamps only for official letters which are to go outside the State."

From one of Mr. Nankivell's "English Letters" in the same journal as is above quoted, we extract some very sensible comment in regard to stamps of high face value. His remarks are as follows:

"High values of British South Africa of the first issue seem to be ominously plentiful. A stock has certainly been put on the market this winter which has pulled down prices remarkably. At a recent auction an unused copy of the £10 fetched only £3.17.6. Rumor has it that there has been a considerable distribution of surplus copies among the directors and their friends. I do not vouch for this rumor. I merely mention it as a rumor that is knocking about as an explanation. If there has been any such distribution I am perfectly certain the company never dreamt that the stamps would be plumped into the auction rooms in the manner they have been.

And here again we have the perplexing case of the high value and its rights to philatelic rank. The awkward part of the business is that no matter how high the value, even though it be \$10,000 so long as it is

available for postage, no matter whether it is ever so used or not, no collection of stamps can be said to be complete without it. The values of more than one of our colonies run up to £100. Now, at what value from ½p up to £100 is the collector going to stop? I am inclined to think that we shall have to face this question some day. Meanwhile, I would suggest to my fellow collectors that in the collection of unused they should stop short with values ordinarily used for postage purposes, taking higher values in the used form only.

So long as collectors help to create a demand for high values so long will they be provided with meaningless labels in increasing numbers. An examination of countries that are issuing high values, and an inquiry into the actual need and use of those high values would, I imagine, be a revelation to stamp collectors. Here at home we have discontinued the use of even our £5 stamp, but there are little countries that might almost do with £5 worth of stamps per year, so far as their actual postal needs are concerned that are daily selling high values by the hundred every year to stamp innocents. How long is the game to be encouraged? At least it is next door to a systematic swindle."

We heartily commend Mr. Nankivell's suggestion to collect high values in used form only. This is the real remedy for a good many of the philatelic evils of the time—to collect used instead of unused specimens. Governments would not be so rapacious, so intent upon the manufacture of new varieties on the slightest possible pretext, or so liberal in their ideas as to the number of denominations that should constitute an issue, if collectors concerned themselves with used stamps alone. We do not want to see Philately come to that pass. But it would not be at all surprising, in view of the present day tendencies, if philatelists ultimately found it necessary for self protection, to practically taboo all unused stamps of modern issue.

We are moved to wonder how many collectors there are in America who have given any attention to this form of collecting. It has some points in its favor, though certainly it could hardly be considered as adapted to the needs of the rank and file of collectors.

(To be continued.)



FEDERAL STAMPS

The general disfavor with which the first Federal stamp was received in Australia is shown by the following resolution and comment from the *Australian Journal of Philately*:

"At a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, the following resolution was passed:

'That this Council, representing the members of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, desires to place on record its deep regret that the first Commonwealth postage stamp should be so utterly weak and inartistic in design; and also to express the hope that it will be withdrawn from issue, to prevent our Australian designers being held up to ridicule; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Postmaster General and to the press.'

Generally speaking, the design has been severely condemned, the absence of the word 'Australia' being considered a fatal omission. Senator Drake's apology for placing the names of the Federated States on the pillars of the arch in such an 'upside-down' fashion, is that 'they were so arranged as to place the oldest State nearest the mother earth from which the arch rears.' It is very easy to get an excuse for any procedure, but the fact remains that Queensland, the youngest State of all, is put in the position of greatest prominence.

At the annual meeting of the Syd-

ney Philatelic Club, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:

'That the members view with regret the action of the Postmaster-General in issuing the first Federal stamps without previously calling for public competitive designs. They also regret that he has favored one State to the disadvantage of the others by having stamps intended for use in New South Wales and Queensland printed in Victoria on paper watermarked V and Crown. They desire to express the opinion that the Postmaster-General's excuse for putting New South Wales last on the list of Federated States on the new stamps is not satisfactory, and they consider that the omission of the word 'Australia' is a serious mistake. They further desire to say that the design adopted has not even the merit of being original, is quite unworthy of the occasion, inartistic and crude. That these resolutions be communicated to the Postmaster-General and the press.'

SPECIAL OFFER!

**1902, Germany, 50c
5 Marks, at only 50c**

A few nice specimens at the above price. Enough to go around, so be sure to get one of them. That's all for the present. Other bargains will follow.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

THE PERFORATOR

(ESTABLISHED 1897)

America's Leading Monthly Philatelic Magazine.

The **Seybold Original Covers** (illustrated) and **The Fraud Reporter** are features that appear in every issue. Subscription, 30 cents per year. One sample copy free.

THE PERFORATOR,
106 E. 111th Street. NEW YORK CITY.

\$2.00 OMAHA

TRANSMISSISSIPPI SERIES

A lot of 25 copies of this stamp, unused o. g., perforated four sides, catalogued \$3.00, has been placed in our hands for sale at \$2.50 each. An exceptional chance to get a good stamp.

2 U. S. Washington Match Co., 1c black, fine o. g. 95
 2 Nevada State Revenue, 2c to \$20.00, complete set of 10, unused..... 1 25
 U. S. Proprietary 1878, 10c, good copy..... 4 90
 C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 33
WHOLE NO. 85

SEPTEMBER 7, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The old school boy idea of making a stamp collection that would be *complete*, *Rational* could only prevail among those who are ignorant of what a complete stamp collection involves.

But this foolish idea has been so ground into the minds of many collectors, that we see its effect even among those whose knowledge must convince them of the impossibility of making a complete collection of stamps.

Out of this idea has grown the inconsistency of the cheap albums which are being issued to-day, that provide spaces for rare and impossible varieties. The sooner the average stamp collector comes to realize that the idea of a complete collection is preposterous, the sooner we shall have cheap albums and abbreviated catalogues issued which will be more suited to the encouragement of collecting.

The veteran dealer, J. W. Scott, is the author of this, little chunk of wisdom in a recent number of his paper: "Advise the new beginner to collect types, one of every design issued, without regard to values or colors. Once let this be the recognized standard and tens of thousands will be added to the ranks of stamp collectors."



RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

FOREIGN PARCELS POST

Every reader of this paper is interested, either directly or indirectly, in the establishment of parcels post arrangements with the different countries composing the postal union.

A powerful influence has worked in opposition to the extension of this system or we should to-day be enjoying the privileges which are a matter of course, throughout the British and German empires and to their colonies in every quarter of the globe.

When the American people want a thing they get it, but the public must be awakened to the knowledge that they are being deprived of something that would be an advantage to them, in order that the demands may be made in no uncertain tone.

The Postmaster General in his last annual report admits that European countries have long been desirous of negotiating parcels-post conventions with this country.

He reports on the experimental experience with Germany, but recommends the reduction of the limit of weight from eleven to four pounds.

This is progress in the wrong direction. The introduction of foreign parcels post will naturally suggest that our facilities with regard to domestic parcels post might be improved. Here is where we come into contact with the Express Company monopoly. There are many express companies in the United States, but in legislative lobbies they are a unit whether in Washington or the State Legislatures in opposing progress of ideas that conflict with their interests.

Is it because practically every legislator—state or national—as well as important corporation official throughout the country—enjoy express company *franking privileges*, that there is so little progress made on matters which conflict with Express Companies' interests?

We are not a cheap people. Our legislators are not bribed by such little things as express franks, but the subtle workings of the express companies have simply detracted attention from their grinding monopolies and the rich harvest that they are reaping from the enjoyment of privileges that belong to the Government postal service.

We believe in the integrity and pure intention of the administrative heads of our public departments, and realize that it is the duty of the citizen to direct the attention of officials to the operation of their rules and regulations as they affect business interests.

Following this line, our publishers, in the general interest of the stamp trade, have addressed the Post Office Department in the following form:

September 1st, 1903.

HON. H. C. PAYNE,
Postmaster-General,
Washington, D. C.

SIR:—In your annual report of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902, you comment on the Parcel Post Convention with Germany as having worked satisfactorily, and suggest that there seems no good reason why similar conventions should not be concluded with other countries of Europe.

You also report that the average weight dispatched during the fiscal year is three and a half pounds, while the actual weight of parcels received was seven pounds.

In commenting on these figures you recommend that the weight of parcels be limited to four pounds and recommend that six months' notice be given to Germany of the desire of this country to modify the existing convention so as to reduce the weight of parcels from eleven to four pounds.

Can this be anything but discouraging to shippers of parcels to this country when your own statistics show that the average weight was seven pounds? What interest is served by this change of weight limitations unless it is that of the Express Companies?

This matter did not come direct to our attention until the actual discontinuance of the German Parcel Post service. We

have been continually in receipt of shipments all of which came very near to the limit, eleven pounds, so we are suddenly confronted by the new conditions, whereby the parcels which have heretofore come through without any trouble or expense are now diverted into the hands of an express company and we are taxed 50c. on each package, really for the benefit of these monopolies. Parcels which were heretofore shipped from Germany and delivered to us direct in St. Louis are now forwarded in the same way as far as the Germans are concerned paying the same rate as German Parcel Post, but when they arrive in New York they are turned over to one of the large express companies who are disposed to a charge 25c. brokerage and 25c. other fee and the parcels come through to St. Louis with 50c. tax upon them, which is absolutely unwarranted.

If the Postal Laws are made for the benefit of the Express Companies the fact ought to be known. There is a prevailing impression that it is the express companies that stand in the way of the extension of the Parcel Post system. If the influence of the express companies have been exerted in a manner so subtle that the Post Office Department are not aware of its existence, it is high time that attention is directed to the fact. That the United States is far behind all first-class countries of Europe in regard to Parcel Post facilities is an unquestionable fact and cannot be contradicted by any one who is familiar with the subject.

All of this is submitted respectfully or your consideration and we enclose express labels from recent parcel post packages showing the tax of 50c. on each parcel that we are now subject to, owing to this curtailment of the Parcel Post privileges.

Yours truly,

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
C. H. MEKEEL, Pres.

N. W. Chandler, the
Mr. Chandler popular Collinsville,
a Grandpa Ill., dealer, who was
formerly Treasurer of
the American Philatelic Association,
has been on a visit to his daughter
and new grandson at Lawrence, Mass.
He writes us that during his absence
his correspondence has got behind
but will return soon and catch up
with his orders and resume his an-
nouncements to collectors.

OMAHA 4, 5, 8 and 10c WANTED

We want some 4, 5, 8 and 10c Omaha and solicit offers in lots of fifty stamps or over, cash or trade. Make offers; do not send stamps.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

H. G. Comfort, of Canada King's Hamilton, Canada, Head Post Card was the first to send us the new one cent postal card bearing the stamp of King's head which, he states, were issued at that post office, August 31.

Rev. P. Aug. Minkel, of A Protest St. Bartholomew Church, Goff, Pa., a valued subscriber, writes to us with regard to the reference made in a clipping we printed from the Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, of London, about the days of the temporal power of the Popes, in connection with comment on the stamps of the Papal States.

We very much regret that we should have printed anything that should have been construed as a reflection on any religion, as such matters have no place in a stamp journal.

The adherents of Philately include persons of all shades of religious belief, and far be it from us to meddle in matters of that kind.

Some party who has Zanzibar bought one of the w cle-Remainders sale parcels of Zanzibar remainders recently offered in London may dispose of the low denominations which he has in quantity, if he desires to do so to a party who does not care for complete sets.

A letter addressed with lowest cash quotations to "Packet Dealer," care of the publishers of this paper will receive prompt attention.

Our readers will no- Welcome a tice the advertisement New Dealer on another page of Mr.

S. Valentine Saxby of Rockford, Ill., who is starting in the stamp business at Rockford and will made frequent announcements through these columns to our readers. We wish Mr. Saxby all possible success in his venture and can assure the readers of this paper that they will find him a most satisfactory gentleman to deal with.

ADD SOMETHING GOOD TO YOUR COLLECTION

- U. S. 1861, 1c blue on laid paper, a fine lightly cancelled copy, Scott's No. 63a, priced \$25...\$16 00
Pan American 1c with inverted center, a superb mint copy never hinged ... 25 00
Block of 4 of same100 00
Pan American 2c with inverted center, a bonafide used copy, paid postage New York to Victoria, Australia, £30.....146 10
Pan American 1c with inverted center, used on original cover..... 20 00
Same, an unused copy one straight edge but good margins, used mint 17 00
U. S. 1873, 3c green, double paper, unused, Scott's No. 158c, rare unused..... 10 00
U. S. Carrier, Louisville, Ky., Wharton's 2c bluish-green, No. 841, mint 7 50
U. S. 1869, 90c black and carmine..... 8 00
U. S. Revenue, \$200.00, first issue, fine copy... 8 00
Br. Colombia, 1868, 10c perf. 14, mint 30 00
Br. Colombia, 1868, \$1.00, perf. 14, mint 40 00
Two Sicilies, 1860, 1/4T blue (No. 8) fine used copy 50 00
Switzerland, 1849-50, 4c red and black (No. 12) a good used copy 85 00
Geneva (Swiss) 10c (double 5c) a fine used copy 75 00
We have over \$25,000.00 worth of high-class stamps in stock.

Any of above will be sent on Approval.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL OFFERS

- 100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50pf..... \$0 40
100 well mixed Germany Reichpost, 25, 80pf, 1 mark 1 20
100 well mixed Germany Deutsches Reich, 2, 3, 30, 40, 50, 80pf 25
100 well mixed Bavaria, 30, 40, 80pf, 1 mark.... 50
100 well mixed Holland, 3, 7 1/2, 10, 12 1/2, 15, 20, 25c 35
100 Holland, 50c, current issue..... 60
100 Holland, 50c, large stamp..... 80
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25c 15
100 well mixed Luxemburg, 4, 12 1/2, 20, 30, 37 1/2, 50c, 1 franc 1 50
100 well mixed Haiti and Hawaii, 12 kinds..... 1 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Postal Packet, 10 kinds 50
100 well mixed Belgium, Unpaid Stamps 85
100 France, 1900, 40 and 50c..... 60
The above offers are a small extract of my wholesale price list which will be sent, post free, to dealers only.

PIERRE NIESSEN, Stamp Dealer,

Brussels 163, - - - BELGIUM.

NEWFOUNDLAND PROVISIONALS

- Newfoundland, 1 on 3c. Type 1, O. G., Fine.....\$ 35
" 1 on 3c, " 2, " " " 7 00
" 1 on 3c, " 3, " " " 7 00
100 British Colonies: All Postage and Different 60
500 10 00
Wholesale and Retail, 50 Large Page List for Dealers and Collectors, cheapest list in America. Free to all. Write to-day, as it interests everybody.

MARKS STAMP CO., - Toronto, Canada.

Largest Wholesale Dealers in Canada. Wanted-To buy stamps of every country in large lots. Make us some offers.

The Earl of Crawford, who is best known in this country for having paid about \$10,000 for the late John K. Tiffany's library of Philatelic literature and who is the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of London, spends a good deal of time on his private yacht, "*Valhalla*" on which he is at the present time touring the world.

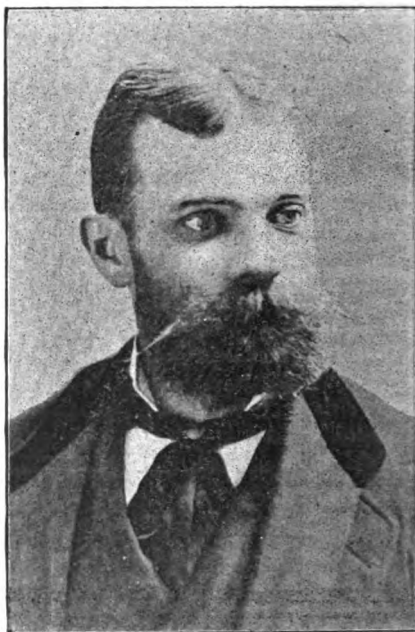
A little story just now comes from Australia to the effect that the "*Valhalla*" has touched in the course of his travels at the northernmost point of Australia—Thursday Island—staying there several days, and an Australian contemporary remarks the Earl and his crew, as might have been anticipated during that period yielded to the cravings of a perfectly natural appetite, stimulated by the pure Australian air, partook of certain meals, to-wit: breakfast and dinner with an occasional smack in between and something to wash them down with, all of which being taken from the ship's stores.

This in the eyes of the Revenue officers was an offence inasmuch as no customs duty had been paid on the eatables devoured and the potables absorbed. A demand was made for the payment of "Fifty Bob," which estimate was probably arrived at by measuring the capacity of the captain and the crew and multiplying the result by three days. The Earl of Crawford having found no authority for this action in his philatelic hand-books of Australia declined to pay up and telegraphed to the Minister of Finance for guidance. The Minister apparently being too busy to reply, another wire was sent, and failing any answer to this, the third telegram was sent and the Earl of Crawford

"Put his helm hard a lee
And promptly steered for the open sea."

Should he come back it is dreadful to contemplate the fate in store for this intrepid philatelic sailor, the Earl of Crawford and Belcaries.

All joking aside we are given to understand that the philatelic accumulations of the Earl have been something marvelous, and his collection ranks up near the top.



J. V. Painter

The portrait was given our editor in 1889, at which time they were both spending some time in Paris. Mr. Painter was well known personally to some of the greatest French collectors and manifested his kindly interest in the young dealer who was making his first visit to the French metropolis, by taking him with him in his private carriage upon many philatelic pilgrimages when the opportunity was given to view some of the greatest philatelic accumulations, which were inaccessible to most people.

It has been his pleasure and good fortune to meet Mr. Painter personally at other times in London, New York and Cleveland, and has been a friendly correspondent for nearly twenty-five years.

The following biographical sketch is taken from the *Cleveland Leader*.

"John Vickers Painter, one of the best known of Cleveland's business men, died August 14, at his home, 704 Euclid Avenue, after a brief illness.

He was first taken ill about five weeks ago, but soon grew better and was able to be out and attend to

important business affairs. About a week ago he was again taken seriously ill, however, and his death resulted last night about 9:30 o'clock. The cause of his death was heart disease. He was aged sixty-eight years and is survived by Mrs. Painter and one son, Kenyon V. Painter, who resides at 696 Euclid Avenue. No arrangements have been made as yet for the funeral. Mrs. Painter was at her husband's bedside and is prostrated over his death.

John Vickers Painter was born in West Chester, Pa., July 20, 1835. His parents, Samuel Marshall Painter and Ann Vickers Painter, were descendants of people of the Quaker State who accompanied William Penn from England. In his boyhood and youth Mr. Painter received the Quaker training.

He was educated at Haverford College, Pennsylvania, and early in his career came West and embarked in business in this city, where he has since resided. He first engaged in railroading in the employ of the Cleveland & Toledo Railroad Company, which is now a part of the Lake Shore system. In this capacity he acquired the business habits which exhibited to some extent his executive ability as a man of prompt and shrewd judgment. Later Mr. Painter went into the banking business, in which he continued until June 1, 1873, when he retired because of failing health.

After spending some years abroad he became interested in manufacturing and iron mining and in the organization of the Cleveland Stone Company, of which he was vice-president. Mr. Painter was also vice-president of the Cleveland & Pittsburg Railway and was a director in the following companies: the Cleveland Trust Company, the Citizens' Savings and Trust Company, the Republic Iron Company and the Springsteen Medicine Company. He was also a trustee of the Cleveland Museum of Art and treasurer and trustee of the John Huntington Benevolent Trust. He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Union, Roadside, Country and Euclid clubs.

Philippine Islands.

No.			
116.	1898.	1c. black violet, used, fine	\$0.03
117.	—	2c. blue green, used, fine	.04
118.	—	3c. dark brown, used, fine	.01
120.	—	5c. carmine rose, used, fine	.15
122.	—	8c. gray brown, used, fine	.04
123.	—	10c. vermilion, used, fine	.20
124.	—	15c. slate green, used, fine	.12
125.	—	20c. maroon, used, fine	.15
126.	—	40c. violet, used, fine	.25
127.	—	60c. black, used, fine	.40

Porto Rico.

137.	1898.	3m. orange brown, unused, fine	.01
140.	—	1c. black violet, unused, fine	.03
141.	—	2c. blue green, unused, fine	.01
142.	—	3c. dark brown, unused, fine	.01
144.	—	5c. carmine rose, unused, fine	.04
145.	—	6c. dark blue, unused, fine	.02
146.	—	8c. gray brown, unused, fine	.05
147.	—	10c. vermilion, unused, fine	.08
148.	—	15c. slate green, unused, fine	.08
149.	—	20c. maroon, unused, fine	.15
150.	—	40c. violet, unused, fine	.20
151.	—	60c. black, unused, fine	.25

JOHN ZUG, Everett, Wash.

THE PERFORATOR
(ESTABLISHED 1897)

America's Leading Monthly Philatelic Magazine.
The **Seybold Original Covers** (illustrated) and **The Fraud Reporter** are features that appear in every issue. Subscription, 30 cents per year. One sample copy free.
THE PERFORATOR.
106 E. 111th Street, NEW YORK CITY.

WE HAVE MONEY to buy Collections, Rarities and Stocks. We buy unused 1 cent and 2 cent unused stamps for mercantile use at a discount of from three to five per cent according to quantities. Higher denominations at a greater discount.
UNITED STAMP CO., Inc., 1149 Marquette B'ldg. CHICAGO, ILLS.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,
36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.
Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
Kings Head Leeward Islands, ¼p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.,
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.
J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM,
1903 Edition.
Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.
1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.
1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

10 WEEKS FOR 10c
ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to
THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
503-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

Stolen Sweets

SEASONED WITH OUR OWN COMMENTS

A somewhat interesting note in relation to the Post Office Mauritius stamps is found in a recent number of the *Philatelic Journal*. The information therein given as to the prices brought by this great rarity in different philatelic eras of the past will probably be new to many of our readers:

"Only a month ago we commented upon the discovery of two Post Office Mauritius stamps by T. H. Lemaire, a one and a two pence value used on the same letter. The first, however, embraced yet another of these peculiarly interesting stamps—a two pence on the envelope but untouched by the postmark. Any information about these, the most interesting, if not absolutely the rarest, of postage stamps claims the attention, and the history of the various copies appertains to the romance of Philately. No stamp has been sought after more eagerly than these, and from time to time a copy has been discovered, each one a fortune to the lucky discoverer. The first price of which we have record was the insignificant sum of eight shillings paid for the pair used. The latest, the princely sum of £1,900 paid in 1897 for copies of the one penny and two pence value, used, and it is possible that the four copies discovered since 1898 have eclipsed even these mighty sums. Strange to say the more specimens that come to light, the higher goes the price. In 1870 only eleven copies were known and the highest price paid was £20 for the two, unused. In 1880 there were fourteen known copies, and £30 had been given for the 1d value alone. In 1890 the number was fifteen and the top price £150 for the two pence stamp, used. In 1900 there were twenty known copies, and the prices had progressed by leaps and bounds to the great figure previously mentioned. Now, in 1903, there are twenty-three copies, thus:

"1d, unused (2), used (11)—13} 23 copies
2d, unused (4), used (6)—10}

"Out of this limited number no less than six copies have passed through the hands of Mr. Lemaire, a record of which he is very proud."

To this it should be added that the pair lately discovered is said to have been sold by Mr. Lemaire to a well-known Parisian amateur for the stupendous sum of £2,600 or about \$13,000. It is hinted in certain quarters abroad that the price at which the pair changed hands was not really as great as has been generally stated. But even if the figures above given are discounted by twenty or twenty-five per cent, the transaction remains one of the most remarkable in the annals of Philately.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News in almost its every issue presents list of minor varieties which would make interesting exhibits (to use the word in its legal sense) if one were trying the case of "the best interests of Philately vs. the microscopic specialist." As an illustration of the mad lengths to which "Dotty Philately" is being carried in some ultra select circles (of far too rarified an atmosphere for most ordinary philatelists), we reproduce "a little list" which made its appearance recently in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*. The list deals with the minor varieties which the eagle eye Mr. Ewen has discovered in the British Somaliland surcharges—a series of stamps whose major varieties stand on none too reputable footing, let alone these numerous minor variations of surcharge which Mr. Ewen seems to regard as both collectible and interesting. This is the list:

"Sheets of 240, 20 rows of 12; horizontal margin running through center of sheet dividing it into two parts (as in British stamps).

No. 5. The 4, 8 and 12 a's. have

small "L" in "Somali."

No. 18. The $\frac{1}{2}$ a. has ! instead of second l in "British;" the 1 a. and 2a. show the variety "BRIT SH," the second "I" being represented by the faintest dots level with the top of the other letters.

Nos. 22, 30. The $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 a's. have small L in "Land."

No. 33. The $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, 8 and 12 a's have small N in "Land."

No. 80. The 1 and 2 a's have small L in "Somali;" the $\frac{1}{2}$ a. has two ! in "British."

No. 109. The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna has apostrophies instead of I's in "BR ' T ' SH," etc.

No. 116 Wrong font D in "Land," much too thick; all values.

No. 127 Short second I in "British," $\frac{1}{2}$ anna.

No. 132. The $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 3 a. have "dropped" S in "Somali."

No. 169. Error "BRIT SH." In the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 annas the second I is omitted; in the 3 a's it prints faintly, and in the other values clearly.

No. 172. Small wrong font L in "Land," all values.

Nos. 218 and 233. "Somali" has ! instead of I in the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna.

No. 228. "Somali" has : instead of I in the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna.

No. 236. The S of "Somali" and left stroke of M are almost entirely missing."

We have not reproduced Mr. Ewen's list quite in its entirety; but sufficiently, we think, for illustration of the alarmingly subtle eyesight of the modern minor variety chaser. Such a list is enough to make rational philatelists shudder. The microscopic school by its antics serves to belittle Philately in the eyes of reasonable men. If the collecting of surcharge errors of the kind above mentioned is true scientific Philately, by all means let us be less scientific.

Not only has English Philately lately suffered the loss of its pioneer stamp dealer and philatelic publisher, Mr. H. Stafford Smith, who died a few months since, but, as we learn from the *Australian Philatelist*, Australia has been similarly bereaved. Our

contemporary records the recent death of Mr. Edward Blunsum, who seems to have been in a sense the father of Australian Philately. Even his name is probably wholly unfamiliar to the great bulk of our readers; but when the time comes that the history of Philately's early days is fully written his is a name that will doubtless be writ large in the little list of those philatelic pioneers and missionaries who spread the girdle of Philately around the world forty or more years ago. Mr. Blunsum, it is stated, was a stamp collector in England as early as 1863; went to Australia in 1867, carrying with him his stamps and philatelic proclivities; and in 1870 opened in Sydney the finest stamp shop ever known in Australia. We refer here to Mr. Blunsum's death largely for the reason that we believe in honoring the memory of these early missionaries of Philately.

There is always good reading in Major Evans' most admirable chronicle of New Issues in the *Monthly Journal*. The new issue departments of many journals are highly informative, but few of them are also entertaining—certainly none in so great degree as that of the *Monthly Journal*. To combine wit with information in a new issue chronicle is to place the philatelic reading public heavily in one's debt. That Major Evans is a past master at combining these two not easily blended qualities may be seen from the following paragraph anent some recent postal eccentricities of Colombia—a paragraph typical in style of much of the entertaining matter appearing each month from this genial chronicler's pen:

"Colombia—Provisionals (?) poorly engraved and badly printed seem to be the principal products of this Republic. We have received a 5c of narrow, oblong shape, with a picture of the cruiser *Cartagena* in the centre; also the 1 peso described last month in a fresh color. We have seen sheets of these, and find that both are produced from casts or electrotypes; the sheets contain fifty stamps, in two blocks of twenty-five. Due economy

is practiced in the matter of the very poor paper employed, for we are shown a sheet of 1 peso, *brown*, which evidently got into the press first in a folded condition and received an impression partly on one side and partly on the other, and which was then straightened out and received on one side a complete impression, three stamps of which are mixed up to some extent with the first print. We do not know whether the Post Office made an extra charge for this sheet, but as the *peso* is only worth about $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. at the present rate of exchange, the extra stamp or two that might be cut from the margins of the sheet were perhaps not thought to be of any importance.

"We also have to report, with much regret, that General Prospero has been reduced, not in rank or value, but in size, as we have a 1 peso stamp of identically the same design as that described last month, but measuring only 18x24 mm., instead of 20x26 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Then there is a 50c in a larger size, 21x26 mm., bearing what we trust is not a faithful portrait of Simon Bolivar, printed in sheets of twenty-five and in at least five different colors; and a 5 pesos stamp, with the arms in the centre, a device which the artist evidently finds much easier than the supposed portraits."

Could philatelic humor be more delicately ironical? We fancy not.

"Egyptian Salt Tax" stamps have been considerably in evidence in the advertising columns of some of our American stamp journals of late and many philatelists have wondered what might be the exact nature of these hitherto unheard-of labels which have so suddenly and so mysteriously flooded the market on all hands. We learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that these stamps are purely fiscals and can by no stretch of the imagination be considered as worthy of entrance into a postage collection. Up to about 1900, the selling of salt in Egypt was a government monopoly, controlled by the "Salt Department." When retailers wished to purchase salt they went to a post office, filled in

a form with the quantity required and attached stamps to the form to the value thereof. The stamps were then postmarked and the form handed back, salt being given in exchange for it on presentation at the Government stores. About 1900 the Government monopoly was bought by a company and the stamps ceased to be used. The unused remainders were burnt, but a large stock of forms to which the used stamps were attached were disposed of to stamp dealers—whence comes this sudden irruption of "Egypt Salt Tax" in so many of the advertisements of they who cater principally to the young collector.

The *Stamp Collector*, of Birmingham, England, prefaces one of its interesting interviews with leading Birmingham philatelists with the following remarks:

"The commencement of an interest in Philately can often be traced to some casual occurrence. Quite recently we heard of a railway porter who possessed a collection of some 2,000 different stamps built up from a few score varieties dropped in a third compartment by some hasty school boy. Another case even more amazing, was that of a boy of fifteen summers who was able to sell and exchange duplicates and at the same time to form a collection of over 3,000 stamps in the short space of two years, and all from a broken leg—which caused him to part with a cricket bat in exchange for a small collection which formed the nucleus of his 3,000. Our third illustration is our friend Mr. Batty-Mapplebeck, who at the age of sixty, has in one year and one month not only gathered together a collection worthy of the name, but by ardent study has grasped so much knowledge of varieties and prices. A few odd attractive stamps were shown him by Mr. Jno. A. Margoschis, and thereupon Mr. Mapplebeck, a collector by nature, resolved to commence the pastime so long overlooked of stamp collecting."

The part of this item which has particularly struck us and which is the direct cause of its insertion here

is the sentence which says "A few odd attractive stamps were shown him by Mr. Jno. A. Margoschies." A whole philatelic sermon could be preached from this text. If every adult philatelist in this land carried "a few odd attractive stamps" in some convenient pocket ready to show them to this or that non-philatelic friend when judicious occasion offered—say in the course of the cosy hour of smoke and chat just after dinner or other seemly time of leisure—who dares say that Philately would not gain many a new adherent. The trouble with most of us is that we are too fearful of a lack of sympathy, too concerned lest stamp collecting may appear a trivial frivolousness in the eyes of our friends, to venture out in the open. But there are few non-collectors who would not examine with some interest a few of the "odd attractive stamps" which have appeared within the last decade, such for instance as the pictorial issues of New Zealand; the numerous stamps of various states in Africa bearing tropical scenes of the jungle, and many other stamps of similar oddity that will suggest themselves to the reader. Current events will also often invest certain stamps with vivid interest for the non-philatelists. For example, at the time of the assassination of the King of Servia and his Queen the display of one of the Servian stamps bearing the effigy of that unfortunate ruler would have drawn a knot of interested on-lookers in almost any place of public assemblage. Such casual display of interesting varieties might not produce an actual convert in one case in ten thousand; but they would serve to disseminate a truer public understanding of the interest to be found in stamps. And such an understanding cannot but indirectly produce good fruit. If Philately is in the air, so to speak, if the existence of the pursuit is quite well known and does not appear in the public eye as an abnormal manifestation of individual eccentricity, but as a thing of solid standing among the diversions of men, a great many men would drift into Philately

who otherwise would be steeled against any interest in it. We express our meaning clumsily, but we trust the idea is clear. It will be a grand era for Philately when the general body of philatelists outgrow their timidity of displaying stamps before non-philatelic eyes.

In the same journal from which we secured our text for the above paragraph we find some remarks on what their writer calls "excessive specialism" with which we abundantly sympathize. They epitomise the case which can be made out against "dotty Philately" as well as anything we have recently seen, and we therefore deem it well to reprint them, as follows:

It has so long been accepted as a self-evident truth that a general collection is nowadays impossible that we have strayed all unconsciously to extremes in the opposite direction. A correspondent of one of the philatelic papers gives as an example the plating of railway stamps, where one label is distinguished by having a small white dot at the top of the figure 2. The hair splitting minutæ of the catalogues have caused much weariness, and we hear, every now and again, the cry for a Collectors' Catalogue, for a National Catalogue, or there arises outcry against the bloating which specialism brings in its train.

"The original two schools of collecting have long since merged into one, but that one has advanced so far that its parents would not know it: Let me give an example of the state in which we are. Here is a list of so-called 'varieties' of the 6 pence blue of 1859, hailing from South Australia: Blue, slate-blue, dull violet, greenish-blue, prussian blue, chalky-blue and ultramarine. Seven varieties in color of the rouletted stamp. Afterwards, we have numerous attempts to fix the perforations and then the watermarks!

"Irrespective of the resultant hoarding and consequent raising of prices, is not all this extremely likely to cause a feeling of disgust in many collectors arriving at that critical

stage when they are ready to throw off the schoolboy *modus operandi*, and are preparing to blossom into philatelists? Can it be honestly claimed that minute differences in perforation, in thickness or kind of paper, or in shades of color, which may or may not be accidental, make for really scientific collecting? There is, indeed, abundant room for the 'limited specialism' proposal advanced by certain leaders. It is high time philatelists ceased making themselves ridiculous by their whoops of satisfaction at such epoch-making discoveries as a misplaced comma or a raised full-stop!"

One very pertinent point raised by the writer of the above is that regarding the manner in which the catalogues list so called color varieties. The instance cited of the seven kinds of blue listed in one stamps is by no means an isolated case. The makers of certain English and European catalogues have a great deal to answer for in regard to some of these things. Were every philatelist endowed with sufficient independence of thought to follow the catalogue no farther than common sense dictates, it would not matter what hair splitting feats the cataloguer indulged in. But unfortunately there is a considerable body of philatelists who regard the catalogue not as the servant of the collector, but as his master.

It is always interesting to note the differences in philatelic methods characterizing different nations. Most of us are apt to think that stamp collecting is carried on in pretty much the same manner all over the world; and it is only occasionally that some stray item in the foreign press reminds us that every nation has its little individual idiosyncracies of philatelic method. Such an item we find in a recent number of the *London Philatelist* and beg leave to reproduce it, as follows:

"Under the heading, 'A New Collection,' Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall lately read a most interesting paper before the London Philatelic Society;

but excellent as were Mr. Marshall's remarks as to his theory, we must demur to the accuracy of his title. Mr. Dendy Marshall's new system of collecting is defined by him as 'used specimens being taken on a piece of the original, cover cut out so as to show the whole postmark.' There is nothing new under the sun, and those who have a close acquaintance with Continental systems of collecting would not regard Mr. Marshall's system as anything beyond the application in this country of a practice that largely prevails abroad.

"It is only of late years, outside a select circle of first-class collectors in France, that the cult of unused stamps on the Continent has found many followers. In Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and many other countries, used stamps have been—and still very largely are—the most favored, and they have been broadly differentiated and appreciated in value under the three divisions:

1. Used, not on paper.
2. Used, on a piece of original.
3. Used, on entire original.

"The third class obviously presents considerable difficulties of attainment, notably with regard to the rarities, and such stamps as those of minor states and free towns of Germany, and the consequent prices have perhaps had a deterrent effect upon their collection, despite their popularity.

"The second class is one that has found very many followers and we have seen very many collections, notably of the German and Italian States composed entirely of specimens 'on piece of original.' The importance, in certain cases, of preserving intact the postmark was justly remarked upon by Mr. Dendy Marshall; but this is also fully appreciated abroad, and we have frequently seen stamps priced in the books of well-known dealers, such as Mr. E. Stock of Berlin or Mr. H. Decker of Hanover, in which a considerable increase of price was asked for specimens having postmarks evenly distributed over the surface of stamp and paper alike. In cases where the postmark was quite upright a still

higher price is demanded In any case, the collection of stamps 'on pieces of original' is one that has long been in vogue abroad, and has been sedulously pursued with all the philatelic appreciation that Mr. Dendy Marshall so amply possesses."

We are moved to wonder how many collectors there are in America who have given any attention to this form of collecting. It has some points in its favor, though certainly it could hardly be considered as adapted to the needs of the rank and file of collectors.

TWO TYPES OF THE LAUREATED HEAD OF NAPOLEON

At the first glance, as Mons. T. H. Lemaire remarks in "La Cote Reelle," it would seem that the laureated effigy of the Emperor Napoleon III. on the French stamps of 1863-70 is the same for all the values of the series, from the 1c. olive to the 5 francs lilac. This, however, is not so. There are two absolutely distinct types, the effigy being engraved twice; firstly for the low values, 1, 2 and 4 centimes, and secondly for the 10, 20, 30, 40 and 80 centimes. The type used for the three low values, according to Mons. Lemaire, was also requisitioned for the oblong 5 francs stamp.

Comparing the printing of these stamps with that of the stamps of the

"We have before us as we write," proceeds the Editor of "La Cote Reele," "a reproduction of the Daguerreotype which served Barre as a model for his designs, not only of the postage stamps but also for the coins." The son of this same Barre, namely A. Barre, engraved the stamps of the laureated type.

The first issued stamp of the laureated series, the 2c. red brown, made its appearance in December, 1862, the second (the 4c. grey) in September, 1863; and the third (the 20c. blue) not till nearly four years later — in April, 1867.

It is this 20 centimes stamp which first presents type II. of the Laureated head. The frame of the stamp suggests that of the stamps of 1849-52, but it was more regular, "more geometric" as "La Cote Reele" observes.

Then as to the effigy of Emperor. This shows variations from the effigy appearing on the two low values which had already appeared. The differences are well shown in the following enlarged portions of the stamps, which we reproduce here from the pages of our French contemporary.

It must be explained that in each case the portion of design shown on the *left* in the following collection of fragments is a portion of the design of the low values and the 5 francs stamp, while in each case the right-hand portion is taken from the 20c. blue, and the remaining stamps of the series.

Comparing the first selected portions



preceding issue, we find that the Emperor's head has undergone marked changes. The stamps of the non-laureated design have been drawn on the cliché, and retouched as to the top inscription, which was engraved by J. J. Barre in 1852, at that time the future Emperor being simply President of the French Republic.

of the head (ear and part of the cheek), we see that in the edge of the ear and its shading, and in the lines of the cheek, the two types show marked differences. But in this part of the Emperor's head the most outstanding divergence of design is in the addition of a small lock of hair near the leaves of the laurel wreath. A

glance at the illustrations will show that in Type II., a distinctly additional *meche de cheveux* is introduced.

Passing on to the imperial nostril, one sees an appreciable difference in the gulf penetrating between the Emperor's nose and the beginning of his moustache, and finally the broken lines, replacing connected ones on the bridge of nose.

Again, near the ribbon that fastens the wreath at the back of the head, we find in Type I., a single vertical line to the left. This is partially duplicated in Type II.

Under the "chop" of the Emperor's neck in the design used for the lower values there is a series of saw-points in white, directed towards the front of the stamp, but in the 2nd type the points are in black and the white points which separate and define them are pointing upwards.—*The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*.

"A New Broom Sweeps Clean"

I am just starting in the stamp business, and in order to introduce myself to the stamp-buying public, offer the following bargains:

UNITED STATES	
3c black, newspaper (o. g.) No. 1030	\$0 20
2c carmine, 1894, triangle II and III, unsevered pairs, plate No. 170 (o. g.)	06
Confederate States, No. 212 (o. g.)	20
Confederate States, No. 211 (o. g.)	02
Pairs and Blocks same rate	
Turkey, No. 14 (o. g.) mint	02
" " 15 " "	03
" " 17 " "	03
NEWFOUNDLAND, No. 62 (o. g.) mint	04
Pairs and Blocks if desired	

Medium and low-priced Approval Books sent to all interested parties.

Cut Square Envelopes are "cut to the quick" in the new catalogue. I have a large stock of Entires, used and unused, for specialists in this line.

*Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.
Don't forget References.*

I cannot afford to give my stock away in order to get trade as the man with the Tobago's did not send me any of his snaps.

S. VALENTINE SAXBY, Rockford, Ills.

SPECIAL OFFER!

1902, Germany, 5 Marks, at only 50c

A few nice specimens at the above price. Enough to go around, so be sure to get one of them. That's all for the present. Other bargains will follow.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

QUERY ANSWERS ON CURIO SUBJECTS

Inquiries regarding Coins, Stamps, Paper Money, Antiques and Curios will be answered through this column.

[Address inquiries to the Publishers; give name and address. Answers will be given under the subject of your inquiry.]

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY:

The small change stringency of 1862 prompted the issuing of paper money of small denominations; postal currency was first introduced and was soon followed by fractional currency which was of several different issues and circulated to the amount of \$50,000,000 until the resumption of specie payments in 1879. Notes of the following denominations were issued: 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 cents.

HALF CENTS:

Government records state half cents were coined to the value of \$39,926.11 and that all are outstanding, none having been presented for redemption; they disappeared from circulation soon after their coinage was discontinued in 1857. That none have been presented for redemption is one of the enigmas of the Treasury Department.

LEGAL TENDER:

Subsidiary coins—dimes, quarters and half dollars are a legal tender for amounts not exceeding \$10 in any one payment; minor coins—one and five cent pieces, are a legal tender to the extent of 25c.

LARGE NOTES:

The largest denomination of paper money issued by the United States is \$10,000 notes, but few are in circulation; they are mostly used by banks in their settling of balances with one another.

LARGE COPPER CENTS:

First coined in 1793 and coined every year excepting 1815, to 1857 in which year their coinage was discontinued; 156,288,744 pieces were coined; 118,334,893 pieces are outstanding yet to be redeemed by the government. Where are they? They have been out of circulation for many years. All, when in fine condition,

command a small premium. The rarest dates are 1793, 1799, 1804 and 1809.

FIRST STAMPS:

England was the first country to issue and use postage stamps, adopting them in 1840. The first government issue of stamps in the United States was in 1847. Previous to this date a few postmasters issued stamps denoting the pre-payment of postage. The postmaster stamps are now rare and valuable.

TRADE DOLLARS:

Trade dollars are only worth their bullion value, that is, their value as silver at the prevailing price of that metal. Their present value is about 40 cents. This coin stands alone as the only one ever issued by Uncle Sam the value of which he repudiated.

MINT MARKS ON COINS:

The parent mint is at Philadelphia and its coins have no mint mark. The branch mints and their marks are:—Charlotte, N. C. (C); Carson City, Nev. (CC); Dahlonega, Ga. (D); New Orleans, La. (O), and San Francisco, Cal. (S). The only mints now in operation are those at Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco. A new mint, costing more than \$1,000,000, is nearing completion at Denver, Col. With it in operation the mint at New Orleans will be discontinued.

REDEMPTION OF MUTILATED PAPER MONEY:

Paper money when not mutilated so that less than three-fifths of original proportions remain, is redeemable at full face value; if clearly more than two-fifths, then at half of its face value, but fragments not clearly more than two-fifths, are not redeemable except by affidavit that the missing portions are totally destroyed, then at full face value.

TWENTY CENT PIECES:

Coined 1875 to 1876, total value of all coined, \$271,000; their numismatic value is: 1875, 25c.; 1876, 30c.; 1877 and 1878, \$1 to 2c.

CLEANING COINS:

Do not attempt to clean or brighten

any coin you wish to sell to a dealer or collector. A long emersion in sweet oil will loosen any foreign substance and permit its removal with a soft cloth.

SMALL GOLD COINS:

Gold quarters and half dollars were never issued by the government. They are a product of private mints and were issued following the gold finds of California in 1849. They were coined almost every year and of various types until their issue was prohibited, about 1880. They readily sell for \$1.50 each. Many pieces classed with these are but charms and have no numismatic value.

COLUMBIAN QUARTERS:

This was one of the two commemorative coin issues in connection with the Columbian Exposition of 1893: 40,023 pieces were coined. They represented a special appropriation and were paid direct to the Board of Lady Managers. Most all were sold from the Woman's Building at the Exposition for \$1 each; those not sold were placed in the hands of dealers and have since been sold at 75 cents. They are all dated 1893 and none have reached face value.

RAREST U. S. COIN:

The rarest coin of the United States is the 1849 \$20 gold piece—but one was ever coined. It has always remained in the possession of the government and is in the coin collection displayed at the mint in Philadelphia.

NUT-SHELL FACTS

— ON —

COINS, STAMPS

and PAPER MONEY

An authoritatively prepared volume concisely covering its subjects, describes and prices the over 500 U. S. Coins commanding a premium. A condensed history of money and a complete counterfeit detector.

Sent Post Paid for 25 Cents.

To those ordering a book and sending 5 cents additional, 30 cents in all, I will send an interesting piece of paper money issued during the Civil War.

F. ZERBE,

4263 Morgan Street, St. Louis, Mo.

The following extract from the letter of one of our subscribers, Mr. Joseph Kaemmerlen, is typical of many allusions to the album problem that have come to our notice. The gentleman writes:

"I would like to ask you what you consider a good album. I dislike the International on account of there being thousands of spaces which will remain forever vacant."

There should be an album provided of substantial proportions in which spaces are provided for the ordinary varieties of stamps of all countries which would be within the range of the average collector's ability to accumulate, with additional blank pages for other chance varieties. This thing of selling a book for \$1.00 or \$1.50 with spaces mapped out for thousands of stamps which no ordinary collector will possess, is foolish, and discouraging rather than otherwise, to new collectors. We have elsewhere referred to Mr. J. W. Scott's advice to beginners to collect types rather than aiming at completeness, and we now further quote him from the same editorial:

"A collection of types (only every different design used for a postage stamp) is as interesting as a complete collection and far more attractive to the non-collector than the dozens or hundreds of volumes of the rich specialist.

In the future such an album will show a larger increase in value than the more costly book showing every stamp."

Who will be the first publisher to furnish a first-class album abridged in the manner suggested?



The suggestion as **Seebeck** to the collection of **Representation** types should be practically applied to all the Seebeck sets of Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador existing from 1890 to 1900. These sets of stamps

made by a governmental arrangement with a stamp dealer, consisted of series of ten or eleven values, all of the same type but each printed in different colors, the denominations running from 1c. to 10 pesos, and were simply an assault on the stamp collector's pocket book.

It is a delusion that 35c. or 40c. per set for that rubbish is cheap. The number of sets that exist make it possible for a collector to spend \$40.00 or \$50.00 in this kind of stuff, and we strongly advise against an investment of the kind which will only prove to be a disappointment in case of having to realize at any future time. The problem would be solved by simply buying the 1c. denomination of each of these Seebeck sets; they can be had for one or two cents each and are sufficient representation of Seebeckism for any collection.

We have advised this course before in regard to speculative stamps which exist in series consisting of the same type: buy the cheapest variety and be content with it. If you have money to invest in stamps, invest it in the more legitimate stamps of standard countries. Knowledge will be acquired with experience as you advance in the stamp collecting pursuit.

Our older readers will pardon the elementary character of many of the remarks we make. We would ask them to bear in mind that hundreds of our subscribers are comparatively new collectors whose interest in the attractive pursuit has been recently inspired.



It is gratifying to have **Subscriber's** subscribers express their **Appreciation** approbation of our efforts to gather and preserve facts and information which benefit stamp collecting as a pursuit. The liberal support given us in subscriptions to our publication prove in a tangible way the fact that our publication is of general interest and value, but it is also pleasant to read these things happily expressed:

"NEWTON, MASS., Sept. 2, 1903.

MR. C. H. MEKEEL:—

Permit me to express my appreciation of the article in ME-

JUST ISSUED

Send for my new

1903 PRICE LIST

of U. S. and Foreign Stamps, Sets, Packets, Albums, etc.
Mailed free on application. "Don't miss it."

THEO. MAINHART, Stamp Dealer, Johnstown, Pa.

KEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR, current issue, on "Encased Postage Stamps." I have during the past year noticed several articles in your paper which have been of more than passing interest and value to me in the way of increasing my somewhat scanty knowledge on certain 'side lines' of stamp collecting. The article above referred to is, in my opinion, worthy a place in every American stamp collector's scrap book.

When I read an article which seems of *real value* to me, I believe in commending it, hence my present letter.

Very truly yours,
A. W. DUNNING."

The National Association of Stamp Dealers' Association which we have referred to at various times in these columns have retained the services of C. W. Abbott, Attorney-at-Law, Upper Montclair, N. J., who has a great deal of experience in this line.

Mr. Abbott is preparing to issue once or twice a month during the coming season a confidential bulletin of information that will keep dealers advised of frauds, those who substitute and otherwise violate the confidence of the trade.

There are enough dealers pledged to the support of the movement to insure its success. All who will contribute information and are willing to join in sharing the expense of the publication and circulation of this bulletin are invited to write to Mr. Abbott for the terms of the associate membership.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE ENTIRE STABLE

consisting of one chestnut saddle and driving (Gelding) 7 years old, 1060 pounds. Ready to go right in a horse show, winner of many ribbons, sound, clever, handsome. One Bay Hunter, 5 years old, 1075 pounds, 16 hands, grand conformation, sired by Woodburn by King Alfonso, dam by Lapidis. Thoroughly broken to harness, safe for lady to ride or drive; sound. Carriages, double sleigh, harness, robes, liveries, etc. **Wou'd take Automobile or Stamp Collection in part trade.** Address:

F. A. C. HILL,
CANTON AVE. AND MILTON, MASS.
ATHERTON ST.

Take Blue Hill Mattapan Car to Atherton St.
Telephone, Hyde Park 30.

\$1, \$2 and \$5 U. S.

"The remainders of the Dollar Value of the issue 1894-95 of the United States have been destroyed and no more are to be obtained from headquarters at Washington.

The new issue of series 1902 are now the only ones available for Postmaster's orders."—*News item from Washington Correspondent.*

As high values of the old issue have suddenly become obsolete many collectors who have intended to purchase unused copies find themselves too late. The advance sheets of the 63rd edition catalogue price these stamps as follows:

1895—\$1.00 black.....	\$1 50
" 2.00 saffire.....	3 00
" 5.00 dark green.....	7 50

We have in stock a block, well centered, of twenty-five of each and will sell single, pairs or any portion of the block desired at the rate of \$9.75 a set. Order at once, for they will not last long.

Finely centered, single copies can be supplied as follows:

1895—\$1.00 black.....	\$1 15
" 2.00 saffire.....	2 50
" 5.00 dark green.....	6 10

The above quotations are for well centered mint copies with original gum. Orders must be accompanied by an addressed and stamped envelope for return, including registration fee.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

OTHER FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES

I read with considerable interest "a foreign exchange experience" in No. 83 of your paper. I confess that I am one of those "other trustful and over-enthusiastic collectors, who have been seized with similar aspirations," but I am happy to say—and in justice and fairness I think it is my duty to say—that I have never regretted it. On the contrary my experience has been a most gratifying one and I am willing to have it recorded as an offset to your correspondent's melancholy experience. About five years ago I selected at random from a published list of foreign collectors, who had expressed their desire to exchange, about ten names. I first addressed a letter to each to the effect that I was willing to enter into exchange relation with them and stating in general terms what I had to offer and what I hoped to get in return. Prompt answers came from all; some sent a sheet or two of ordinary and medium good stamps of their own and neighboring countries. I retaliated in kind, going them a little better and taking great care to send only stamps in perfect conditions as I wanted only such in return. Sent catalogue was sent as a basis; sometimes Kohl's. I arranged my stamps neatly and called attention to small differences and varieties. Confidence was soon fully established on both sides and better and rarer stamps began to arrive. Some of my original ten correspondents gave my address to their friends and new names were thus added to my list while others dropped off after they had exhausted their desirable supply or mine. From these latter ones I hear only on occasion when a new issue comes out and all in all the most interesting intercourse has resulted from my attempt. The best stamps in my collection come from my foreign correspondents, for instance a perfect, used specimen of No. 1 Mecklenburg Strelitz $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. orange, which is catalogued at \$30—and many hundreds of others—less rare but all fine specimens. I also

traded off something like 7,000 used illustrated postal cards for stamps and entires. My exchange friends frequently express their satisfaction and I feel as if I were getting the better part in the deals. I have thus traded off and on with twenty-two different foreigners in France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Austria, etc., and with one single exception I have found every one scrupulously honest and fair, amiable, obliging and perfectly gentlemanly in every respect. The exception only confirmed the rule. He was a cadet in an Austrian military school. When he made no reply to my first lot and to a second letter of request, I sent a letter of inquiry to the mayor of his town. After some delay I was duly informed that the youngster was a black sheep and had been expelled from school for misconduct. So I was satisfied even with this experience. Another experience which may be of interest and which served to intensify my firm belief in the sincerity of the average collector. My correspondent at Tunis, Africa, an attache of a consulate there, who had carried on a very active exchange with me for three years suddenly stopped, owing me quite a balance. I wrote him several polite letters and finally a rather pointed request, which I much regretted afterwards, for several months later I received a letter from him from Montpellier, France, where he had gone to finish his academic education. It contained an humble apology, a fine selection of stamps and he asked to be permitted to continue our exchange.

—J. C. EMMERLING.

HOLLAND AND COLONIES

Exchange desired with collectors and dealers. Wanted only used, undamaged stamps and not more than five alike of the following countries:—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Falkland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brunswick, Newfoundland, West India and Central America. I give immediately in exchange Holland and Colonies. I have all kinds in stock. Full satisfaction. All references.

J. KUHN, Jr,
Parklaan,
GRONINGEN, Holland.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 34
WHOLE NO. 86

SEPTEMBER 14, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

We have referred in **Dealers' Protective Association** these columns a number of times to a national organization of Stamp Dealers and in our last number to the fact that services of C. W. Abbott, Upper Montclair, N. J., had been secured. Mr. Abbott will be the Attorney for the Society, and the Organization being of a confidential nature, he will be the only officer known in connection with it. A confidential bulletin will be issued once or twice a month which will give information to dealers in regard to those who substitute stamps, contract bad debts and otherwise violate the confidence of the trade.

Most of the leading dealers have signified their intention of supporting this movement and we were glad to hear that the Scott Stamp & Coin Company—the leading house in the stamp line in the country—will participate.

The system which will be followed is one that has been tried and has proved successful in previous years and we hope that all dealers will avail themselves of the advantages that are offered. The membership of the class of dealers who send out unsolicited Approval Sheets unaccompanied by return addressed envelope are not desired. Business thus conducted is unbusiness like and undesirable to the stamp trade and should be discouraged.

The percentage of loss in an Ap-

proval Business conducted on business principles is very small. The majority of people are honest, and it is for the protection of the honest collector who enjoys the credit privileges of the Approval System that are extended by the stamp trade, as well as the dealer himself, that this protection against frauds is desirable.



Stamp Collecting as an Investment The leading editorial in the August *Monthly Journal* deals with some interesting matter in Major Evans's best style:

“We have nothing whatever to say against those collectors who regard their collections as an investment, and who do their best to make that investment a good one; it does not prevent them from being, in many cases, perfectly sound philatelists, and this method of collecting has enabled many an enthusiastic collector to do philatelic work which his circumstances might otherwise have prevented him from doing. * * *

“There is another side to our hobby—a fact which even those who derive a great amount of pleasure from it are too apt at the present day to forget:—It seems to have become an article of faith amongst collectors (and, of course, amongst non-collectors, also) that anyone who collects stamps can make it pay, and pay well; and that if stamp collecting is not made to pay, it is not worth doing. We hope and believe that there is still a large body of collectors who limit themselves to devoting *spare* time and *spare* cash to their collections,

and who, when they buy a stamp, do not ask themselves the question: Is this stamp likely to rise in value or not? but rather: Is it a variety that I want for my collection, and can I afford the price asked? We fear that collectors of this class are gradually decreasing in number, and we should be glad to do anything we can to encourage them. * * *

"People seem to suppose that, because a philatelist of great experience and with a considerable amount of money to spend upon his collection can usually sell that collection to no little advantage; therefore, a collector who is far less well situated, both in experience and cash, can collect equally profitably. In stamps, as in everything else, the large investor almost always has the advantage, and from that point of view £50 a year is as little as anyone can expect to *invest* profitably. But we need not all be investors.

"We do not say that the collector who spends little or nothing upon his collection will never make a profit; indeed, if he succeeds in making a collection without any expenditure of cash he can hardly fail to be on the right side in the end; but in that case he is certainly not an investor, and he may surely be content with the pleasure of pursuing an interesting and inexpensive hobby.

"When we, personally, commenced collecting stamps, about the year 1860, the pursuit was regarded purely as an amusement, and indeed by most people as a childish and foolish one. Buying stamps was considered a complete waste of money, excusable perhaps in a schoolboy, but almost wicked in a grown-up person. Nevertheless, some of us who commenced as schoolboys continued to collect after we had, or should have, arrived at years of discretion; but the old ideas clung to us to a certain extent, and we are inclined to believe that those who have derived the greatest pleasure from their stamps, and the greatest amount of real advantage in the way of relaxation and recreation, are not the investors who have weighed every

penny they have expended and regarded it as an investment that must be made to earn its due rate of interest, but the collectors who have merely spent what they could afford to spend upon a scientific amusement."

* * *

The First Commonwealth Stamp

It came to pass that one of the members—by the name of Drake—of the first Federal Ministry of the Commonwealth of Australia, who hailed from Queensland, bethought himself to honour his country. As he held the portfolio of Postmaster-General, the idea came to him of doing so by means of a postage stamp that would do duty in every State of the Commonwealth. But the "Five-Years Book-Keeping" clause of the Federal Constitution Act presented a great difficulty, especially as he had set his face against the issue of a Federal stamp, when it was constantly pressed upon him, for the reason that the Book-keeping Clause was a bar to it. So he consulted his favorite officer, also hailing from Queensland, and, as two heads are better than one, a "back door" way was found to get out of the difficulty.



An artist was found, whose name was to be kept a secret for a while, and he was instructed to draw a design, the artistic quality of which was not to be called into question, but which would honour Queensland above that of her sister States. The absence also in one or two of the States of a stamp of the denomination of 9d, presented the opportunity, or rather the excuse, for veiling the real intention of the said Drake. The Book-keeping Clause difficulty was overcome by leaving the lower part of the design blank, and also the circle intended for the value. The stamp was then printed in a brown colour, but the value and the name of each of the Federal States was printed in blue. But the stamp had the word "Commonwealth" (Commonwealth of what?) surmount-

ing the central design, and on each side of the centre three States were printed, one above the other. Now comes the cunningness of this would-be honourer of his country. The first State on the list is *Queensland*, the last *New South Wales*. And this is in the face of the Premier hailing from the latter State. The deed is done and Queensland has been honoured. The honour, in face of the universal abuse heaped upon the designer (not the real culprit) by all the leading newspapers in the States, is rather an unenviable one, and it is certainly not deserved. We fancy that the outcry made against this stamp, and the unpardonable one of issuing it on paper used for Victorian stamps only, and printing the requirements of all the States in Melbourne, will prevent any further abuse of what is clearly the duty of a Minister who has to study the interests of all the States, and not that of one only.—*The Australian Philatelist*, August, 1903.



Just as our forms were closing upon the date of this paper comes the sad intelligence of the death of Robert Stockwell Hatcher under very distressing circumstances.

Mr. Hatcher was many years a prominent philatelist whose specialty was the Revenue Stamps of the United States. He was a resident of Lafayette, Ind., but spent much time in Washington, where he was a reading clerk in Congress for a number of years.

He contributed many articles and collected valuable information in regard to the stamps which were his specialty, and in the columns of the *Philatelic Journal of America* many of his series of notes and articles were published.

Mr. Hatcher recently came to St. Louis to take a position in connection with the Secretary's office of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. He was a man of the world who had travelled much; understood many languages and was most useful to the

Exposition Company in the Bureau of Correspondence.

Upon coming to St. Louis he renewed our old acquaintance. He spoke of having spent some time in Arizona with his wife who had been an invalid for a number of years and had sought that climate with the hope of restoring her health. She returned to their home in Indiana not very much improved and it was upon hearing of her death that Mr. Hatcher retired to his room in the Planters' House, overcome with his troubles, and was found dead only a short time after the telegrams from Lafayette reached him. He was about 40 years of age.



While the probability of a special issue of stamps in commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to be held in St. Louis in 1904, has been announced, we are now able to state positively that the issue will take place and the stamps will be on sale at the post offices throughout the United States on the date of the opening of the Fair.

This assurance has been given by the Post Office Department to Allen V. Cockrell, the Washington representative of the Fair. No decision has been announced as to the design. A number of suggestions are offered the Department for consideration, however; and not the least one among them is that one design should typify Missouri representing the Coat of Arms of the State, supported by two bears, which is the design of the famous St. Louis Postmaster's stamp of 1845.

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NUMISMATICAL AND OTHERWISE

In Reply to Inquiries and for General Information

Spanish silver coins of the past two hundred years command no premium.

Coins unevenly struck, off center, variations of milling, etc., though uncommon in our late coinage, do not command a premium. There are a few collectors that these oddities appeal to who may pay a small advance over their currency value. During the early days of our mints imperfections of die work, stamping and milling were not uncommon but with the improved methods of to-day and the careful inspection given such coins, an imperfect production is rarely passed to circulation.

The blanks from which one cent bronze and five cent nickel pieces are made by the United States mints are purchased from individual metal producing concerns.

Minor coins have always been made at the Philadelphia mint. The Director of the Mint in his last report recommended that branch mints be authorized to coin one and five cent pieces.

None of the following coins command a premium but they are now seldom found in circulation and in time to come will be scarce and are well worth keeping, providing one is not too close a financier and lets compound interest calculations enter into his coin accumulations: V nickels without the word "cents;" half dollars from 1817 to 1850 excepting certain varieties of 1836 and 1838; three cent nickel, except 1877; two cent bronze, except 1872 and 1873; flying eagle cents and all nickel cents except 1856; 1853 quarters with arrows at date and rays back of eagle.

The present type of nickel without "cents" was coined in one month

only: February, 1883. Over 2,000,000 were made when it was discovered the omission of "cents" made the coin dangerous, as in some instances they were gold plated and passed for \$5 gold pieces.

If all our readers possessed a copy of Zerbe's "Nutshell Facts on Coins," a concise and authoritatively prepared volume, which is sent post paid for 25 cents, it would save them the trouble of many an inquiry, as it thoroughly covers its subject.

The passing away of Pope Leo XIII. prompts reference to be made to the numismatic collection of the Vatican. This collection, which is seldom viewed by a layman is said to not only be a very large one but one of ordinary interest on account of its almost general "mint" condition. The Papal coinage is practically complete and perhaps in at least this one respect the Vatican collection is unique.

A collection of pawntickets representing transactions in every civilized country of the globe, which was collected by a merchant captain, has been sold by auction. As the lot is thought to be unique it fetched £40, being almost equivalent to the total of the sums advanced on the pawned items.

King Menelik of Abyssinia is to have his own mint, and it will be in full operation at his capital, Aduis Ababa, by the first of the coming year, according to a report from Consul Masterson at Eden to the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Hitherto King Menelik has had a limited silver coinage, the minting being done in France. For some time the King has been putting aside bullion for coinage purposes, and now it is understood that he has more than 110,230 pounds of gold bullion on hand, beside a large amount of silver.

In a recent cable-dispatch it was noted that Antiquarian Randolph

Berens had satisfied himself that he had Robinson Crusoe's veritable gun, which he bought twenty years ago for \$2 after fishing it out of some rubbish thrown out of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

The gun bears the inscription: "A. Selkirk, Largo, N. B., 1701," "Sealcraig," and "Anna R."

Sealcraig, or Saleraig, was the common form of Selkirk, and "Largo" was the Fifeshire port from which Selkirk sailed upon his voyage. "Anna R." is, of course, Anna Regina, Queen Anne, who, according to the old style of calculation, succeeded in that year.

The gun is a flint-lock and on the locks engraved an elephant, which would seem to point to the fact that the gun once belonged to the East Indian company.

Announcement of rarities in the new coinage of King Edward VII. are in order. A number have been made, but investigation has so far not verified them.

A beautiful bronze medal has been issued by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire, commemorative of the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of this Order. The medals have been issued to members of the Society, its guests on that occasion, to the President-General, Vice-President-General, Secretary-General, Treasurer General and one to each of the sister State Societies.

Medals will also be granted to associate subscribers to the Cincinnati Memorial Hall and it is hoped that the entire issue will be disposed of in this manner—namely, by the payment of ten dollars (\$10.00) any member of the Society of the Cincinnati in any State, or any interested person may become a subscriber to the Hall for one year, dating from April 1, 1904, and will receive a copy of the medal without further cost.

The number of medals will be limited and the opportunity of subscribing for medals is also presented to the general officers of American military

societies and to numismatists of distinction.

Frederick Bacon Philbrook, 32 Worcester Square, Boston, Mass., is Secretary of the Society, to whom orders should be addressed.

The newspapers have given considerable space the past few weeks to the discovery of Columbus' log book in Southern Illinois. Many of the items endeavor to authenticate the "find" as the original writings of the famous discoverer, when, in fact, the book is the product of an enterprising German publisher, who claims it is exact fac-simile of the original which now rests in the archives of Spain. This publication was sold at Chicago during the Columbian Exposition and has at least, served a purpose in producing some thunder for the zealous newspaper writer. A copy is in the possession of the writer.

THE PERFORATOR

(ESTABLISHED 1897)

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4263 Morgan Street, St. Louis, Mo.

We have received a very nicely printed **Inverted Pan-Americans** pamphlet from Frederick Willis Davis of Brooklyn, which is entitled: "How I Made a Fortune in the Pan-American Stamps," and other sketches purely personal in character. The excuse for the story or "The Tale of Luck" as Mr. Davis calls it, is the finding of fifty 2c. Pan-American Inverts, May 6th, 1901. He had asked the letter carrier on Saturday to get him a dollar's worth of the new two's. On Monday morning he was handed a sheet of fifty 2c. stamps in which the center design was printed upside down. The story tells how he disposed of these: The first twelve went to friends at face value (2c. apiece); the next twenty to a stamp dealer who secured them at \$1.00 apiece. He then reviewed his succeeding sales at \$5.00, \$8.00, \$10.00 or more until the fifty were disposed of with the exception of a single copy and closes his recital with the concluding paragraph: "At the present writing I think it may be safely said that, taking into consideration the present market value of my remaining stamp, and the proceeds of the *Eagle* article, I have made \$300 out of an investment of \$1.00."

Mr. Davis is, indeed, very modest in his estimate of a *fortune* and if his story had been written by some one more familiar with stamps it might have been entitled: "*How I Failed to Make a Fortune When the Opportunity was in My Grasp*," for the fifty stamps might easily have been handled so as to have realized between five and ten thousand dollars.

It was our privilege to buy eight of the fifty stamps, from parties who had bought them. These eight copies cost us on an average of \$90 a piece and were re-sold at an average of \$135 a piece. A fair retail valuation of the 2c. stamp to-day is \$250, and, but for the scandal of the 4c. Invert, it might have been valued very much higher.

As far as we have been able to learn the fifty unused 2c. Inverts that were discovered in Brooklyn are the only lot that is known to philatelists. As these stamps are printed in large sheets there must have been others, but it is probable that they were used up in the ordinary course of business and not noticed. One copy, at present in our possession, paid postage from New York to Victoria, Australia, and is the only *bona fide* used copy of this character that we have heard of.

There were inverted sheets of the 1c., variously estimated from six to eight, which came on the market. These stamps were *bona fide* errors and will reach a \$50 valuation some day. The sheet of 4c. that was discovered at Washington, *before it was ever issued* and which should have been destroyed, has done a great deal to cloud the interest in the legitimate errors.

The post office official failed to do his duty in the matter; gave these stamps away to friends and others in the department. It is true that they were to be surcharged with the word "specimen," and it is also true that many of the copies failed to receive the surcharge and that the profit that accrued to the friends of the official and those others who were in a position to secure copies, reached thousands of dollars and disgusted many collectors with the whole business.

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5 books.....20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....50c	250 ".....	2 50

N. W. CHANDLER, Collinsville, Ill.

The first of a series of **Perforations** "Papers on Perforations," by F. H. Napier and E. D. Bacon, commenced in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, gives Major Evans a chance to give us an essay on perforations that is worthy of the attention of every collector:

"Minor varieties of perforation are, perhaps, the most intricate, and, we feel inclined to add, the least interesting and instructive of the minutiae that vex the righteous soul of the true philatelist and rejoice the heart of the man with the microscope.

"There is too great a tendency at the present day to measure the perforations of every individual stamp, and to note every little variation that is produced by irregularity in the machine, or by some other circumstance that is entirely accidental, and we heartily welcome this attempt—which we are sure will be a successful one—to grapple with the subject, and to classify not only the minor, but also some of the more important varieties, in a manner that will tend greatly to simplify some of our lists.

"We have always been inclined to regard varieties of perforation as, generally, of far less importance than those of the design or colour of the stamp, or those of the paper upon which it is printed. The perforation is not what we should term an essential part of the stamp, but merely a means—a very convenient means—certainly, of separating one stamp from another. There are cases, no doubt, where a change in the perforation, marks some point in the history of a stamp, but in most of these cases that point is even more clearly marked by some variation in the shade or colour of the impression; and where two or more machines of different gauges are in use at the same time and place, their variations and combinations have no lesson for us."

Stamps Sacrificed!

I am closing out a fine collection of **United States Stamps**. Send want list for prices. A great bargain.

C. H. MORRIS, New London, Conn.

Rare stamps to exchange for gold dollars.

HOLLAND AND COLONIES

Exchange desired with collectors and dealers. Wanted only used, undamaged stamps and not more than five alike of the following countries:—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Falkland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brunswick, Newfoundland, West India and Central America. I give immediately in exchange Holland and Colonies. I have all kinds in stock. Full satisfaction. All references.

J. KUHN, Jr.,
Parklaan,
GRONINGEN, Holland.

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Newfoundland, 1 on 3c, Type 1, O. G., Fine\$ 35
 " " 1 on 3c, " 2, " " " " 90
 " " 1 on 3c, " 3, " " " " 7 00
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"The remainders of the Dollar Value of the issue 1894-95 of the United States have been destroyed and no more are to be obtained from headquarters at Washington.

The new issue of series 1902 are now the only ones available for Postmaster's orders."—*News item from Washington Correspondent.*

As high values of the old issue have suddenly become obsolete many collectors who have intended to purchase unused copies find themselves too late. The advance sheets of the 63rd edition catalogue price these stamps as follows:

1895—\$1.00 black	\$1 50
" " 2.00 sapphire	3 00
" " 5.00 dark green	7 50

We have in stock a block, well centered, of twenty-five of each and will sell single, pairs or any portion of the block desired at the rate of \$9.75 a set. Order at once, for they will not last long.

Finely centered, single copies can be supplied as follows:

1895—\$1.00 black	\$1 15
" " 2.00 sapphire	2 50
" " 5.00 dark green	6 10

The above quotations are for well centered mint copies with original gum. Orders must be accompanied by an addressed and stamped envelope for return, including registration fee.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

THE END OF MORESNET

"The little strip of territory known as Moresnet, lying between Belgium and Prussia, has hitherto been a kind of neutral territory, jointly owned and administered by the two countries aforementioned, much in the manner of the Republic of Andorra in the Pyrenees, which is under the joint control of France and Spain. Now a change has come. Moresnet, henceforward, will rank as Belgian territory, King Leopold, an experienced dealer in land, having bought the 800 odd acres for a round sum in cash.

"Moresnet's disappearance from the list of quasi-independent states recalls a stamp story to which the word "Finis" may now be applied. In the days when certain ingenious and covetous persons were beginning to discover that there was a type of stamp collector who would pay cold cash for anything that was gummed and perforated—just about that halcyon period, a certain R * * * (no good object would be served by dragging him out of the oblivion to which he long ago retired) thought out a brilliant scheme for a raid on the pockets of philatelists. He would issue a set of stamps for Moresnet.

"Nobody in Moresnet wanted a set of stamps, but that fact did not discourage Mr. R. 'Not for a single nation did he labour, but for all the world!' The stamps might not sell in Moresnet—that did not matter so long as they sold in the stamp shops! Unfortunately it was a well understood thing that the inhabitants of Moresnet could use either Belgium or German stamps—at their own pleasure. This was a serious drawback to the enterprising R. Nothing daunted, however, he secured the help and goodwill of an inferior postal official in the 'buffer state,' arranged for the transmission of letters bearing his stamps to various places in Belgium, France and England (of course with the addition of ordinary Belgium stamps on each envelope forwarded), and then came back to his native London to complete his plans.

"Alas, poor R! Those plans were

destined to disappointment, and all because of the lack of the miserable £100 or so that would be needed to prepare the designs and to print off the necessary stock of stamps. To dealer after dealer he went with glowing stories of the wealth that would be extracted from his Moresnet gold mine. He painted vivid word-pictures of provisional issues to come, and in the future a glorious bi-coloured pictorial series that would sell like hot cakes among the schoolboys of Britain and America. All in vain! Stamp dealers for the most part listened in stony indifference, and the few who did catch a little of Mr. R's enthusiasm were just those who lacked the money to help him. The people who warmly enter into our plans are generally those without capital.

"And so the Moresnet scheme died, and little Moresnet was doomed to go on using commonplace Belgium and German stamps instead of helping to swell the already growing ranks of the 'gumpaps' in the world's stamp albums! Poor R! His was only one of many such schemes that came to nothing. Not all of them met with such fate, however. In certain instances the cold heart of the philatelic capitalist must have been warmed by the eloquence of would-be stamp issuers. Else we had never seen the stamps of Brunei or those of Prince James of Trinidad!"—*S. C. Fortnightly*

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. MeKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 35
WHOLE NO. 87

SEPTEMBER 21, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

A number of correspondents in the Colombian Republic have written us that it is impossible for them to buy any quantity of unused stamps at their post offices, stating that it is with great difficulty that sufficient stamps are obtainable for postal purposes, and that owing to short supplies postmasters decline to sell quantities to parties who wish to send them away to stamp dealers.

The great number of varieties coming from different parts of Colombia are undoubtedly due to the unsettled state of affairs, and few of them are varieties made with the collectors' pocket books in view, as many people seem to suppose.

From Barranquilla a good many stamps have been exported and there is a probability that some of the varieties from this place are made with the stamp trade in mind; but, taking the whole Republic of Colombia, there are many varieties which are the legitimate result of existing conditions. After things get more settled these collectors will find that many of the stamps will be of considerable rarity.

Stamp supplies originate in Medellin, Barranquilla, Bogota and Cartagena. These four cities, widely separated, seem to supply their neighboring post offices with stamps and several general issues are thus brought into use simultaneously.



Peso Values Boyaca Department

We have received the five pesos and ten pesos denominations of the set of Department of Boyaca and give herewith illustrations reproduced by photography from the original stamps which are lithographed in black on colored wove paper. The design of the five pesos is the monument Puente Boyaca, and the portrait on the ten pesos is that of Retrato Si Marronquin.

Mr. Kidder concludes some very interesting catalogue remarks in the *Era* by asking a question: "Isn't it almost time for dealers and collectors to join in making a catalogue with really standard prices?"

Department of Review

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSCH

Publishers of philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications to the editor in charge of this department,

LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSCH, French-Bennett B'ldg, Oneida, N. Y.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

Published by P. L. Pemberton & Co.,
London, England.

June 30, 1903.

The June issue of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* is not quite up to the usual standard of this always ably conducted journal. The proximity of summer, with its attendant falling off of philatelic interest, is doubtless the cause. We would hardly say that the value and interest of such matter as our contemporary does present is any less marked than usual, but there is a lack of variety, a scaling down of the usual number of pages that we deprecate because we enjoy every line of the *P. J. of G. B.'s* reading pages and are loth to lose any portion of an accustomed treat. But it will not do to be too captious regarding these matters, hence we had perhaps best proceed at once to the task before us.

The number opens with a portrait of Major J. de C. Laffan, R. E., one of the many English army officers who confess to a partiality for Philately. The story of his philatelic career is interesting reading and seems to prove that in Philately the old proverb about the rolling stone and the moss has no very marked application. As is usually the case with British military men, Major Laffan has been stationed at various times in many different parts of the world; and each of these foreign sojourns has enabled him to make notable additions to his collection. And in reading of them it almost makes we sober stay-at-homes envious of the soldier's opportunities.

Our contemporary's European catalogue continues this month with the stamps of France. Following this, come the usual reports of the International Philatelic Union, supplemented by the publication in full of the set of

prize essays which took second honors in the I. P. U.'s recent literary competition. The author of these essays is Mr. E. W. Wetherell, editor until very lately of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, and one of the most versatile and able of present day philatelic writers. His essays are interesting from the first line to the last, and we can only wonder that they did not capture first prize. We think our readers will be interested in reading Mr. Wetherell's advice to "The Budding Specialist," which we reprint, as follows:

"My advice to your budding specialist—the only variety of your genus to need a guiding hand—is: Select a philatelically respectable country—preferably one which has not been too thoroughly investigated, one which will not make too great a demand on your purse, and one in which discoveries may yet reward the industrious seeker after truth. Such a country is Holland.

"Do not buy the stamps until you have collected all the available literature on the subject, from which you should compile a list of all the known varieties. This list should be arranged in four columns: (1) For the actually different stamps ordered by government; (2) For those variations of type, colour, perforation, etc., which have long been regarded as minor varieties; (3) For those minor varieties which deserve a place in a specialised collection. Column 4 is reserved for curiosities, flaws, etc.

"Each stamp in these columns should have a number attached. You can then decide to what extent you will carry your specialization.

"Do not purchase single copies until you have a large collection; buy small wholesale lots or exchange in

bulk; attend a few auctions and buy the Dutch 'lots.'

"When you have amassed some two or three thousand stamps, go through them with a perforation gauge and sort them into oblong envelopes, marking each envelope with the date of issue and perforation, and keep the envelopes containing each issue together by an elastic band.

"Obtain a dozen small collecting books, reserve one for each issue, and at first mount every stamp, whether a duplicate or not. Reserve one page for each perforation and a row or more for each value.

"Pencil notes freely above the stamps and place the number corresponding with the stamp in your list above each one.

"Keep your unused stamps severely apart from the used.

"Do not be in a hurry to mount permanently.

"When you have at least three-quarters of the stamps mentioned in your list you may commence arranging in an album.

"Remember that each issue requires special treatment.

"First select the very best specimen of each stamp mentioned in column 1. This will give you a complete collection of the stamps authorized by government; a similar collection unused should also be arranged.

"Then you go systematically through your collecting books; reserve your first page of each issue for a row of shades of each value, and the second page for variations of paper, gum and condition of die, and subsequent pages for perforations, remembering that these are numerous, and that not only are there different gauges, but different sizes of holes in the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ machine, and two variations— $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and 12×12 .

"Mount the third issue with vertical line, to keep the types apart.

"Carefully examine the collecting book residue for minor varieties, flaws, curiosities and obliterations.

"Fill in your blanks from club sheets and dealers' stocks.

"Lastly, never imagine that your collection is even approximately com-

plete, lest you be grievously disappointed."

We do not recall ever before to have perused so clear and practical a code of instructions for the would-be specialist as this one. Mr. Wetherell is no mere theorizer, but has himself formed an excellent special collection of the stamps of Holland, presumably on the lines here laid down—so there can be little doubt that his precepts are the fruit of practical experience. It is a rather formidable programme, though: this amassing of some two or three thousand specimens before commencing at all on the real task. And it is not a programme that would seem likely to commend itself to those who preach against the practice of "bloating," among whom we ourselves are to be reckoned. Yet, if one is really making a special collection for purposes of study and research, rather than for exhibition purposes, we cannot but admit Mr. Wetherell's ideas of method to be thoroughly sound. As Mr. Oldfield, the chief of the anti-bloating forces, has more than once pointed out, bloating for purposes of study is entirely defensible; bloating in the collection itself *in its completed form*, being the abuse whose correction is aimed at.

Succeeding this prize essay comes, very appropriately, some editorial discussion of "Prize Competitions," inspired by the comparative fiasco of this I. P. U. competition, in which *only two members* took the trouble of competing. Our contemporary marvels at the apathy displayed in this particular instance and cites other cases where similar efforts have been similarly barren of result. The deduction made is that literary competitions are practically valueless insofar as enhancing the interests of philatelists in their philatelic societies is concerned; and that the surest means of exciting interest is the display of collections at ordinary meetings—a conclusion in which we are regretfully forced to coincide. However tempting the prizes hung up, there are few society members that either take part in literary competitions or any take any interest in them. True

'tis, 'tis pity; pity 'tis, 'tis true.

A further editorial has something to say of "Unused Official Stamps," the illicit trafficking in which has lately stirred up such a mighty pother in London. The *P. J. of G. B.* deprecates the attaching of special interest to these stamps, rightly regarding them as a very unimportant "side issue" of legitimate stamp collecting. The reasons for their popularity in England, we should imagine to be much the same as those formerly obtaining in this country in respect to the United States Periodical stamps. so long as the sale of these to the public was forbidden, American collectors were hungry for them, but as soon as the Government unbent from its former lofty attitude and condescended to sell periodicals to philatelists, the former yearning on the part of collectors immediately melted away. Forbidden fruit is very sweet to the philatelic taste. And that, we take it, is the prime reason why English specialists are so keen after these English official stamps.

The balance of the *P. J. of G. B.* is, as we have before stated, rather meagre, being devoted to the usual chronicle and "Philatelic Review of Reviews," the latter appearing in a decidedly abbreviated form.

The American Journal of Philately

Published by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co.,
New York: Edited by John N. Luff.

June, 1903.

The American Journal of Philately, also, seems to be suffering from warm weather lassitude, for its contents are neither as interesting nor as varied as usual. Mr. Wetherell's Indian Letter is missing; Mr. Capen has failed to contribute any of his interesting essays to the number; and the conclusion of the serial on the stamps of Luxembourg seems to have left Editor Luff without any similar feature to succeed it. The number is, however, a readable one as far as it goes, thanks largely to Messrs. Nankivell and Howes, whose contributions are as usual of a high order of interest.

The number opens with an editorial

on "Retouched English Stamps," in which Mr. W. T. Wilson's supposed discovery of certain retouches of the Great Britain, one penny, red, of 1841, is made the text for an interesting discussion on the methods of retouching and re-entering plates—processes with which Editor Luff is thoroughly familiar, and the average collector lamentably ignorant. The editorial is therefore well worth attention, though we forbear to deal with it in detail here, fearing lest it should make dry reading to many of our readers. Following this, comes an editorial devoted to the proposed philatelic button, emblem of philatelic allegiance to be worn, as it advocates fondly dream, by all who belong to the stamp collecting army and leading to fraternal recognition wheresoever any of them may chance to meet. Mr. Luff does not look upon an emblem of this sort as either feasible or desirable. He takes the view that philatelists of standing would not care to adorn themselves with any such emblem of their philatelic proclivities; and that, lacking their support, such a badge would have a very scant field of usefulness. We are inclined to agree with this. There are certainly very many philatelists who would not care to blazon their hobby abroad, to put out their colors, as it were, for every fool to stare out and be inquisitive about. And again, as Mr. Luff suggests, it would be very difficult to give such a button an international character and well nigh impossible to secure its universal adoption by all ranks and classes of philatelists. Could a button of this sort be generally adopted, it would undoubtedly be a grand thing for Philately. But the obstacles that would prevent its general adoption would seem to be insurmountable.

Skipping Mr. Nankivell's English Letter, to which a review of this kind can do no sort of justice, we come to the continuation of Mr. Howes' series of articles on "Some Stamp Designs," which we have been following up in this review from month to month and in which we believe our younger readers in particular must be taking

no little interest. The stamps of the Cook Islands are this month dealt with, and not a few interesting points in relation to the designs, the islands and their native population are brought out. We sincerely trust this series of articles may appear in book form on its conclusion as a serial. It certainly deserves a place in every collector's library.

The balance of this month's number is devoted to a continuation of the report of the Philatelic Exhibition at Mulhausen, Alsace, and the usual Notes and Chronicle.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

Entire Envelopes

Are gaining in favor. An Englishman who compiled albums for S. G. & Co. said it was vandalism to cut envelopes square.

Among others I offer in unused condition:

	UNITED STATES	CATA.	MY PRICE	MY PRICE
1894 issue.	4c scarlet, Bartell's No. 1241	20c	07c
1893	2c Die 3.	1168	10c	04c
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U. S. Columbians, 1c to 10c, 8 varieties	12c
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" 163,	20c
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Honduras, Nos. 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, (o. g)	06c
Siam, No. 37, nice copies	04c
Brunswick, No. 20, perfect specimens	08c

My Adv. in issue of Sept. 7th still stands good.

Collections bought or exchanged. Do you want to sell yours?

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Colombian Departments	Net Prices
*Boyaca, 5 pesos, black on pink	\$0 95
*Boyaca, 10 pesos, black on brown	1 30
*Boyaca, 10, 20, 50c, 1p, set of 4	45
*Bollivar, 10 pesos, blue on blue	45
*Bollivar, 5 pesos, rose on rose	30
*Bollivar, 1 peso, orange on orange	12
*Bollivar, 50c set of 3 different	23
*Bollivar, 20c set of 3 different	18

Barranquilla Issue of Colombia.

*10 pesos, green, unperforated	45
* 5 pesos, claret,	23
* 1 peso, set of 3 different	33
*50c set of 7 different	50

We will send upon request a special approval book of Colombian stamps and Departments including one hundred varieties of 1902-3 issues at 25 per cent discount from the new 63d Ed. Catalogue prices.

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	PER 10
I. R., 1900, ½d green, Queen's Head	\$0 75
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Admiralty, 1d, King's Head	40

ARGENTINA, 1896, 50c green	25
" 1896, 1 peso	60
" 1899, 1 pesos	75
CHILL, 1892, 1 peso	80
HAWAII, 1895, 2c brown	15
" 1895, 5c carmine	25
MEXICO, OFFICIAL, 1895, 10c rose-lake	60
" 1895, 15c greenish-blue	1 00
MALAY STATES, 1c and 3c Tiger	07

REMIT BY R. O. MONEY ORDER.

Hundreds of other attractive offers. Send your address. Messrs. Jaggard pay higher prices for old U. S. and Brit. Colonial Stamps than any other English Dealers. Quote prices on all your surplus stamps.

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SOME STAMPS

That You Need for Your Collection.

*1802, Cuba, 1c on 3c	12c
1903, Dan. West Indies, provisional, ¼ of 4c used as 2c	15c
1902, Germany, 5 marks	50c
*1892, Johore, 3c on 5c, cata. 60c	25c
*1892, Johore, 3c on 6c, cata. 35c	15c

*Unused; all others used. Cash with order.

DID YOU

Send for my new price list? If not, better do so at once. Forty pages, full of bargains.

THEO. MAINHART, Stamp Dealer, Johnstown, Pa.

COLLECTING DIFFERENT STAMP "TYPES" ONLY

In the *Picture Post-Card and Collectors' Chronicle* for July, Mr. Melville, the energetic President of the Junior Philatelic Society, London, ventilates the question of "skeleton" philately, or, more properly, the collecting of types of the world's postage stamps: "The method to be adopted is to take one specimen of every type of stamp and to disregard all the others of the same series if they be of the same design. For instance, last month a new issue of King's head stamps for use in Southern Nigeria was recorded, the facial values running from ½d. to £1. To collect the whole of these stamps would mean a large expense of the 'generalist,' but as the stamps are all of one design the ½d. value alone suffices for the skeleton philatelist. In the case of foreign countries it is easy to see that a very considerable saving of money and album space would be effected by merely showing one type 'Commerce' series of each of the French Colonies and the later 'Justice' and 'Rights of Man' types. One or two hundred specimens might be economized by taking only one type of each of the Portuguese Colonial issues, and further, large savings would be effected by applying the system to the Spanish and German Colonial issues. As for the never-failing annual crop of stamps for the Southern and Central American States, one specimen of each design would suffice, and that should always be the lowest value.

"There are, of course, many series of stamps which would have to be collected in entirety in order to get all the different designs, * * * but the chief advantage of this scheme is its inexpensiveness, and for that reason it has been styled 'Philately for the Poor.' The really scientific specialist * * * the student of the postal issues of a particular country must needs have resource to a fairly complete collection."

Others, however, may find the suggestion acceptable and may try "skeleton" philately. * * * Owners of

large quantities of duplicates will find another use for them by forming such a collection as suggested above."—*Stamp Collector*, England.

QUERY ANSWERS ON CURIO SUBJECTS

Inquiries regarding Coins, Stamps, Paper Money, Antiques and Curios will be answered through this column.

[Address inquiries to the Publishers; give name and address. Answers will be given under the subject of your inquiry.]

THE FIRST MONEY :

Exchange by barter has existed since man has had the will and power to trade; a number of one article were considered the value of another. The earliest money transaction on record is that in which it is related Abraham weighed to Ephron "four hundred shekels of silver current money with the merchant" in payment for the field of Mechpelah. These are accepted as mere pieces of silver without stamp or mark, which passed by weight only, as the term *shekel* fully implies "to weigh." Homer states that an ox was exchanged for a bar of brass of a certain size; that a woman who understood several useful arts was of the value of four oxen; that the brazen armor of Diomedes was that of nine oxen, and the golden armor of Glancus that of one hundred oxen and from which it is concluded a positive coin or money medium did not exist in his time.

The first coins were issued by the Greeks. Herodotus attributes them to Lydian. Whether Greek or Lydian, it has been determined that metal impressed with a devise to be used as money was first made about eight hundred years before the Christian era—about twenty-seven hundred years ago. Money, in the form of metal coins, has been issued ever since. The earliest dated coins are those of the fifteenth century; the dates of the earlier issues are determined by their devise or inscription.

FOUR DOLLAR GOLD PIECE :

This coin, called a "stella," was issued at the United States mint at

Philadelphia. It is known as a pattern piece and was never adopted for regular coinage; but 450 pieces were made; all are dated 1879. Their numismatic value has advanced rapidly during the past few years; they have sold as high as \$60.

SPADE MONEY:

This name is given to a certain shaped metal currency issued by China during the early dynasties. Money was made in the form of spades, razor blades, keys, etc., and which has become known as spade money, razor money, etc. This money, like most all ever issued by China, has a hole in it. The celestial carries his money strung on a string. The small Chinese coins of to-day, called "cash," have a hole in the center.

PREMIUM ON BLAND DOLLARS:

No silver dollar of the present type, known as the Bland dollar, commands a premium except 1895 without mint mark. When in proof condition they are worth about \$5.00 each. A story has been circulated that a pass to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition would be given for an 1894 silver dollar. Dollars of this date are common and no such offer was ever made by the Exposition Company, but the jolly joker that started the story could easily afford to do it as a ticket to the Exposition grounds can be purchased for fifty cents.

COLONIAL CURRENCY:

This name is given to the paper money issued by the several States and Colonies previous to and during the early days of the Union. Notes are found dated as early as 1690 and were numerously issued until 1785. A good portion of it was issued to support the troops during the Revolution. The infancy of American typographical art is clearly exhibited on these productions, and a collection of these notes tell the struggles and financial trials of the Colonists, printed on stiff, brownish paper, almost square. The average size is about 3x4 inches. They were of various denominations, including pence, shillings, pounds

and dollars. Notes from a few pence to two hundred pounds were issued; many odd denominations, as: 84 pounds, 18 shillings and two pence; $\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ dollars are found. Methods of the day provided for safeguards against counterfeiting, Protection dependence being placed on the penalty. "'Tis death to counterfeit this note" appears on many pieces.

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY:

This money was issued by "The United Colonies," "The United States" and "The United States of North America," 1775 to 1779. It is similar to the Colonial currency. Various denominations— $\frac{1}{8}$ to \$80 were issued

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Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

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THE NEW CATALOGUE

Advance sheets of the 63rd Edition Catalogue (at \$5.00) have been issued up to Nicaragua. A review shows some revision and changes in prices, but very little improvement over the last edition.

Prices, here and there, have been cut or advanced, but aside from unused current issues which are priced low on account of competition in new issues, and the really rare and scarce stamps that are seldom on the market, it is simply a list from which the trade will allow from 25 per cent to 50 per cent discount, notwithstanding the fact that the President of the issuing Company declares that it is not intended to be a list from which cuts and reductions are to be made.

The inconsistent position of the publishers is pointed out by Mr. Kidder in the *Era*, where they themselves and their allied Companies advertise stamps for sale at large discounts, and no attempt has been made to correct these prices to conform to these discounts.

One of the faults we may mention about the catalogue, is the lack of accuracy in pricing the 1, 2, 3 and 5c. stamps. Beginners are interested in the five or six thousand stamps thus priced, and they are in many cases priced without regard to actual value.

The wholesale influence is very apparent, and the publishers may be justly criticised for neglecting the interests of collectors for the benefit of the wholesaler.

Otherwise why should hundreds of stamps be priced 2, 3 and 5c. each that only have a market value of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per thousand?

Take for instance:—Cuba 1877, 50c. black, priced 6c. G. B. Calman's wholesale lot quotes this stamp 60c. per 100; why should it be catalogued at the rate of \$6.00 per 100 in a standard catalogue? Hundreds of examples, almost as glaring as this, exist throughout the book.

On the other hand, stamps that are not of particular interest, because never in stock, are allowed to stand at old prices, sometimes at a fraction of their actual value.

THE PERFORATOR

(ESTABLISHED 1897)

America's Leading Monthly Philatelic Magazine.

The **Seybold Original Covers** (illustrated) and the **Fraud Reporter** are features that appear in every issue. Subscription, 30 cents per year. One sample copy free.

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HOLLAND AND COLONIES

Exchange desired with collectors and dealers. Wanted only used, undamaged stamps and not more than five alike of the following countries:—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Falkland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brunswick, Newfoundland, West India and Central America. I give immediately in exchange Holland and Colonies. I have all kinds in stock. Full satisfaction. All references.

J. KUHN, Jr.,
Parklaan,
GRONINGEN, Holland.

NEWFOUNDLAND PROVISIONALS

Newfoundland. 1 on 3c. Type 1, O. G., Fine	... \$ 35
" " " " " " " " "	90
" " " " " " " " "	7 10
100 British Colonies: All Postage and Different	60
500	10 00

Wholesale and Retail, 50 Large Page List for Dealers and Collectors, cheapest list in America. Free to all. Write to-day, as it interests everybody.

MARKS STAMP CO., - Toronto, Canada.

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I am closing out a fine collection of **United States Stamps**. Send want list for prices. All great bargains.

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(Established 1871)

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 36
WHOLE NO. 88

SEPTEMBER 28, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo.
as second-class matter, under Act of Con-
gress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The Stanley Gibbons
Prices Catalogue will possess an
Based on interest for the student of
Stock values that the Scott Cata-
logue cannot enjoy.

The reason for this, is the fact that
the quotations in Gibbons' are based
exclusively upon their stock, the
prices being those at which they
have the stamps to sell.

No such claim has ever been seri-
ously made for the Scott Catalogue,
which is palpably a compilation.

Stamps may happen to be over-
priced or under-priced, according to
the accuracy of Gibbons' judgment,
but the prominent position occupied by
that concern in the trade makes their
opinion worthy of great consideration.

The approaching
New Issue Fortieth Anniversary of
for Danish King Christian's acces-
West Indies sion to the Danish Throne
will be made the occasion
of a new issue of stamps for Danish
West Indies.

The design is unknown but will
probably be the portrait of the King
similar to that on the stamps of Ice-
land, which same design is also ex-
pected to be used for the new series of
stamps for Denmark which will be is-
sued on the same occasion.

If these new issues appear by the
Fortieth Anniversary they will have
to put in an appearance at an early
date because King Christian IX. of

Denmark ascended to the Throne on
the 15th of November, 1863.

The following quantities have been
ordered for Danish West Indies:

600 sheets each of the 1c. and 2c.
300 sheets each of the 4c., 5c. and 8c.
50 sheets each of the 12c. and 50c.



One Cent The Catalogue subject
Stamps continues to be the most
Overpriced important one to our read-
ers just at present. It is
being mentioned and dis-
cussed in the philatelic press from all
standpoints, and several phases are
being actively agitated.

The over-pricing of the cheapest
stamps by Scott's Catalogue, a mat-
ter that we referred to last week, is
not a new complaint.

A number of years ago we were dis-
cussing this phase of the catalogue
question with Henry J. Duveen, of
Duveen Bros., New York, and he re-
marked that the cataloguers were
“killing the goose that laid the gold-
en egg.” His view was that all
common varieties should be catalogued
as *low* as possible, as an encourage-
ment to new collectors. This was the
view of a keen business man from a
business standpoint. As a collector,
Mr. Duveen has a collection includ-
ing the greatest rarities and approach-
ing a half a million dollars in value.

There is no reason why stamps hav-
ing a wholesale market value of less
than \$3.00 per 1,000 should be priced
more than 1c. each, yet hundreds of
such stamps are priced 2c. and 3c.,
and even more, in Scott's Catalogue.

Department of Review

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSCH

Publishers of philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications to the editor in charge of this department,

LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSCH, French-Bennett B'ldg, Oneida, N. Y.

Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal

Published by Stanley Gibbons, L't'd, London, Eng.:
 Edited by Edw. B. Evans.

June 30, 1903.

The most notable feature of this month's *Monthly Journal* is an editorial, in Major Evans' ablest vein, on the oft discussed subject of "The Ideal Catalogue." There has been so much written on this topic that it would seem impossible for anything new to be added to the discussion. Yet, in the editorial article before us, Major Evans really presents a succession of points in relation to this matter that, even if all of them are not wholly new, have never before, to our knowledge, been so admirably and accurately summed up in philatelic print or grouped together to form such a logical and convincing whole—such a "last word," concisely and sensibly covering the whole ground from Alpha to Omega. Major Evans speaks from the inside. He is, and has been for many years, the Editor of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue; and his opinions, therefore, are not merely theoretic, but derived from a close personal experience of the difficulties of catalogue making—a matter which the ordinary collector can hardly approach from any other standpoint than that of theory, pure and simple. We deem these opinions so enlightening, not to say conclusive, upon some of the points at issue in regard to a catalogue "for collectors by collectors" that we shall here quote a considerable portion of his editorial. We feel sure that we should fall short of doing justice to his ideas if we attempted to compress them or sum them up in our own words. The more salient portion of the editorial is as follows:

"A dealer's price list is not published from purely philanthropic, or even from purely philatelic motives;

its object is to enable its publishers to sell the stamps that they have in stock, and to sell as many of them as possible. So long as specialism and microscopic study are in vogue it will answer the dealer's purpose to make his lists of minor varieties as full and complete as possible, and our own opinion is that this should be the case, believing as we do that all varieties should be noted, and that the simplest method of noting them is to put them in the lists. It is nonsense to talk, as one of our esteemed contemporaries does, of 'dealer-made varieties.' Varieties either exist or they do not exist; if they exist they are not 'dealer-made,' if they do not exist—well, one cannot collect what does not exist, so it does not matter. We are not altogether disinclined to agree with those who think that the tendency of the last few years has been too much in the direction of over-elaboration; but what are editors and publishers to do when their correspondence is filled, not with suggestions for the curtailment of lists, but with descriptions of varieties which their discoverers or resuscitators 'cannot find in the catalogue?' We certainly believe, as we stated above, that the only thing that a dealer can do under present circumstances, is to make his lists as complete as he can, and leave it to collectors to exercise their own common sense as to the scope of their collections.

"The catalogue thus compiled will not always be consistent and uniform throughout; the compiling and publishing of full and detailed lists involve a considerable amount of labour and expense, and these are likely to be devoted, in the first instance, at all events, to cases where the labour and expenditure are not likely to be entirely unremunerative. Still, we

believe that a little extra attention bestowed upon lists of stamps that were unpopular and supposed to be uninteresting has not always had a deterrent effect.

"In regard to Ideal Prices we have expressed an opinion upon previous occasions, and although we are assured by one who ought to know better 'that the collector's head is under the heel of the dealer, both as to varieties listed and prices affixed,' we would again venture to draw attention to the fact that the dealer must sell his stamps to gain his livelihood, while the collector is under no obligation to buy if he does not like the prices; and further, that if a dealer fixes his prices too high, there are plenty of others who will be delighted to undersell him, and thus, except in the case of extreme rarities, prices are influenced by the ordinary laws of supply and demand. In exceptional cases, of course, the holder of the stamp (some rarity that numbers of collectors want and that seldom comes into the market) has the advantage, and he will get as long a price as he can; and we understand that this is apt to be the case even if the holder is not a dealer, but a collector pure and not too simple to be aware of the circumstances. At any rate, we fail altogether to see how prices affixed by a committee of collectors, who are not prepared either to supply the stamps or to purchase them, can ever be made effective, even temporarily. The fact is that the prices of stamps are bound to vary, like those of coins, books, engravings, china, etc., etc. Those of the rarer items have a tendency to increase as time goes on, but even they have their vicissitudes, due to fashion and the eccentricities of collectors. And in all these cases it is the dealer who names his price, like the dealer in butter or tea, and the customer can pay it or not as it suits him.

"Apart from this question of prices, which we honestly believe that the compilers of a collector's catalogue would do well to let alone, as their inclusion would at once destroy the permanent usefulness of the work, there

is the important question of expense of production. The Editor of *The London Philatelist* seems to think that it would run into thousands of pounds, and if the work were carried out on the very magnificent scale there suggested the book would be a very costly one, and probably ruinous to its publishers. Who would buy it? Not the collectors who grumble at paying a few shillings every year for a new Edition of a price list. It is notorious that even comparatively inexpensive works on Philately have a very limited sale, and the Syndicate or Company, Limited, which undertook the production of the monumental work that appears to be contemplated, would probably find that, after a vast expenditure of time, labour, and money, it was necessary to follow the example of a leading daily paper and start a scientific competition, in order to get rid of the surplus copies of the *Encyclopedia Philatelica!*

"Under these circumstances it is not perhaps surprising that a certain amount of reluctance is displayed in regard to the actual starting of the work. Everyone seems convinced that, in the best interests of Philately, it should be undertaken—by somebody else. In fact, to use a not altogether inappropriate expression, there seems to be a uniform unwillingness to 'bell the cat.' Our own belief is that something less unwieldy and expensive than an Encyclopedia would be more practical and more practicable. What is really wanted is a classified catalogue, distinguishing the principal from the minor varieties, and affording a guide to those collectors who do not want to go too deeply into the subject, as well as a list of all known varieties for the benefit of the specialist. Prices may be added, if anyone is rash enough to attempt it, and if this part of the work is carefully and conscientiously done it will give some idea of the relative rarity of the older stamps and their approximate market value at the date of publication. But as far as we can see at present, we fancy that if the Ideal catalogue for collectors ever

NOTES

The *London Philatelist* for August, 1903, says: "THE MODERN CATALOGUE IS FAR TOO ELABORATE FOR THE GENERAL COLLECTOR."

A recent letter from Carupano, Venezuela, the post office from where the type set provisionals were issued some months ago, was prepaid with the ordinary issue of 1899 without the disfiguring surcharges which prevailed in 1900-01.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 16th, 1903.

"Your paper ought to please the people. It is full of right snap and intelligence."

E. A. Story,

Librarian J. A. Andrew Post, No. 16.

The Sunday copy of the *Post Standard* of Syracuse, N. Y., for September 20th contains an illustration of Mr. J. F. Seybold's Brattleboro on original cover with column and a half philatelic write up.

A number of copies of MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR just received have given me more information than I have obtained from four other stamp journals within six months. I have collected less than a year and have over 5,000 varieties.

A. Blanc,

Philadelphia, Pa.

We give illustrations of some new stamps that have been issued in Medellin by authority of the Government for interurban postage.



The inscription "Correos Urbanos de Medellin" indicates the character of their service. The stamps are small of the size shown in our illustrations and the denominations we have seen are the 20 centavos red brown and the 40 centavos violet on white wove paper, perforated 12.

The advance sheets of the 63rd edition catalogue place two of the type set Provisional stamps under the Department head of Cauca. This is an improper classification because the provisionals referred to were not in any sense stamps of the Department of Cauca but were provisionals for the general use in the Republic of Colombia, which originated at the post office of Popayan, the capital of the Department of Cauca.

A correspondent has advised us that they were issued in Popayan owing to the fact that the regular stamps had been exhausted. The 20c. was used in three different post offices and the 10c. in six different post offices in the vicinity of the town in which they originated; therefore, they should be properly classified as provisional stamps of the Colombian Republic and not as stamps for interior postage for one Department, such as their classification under the head of Cauca would indicate.

The tendency to collect and arrange must be inborn, but it is often latent. Association with active collectors will develop the germ and bring satisfaction to many who do not quite understand their longings.—C. L. ANNAN in *Philatelic World*.

"Stamps that are hard to get, and for which there is a demand, will appreciate in value no matter what prices cataloguers may attach to them.

"The catalogue is a necessary adjunct in the pursuit of Philately, but it does not, by any means arbitrarily determine the value of any stamp.

"Therefore, the brethren who are worried over some of the quotations in the advance sheets need not consume themselves with anxiety. Water will seek its level, and stamps will sell for what they are worth, irrespective of any cataloging ratings."—THE OPTIMIST in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

The following figures relating to the issue of Boyaca stamps have been sent by a correspondent:

10c. grey-blue, 68,000 perforated, 2,000 unperforated.
20c. red-brown, 58,000 perforated, 2,000 unperforated.

50c. green, 48,500.
 50c. blue, 1,500.
 1 peso, red, 3,800.
 1 peso, brown, 1,500.

If no further issues are made of these stamps it is easily seen that some of the varieties will be scarce and those who secured them at first quotations have made no mistake.



Wolseiffer's Stamp Auction Sale No. 38 occurs Oct. 10th. Catalogue issued by the United Stamp Company, 1149 Marquette B'ld'g., Chicago, Ill., where the stamps will be on exhibition October 9th and 10th, from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M.



The annexed illustration is of the 1 peso value of the Antioquia series of 1903. The 50c denomination is of the same size with large figures of value in the centre surrounded by lathe work. Fifty centavos being the lowest rate of postage for the interior of the state of Antioquia, this stamp will be the lowest of the series which will probably be complete with 5 peso and 10 peso denominations.

REDUCTION!

We are enabled to reduce prices materially on Colombian Provisionals of 1902-3 and Bolivar 1902, owing to favorable rates of exchange.

We will submit selections upon approval to those interested, upon request. It will be as well to fill up these varieties while they are cheap, some of the issues were quite limited.

Packet of 50 varieties, Antioquia, Bolivar Barranquilla Provisionals and Colombian Republic (catalogued by Scott \$3.00)..... **\$1.50**

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Holland, 20 varieties ..25c	Sweden, 50 varieties ..	60c

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DEPARTMENT OF REVIEW

(Continued from page 493)

materialises, it will be the production not of the Idealers, but of one of the much-abused Dealers."

This editorial calls for no comment other than that already given. We think our readers will consider the length of the excerpt justified by the importance of the matter treated.

Leaving the editorials, we find some eight or ten pages devoted to the usual Chronicle of New Issues—always the pattern of its kind—and then comes the continuation of M. Hauciau's monograph on "The Stamps of Lombardo—Venetia," succeeded by still another contribution from the pen of this eminent Belgian philatelist which is decidedly unique in character and also of quite exceptional interest. M. Hauciau lives in Brussels and we are under the impression that he was formerly connected in some capacity with the famous stamp house of J. B. Moens—we think, as Editor of *Le Timbre Poste*. However this may be, his personal relations with M. Moens were close, and after the winding up of the latter's stamp business some two or three years since, he had access to what might be called some of the inner correspondence of this famous old house—the finest in the world, it is believed, to have made dealing in stamps a regular business. Among the old files he found a quantity of very interesting documents relating to sales by tender of the stamps of the German States; and it is a wierd light, indeed, that they throw on the traffic in remainders in years ago. It is strange to read of the trifling prices which M. Moens and various of his contemporaries paid for stocks of remainders in those early times. It is interesting, too, to reflect that only through the foresight of these dealers does it happen that through all these long years the philatelic world has found the supply of some of these old German stamps at all keeping pace with the demand. Take the case of the stamps of Bergedorf. Genuine specimens of five out of the seven

Bergedorf varieties can still be had, in unused condition, at somewhere near two dollars a set. A used set of the same will cost fifty times that amount and are not plentifully offered at that. Many a young collector has marveled at this seeming anomaly—has wondered how a set of stamps so long obsolete could still be sold at so comparatively little a price. But M. Moens bought, including all five values, some 225,000 stamps of this issue in 1868—the same being the entire stock remaining on hand in the Bergedorf Post Office at the time the issue became obsolete. Here is where the Bergedorf stamps have come from during all these years—doled out as the market required from this good old stamp house in Belgium—no fear of shortage, and prices kept down to where almost anyone can own a Bergedorf set, instead of one collector out of ten thousand, simply because this Belgian dealer had the courage of his convictions in 1868; could see that stamp collecting was no mere passing fad, but was fated to so flourish and spread that the needs of collectors would in time absorb every one of these many stamps—a number large enough then to have furnished every collector then existing with many score, and to spare. And what do you suppose was the total sum paid by M. Moens for these 225,000 Bergedorf stamps? M. Hauciau tells us that it was *one thousand francs*, or about \$200 in American money! Surely, this was a purchase of profit; for, could they be all gathered together again to-day, a hundred times that sum would scarcely represent their worth. And yet, with the many years in which the bulk of these stamps must have lain idle in the dealer's vaults, and the many hands through which most of them must have passed before they reached our albums, who shall say that the dividends which they have earned their owner are at all beyond his due?

Brunswick and Saxony likewise sold out cheaply. They did not offer their remainders in bulk, but disposed of them piecemeal at the rate, M. Hauciau informs us, of two or three

thalers per 100 sheets. Prussia disposed of a "job lot" of some half million or more stamps and envelopes, including not only the emissions of Prussia, but also vast quantities of the issues of Schleswig-Holstein, for the sum of 1,000 thalers, or about \$720. Think of a half million remainders of Prussia and Schleswig-Holstein being parceled off at \$720 for the lot! Lübeck and Mecklenburg-Schwerin both also closed out their remainders, but M. Hauciau, although he gives the quantities of each value sold, is not able to state the price. Did space permit we should dearly like to publish M. Hauciau's lists of the different quantities of each value included in each lot of remainders. He gives full lists in the case of almost all the old German States; figures which being taken from M. Moen's private memoranda are without doubt accurate, and the figures thus disclosed are both interesting and instructive. They explain a great many points in regard to the relative rarity of different stamps and furnish much food for study to those deeply interested in the inner causes of stamp valuations. We must, however, refer our readers to the original article for these tables, as they consume no little space and we could hardly give room to them here without unduly expanding the limits we set ourselves in the review of this particular paper.

To return to the matter before us, M. Hauciau next refers to the stamps of Bremen. Of these he says that a Mr. Van Rinsum of Amsterdam, passing through the city at about the time the Bremen stamps were retired, purchased the whole stock of stamps on hand at the high price of—5 thalers, a sum approximating three dollars and sixty cents in American money. Of the remainders of Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Strelitz, M. Hauciau is able to give but little information. In regard to Baden, however, he has considerable information to offer. In December, 1873, the Post Office Department of Baden invited offers for its stock of stamps and envelopes amounting in all to between seven and eight million pieces. It was stated that

offers of less than 1,200 thalers would not be considered. This was the largest lot of remainders yet offered by any of the German States and evidently produced some spirited bidding, as it was eventually sold to Mr. Kohn of Berlin for 6,000 florins, or about \$2,400. The Post Office Department of Baden appears, however, to have kept something up its sleeve, for though it wrote to M. Moens on Oct. 7, 1872, that all remaining stocks of the obsolete stamps of Baden had been completely sold out, a letter from the same source, dated May 26, 1878, calmly proceeds to offer some half million remainders of the issue of 1866, with the remark: "We propose to sell the whole of our stock of the stamps issued by the old Postal Administration of Baden." As M. Hauciau justly remarks, there is something queer in this. He does not state whether M. Moens purchased this lot. Probably if he (M. Moens) had, it would have been so stated.

More than four hundred thousand Oldenburg remainders were sold in 1875 for about \$750. In 1876, Bavaria disposed of an enormous lot, totalling up several millions of stamps, to G. Zedmeier of Nuremberg. Mr. Hauciau does not state the purchase price. None of the other German States, so far as M. Hauciau's information goes, sold their remainders—at least in bulk. Wurtemberg sold her Telegraph stamps in this way, but not her postage. Thum and Taxis offered its stamps and envelopes in small lots at a certain reduction from face value, but never sold many of them. And Hanover made a bonfire of its whole stock. With which philatelic anti-climax, M. Hauciau brings his interesting paper to a close.

The balance of the *Monthly Journal* contains nothing calling for special mention. Mr. Phillips' "Notes and News;" "The Wide, Wide World" by Philologus, and a few Society Reports form the remainder of the reading matter.

The joys of stamp collecting are primarily three: the **The Joys of Stamp Collecting** collection itself, the making of it, and its arrangement. Each appeals to a distinct set of emotions. The sense of ownership affords a pleasure which is as the placid pool ruffled by the occasional breeze of contemplation. The pleasure of amassing is more constant and lively and like the bounding brook, thrilling in the rapid current of the search, exultant in the impact of discovery. The search may be through old papers dusty and voluminous, through the accumulation of a fellow collector, in the society of exchange books in the stock of a dealer, and whether such search is for a fugitive plate number of the red penny or for the one specimen to complete a particular issue the zest is the same. The exquisite little shock which follows the finding of the sought for stamps is a sensation unknown to the non-collector.—B. L. ANNAN in *Philatelic World*.



John B. Grove, Assistant Secretary of the **Stamp Club Ideas Wanted** Y. M. C. A. at Somerville, Mass., writes us that they are about to form a stamp club there in connection with their work and asks us to give them ideas with regard to such clubs:—the Exchange Department, the auction sales, public exhibits, etc. We have never been situated so as to be able to observe the workings of stamp clubs of this kind but are aware of their existence in different parts of the United States, as the names of Secretaries of a number of them are on our subscription list.

If any of our readers who have had experience in the organization and operation of stamp clubs of this kind would prepare a sketch we should be very pleased to publish it. Same would no doubt result in new organizations in different parts of the country. Such work as this should be encouraged for the general good of philately.

Over Twenty Years a Philatelic Journalist

"We are getting to be a bit of an old hand at philatelic journalism myself, but as our first effort at running a stamp paper dates back no further than 1886 we must take a back seat as compared with Mr. Charles Haviland Mekeel, who issued the *Stamp Collectors' Bureau* in 1881. Since that date Mr. Mekeel, now Editor of 'MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR,' has been almost continuously associated with the literature of our hobby. His firm's most characteristic and interesting productions were *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* and the *Daily Stamp Item*, the latter an experiment in daily philatelic journalism, which lasted 285 days."—*Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, London, Eng.

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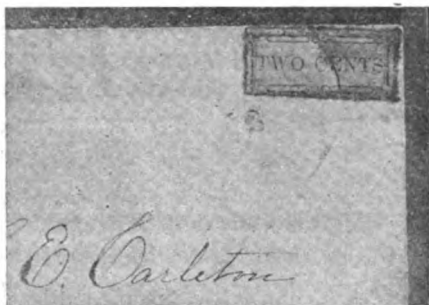
VOL. 16—No. 37
WHOLE NO. 89

OCTOBER 5, 1903

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gress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]



MACON, GA. 2 CENTS CONFEDERATE PROVISIONAL

We give our readers this week an illustration of one of the rarest stamps of the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals, being one of the only two copies that are known to philatelists.

This can be had for \$2,000, and its mate is in a famous European collection. Two cents was the drop letter rate in Macon, Ga., at the time of its issue in 1861. The stamp is type set and was probably printed in small sheets of several specimens, as the two copies known show minute differences in type varieties.

Realizing the popular demand for a catalogue of the standard varieties of postage stamps of the world, without the frills and sub-varieties, with which the larger catalogues are now loaded, we have undertaken to supply the want, at a popular price.

Our announcement will be made in

due course when the cost of production is fully determined. New cuts of reduced size are being made; new type has been purchased and the first 16-page form has been printed. Catalogue will be pushed through to completion as early as possible.

Send 10c. for the advance sheets now ready and prospectus of the work. The sheets that will be sent include United States, Cuba and Hawaii complete and some other countries. The quotations are the same as the forthcoming catalogue for 1904.

The purchasers of these sheets have the benefit of the new prices which will prevail throughout the trade during the coming season.

It is, of course, to be understood that various discounts prevail on stamps of different classes in the present catalogue, and no attempt will be made in this first edition of our work to put prices on a *net* basis.

The leading dealers, however, will be asked to co-operate to this end in the future editions, in order that American collectors may not only have a concise list of the standard varieties but that they may have a *net* price list which will be the result of the opinion of more than one compiler.

The most important incident in connection with Smith stamp business to take place in the next few months will be the sale of the entire stamp collection of William Alexander Smith, Jr., deceased. Catalogue value is \$75,000. No stamps have been withdrawn or added and the entire lot will be sold without reserve at public auction. (See Adv.)

Department of Review

BY L. G. QUACKENBUSCH

Publishers of philatelic journals are requested to send copies of their publications to the editor in charge of this department,
 LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSCH, French-Bennett B'ldg, Oneida, N. Y.

The London Philatelist

Published by the Philatelic Society of London:
 Edited by M. P. Castle.

June, 1903.

The June number of the *London Philatelist* opened, as usual, with one of Mr. Castle's able editorials, the custom of "bidding in" stamps at auction in the owners' interest, where they seem likely otherwise to go too cheaply, being the text he has this month chosen. This practice Mr. Castle states to be growing in London and he criticizes it severely, as unfair to bona-fide bidders and also as fostering what are practically false auction quotations. He holds that it would be far better in all ways to come out in the open and actually declare the reserve on any given lot which the owner is anxious to protect up to a certain point. Assuredly it is most important that auction figures should be kept free from suspicion of artificial manipulation. But we fear that not all stamp auctioneers and not all collectors and dealers who place stamps in their hands for disposal can be induced to abstain from the subterfuge Mr. Castle complains of. The stamp auction is a difficult institution to regulate. The "buying in" of stamps and other artificial modes of "rigging" auction prices in somebody's private interest that are even more reprehensible are very hard to detect. Yet the business acumen of the auctioneers themselves may, we think, be trusted to in the long run right these abuses. If the integrity of auction prices falls under grave suspicion, the knights of the hammer will be quick to feel the effect and to learn the lesson. They have done so in this country and the same will be true in England in the fulness of time. In their own interests the auctioneers cannot allow auction conditions to become intolerably

bad. And they are too sharp sighted a set of men to allow matters to proceed far in that direction.

Mr. J. N. Marsden's paper on "The Adhesive Stamps of Portugal" is continued in this number, and alike by its thoroughness and its lucidity and explicitness commends itself to the careful philatelic student. Among other interesting points in this instalment we find an identification list of the six types of the 5 reis stamp of 1855. The catalogue mentions only five types of this stamp, but Mr. Marsden adds a sixth, which is, however, by no means as clearly differentiated as the others, which may be recognized with comparative ease by counting the number of pearls in the circle surrounding the head. Type 1, Mr. Marsden tells us, has 75 pearls in this circle; Type 2 has 76, and small "r's" in "Correio;" Type 4 has 81 pearls in the circle; Type 5 has 89 pearls; and Type 6 he describes as having 89 pearls as before, but that the small loop to the left of the second "o" in "Correio" stands outwards and downwards at an angle of about 45 degrees, whereas in Type 5 it is vertical. In regard to the 5 reis of 1856, we find the following note: "The 5 reis exist in a great variety of shades. The earliest was the rich red-brown, identical in colour with the 5 reis of the preceding issue: the colour gradually assumed a yellow hue and through yellow-brown passed to a yellow-bistre, eventually finishing up in a deep bistre-brown. As before, these stamps may be found on both thick and thin paper, but the difference is very slight, and in unused specimens with gum it is sometimes almost impossible to classify them."

Farther on we find the comforting assurance that none of the dies of the older Portuguese stamps now exist. Some years ago, Mr. Marsden re-

marks, some of them, after having been damaged to prevent further use, were being used in the establishment as letter weights, but now all trace of them is lost.

These two or three points we have mentioned are only a few out of the many interesting ones treated in this instalment. Any reader especially interested in the issues of Portugal should certainly make a point of procuring the numbers of the *London Philatelist* containing Mr. Marsden's paper.

The annual Report of the Honorary Secretary of the London Society occupies several pages in this number and from it we gather that the Society is holding its own—which is cause for congratulation to all philatelists, whether affiliated with this great body or not, since its value as a pivotal centre of philatelic influence and inspiration can scarcely be overestimated. There seems to be some question of giving up the present rooms of the Society in Effingham House, on the score of expense. The rooms, it seems, were taken largely with the idea that the members would use them as club rooms, congregating there for friendly philatelic conclave on many other occasions besides those of the regular fortnightly meetings. This expectation, it seems, has not been realized, and now the question is raised whether less expensive quarters will not as fully answer every purpose. For our part, we trust the London Society may conclude to continue in their present abode. There is a sort of lordly grandiloquence about the very name, Effingham House, that well befits, to our notion, the station of the Society itself; and we should regard it as in some sort a loss of prestige to Philately at large did this learned philatelic body migrate to quarters more prosaically named. The Philatelic Society of London is an institution of which philatelists of all nations are proud. It belongs to all Philately in a sense that is true of no other philatelic body. And we assuredly hope that it will not be forced to practice the small economies which seem so sadly out of place in a society of its unique standing in the philatelic world.

In an article on "The Laureated Reprints of New South Wales," Mr. Castle pays his respects to Mr. Dawson A. Vindin who, it will be remembered, has lately emerged from obscurity to relate his version of the famous affair of the Laureated Reprints of New South Wales placed on the market through his agency some fourteen or fifteen years ago. In Mr. Vindin's recent explanation, published in the *Monthly Journal*, he took the position of the injured martyr, the innocent tool of the insidious Van Dyck, on whose shoulders are cast all the odium of the transaction. But in the course of his article Mr. Vindin was indiscreet enough to speak a trifle slightly of Mr. Castle. He had better not have done that, for it has roused Mr. Castle to the relation of some very plain facts regarding Mr. Vindin's attempt to market the spurious stamps in question and to print in black and white certain extracts from letters written by Mr. Vindin at that period that practically convict him of double dealing. Mr. Castle wields a biting pen, when so inclined. In the present instance he has, without making any direct charges against Mr. Vindin's good faith, but by the far more subtle method of introducing documentary proof that speaks for itself, given the erratic ex-Australian a jolt that we should judge was well deserved.

The rest of the current *London Philatelist* is devoted to about the usual matters:—Philatelic Notes, New Issues and Discoveries; Society Reports, and a short resume of notable auction prices recently realized.

The Australian Philatelist

Published and Edited by Fred Hagen.
Sydney, Australia.

June 1, 1903.

July 1, 1903.

We are in receipt of the two latest numbers of this entertaining little journal from the antipodes. That for June opens with an editorial which takes for its text some matter in our own February Magazine Number

THE GREAT BRITAIN OFFICIAL STAMP SCANDAL

[Continuing the account from Page 420 of the
number of August 10th.]

We have published in these columns the progress of the case in London, affecting Mr. Creeke, a member of the Philatelic Society, and an authority on the stamps of Great Britain.

In capacity of an author he had applied for and had been given by the authorities every possible facility for acquiring information relative to stamps at Somerset House. The final chapter is dealt with in the following brief statement:

Anthony Buck Creeke, aged forty-two, a solicitor having offices in Leadenhall Street, London, plead guilty at the Old Bailey, September 12th, to the charge of being in unlawful possession of certain stamps, and Walter John Richards, late Principal Clerk in the Postal Department at Somerset House entered a similar plea on the count charging him with aiding and abetting Creeke. They were each sentenced to six months imprisonment. Alfred Waterhouse and the sons of Richards, Henry and Percy, were acquitted.

NOTES

U. S. "Unpaid Letter Stamps" have disappeared from Scott's Catalogue. The advanced sheets of the 63rd Edition correctly describe these stamps as "Postage Due Stamps."

Sept. 28th, 1903.

Enclosed \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription to your STAMP COLLECTOR which I find quite interesting.

V. T. Van Buskirk,
Peoria, Ill.

The word "VALIENTE" appearing between certain stamps in the sheets of Bolivar 1903 issue, is the name of the engraver or designer. It is put in to fill out spaces that might otherwise be blank in the arrangement of the stamps on the sheets.

Filatelia, that spirited little journal from Buenos Aires, is giving its readers an excellent, elaborated catalogue and hand-book of the stamps of Uruguay, publishing same in installments and mailing same with the paper each month.

Some of the real philatelic work done by the South American collectors ranks with that of the best European.

"It is beyond the reach of wealth to gather a collection to completely accord with the present standard classifications, so why should the ordinary gleaner attempt too much? Within certain limits he can form groups sufficiently complete in themselves and derive the same sort of enjoyment in much the same degree that the much more pretentious plan affords"—C. L. ANNAN in the *Philatelic World*.

"A good catalogue is undoubtedly of great value to collectors, and all the catalogues now published are good, but there are only two ways to make a standard—one for the publisher to agree to purchase all stamps offered at a stipulated price, or for a catalogue to be published by a disinterested committee of experts, when every dealer would sell as near to it as his opportunities allowed or his necessities compelled."—From *The Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Whitfield, King & Co.'s Universal Catalogue incorrectly includes the series of *black* stamps of the 1895 issue of Mexico as OFFICIALS, and prices them at 30 shillings the set.

The series 1c. to 10 pesos were printed in black on the regular paper, and sent to the Postal Union at Berne as specimens of the issue. They were rejected, as the Postal Union required stamps in the correct colors.

These specimen sets were sold for what they would bring by certain post office officials.

The Entire Stamp Collection

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This is in many respects the finest stamp collection ever sold at public auction. It comprises nearly every stamp catalogued at less than one hundred dollars and many of much greater value, both used and unused, including errors, double surcharges, part perfs., proofs, specimens, essays, etc., all in the finest possible condition.

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1890, 20 pesos, carmine-black	8 50
Brazil, 1843, 30, 61, 90, sets	12 50
1844, 180, 300, 600, set	65 00
Uruguay, 1856, 60, 80, 1 real, set	35 00
1894, 1, 2, 3 pesos	8 00
1895, 1, 2, 3 pesos	10 00
1898, 1, 2, 3 pesos	3 50

Also a fine collection of about a hundred Uruguay, different stamps, all good specimens, value \$50.00, for

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1,000 Uruguay, commons, very fine mixed

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I have other rare duplicates at lowest prices which I can send on approval to who desire them.

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THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

DEPARTMENT OF REVIEW

(Continued from page 501)

prophesying a future decline in popularity in the case of British Colonials. Mr. Hagen does not believe this likely to occur, at least to an extent that would harm British Colonials as an investment. If American collectors should happen to be weaned away from their present fancy for these issues, he does not opine that it would very much matter, remarking that in no other country is the eccentricity of collecting carried on to a greater extent than in the United States. "What would be thought," he asks, "of a prominent philatelist, say a member of the London Philatelic Society, who would ask at one of its meetings for permission to descant on pillbox, matchbox and other trade stamps such as are collected in the United States?" His idea plainly is that there are not many real philatelists in this country and that most of us prefer the side show, where the living skeleton and the bearded lady are to be seen, to the main performance under the big canvas. Perhaps it is our duty to wax very wroth at Mr. Hagen's insinuations and devote a page or two to proving how utterly mistaken he is in his estimate of American collectors. But we do not deem either necessary. Australia is a long way off, and it is quite natural that Mr. Hagen should lack exact knowledge as to the status of Philately with us. Even the pillbox taunt does not move us. Personally, we have never been able to muster up much enthusiasm for Match and Medicine stamps, yet it would be idle to deny that many of our ablest collectors esteem them highly. American philatelists are catholic in their tastes, but we do not think their collecting methods are noticeably eccentric. If Mr. Hagen could spend an evening or two at the meetings of the Boston or Chicago Societies, we believe his opinion of the American collector would undergo a radical change.

Following this editorial, comes a further one dealing interestingly with the increased tendency of Public Li-

braries in large cities to include philatelic works, at the instance, usually, of the local societies. Next we come to a further article on the "Stamps of New Zealand," from the pen of Mr. C. A. Gilles, who has been dealing with them in recent issues of this same journal. The department of "New Issues and Discoveries," which next follows, is unusually complete in regard to the current additions to the lists from that side of the globe. Mr. Basset Hull presents a further instalment of his papers on the "Stamps of the Cook Islands." And the number closes with the usual "Society Reports."

The July number comments editorially in no very jubilant vein on the new uniform design for the stamps of the various States of the Australian Commonwealth. We should judge that considerable dissatisfaction exists in Australia over the fact that the leading Australian artists were not asked to submit designs, the Postmaster-General having chosen a design from some artist on his own order, and said design being not at all artistic or in any way satisfactory to either press or public.

An excellent editorial on "Multiplicity of Denominations" deals so adequately with a matter which is hardly receiving sufficient attention that we think it worth reprinting in full, as follows:

"Perhaps the question of unnecessary values in a set of postal issues has never seriously been considered by philatelists. From one standpoint only has the general body of collectors inveighed against it, and it related to the amount of money required to obtain all the values of a set. Up to 1860 speaking only of the British Empire, it was fairly easy to collect all values without it being too great a drain on one's pocket. Perhaps we can take exception to one Colony—Ceylon—in the group. In 1859 it had eleven denominations, and it would be difficult to explain the reason why in such a small state, judged from a postal business point of view, such values as 8d., 10d., 1s. 9d., and 25sh.

were needed. Coming to later years we find New South Wales the most eccentric in the issue of denominations, vide the 7½d. and 12½d. values, and as for multiplicity it is a question which of the two countries was, and is, the greatest offender. The general public seldom, if ever, requires a higher value than the one shilling; but even if they do, the limit of five shillings should answer all purposes. If a higher value is required, and this even by financial institutions does not happen very often, the latter could be franked with additional lower values. The fault really lies in making postage stamps do duty for postal parcels, when, in fact, postage stamps were not intended for that purpose when the postal Acts were framed. It is even doubtful whether postage stamps used on parcels are legitimately collectible. Some countries chronicle postal labels as high as £10, yet every advanced collector knows full well that such a value could not be required for a letter. So far philatelic societies have not threshed out this important question, and we suggest it as one that might engage the attention of members of the Sydney Philatelic Club at their next meeting."

Succeeding the editorials, we find one of C. W. Rankin's pleasant essays re-printed from this journal, the one in question being titled "The Rabid Collector." Then comes the New Issue Department, in which the new Australian Commonwealth stamp is pictured in all its glories. Mr. Howes' remarks on Tonga in a recent number of the *American Journal of Philately* are honoured with a reproduction on the pages next succeeding; and Society Reports fill out the balance of the number.

The Stamp Collector

Published by Margoschis Bros., Birmingham, England: Edited by Jno. A. Margoschis and W. Kuhn.

July, 1903.

Although one of its editors is away upon his vacation, as his co-laborer left at home apologetically tells us, doubtless to atone for any shortcom-

ings discovered, the July *Stamp Collector* is a goodly and interesting number. On the very first page we find a contribution which we strongly suspect is from the pen of that same lucky Editor who has temporarily withdrawn his nose from the grindstone. It is entitled "Stamp Hunting in Summer" and has a breezy, vacationy tone about it that proclaims it the work of a man who is at the very time of writing diversifying his holidays in a manner the title would suggest. The essay is an exhortation to philatelists to turn their Summer rambles to philatelic profit by keeping on the lookout for stamps wherever he goes. The author has spent many Summers on the Continent and he tells of a number of pleasant finds, made solely because he never passes the dingiest, most unpromising shop where even the cheapest kind of stamps appear in the window for sale without rushing in and brouising about a bit in the stock. And, of course, he exhorts his readers to go and do likewise.

The "Queries and Replies Competition" next occupies a couple of pages—and it is, of a certainty, space excellently utilized—and succeeding this we find the conclusion of Mr. C. A. Stephenson's paper on "The Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope." "Our Note Book and Philatelic Diary" deals pleasantly with various matters relating to stamps; and then comes a fanciful tale entitled "Philately A. D. 19," which is not, however, without a moral or without a distinct application to some present day philatelic developments. "Why Do You Collect," occupying the next page, is an excerpt from an address made before the American Philatelic Association at one of its conventions by the lamented John K. Tiffany and, like all his speeches and writings, is masterly in logic and felicity of diction. The number concludes with an interview with Mr. Charles F. Tanner, a Birmingham philatelist of note, of whom a portrait is also given; and the regular Review department, under the heading "In the Library Chair."

The Perforator

Published and Edited by A. Herbert and
W. A. McDonnell, New York.

June 15, 1903.

Illustrations of different gems from the Seybold collection of original covers continue to be the leading feature of *The Perforator*. The June number illustrates two rare British North American covers, one of which bears a beautiful copy of the New Brunswick shilling in the scarce dull violet shade; while the July numbers picture no less notable a gem than a Brattleboro on original cover. The enterprise of *The Perforator* is further demonstrated by the appearance in its June issue of a lengthy article on Servia, in which Philately and History are neatly blended, the text for it all, of course, being supplied by the recent tragic events in Belgrade and the change of postage stamps which will doubtless result from the accession of a new dynasty; if, indeed, the change will not have been made before these lines appear in print. Considerable space is given to the consideration of the designs suggested for the presumably forthcoming St. Louis World's Fair stamps. *The Perforator* has, however, no new suggestions to offer, so we need not linger over its remarks on this head. The editorials are, as usual, well written, evincing no little care and thought in their preparation. The chief editorial this month deals with the value of a philatelic library to every serious student of Philately and gives some excellent advice as to system in the preservation of both current papers and files of back numbers. On another page, we find a plea for the publication of a printed album for private proprietaries; which plea will doubtless appear to our friend Mr. Hagen, should it meet his eyes, as fresh proof of the degeneracy of American collectors. And last of all, of the June reading matter, comes Mr. Herbst's practical hints on advertising for stamp dealers.

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 38
WHOLE No. 90

OCTOBER 12, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

In the words of a contemporary, "*The Outlook* never was brighter." Summer with its diversions has past, collectors are returning to their albums and renewing correspondence with the dealers, and a busy season is opening. The trade will experience more difficulty in obtaining really good stamps of popular countries than in disposing of them, in consequence the auction sales of the season are likely to show a good record as to prices. The collector who has less than ten thousand varieties need not disturb himself about any such scarcity however, as there are plenty of stamps available for the general collector until his collection reaches the ten thousand mark, and the new 63d Edition prices will be discounted 25 to 50% all along the line.

It is only when it comes to "filling in" that the *hard-to-get* stamp asserts itself. The ranks of American philately have been swelled by thousands of new collectors who are rapidly filling general collections that range from two to five thousand in number and it is from these recruits that the advanced philatelic student of the future is developed.

The outlook certainly never was brighter for philately in America.

The announcement of the advance sheets of a **The Popular Catalogue** catalogue of standard varieties has met with great favor, and already many collect-

ions are being remounted and arranged in blank albums to conform with its arrangement. See this page of last week's paper for particulars.

The addition of **George L. Toppan**, the name of Co-Editor George L. Toppan, as a co-Editor with John N. Luff, on the first page of the *American Journal of Philately*, adds to the prestige of that already excellent and high class publication. Mr. Toppan, like Mr. Luff, is a student, and his work will be appreciated by American collectors. The article commenced in the September number, dealing with the *varieties* of stamps which are usually included in the catalogues in small type, will be welcomed by many collectors, to whom these differences have been somewhat obscure.

The first instalment deals with stamps of the United States; therefore, the illustrations are only made of the portions of the designs in which the varieties occur. These, however, are very satisfactory, and the papers ought to be accumulated into a hand-book when they have run their course in the monthly.

We have some *new* approval books ready for old customers. **Department Correspondents** Those who are ready to resume relations with this department are requested to drop us a line. All stamps priced by the new 63rd Edition Catalogue and the most liberal discounts allowed.

C. H. MEKEEL, STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

DEPARTMENT OF REVIEW

*(Continued from page 506)***The Perforator**Published and Edited by A. Herbert and
W. A. McDonnell, New York.

July 15, 1903.

This issue was a special Convention Number, issued in advance of those conclaves with the idea of stimulating society members to attend the annual convention of the body to which they belong. The object aimed at is a most worthy one, and Messrs. Herbst and McDonnell deserve credit for their efforts. A considerable quantity of information is given as regards the various convention sites, the programs arranged, and other similar matters that would seem likely to stir up otherwise luke-warm, stay-at-home members.

This July number is also rendered notable by the commencement of what is promising to be a most interesting series of articles on "War Time Stamps" by Frank C. Young. Mr. Young's series, we gather from the introduction, is to aim primarily at the same objects as Mr. Howes' series on Stamp Designs in the *American Journal of Philately*. It is to be a study, not of modes of production or technicalities of manufacture, but of those larger concerns which invest a stamp with real human interest—in this case of those historical facts, changes and events of which "war time stamps" are often so eloquent witnesses. And the manner of treatment which Mr. Young has chosen is extremely commendable. He relates all the correlative historical facts which have any bearing whatever on the stamps he is considering and marshals these facts in such interesting and orderly sequence that even the oldest and most blase collectors will find it pleasurable to follow the work he has projected. "The First Issue of Sardinia" is the series this month treated and if future instalments fulfil the promise of the present one, the series will prove a very noteworthy one, indeed.

The remainder of the July *Perforator* is devoted to the regular departments.

Brief Mention of Other Current Journals

We have still before us a number of current numbers of philatelic periodicals that, for various reasons, it is impracticable to accord separate review, but whose receipt should, doubtless, at least be mentioned. To begin with, there are the three American Weeklies: *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, and the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, all of which seem to be continuing successfully along their appointed way. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* and the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* come to us regularly from England and would receive more frequent mention in this department did they oftener season their news items with a sustained article or two. The June issue of the *Philatelic Chronicle* boasts but five pages of reading matter and need not detain our attention. The two latest issues of *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, dated June and July respectively, are copies of a journal to which we should like to accord a detailed review.

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COLOMBIAN NOTES

From the letter of a friend who is sojourning in the Colombian Republic we glean the following interesting points, some of which may be new to our readers:

The inquiry having been made why some of the stamps of the same value were printed in different colors, the explanation was offered that it was for the purpose of tracing the supply sent to post offices, certain colors having been furnished to some of the different post offices.

No specific information was given, however, as to distribution of colors among post offices.

With regard to the use of the Department stamps it was explained that the regular governmental mail routes are comparatively few and confined only to the main arteries of trade, so that each State (or Department, as they are called there) maintains a post office and mail service for internal communication. These are op-

erated by canoes or mules. Since the revolution began in that country, about four years ago, these have necessarily been suspended.

As soon as peaceful occupations are completely resumed in Colombia and financial matters are more settled, a new general series will probably be adopted and supercede the great variety of provisional stamps that have developed as a result of the unsettled conditions recently existing.

Where regular supplies of Governmental stamps have been exhausted, some of the Department stamps have been brought into use for international postage. This has been noticed and mentioned to us by correspondents in regard to mail coming from Medellin, Antioquia, same being prepaid with Antioquia stamps of the issue designed for internal postage. Such varieties as have been used on the international mail are, of course, only distinguished by the character of the

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— OF —

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This is in many respects the finest stamp collection ever sold at public auction. It comprises nearly every stamp catalogued at less than one hundred dollars and many of much greater value, both used and unused, including errors, double surcharges, part perfs., proofs, specimens, essays, etc., all in the finest possible condition.

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postmark. When preserved attached to the original cover, they are interesting varieties to collectors.

The European philatelic press has several times expressed disgust on account of the flood of Colombian stamps which have come out for the last few years, but to one who has given the matter very much thought and investigation there will appear to be less reason for this feeling than has been apparent.

The provisionals of Colombia have been largely due to the conditions, financial and social, which have existed in that Republic, and, therefore, as students of Philately, some of these hideous stamps stand as the record of the times.

To any one who has tried to get a supply of the various issues and varieties that have appeared, it only becomes too apparent that they are no issued for the benefit of collectors or with any idea of there being profit in it as a business. For if a stamp is issued in blue, perforated, and you send money for a supply your order is as likely to be filled with a supply printed in green and unperforated, or, as in most cases, money will be returned with the information that no stamps are available for other than postal purposes.

We have given to Colombian stamps a great deal more space in our columns than many of our contemporaries, but are making no attempt to "boost" them. We simply recognize the philatelic interest which is bound to develop in the stamps of this country. Many general collectors have taken the matter up with considerable vigor, are trying to complete series and there is an urgent demand for a good many of the varieties which are not readily obtainable.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

There's a Reason For It!

That my packet No. 25, "The Flood City Special" finds so much favor among all classes of collectors. And the reason is this, "the biggest value for the money obtainable." It contains 50 choice stamps, mostly obsolete, and the catalogue value runs from four to six dollars.

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Don't fail to get one of my new price lists of U. S. and Foreign Postage Stamps, Sets, Packets, etc. 40 pages full of bargains.

THEO. MAINHART, - Johnstown, Pa.

RARE STAMPS

I desire to sell the following stamps:

Buenos Aires 1858, 4 pesos, red, used	\$75 00
4 pesos, red, unused	110 00
5 pesos, yellow, used	80 00
1 peso, blue	4 00
Argentina, 1891, 20 pesos, green	12 50
1890, 20 pesos, carmine-black	8 50
Brazil, 1843, 30, 60, 90, sets	12 50
1844, 180, 300, 600, set	65 00
Uruguay, 1856, 60, 80, 1 real, set	35 00
1894, 1, 2, 3 pesos	8 00
1895, 1, 2, 3 pesos	10 00
1898, 1, 2, 3 pesos	3 50

Also a fine collection of about a hundred Uruguay, different stamps, all good specimens, value \$50.00, for 15 00
1,000 Uruguay, commons, very fine mixed 6 00

I have other rare duplicates at lowest prices which I can send on approval to who desire them. Good selections at 50 and 60 per cent discount and large stock for dealers. Good references required.

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COINS OF THE POPES

Leo XIII the First Pontiff in Hundreds of Years Who Did Not Issue Money

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COINS EVER ISSUED BELONG TO THE PAPAL SERIES



PIASTRE.—INNOCENT XII.—1694.

Leo XIII. was the first pope in over six hundred years who did not contribute to the coinage of the world and one of the few pontiffs since Hadrian I., 772-795, whose image or epochs of his reign will not live on the metal currency of the world. The pope's sovereignty over the Papal States was recognised by Charlemagne who granted to Pope Hadrian I. during the last decade of the eighth century the privilege of issuing money. The first papal coins, like those of many other money issuing countries of the period, was a series of silver pennies. The issue of Hadrian coins was limited, and no considerable number of pieces were struck until the pontificate of Leo III., 795-816, who, in the exchange of privileges and

decorations with Charlemagne, received and enjoyed all the rights of a ruling monarch, within the papal domain.

The coins of Leo III. were the first of this series to be generally recognised as money, and through the succeeding more than a thousand years papal coins were issued, not consecutively, but with the rise and fall of the popes' powers of state, until August 21, 1870, during the pontificate of Pius IX., on which day the French troops were withdrawn from Rome and King Victor Emanuel took possession of the city, declaring it the capitol of Italy, thereby abolishing the temporal power of the pope, and from which day the papal mints have been closed.

From 975, during the pontificate of Benedict VII. until 1099; during that of Paschal II. (1099-1118) though they had the power, no coins were issued by the popes except by Leo IX.



SCUDO.—CLEMENT XII.—1731.

During his supremacy, 1049-1054; from Paschal II. to Benedict XII., 1303-1304, no coinage is recorded, although in 1278, under Pope Nicholas III., the papal states were established;

an independent empire; thereby regaining the power of state lost during the reign of Paschel II. Coinage was re-established by Clement V., 1305-1314. During the interim patrimonial coins were issued by the popes.

From Clement V. to Sextus IV., 1471-1484, many of the coins bear three-quarter length portraits. In this later year the profile bust first appears, which continues, with few exceptions, to the end of the series. The early coins were mostly of silver. Gold was first coined under John XXII., 1316-1334, since which period a series of denominations requisite for the demands of the day have been almost regularly issued in copper, bronze-silver and gold.

The papal coinage of the last five centuries is remarkable for its fine execution, when compared with that of other money issuing countries of the same period; those of Alexander VI., Julius II., Leo X. and Pius IX. being particularly noteworthy.



SCUDO.—SEDE VACANTE-1823.

From Clement VII., 1592-1605, to the last issue in 1870, no other series of coins gives such a large number of types and varieties. Each pontificate, though some were but for a few days,

is represented, and "sede vacante" coins were issued during the days of papal vacancy between almost every pontiff. To the numismatist the series is a decidedly interesting one; on account of their brief period of issue, many of the types are decidedly rare



SCUDO.—PIVS VIII-1830.

and many others are prized because they exemplify the finest products of the coining art. Papal coins of the nineteenth century are obtainable at little more than their currency value, but the day is not far distant when all will be scarce. They are practically out of circulation and before long all will have found their way to the melting pot or the numismatic cabinets of the world.

This coinage is classed with that of the independent coinage of Modern Rome, but it circulated freely, not only within the papal domain, but in the countries surrounding. A number of the Papal States had their individual mints and coins, thereby contributing numerous varieties.

During the last four centuries of this coinage the Scudo was the unit of value. It is comparable with the dollar of the United States, but its weight and fineness were usually above that of a similar coin of other money issuing countries. The late coins bear

portraits of the popes, while many of the early ones are impressed with pictures of the Virgin Mary and patron saints too numerous to record. On the reverse side most all have the personal arms of the pontifical sovereign, surmounted by crossed keys above the tiara, or pope's tripple crown.

The coin collection of the Vatican is a very large one and one of more than ordinary interest on account of the average very fine condition of its specimens, many of which are extreme rarities. The papal series is practically complete, and in this respect the collection is unique.

Leo XIII. was a patron of numismatics, and during his pontificate augmented the Vatican collection. A few years ago he succeeded in obtaining a very fine collection, typical of Rome and Italy against his royal rival, the King of Italy.

Papal coins were first recognized as money during the pontificate of Leo III., and for more than a thousand years it occupied a place in the currency of the world; but the tenth suc-

cised the privilege first given by Charlemagne in 794; and, in the belief that church and state are forever divided, that privilege was buried,



SCUDO.—PIVS IX-1847.

and the series of papal coins closed with the last issues of Pope Pius IX., dated 1870. —FARRAN ZERBE.



SCUDO.—GREGORY XVI-1834.

cessor to the name of Leo (from the first coining pope) could not at any time during his pontificate have exer-

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"It is our firm conviction, based upon personal experience, that the great majority of collectors look upon their collections as a source of pleasure and recreation rather than as a financial investment. We are all human and, therefore, it is but natural for us to feel better pleased if our treasures, whether they be philatelic or otherwise, show an increased valuation from year to year than we should be were the reverse the case. * * * It would be much better for all concerned if the modern philatelic writers would strive to impress upon the minds of their readers the many pleasures to be derived from *stamps* rather than the question of *stamp values*."—From the leading Editorial in the *American Journal of Philately*.

"In the no very distant future each dealer will probably have to confine his business to a selection of countries and deal in no others. At present, naturally, he likes to have as many strings to his bow as possible, but it is getting to be very expensive to keep so many strings going. To keep even a fairly decent stock of even one-half of the countries nowadays means a heavy capital account, much of which must be dead capital, capital that is earning no return. Therefore, I shall not be surprised if, in the near future, we find dealers making a pick of the best of the best selling countries and stocking only those."—E. J. NANKIVELL in *American Journal of Philately*.

HOLLAND AND COLONIES

Exchange desired with collectors and dealers Wanted only used, undamaged stamps and not more than five alike of the following countries:—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Falkland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brunswick, Newfoundland, West India and Central America. I give immediately in exchange Holland and Colonies. I have all kinds in stock. Full satisfaction. All references.

J. KUHN, Jr.,
Parklaan,
GRONINGEN, Holland.

REDUCTION!

We are enabled to reduce prices materially on Colombian Provisionals of 1902-3 and Bolivar 1902 owing to favorable rates of exchange.

We will submit selections upon approval to those interested, upon request. It will be as well to fill up these varieties while they are cheap, some of the issues were quite limited.

Packet of 50 varieties, Antioqua, Bolivar Barranguilla Provisionals and Colombian Republic (catalogued by Scott \$5.00)..... \$1.50

(A BARGAIN TO START WITH)

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St. Louis, Mo.

"Usually, the American collector who wants foreign correspondents is the newer collector, but it seems that the average foreigner that he addresses is more conversant with stamp values and in philatelic shrewdness the sender in this country cannot compete successfully with the one to whom distance loans an enchantment. * * * As a rule, foreign correspondents are an expensive luxury, but if the collector will have them he should pay without squirming."—From *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp*

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 39
WHOLE No. 91

OCTOBER 19, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The Stamp Collectors' Fort-
Pricing *nightly*, (London) in discus-
by Stock sing "Catalogue Price and
Selling Price," gave some
interesting facts in relation to the 3
pence mauve of St. Helena, 1884, is-
sue and concluded with the observa-
tion that it is a "crushing criticism of
the system of cataloguing by stock."

It seems that Gibbons' Catalogue
has priced the stamp at 10 shillings
(\$2.50) and it is offered for sale by
another London dealer at 4 pence
(8c.). The Gibbons Co., in pricing
the catalogue from their stock, had
formed the opinion that this 3
pence stamp in the mauve shade was
comparatively rare, because they hap-
pened to have only a few. This was
simply an error of judgment, be-
cause the stamp is not scarce. The
dealer who did happen to have a lot
takes the opportunity of emphasizing
the fallibility of the cataloguer, and
makes a feature of offering the stamp
and advertising it extensively at a
price just about one-thirtieth of that
at which it was priced in the cata-
logue.

These things all serve a useful pur-
pose, in an educational way, to col-
lectors. They may thus, learn to
regard the catalogue in its true light.

The judgment of Stanley Gibbons
Co. on the value of most stamps is, in
absence of any better information, as
good a guide as any collector might
require, but their opinion in regard to
a particular variety with which they

have had no experience may be weak
in comparison with that of some one
who is better informed on the subject.

As soon as collectors learn to un-
derstand the character of a catalogue
and the circumstances attendant upon
its production they will learn to con-
sider it in its true relative and com-
parative importance.

Get the idea that his pet catalogue
is not infallible out of the mind of the
collector, and he will begin to do some
thinking and studying for himself.
Catalogues are made by men who are
in the stamp business to make money
and while their opportunities of get-
ting information are better than that
of the average collector, they are still
liable to make mistakes. Collectors
who keep in touch with the popular
stamp literature of the day can keep
abreast of the times without depend-
ing entirely on catalogues.

From our standpoint we are very
glad that Stanley Gibbons Co., L't'd.,
publish a catalogue *based on their stock*,
so that, for the nominal sum of 60c.,
we have the benefit of the opinions
and quotations of such an authority;
but one of the reasons for not consid-
ering it an infallible oracle may be
gleaned from the little incident that is
mentioned in the *Fortnightly*.



We have reported
The Official the conclusion of the
Stamp Scandal Great Britain Official
Stamp Scandal in
which two men were sent to prison
for six months; one of them a man
who had a position in London as a so-
licitor and a member of the Philatelic
Society, the other an old and trusted

employe of the Government.

To those who have followed the case in all its bearings the conclusion seems to leave an impression of disgust. That the culprits abused their privilege in connection with the Somerset House there can be no question; but that the offense was technical rather than actually criminal must also develop in connection with the cool contemplation of the facts brought out in the case in which these two men have been convicted. There seems to be an impression that the Government, represented by the high officials in connection with the Somerset House, was the real culprit. Nominally five men were on trial upon certain charges "of stealing and receiving Government stamps." Charges which even the counsel for the prosecution had difficulty in enunciating, so befogged was everybody connected with the prosecution by the tinkering, red tape methods of the Government officials, that one of the London contemporaries observes it was really the Government that was on trial. The strenuous efforts of the authorities to secure the conviction are alone proof of their dismal feeling of uncertainty, although two persons were convicted.

The circumstance has very much the appearance of the traditional scape goat, as the conviction was not secured along broad lines of a fair fight. Both men were placed in the position of the "under dog," and overwhelmed with legal advice to plead guilty to what was practically only a technical offense—"the illegal possession of mutilated stamps."

It was upon this charge, and not upon the charges of the original indictment, that they were convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

It was no doubt because they feared the overwhelming power and influence of the Government that they were induced to take this position for fear of a greater penalty.

In the opinion of most fair-minded people the loss of the position and pension of the trusted clerk, Richards, has served in the Government

office for thirty-five years, would have been sufficient punishment, as well as the loss of position and prestige by the solicitor; but official red tape had to be justified; therefore, the two men whose actions must have been condemned thus far by all stamp collectors will find a sympathetic and indignant feeling aroused by the dogged persistence of their prosecutors upon behalf of the Government in fixing the punishment as imprisonment.



A monstrous petition **Domestic Parcels Post** to the President, signed by hundreds of thousands of union workmen, asking that he use his influence for an extension of franchises and functions of the Post Office System in relation to the domestic parcels post, is being prepared.

This is a subject for the consideration of Congress, and is one that interests all classes of citizens.

This particular petition has probably originated in the spirit of retaliation by organized labor against the Express Companies on account of their ignoring their federation of labor.

It will probably serve a useful purpose in bringing the matter to the attention of the public—the need for the domestic parcels post and the deficiency of our Post Office in this respect.



The reason for the **Re German Parcels Post** modification of the parcels post treaty with Germany whereby the weight of parcels was reduced from five kilos (eleven pounds) to two kilos) four pounds six ounces) is explained in the letter which we publish from W. S. Shallenberger, Second Assistant P. M. General, in reply to our communication to the Postmaster-General which was published in these columns some weeks ago.

The position of the Post Office Department is fully explained and the points well taken. Until we have a domestic parcels post in the United States it seems entirely proper that the

limit of weight should conform with the privileges that we have under our domestic postal regulations.

The subject of the establishment of domestic parcels post must originate with Congress.

The Post office Department is not authorized to inaugurate such a service until special legislation should have taken place.

The modifications we have referred to in German parcels post need not effect the stamp trade. It will only necessitate goods being made up in smaller parcels. Letter from the Second Ass't. P. M. General above referred to is given as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL
WASHINGTON

September 10, 1903.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUB. CO.,
St. Louis, Mo.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of September 1st, addressed to the Postmaster-General, on the subject of the German parcels post, and referred by him to this office, has been given careful consideration.

You are correct in saying that the limit of weight has been reduced from 5 kilos (or 11 pounds) to 2 kilos (or 4 pounds 6 ounces). The German treaty having been in the nature of an experiment, and having been subjected to a practical test of administration for a period of three years, the Postmaster-General felt constrained, in his report of 1902, to which you refer, either to extend its privileges to other European countries or to modify it in a manner which would permit of the extension of similar privileges to all countries of the Eastern Hemisphere with whom satisfactory conventions could be concluded. The limit of weight in the United States being 4 pounds for all merchandise packages, and its mail service being adapted to the carriage of parcels not exceeding that weight, it was not deemed to be in the interest of this country to extend to all European countries, from which a very large importation of such parcels might reasonably be expected—a privilege which our own merchants and manufacturers did not enjoy. Hence it was that the German treaty was modified, July 1st, of this year, so as to reduce the weight of parcels to 4 pounds 6 ounces (or 2 kilos). Negotiations are pending for similar conventions with other European countries.

The question as to whether the United States should have a domestic parcels post similar to those of European countries, where they substantially take the place of the express and private carrying companies, is one for the consideration of Con-

gress, the Department not being authorized to inaugurate such service without additional legislation. The present charge for postage on a four-pound package of merchandise from St. Louis to New York is 64 cents; for three parcels, in weight aggregating 10 pounds, \$1.60. Your plea for the retention of the German treaty would mean that a Berlin merchant or manufacturer would have the privilege of sending to you, through the United States mails, 10 pounds, while his competitor, a United States merchant or manufacturer, in the City of New York, would be required to divide a similar package into three parcels in order to get access to the United States mails, and then pre-pay it at a cost of a cent per ounce. This discrimination in favor of foreign tradesmen as against our own was clearly developed through the experimental test given the German treaty, and a correction was sought by the modification referred to reducing the limit of weight so as to conform to our domestic service.

The administration of the postal service of the United States aims to be liberal, and in its relations to the administrations of other countries is cordial and reciprocal.

The instance which you cite where you are required to pay 50 cents to an express company for carrying an eleven-pound parcel from New York need not be repeated, if you will advise your German correspondent to make three parcels, instead of one, in the next shipment and pre-pay the postage on the same. Our mail service will promptly deliver the three packages from New York to your address, without additional cost, in consideration of a like service guaranteed by Germany to similar weight packages sent from this country to any point in her territory. Even then it will be seen that in carrying German parcels of greater aggregate weight through the wide domain of this country we are performing a larger service for Germany than that country is performing for the United States in delivering our packages through her limited compact territory.

Very truly yours,
W. S. SHALLENBERGER,
Second Ass't. P. M. General.

Sir:—We have received your very courteous letter of the 10th of September and thank you very much for the attention given our communication.

We understand your position in the matter and regard the points as well taken. Until Congress shall have taken up the matter of the domestic parcels post it would be inconsistent for the foreign parcels post to have privileges with regard to excess weight that we cannot enjoy at home.

Our German correspondents are sending their shipments in smaller parcels and the same are coming through to St. Louis to our entire satisfaction. We remain,

Yours truly,
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.,
C. H. MEKEEL, Pres. & Treas.

NOTES

A friend in Jamaica sends us newspaper clippings which announce that a new one penny stamp would be issued at that Island at an early date. It will bear the head of the King and will succeed the large pictorial stamp which has been in use.

Your paper has done more good than all the others together in which I have advertised. This is no flattery but based on solid facts.

Theo. Mainhart,
Johnstown, Pa.

We regret to hear of an accident to Mr. Pierre Mahe, the great French philatelist, who sustained a broken leg while on his vacation this summer and is confined to his bed. We hope to hear of his speedy recovery and that it is not as serious as at first reported.

A stamp printed in green may be changed by a simple chemical process to a blue. Such changelings usually have a weak, washed-out appearance.

A reader recently purchased, in the City of Mexico, a stamp that was supposed to be the Mexican 1c. blue, error of 1884 (Scott's No. 150). Upon inspection we find it to be a changeling of the character described above. The strong blue color of the bona fide error is not one that could be imitated by the chemical faker.

A new yearly publication for philatelists, to be known as "*The Stamp Collectors' Annual*" is announced for November from London. It will be a shilling book of over 100 pages, containing a compilation of facts and information interesting and valuable to all philatelists. Its publishers are firmly convinced that there exists a real demand for an interesting and authoritative "Year Book of Philately." And their announcement will no doubt be made in due course to American collectors.

It was not generally known that the "Sydney Views" were for a short time available for use in Victoria and that some bear the "Butterfly" or "Gridiron" postmark as it is variously called. These are now in demand and command higher prices than ordinary used specimens. At an auction sale held by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper in May a horizontal pair of 1d. carmine, plate I, with a "Butterfly" postmark, a little defective but splendid color, brought \$1,700.—*An Exchange.*

"A dealer recently sent several books of stamps on approval to a collector. On their return he was astonished to find that several stamps had been changed, inferior ones having been substituted. This was mean. Dealers, as a rule, are pretty 'cute;' they have methods of detecting such practices and collectors should, therefore, be careful lest confidence is shaken. In the case referred to the books passed through several hands before being returned. The gentleman to whom they were sent may have been quite innocent, but he suffers. Such instances occur occasionally. Mostly dealers prefer to bear the loss rather than offend their customer, but they should not be called upon to provide against such a contingency." —From *Australian Journal of Philately.*

THEY WOULD NOT STAY IF IT DID NOT PAY

We have just received a line from Wilcox, Smith & Co. of Dunedin, New Zealand, who, a few months ago, placed an advertisement in these columns, with instructions as follows: "*Please insert our advertisement again, same number of times, same matter, same position in paper and same terms.*"

It Costs You Nothing

My new Price List is mailed free to any one for the asking. Beginners should read about my Premium Packets, Nos. 17 and 20; it is of special interest to them.

HERE ARE A FEW BARGAIN SETS

Sweden, 50 varieties, all different.....	\$0 60
Spain, 50 varieties, none punched.....	60
Japan, 40 varieties, mounted on sheet.....	70
Philippine Islands, 30 varieties.....	1 00

Cash with order. Don't let these bargains get away from you, but send in your order at once.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

CORRESPONDENCE

"I am in a difficulty. I want to ask several dealers for approval sheets and must in each case (being a new collector) send a reference. Now, I cannot well ask any tradesman or banker to write me a number of references to enclose and so what must I do? Would it not be possible to have a sort of International Guarantee or Reference Society, which, on an applicant furnishing satisfactory references and paying a small fee, would furnish a standing reference for said applicant and supply him with a quantity of tickets or labels the possession of which would establish his bona fides. There may be some such plan in existence of which I do not know; but if not, is the suggestion worthy the consideration?"

F. W. CHARLESWORTH."

ADVANCED COLLECTOR CIRCUITS

REQUESTS FOR THESE CIRCUITS WILL BE RECORDED IN ORDER OF RECEIPT. SOME GREAT BARGAINS FOR GENERAL COLLECTORS

We have some special books of choice stamps cataloguing from \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, that we will submit upon approval to *general collectors* who buy stamps of this class, allowing 50% discount from the new 63d Edition Catalogue prices. These books contain many stamps that are not often to be obtained at such a discount.

We have some other books containing stamps that are also priced \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, which on account of their face value or scarcity, are quite as cheap at 25% discount as the others at 50%, which we shall submit in order of request.

The circuit lots will be valued \$300.00 to \$500.00 and each collector will be allowed ten days. \$25,000 worth of choice stamps are ready. Requests of *general collectors* and those only who are likely to be liberal buyers are solicited for above circuits.

SPECIAL OFFERS

for collectors who buy *rare* stamps cataloguing from \$10.00 to \$100.00 submitted upon request, many varieties in stock.

We have 5,000 varieties cataloguing from 1c to \$1.00 each, available at 50 per cent discount.

We have 5,000 other varieties cataloguing from 1c to \$1.00 each, available at 25 per cent discount.

We have 20,000 varieties in stock and will suit our selections to your collection giving the most liberal discounts to *General Collectors*.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT

BY FARRAN ZERBE

Publishers of Numismatic journals, books, etc., who desire no have their publications reviewed are requested to send copies of their publications to the Editor in charge of this Department—FARRAN ZERBE, Lucas Building, St. Louis, Mo.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, over 10,000,000 pieces of misdirected mail matter was received at the dead letter office. This is the largest number ever received in any one year. In the 9,000,000 pieces so far examined \$48,634 in money was found and drafts, checks, money orders, etc., to the value of \$1,493,563.

The following extracts, believed of interest, are gleaned of United States Treasurer Ellis H. Roberts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903: The Treasury held \$893,068,869 in gold and silver on deposit against outstanding certificates and treasury notes, besides the \$150,000,000 in gold which forms the reserve against United States notes. The monetary stock of the country is placed at \$2,688,149,621, an increase of \$124,882,962 for the year; the increase in gold was \$60,137,401 and in national bank notes \$56,998,559.

The increase of money during the year was \$121,740,252, of which \$59,676,462 was in gold and gold certificates and \$54,520,193 in national bank notes. The per capita circulation increased 90c., and the proportion of gold to the whole rose to 42 per cent, the highest ratio ever recorded.

There has been a continual increase in the proportion of paper currency of the denominations of \$10 and under in circulation, but the growth hardly keeps pace with the demand. The supply can be increased if Congress will authorize the issue of gold certificates for \$10 and remove the restriction on the issue of \$5 notes by national banks. To meet the constant pressure requires strenuous effort in the preparation to keep pace with the demand.

The national bank notes presented for redemption during the year amounted to \$196,429,621 or 51 per

cent of the average outstanding. Of the \$5 notes redemptions were 65 per cent; of the tens, 46 per cent; of the twenties, 45 per cent; of the fifties, 61 per cent, and of the hundreds, 73 per cent. These figures show that the tens and twenties remain in circulation longest.

France has recently issued a new coin made of nickel—a 25 centime piece—equivalent in value to the U. S. five cent coin; comparable with it in size, and is already known as a "nickel." It was designed by Augustus Patey.

The British Numismatic Society is the name of a new and promising organization of England. Its publication will be an annual under the title of *The British Numismatic Journal*, the annual subscription to which will be one guinea. The first number is promised to appear in January, 1904.

During an absence from his home, Dr. B. P. Wright, of Schenectady, N. Y., President of the American Numismatic Association, was the victim of two youthful miscreants of Syracuse, N. Y., who, on July 30th, entered his residence and purloined from his coin cabinet about 2,000 of its 20,000 specimens. Some days later the thieves were apprehended but they had disposed of their booty, a portion of which—about 300 pieces—has since been recovered. Many interesting pieces, and greatly prized by Dr. Wright, are gone beyond the hope of recovery, the thieves having admitted throwing them in the Hudson River.

A Paris dispatch says: M. Capmartin of Blaye has had half a million picture post-cards printed illustrating the evils of drunkenness. They have such titles as "The Drunkard's Doom," "Death in the Bottle," and "The Drink Fiend," and the author suggested they might be posted to confirmed drunkards.

Two or three slander actions have already been started by people who have received the cards, and one recipient is being proceeded against for violently assaulting a sender.

National Bank circulation is contracting at a rate without precedent, under in the late history of the Government. Under the law, not more than \$3,000,000 can be retired in any single month. Present applications anticipate this amount for some months to come.

From Philadelphia we learn: No more cents are to be made by the United States Mint here for at least a year, unless a special order is issued from the United States Treasury at Washington. This is the latest instructions from Washington, due to the enormous production in the last five years—3,000,000,393 pennies having been shipped from the Philadelphia Mint, which is the only one that coins the 1-cent pieces to various parts of the country. Between July 1, 1902, and June 1, 1903, 89,600,000 were coined.

Since the Government began making purchases of bullion for the Philippine coinage a few months ago, silver has advanced about ten cents per ounce. A recent purchase of 300,000 ounces, being at 58.27 per ounce, it is estimated, that, should silver advance to a fraction above 64.10, the silver in the Philippine peso will be more valuable as bullion than the currency value of coin; and, unless radical steps were taken to prevent, the coins would rapidly disappear and be exported for their silver. Under the existing monetary system in the Islands, Mexican dollars and other coins that have and are now circulating there, will cease to be legal tender at the close of the present year, and there will be no legal coin except that now being put in circulation. With the law expelling Mexican dollars, and the price of silver promising to make the new coins more valuable as bullion than for money, the financial system of the Philippines bids fair to give its promoters some trouble.

The original treaty for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, now in the vaults of the Department of State, is written on six pages of Irish linen

paper, bound together with a piece of green silk ribbon. After the signatures of Livingstone, Monroe and Marbois are wax seals impressed with the armorial signet rings of the signers. This treaty was recently photographed, but the original document will be taken to the St. Louis Exposition, and the first page, securely protected, will be exhibited.

Great treasure, which is believed to have been sunk with the Spanish Armada in 1588, and which for more than three hundred years has lain at the bottom of the Bay of Mull, in the Hebrides, off the coast of Scotland, is being sought by the Duke of Argyll. Divers and dredges are at work, and the undertaking has been given promise of success by the bringing to the surface of some ancient cannon, ship timbers and a few silver coins of Philip II. Should the treasure, which is supposed to be largely composed of Spanish gold coin of the sixteenth century, be found, it should contribute some fine condition coins to numismatic stocks. It is not probable any great rarities will be found as the coins of Spain of this period are not uncommon.

NUT-SHELL FACTS
ON
COINS, STAMPS
and **PAPER MONEY**

An authoritatively prepared volume concisely covering its subjects, describes and prices the over 500 U. S. Coins commanding a premium. A condensed history of money and a complete counterfeit detector.

Sent Post Paid for 25 Cents.

F. ZERBE,

4263 Morgan Street, St. Louis, Mo.

We are enabled to reduce prices materially on Colombian Provisionals of 1902-3 and Bolivar 2 owing to favorable rates of exchange.

We will submit selections upon approval to those interested, upon request. It will be as well to fill up these varieties while they are cheap, some of the issues were quite limited.

Packet of 50 varieties, Antioqua, Bolivar Barranquilla Provisionals and Colombian Republic (catalogued by Scott \$5.00)..... \$1.50

(A BARGAIN TO START WITH)

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.



The above is the type set provisional issued from Popayan, the capitol of the Department of Cauca, and wrongly attributed to that State as a local issue for interior postage.

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A copy of the 63d Edition of the Scott Catalogue, and a year's subscription to

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for seventy-five cents.

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106 E. 111th Street, New York City.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

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Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ¼p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ¼p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.
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High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

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1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge

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1903 Catalogues, Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free Circulars free.

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ON TRIAL

If you wish to get acquainted with the best collectors' weekly stamp paper send name, address and ten cents to

THE WEEKLY PHILATELIC ERA,
503-506 Congress St., Portland, Maine.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

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WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

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LONG SET AUSTRALASIANS

(Fine Presents)

THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties	\$1 00
New South Wales, 24 varieties	50
Victoria, 30 varieties	75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties	1 00
Queensland, 30 varieties	1 00

The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash \$3 75

(95) Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency Registered.

The curious octagonal Forged Thesaly stamps issued during the Greek and Turkish War of 1889 have been forged and are being offered extensively.

While there are many points of difference to those who are familiar with the genuine, the forged stamps would be likely to deceive the new collector.

The easiest point of difference is recognized in the perforation. The genuine stamps are perforated 13½ but the forged are 11½. This point of comparison will only answer for the forgeries that are already on the market as it will probably be an easy matter to correct, so that a general note of warning is all that we aim to give.

We have just heard of the death of M. F. M. F. Walton Walton, who, some years ago, was prominent in the philatelic world on account of his office as Secretary of the American Philatelic Association. He leaves a family.

MUKUNDRAO K. BHAGWAT

Jacob's Parade, Lashkar

GWALIOR, INDIA

FOR SALE—Gwalior, used and unused. Stamps of old and new issues. Price list will be sent when called for.

An international reference Bureau to facilitate the approval business is proposed. We believe a means may be found to establish something of the kind in connection with the dealers' association, and will discuss it next week.

MATCH AND MEDICINE

STAMPS ARE GAINING US FAVOR.

Collectors who have taken up this branch of philately have been well repaid. One collector told me that his collection of these stamps had advanced 60 per cent in the last three years.

I will send approval books of these desirable stamps to interested parties at 50 per cent discount. Will furnish cut square envelopes at 25 per cent discount from Scott's new prices.

Who wants the 2c brown, die B, No. 1511 for \$1.50? This has not been reduced.

I also offer the following bargains:

No.	UNITED STATES	Scott's Cata. Value	My Price
2806	2c Certificate Imp.	\$0 20	\$0 08
3038	\$3.00 brown, 1898	15	07
226	10c green, 1890-93 (o. g.)	20	10
225	8c lilac	18	12
2968	2c lake, playing cards	10	03
248	2c pink, triangle 1	06	04
252	2c carmine, triangle III	20	08
63	1c blue (all shades)	05	03
259	15c dark blue, 1894	25	18
220a	2c carmine, cap on both 2	both for	03
220b	2c carmine, cap on left 2		
2993	1c, 1 R. surcharged	both for	05
2994	2c		
62	Newfoundland, No. 62 mint	08	04
48	"	08	04
39	"	08	04
40	"	10	05
42	"	10	04
46	Canada	12	06
39	" all shades	10	06
70	Honduras, o. g.	08	03
19	Virgin Islands	12	07

(PAIRS OR BLOCKS)

Two varieties Letter Sheets mailed for..... 06
Will sell a superb copy, 50c Proprietary No. 2977 for..... 15 00

GREEN PAPER

Also good copy No. 2519, U. S. Med., 6c, for..... 10 00

S. VALENTINE SAXBY, Rockford, Ills.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 40
WHOLE No. 92

OCTOBER 26, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The suggestion of a **Reference Bureau** to facilitate approval business has met with great favor. This might be accomplished if collectors who wished to avail themselves of the advantages of a bureau of this kind would fill an information blank and furnish references which would give all of the details that would be necessary to enable the manager of the bureau to intelligently answer inquiries that might be made.

This would eliminate a large number of irresponsible people who prey upon the dealers, and while it would not be a complete safe-guard against business loss, it would at least simplify the work of the credit department of dealers who would avail themselves of its service. The collector who wished to refer to the bureau would simply have to establish himself so that any information that might be asked for could be given intelligently. For instance, an honest boy who lives at home with his parents, from twelve to sixteen years of age, who has his parents consent to receive stamps on approval, would have a different standing with the bureau than a boy of similar age whose character and surroundings are unknown.

Stamp collectors exist in every walk of life and the knowledge that a bureau would have as to "who is who" would be a long step in the right direction and would save a great deal of unnecessary correspondence.

The principal object of the bureau being to investigate once for all the statements and references of an applicant, so that if he wishes to deal with half a dozen dealers he will not have to go through the same form with each one, the bureau being able to certify briefly as to the important facts, which will enable the dealer with whom he wishes to open an account to determine how far and to what extent he is justified in extending credit.

If this system were properly worked out a fee from the collector covering the expense of filing the original information and investigation of his reference would be paid to the bureau after which a merely nominal fee could be charged each dealer when he may have occasion to make an inquiry.

It is believed that the expense would not be large and that the patronage might make it of sufficient importance to secure the services of some one who would take the bureau in hand in a systematic manner and organize a card index system that would in time become a most valuable adjunct to the dealers in the United States.

We understand that W. W. Jewett, of Portland, Me., has sold the *Philatelic Era*, and that the paper will be published hereafter from Boston, Mass.

The misplacing of a period in a paragraph in last week's paper made the auction price of a pair of Sydney Views read \$1.700 instead of \$17.00. A mistake that would be understood by most of our readers.

U. S. Postmarks

Most boy stamp collectors have at some time collected "post-marks," or cancellation impressions, and it may, at least, be of interest to them to know that all the hand cancellation stamps used by the United States Government have for more than forty years been made by one family. Benjamin Chambers, son of the original steel cancellation stamp maker, is the present proprietor of this monopoly and furnishes the steel dies and changeable type for the cancellation stamps used in the over 80,000 post offices of this country. The process of making them is a secret one, and is being jealously guarded, and remains a family secret. Mr Chambers has his factory located in a little out-of-the-way place—Lodge, Virginia, located on a four-mile point of land that extends out into the Potomac. Many have tried and failed to make a satisfactory and durable stamp at a price to compete with the Chambers. At present they are supplied at \$3.25 for the large size and \$1.70 for the small ones, and Uncle Sam's bill for annual purchases is about \$22,000, and more than a million and a quarter has been paid by the Government to this family for the product of their secret. That the furnishing of these stamps will remain with this family for another generation is probable, the present proprietor having two sons, associated with him whom he expects to be his successors as exclusive post-marking stamp makers to the Government of the United States.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

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New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only.

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106 E. 111th Street, New York City.

Kings as Collectors

The Emperor of Austria has a very remarkable collection of menu cards. The Emperor himself is one of the most plain living of men, and his own menu cards are a record of dinners of the simplest description, contrasting strongly with some of the other royal menu cards in his possession.

The Emperor of Russia keeps a most sumptuous table, and the list of regular dishes always includes such delicacies as clams, turtle soup and ortolans. The menu card placed on the imperial table at St. Petersburg is printed in red letters on a pure ivory tablet, surmounted by the royal crest and arms.

One of the most famous menu cards ever prepared was on the occasion of the dinner given by Nicholas II. to President Faure at the Russian embassy.

The card was in reality a block of the rarest black marble, beautifully painted on by a celebrated French artist in compliment to the President, whilst the actual list of dishes was lettered in ivory.

The Austrian Emperor regards this menu card as the prize of his collection, which includes the cards of nearly every royal table in the world.

The Shah of Persia has a very celebrated collection of pipes, and during his visit to England last year received from the Prince of Wales a valuable addition to it. This pipe is made out of one piece of pure amber, without any decoration whatsoever, and was accompanied by an ivory case, bearing the name of the imperial recipient and the date of his visit in gold letters.

The German Emperor has a most wonderful collection of sticks of all shapes and cut in every part of the world.

There is a thick club of Oregon pine weighing some 15 stone, and so hard that if placed in a red-hot furnace for a few minutes it would come forth unharmed.

There is also to be seen a thin cane cut from a sort of willow tree in Liberia, which can be twisted round the

wrist like a piece of gutta-percha, but will become as straight as a dart when released.

Irishmen will see their native black-thorn represented in this imperial collection side by side with a short, stumpy, yellow-looking cane, said to be 3000 years old, and worth nearly as many pounds.

Royalties, of course, find it easier to indulge in the collecting hobby than ordinary individuals. When a king or prince is known to be a collector, he is constantly being sent presents from persons all over the world for his collection. An Indian prince once wrote to King Edward, when Prince of Wales, saying that he was about to send him a magnificent spotted tiger, being somehow under the impression that he had a special herd of such pets at his home in England.

The king at once wired to thank the prince for his kindness and courtesy, but said that tigers could not live in England for an hour, and, therefore, asked him not to send on the animal. Fortunately, the telegram reached the Indian prince before he had sent the tiger, otherwise his majesty would have been the recipient of a very awkward present.

The King of Denmark had a very valuable collection of birds' eggs, which included specimens of nearly every bird's egg in existence, and took years to get together.

The collection was sold some years ago in aid of some charitable objects, and passed into various hands. It is said to have fetched £15,000.

Universal Stamps To be Proposed

The next Congress of the Universal Alliance of Women for Peace is to be held in St. Louis next year, during the Exhibition. The invitation was extended by the delegates of the American Peace Society to the Congress recently assembled at Rouen.

Princess Mizanlewsky, the president and founder of the society, will present a petition to the next Postal

Congress, asking for authorization for a peace postage stamp. She will request that such a stamp have currency in all countries belonging to the Postal Union.

The Princess says it will be a one-cent stamp and will facilitate the correspondence of peace societies.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

NUT-SHELL FACTS ON COINS, STAMPS and PAPER MONEY

An authoritatively prepared volume concisely covering its subjects, describes and prices the over 500 U. S. Coins commanding a premium. A condensed history of money and a complete counterfeit detector.

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Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

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Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.

Kings Heads St. Vincent, ¼p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

Kings Head Leeward Islands, ¼p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.
Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

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Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

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1903 Catalogues. Gibbons 60c. Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

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Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 "	35c	100 "	1 25
25 "	50c	250 "	2 50

COLLECTORS, BUY PREMIUM PACKET, No. 17

1000 Fine Varieties and Two Premiums for only \$10

This packet, "THE PEERLESS," certainly deserves its name—it stands in a class by itself—it is without a peer in the market. Collectors who have purchased the same have nothing but praise for this packet, as the unsolicited testimonials prove. It is bound to please and satisfy every purchaser.

The packet contains 1,000 all different postage stamps, and is by far superior to any other 1,000 variety packet offered, as it contains no revenue, local, telegraph or defective stamps, or cut postal cards, etc., as is the case with all other packets of this kind advertised at a low figure. It contains stamps from nearly all the stamp issuing countries and colonies, many full sets, many old issues, and many rare stamps of good value. The stamps contained in this packet catalogue positively between \$30 and \$40.

In addition to the above packet, every purchaser will receive free, as a premium, a fine large Postage Stamp Album, containing spaces for all stamps issued. Also free with every purchase, a Premium Packet of fine U. S. Postage Stamps, valued at \$2.00, and containing among others, a full set of Pan Americans unused and full gum; 3c vermilion, 1887, unused, mint; 50c orange and \$1.00 black of 1895 issue, and many other desirable stamps, such as Columbian and Omaha Issues.

If you wish to receive full value for your money be sure and buy the

"PEERLESS PACKET, No. 17"

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Do not under any circumstances waste your money on poor and worthless imitations.

1000 FINE VARIETIES AND TWO PREMIUMS, ONLY \$10.00

Theo. Mainhart, Stamp Dealer, Johnstown, Pa.

NOTES

In the great majority of older collections, both large and small, which were compiled from five and twenty to thirty years ago, are to be found specimens of the type-set provisional



stamps of British Guiana of 1862. It is no exaggeration to say that at least nine-tenths of these collections contain one or more specimens which are forgeries; and more generally, all are forgeries.—GORDON SMITH in the *Monthly Journal*.

Kohl's New Catalogue for 1903-'04 has been received. All varieties of U. S. stamps are carefully illustrated and noted. Those who understand the German language will find it a most valuable work. In the opinion of

many, the arrangement of Kohl's is far in advance of either the American or English catalogues. We have a limited number that can be sent for 75c. post free.

Ben. G. Green, 1533 Masonic Temple, Chicago, has issued a catalogue for his seventh mail auction sale, the distribution to be made October 24th. The offerings are from various collectors and comprise 637 lots, a very general variety of U. S. and foreign coins, fractional currency and broken bank notes.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

THEY WOULD NOT STAY IF IT DID NOT PAY

We have just received a line from Wilcox, Smith & Co. of Dunedin, New Zealand, who, a few months ago, placed an advertisement in these columns, with instructions as follows: "Please insert our advertisement again, same number of times, same matter, same position in paper and same terms."

A correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* makes a mistake in stating that the price of Louisiana Purchase gold dollars have been raised from \$2.00 to \$3.00 each. They have never been sold for less than \$3.00 each and the Treasurer of the Fair is authority for the statement that they never will be sold for less, that being the fixed price. We understand the sales have been somewhat disappointing as far as collectors were concerned; but that the sales to the outside public has been large, this being just the reverse of what was expected.

CURIO TOPICS AND QUERY ANSWERS

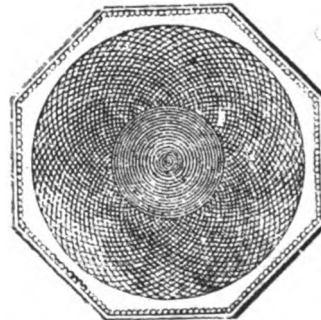
BY FARRAN ZERBE, NUMISMATIST

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Inquiries regarding Coins, Stamps, Paper Money, and Curios will be answered through this department.

Address inquiries to Editor in charge of this Department—FARRAN ZERBE, Lucas Building, St. Louis, Mo.

Most Interesting U. S. Coin



SQUARE BARGAINS!

Following cut square copies of U. S. Envelopes will be classed as bargains whether you consider old or new prices.

	Our Net Prices
1853—3c red on white (No. 7 in album) No. 1307 in catalogue, fine used copy with wide margins.....	\$3 75
1853—10c green on buff (No. 16 in album) No. 1317 in catalogue, unused fine.....	3 00
1853—10c green, same as above, superb used copy, whole corner of envelope.....	1 00
1861—10c green on white (1336) unused fine.....	50
1861—10c green on buff (1337) unused fine.....	50
1854—2c black on orange, die 2 (catalogued \$2) fine used.....	75
1864—2c same as above (catalogued \$2) fine unused.....	90
1874—12c plum on amber, used cut close (catalogued \$2.50).....	45

OTHER SPECIAL THINGS

A good mended copy of the \$20 Probate of Will 1st issue, catalogued \$35.00, will be submitted on approval at.....	12 50
A selection of rare stamps, not quite fine at a discount of 60 per cent will be submitted on approval to collectors who buy stamps catalogued from \$2.00 to \$10.00 each. The lot values about \$500.00.....	60%
A set of high value State department \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 proofs, perforated and gummed, good space fillers.....	7 50
Executive set proofs, perforated and gummed U. S. 1869, 9c, proof.....	7 50
Wharton's Louisville U. S. Carrier (Cata. \$15).....	5 00
U. S. Revenue, 1st issue, \$200.00, fine copy.....	7 50
Gt. Britain 5c orange, small cancellation.....	8 00
U. S. 1869, 9c carmine and black, used.....	8 00
Hawaii, 1853, blue on thick white wove paper, unused, (catalogued \$50) No. 5.....	17 00
1853, 3c blue (catalogued \$8) No. 9.....	3 60
Switzerland (Zurch) 6r black, red horizontal line, unused, no margins (catalogued \$25).....	7 50
U. S. Revenue, 3c Playing Card, (cata. \$6).....	3 60
U. S. 1895, \$5 green, unused, mint (cata. \$7.50).....	6 50
U. S. 1895, \$2 sapphire, unused mint (cata. \$3).....	2 50

Any of the above stamps will be submitted upon approval to responsible persons. Cash orders given preference.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Refunded.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Co. ST. LOUIS, MO.

FIFTY DOLLAR GOLD PIECE — CALIFORNIA "SLUG:"

Opinions may differ as to the most interesting coin of America. To a collector it may be some prized possession with a personal association or circumstance which makes it the most interesting to the individual; but to the masses with no interest in coin collecting, the coin that commands the most attention and excites the most curiosity when shown, is the octagonal \$50 gold piece, known to many as a California "Slug." This denomination was also made in a round coin which is decidedly more rare than the eight-sided type; but

the octagonal receives the most attention, indicating it is the odd shape rather than the large value that is the most interesting. These coins are not a Government product, but were coined by private gold producers in San Francisco during the early 50's and are classed as California gold. The only noteworthy currency of the Pacific Coast from the gold finds of '49 to 1854 were the private gold coins and of which the "slugs" were a large factor. In the latter year the Mint at San Francisco was established and private coinage ceased to be profitable. The octagonal shape is of three varieties and were coined bearing dates of 1851 and 1852. The interest associated with this coin has done much to increase their value and has made them scarce and difficult to procure. Good specimens command \$150. The round type bears dates of 1854 and 1855, and are exceedingly rare and are valued at about \$300.

BULLION VALUE OF A SILVER DOLLAR:

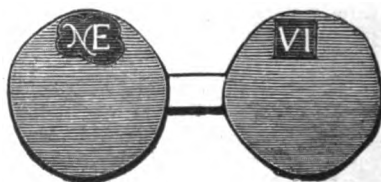
A silver dollar weighs $412\frac{1}{2}$ grains of standard silver .900 fine, $371\frac{1}{4}$ of which are fine silver 1.000 fine, and $41\frac{1}{4}$ grains of copper alloy. Its bullion value fluctuates with the price of silver, but its currency value does not change, as it is a standard coin and a legal tender for all amounts and all purposes, except when otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract. In every year from 1837 to 1873 the bullion value of a silver dollar was greater than its currency purchasing power which naturally removed them from circulation and caused their coinage to be limited. In 1873 the issue of a silver dollar was discontinued and the value of silver bullion gradually declined. In 1878 their coinage was renewed but the silver dollar was not restored to its former place and power with the gold dollar and thereby losing its influence as a bullion price governor. When the price of silver was at its low ebb in 1902 it almost made the dollar "look like thirty cents." The present price of silver is about 60c. per ounce, making the bullion value of the dollar 47.4 cents,

and for its bullion value to be worth \$1.00 in gold the price of silver must be a fraction more than \$1.29 per ounce.

COPPER CENTS:

First coined in 1793 and coined every year, excepting 1815, to their discontinuance in 1857. The rare dates and their value, when in good condition, are: 1793, \$3.00; 1799, \$10; 1804, \$5.00, and 1809 \$1.00. All dates, when in very fine condition, command a slight premium; 156,288,744 were coined, and, although all have disappeared from circulation, over 118,000,000 have not been redeemed.

First Coin of the American Colonies



NEW ENGLAND SIX PENCE (1652)

The first metal money to be made in this country was coined at Boston for the Massachusetts Colony and is known as New England money. They bear no date, but all were coined during the first year of the first American Mint—1652. They are of silver, and of the values of III, VI and XII pence. The accompanying cut is the VI pence. The other denominations are similar, except as to size and the numerals. But few were coined; all are very rare and command large prices. This series was succeeded in the same year by the "Tree" coinage, from which we get the Pine-tree shilling, etc.

WHY ARE STAMPS COLLECTED?

The reason why they are and why they should be are very many. A column could be occupied in reciting them: Stamps are educational playthings to the young and to those of mature years a pleasurable pastime for an idle hour and a relaxing brain restorer to the busy man, and a profitable pursuit for those who purchase judi-

ciously. Stamp collectors are found in all parts of the world and in all walks of life, from the humble child who takes delight in his little lot of 100 common varieties that can be had for the asking, to the very wealthy, and the nobility, including the heir apparent to the British throne, with collections valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

GOLD DOLLARS:

First coined in 1849, and coined every year until their coinage was discontinued in 1889. Over 19,500,000 were issued, of which about 19,000,000 have not been returned to the Treasury. None have been in circulation for a number of years. All dates, when not mutilated, are worth \$1.50; those dated from 1863 to 1872 command \$3.00 to \$10 each; 1875, the rarest of the series, of which but 420 were coined, has sold as high as \$50.

KINDS OF MONEY NOW ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES:

United States notes: "greenbacks," \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000; \$5,000 and \$10,000 notes of this series have not been issued for several years. Treasury notes of 1890: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$1,000. National bank notes: \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100; the denominations of \$1, \$2, \$500 and \$1,000 have not been issued for several years, a good number of which are yet to be redeemed, but they are not in circulation. Gold certificates: \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Silver certificates: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000. Gold coin: \$2½, \$5, \$10 and \$20. Silver coin: \$½, \$1, \$½, and \$1. Minor coin: one cent bronze and five cent nickel.

FIRST COIN OF THE UNITED STATES:



The first coin to be issued by the

Government of the United States for circulation was the copper half-cent piece in 1793. This denomination was discontinued in 1857. While none are in circulation, almost eight million pieces are yet outstanding.

"FILTHY LUCRE:"

The earliest records we have of the use of this term is found in the Great Book. The third chapter of the First Book of Timothy is devoted to describing the requisite qualifications for a bishop and a deacon. The third verse reads: "Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of *filthy lucre*; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous."

"BUZZARD DOLLAR:"

Buzzard, as applied to the present type of dollar, had its origin with those unfriendly to the Bland-Allison Act which fathered this coin. The eagle was derisively compared to a buzzard.

At Harrisburg, Ill., among the papers of a deceased resident was recently found a number of the first issue "greenbacks" of the denomination of \$10. This series of notes were among the first non-interest bearing notes to be issued by the Government, first placed in circulation in 1862, from which they have long ago disappeared, although there is millions of it yet to be redeemed.

Treasury figures for October 1, 1903, place the money in circulation in the United States at \$2,404,000,000, a per capita of \$29.75; more than a billion of which is in gold and gold certificates. The total circulation is an increase of \$904,000,000 since 1896—an average increase in these seven years of \$130,000,000 per annum. The financial prosperity of the country during this period is indicated by the increased supply of money, the total increase in that time being \$88,000,000 more than the total money in circulation in 1879 when specie payments were resumed.

WILCOX, SMITH & CO.

Dunedin, New Zealand.

CHEAP AUSTRALIANS

(All Soon Obsolete)

LONG SET AUSTRALASIANS

(Fine Presents)

THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties.....	\$1 00
New South Wales, 24 varieties	50
Victoria, 30 varieties.....	75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties	1 00
Queensland, 30 varieties.....	1 00
	1 00

The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash\$3 75

(95) *Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency Registered.*

The sale of the collection of the late Wm. Smith Alexander Smith, Jr., of a catalogue value of \$75,000 will take place at the Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Avenue, New York City, on the evening of October 26th, 7-8-9, November 30th and December 1st, -2-3.

It is in many respects the finest collection that has ever been sold at public auction. It comprises most all stamps cataloguing less than \$100 and many of greater value both used and unused, includes errors, double surcharges, oddities of perforation, proofs, specimens, essays and all minor varieties.

Buyers can secure catalogues by addressing the compilers, J. W. Scott, L't'd, 36 John St., New York City.



Your paper has done more good than all the others together in which I have advertised. This is no flattery but based on solid facts.

*Theo. Mainhart,
Johnstown, Pa.*



The printing presses in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving at Washington are at work on the new 2c stamp which is to take the place of the one now in use. The accumulated stock of the current 2c stamp on hand will be issued before the new ones are sent to outside post offices.

MUKUNDRAO K. BHAGWAT

Jacob's Parade, Lashkar
QWALIOR, INDIA

FOR SALE—Gwalior, used and unused. Stamps of old and new issues. Price list will be sent when called for.

ADVANCED COLLECTOR CIRCUITS

REQUESTS FOR THESE CIRCUITS WILL BE RECORDED IN ORDER OF RECEIPT. SOME GREAT BARGAINS FOR GENERAL COLLECTORS

We have some special books of choice stamps cataloguing from \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, that we will submit upon approval to *general collectors* who buy stamps of this class, allowing 50% discount from the new 63d Edition Catalogue prices. These books contain many stamps that are not often to be obtained at such a discount.

We have some other books containing stamps that are also priced \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, which on account of their face value or scarcity, are quite as cheap at 25% discount as the others at 50%, which we shall submit in order of request.

The circuit lots will be valued \$300.00 to \$500.00 and each collector will be allowed ten days. \$25,000 worth of choice stamps are ready. Requests of *general collectors* and those only who are likely to be liberal buyers are solicited for above circuits.

SPECIAL OFFERS

for collectors who buy *rare* stamps cataloguing from \$10.00 to \$100.00 submitted upon request, many varieties in stock.

We have 5,000 varieties cataloguing from 1c to \$1.00 each, available at 50 per cent discount.

We have 5,000 other varieties cataloguing from 1c to \$1.00 each, available at 25 per cent discount.

We have 20,000 varieties in stock and will suit our selections to your collection giving the most liberal discounts to **General Collectors**.

**C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.**

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 41
WHOLE NO. 93

NOVEMBER 2, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Unless the beginner can **Simplify** find albums provided with **Collecting** spaces for a collection of **for the** standard varieties, and a **Beginner** catalogue arranged in the same way for his guidance, he is likely to become discouraged in forming a collection.

The multiplication of varieties and the complicated lists have lost Philately many followers, because there was no other suitable catalogue for their use.

We would not want to see present grand catalogues discontinued on any account, but we feel the need of an elementary guide for those who are not prepared for the more elaborate works.



There has been no **St. Louis** provision made in any **World's Fair** way thus far, for a creditable philatelic or numismatic display at St. Louis in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

It is hoped that suitable recognition will still be accorded to pursuits that have special interest and attractions for so many people.



Geo. L. Pack, of Lakewood, N. J. asks us to warn stamp collectors who have exchange relations against party in Spain who trades under the name of Gallart and also as Gallart & annini. Also Manuel Tello of Bar-

celona. These parties circulate fraudulently surcharged British Colonials and other fraudulent stamps and should be looked out for

It is evidently the same fraud who was operating from Bellaire, Ohio, and whose handwriting we reproduced in a recent number of our paper, is now soliciting stamps on approval from Canton, Ohio.

The name W. R. Mannerlin has been used, and the name of Geo. Colesworthy given as reference.

The same party very obligingly replies to inquiries sent to the reference, assuring them that the solicitor is all right. It is thought also that the Williams operating from Martins Ferry, Ohio, is the same party.

The National Stamp Dealers' Association have long since warned their members about this fraud, whose habits and characteristics are so well known to members that they are not likely to be deceived by any of his tricks, but we feel that in justice to the stamp trade at large, that more publicity should be given the matter and therefore call attention to it.

It is to be hoped that the Post Office Inspectors may catch him before long.

"I think your little paper is the best of its kind. One would not think at first glance that it contained so much 'up-to-date' news, but it is all that is to be desired. I have been in stamps six years, and feel it my duty to thank you."

ROBERT GOLDEN,
Richmond, Ind.

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

My fall into Philately is so recent a matter that it is, perhaps but natural that I should seek to make excuses for myself where one hardened by long indulgence in the habit would not think it worth the trouble.

Scarcely more than six months ago, so innocent was I that I knew of Philately hardly more than the name. Among all my acquaintances, there was not one addicted to the habit. Yet the fatal temptation came to me through a simple thing as a dealer's advertisement of a ten-cent packet in a popular magazine. I yielded to curiosity, and at once, roused by that first packet, all the hitherto unsuspected appetites of the collectorsprang up demanding more stamps, an album, and a catalogue. Often since then I have fought against temptation, turning resolutely away from alluring, but expensive, specimens, or checking an almost overpowering impulse to lay waste entire approval sheets, yet, in only six short months, I find that I have acquired nearly two thousand varieties, representing nearly every country in the catalogue, and my uninitiated, pitying friends are beginning to regard my case as hopeless.

My rapid descend into Philately after years spent without reproach, is due largely to the correction of misconceptions. I had looked upon stamp collecting as merely an interesting amusement for those who could find no more profitable use for time. The first suggestion of maps in a stamp album to show the location of stamp-issuing countries brought a smile, for I had prided myself upon my accurate knowledge of geography; but my pride had a fall before my first dealer's pricelist, when Anjouan, Obock, Nowanuggur, and their kin, drove me at once to the atlas and the gazeteer. In every unfamiliar stamp, I found, not as I had supposed, an object for an idler's curiosity, but an active interrogator demanding "Where?" "What?" "Why?" in a way that required for my assistance not only the atlas and the encyclo-

pedia, but all the reference books at my command. Lexicons were called on to translate strange inscriptions; commemorative issues with their dates and pictured scenes called for histories to explain them; while the great variety of shades and coloring elicited surprise, and the magnifying glass, called forth admiration of the perfect specimens of the steel engraver's art. In my daily reading, a large part of the foreign news has now an added interest, or a more intelligent appreciation, because of my philatelic observations. A study of colonial administration in Sarawak, in a leading magazine, was much more interesting to me because I had just been studying the portrait of Rajah Brooke on my stamps. A newspaper article on Russia's methods to secure the denationalization of Finland at once reminded me of the object lesson taught by the stamps of that unhappy country. At the shocking news of the recent Servian tragedy, I brought out my stamps to show my friends the portrait of the unfortunate King Alexander. I have hardly reached the specialties which are the delight of advanced collectors, but I have learned that Philately, instead of being, as I had imagined a profitless amusement, is a fascinating field of study which includes much of geography, philology, history, art, and science; and, although I have always been a book-lover and a student, I believe that from the time which I have thus far given to the study of stamps as a recreation, I have gained as great an amount of interesting and useful information as I could have obtained from the same time devoted to a course of reading. And so, although my stamp collecting habit is one of very recent formation, I seem to have good grounds for thinking that it is likely to be persistent.—J. H. ANDREW in the *Perforator*.

❦ ❦

The new 63d Edition Scott's Catalogue prices many stamps too low as well as many too high. The publishers make no bones of admitting

The Entire Stamp Collection

— OF —
WILLIAM ALEXANDER SMITH, Jr., Deceased,

(CATALOGUE VALUE, \$75,000) WILL BE SOLD

At PUBLIC AUCTION,

— AT —
The Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Ave.

on the evenings of the following days,
the sale commencing promptly at 8 o'clock,

November 30, December 1, 2, 3.

This is in many respects the finest stamp collection ever sold at public auction. It comprises nearly every stamp catalogued at less than one hundred dollars and many of much greater value, both used and unused, including errors, double surcharges, part perfs., proofs, specimens, essays, etc., all in the finest possible condition.

No stamps have been withdrawn or added, and the entire lot will be sold at public auction without reserve. Auction buyers can obtain catalogues by addressing the compilers.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'd, 36 John Street, N. Y. City.

many very ordinary stamps are "out of stock" notwithstanding they keep prices below their true value. The £1 Great Britain King's head is priced \$1.00. The market value of a good copy in London is about twice as much.

It seems as if the publishers, who must make a good profit from the sale of this work, might take a little interest in affixing correct prices to standard stamps.

C. W. Abbott, Attorney of the National Stamp Dealers' Protective Association, is issuing regularly a confidential bulletin for the information of dealers. These bulletins have been issued within the last six weeks, and Mr. Abbott will send same on approval for the inspection of any reputable dealer, who wishes to look into the matter with a view of participating. The cost is only \$3.00 per year but dealers must give information as well as receive that of other members. Address, C. W. Abbott, Upper Montclair, N. J.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

"Has the reprint of Sweden 1855, 3sk., green, any commercial value?"

L. J.

It certainly has, and is quoted in Kohl's excellent Catalogue at 20 marks (about \$5.00).

Reprints of the first issue of Sweden only exist in limited quantities; small printings having been made in 1868 and again in 1872.

A specialist in the country would not consider his collection complete without specimens of the reprints, which differ in paper, color and perforation.

There are reprints and reprints; all are not of the same character by any means. While it is just as well for the novice to bar them all when making a general collection, there will come a time, if he develops philatelically, when he will be able to discriminate.

Such rubbish as the reprints of Argentine 1862, Heligoland and first issue of Samoa; all of which were made in vast quantities for the ex-

plotation of certain stamp dealers, are as bad as counterfeits and have no value.

In our limited space at this time we cannot go into the subject more at length, but it is one that will bear fruitful study for the collector as he advances.

ARE TRANSVAALS DEAR?

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

I am told that some collectors have of late more or less refrained from collecting Transvaals under the impression that the boom which has set in as the result of the country being once more classed as a British Colony has sent prices beyond their reach.

But a great deal too much has been made of the so-called boom.

As a matter of fact, the boom has in many cases barely levelled prices up to the level of 1896. Of course, I am aware that 1896 was a year of inflation, but I am also aware that Transvaals were then none the less under a cloud because they ranked outside the favorite area of collecting, to-wit: British Colonials.

Between 1877, the first British occupation, and 1881, the year of the restoration of the country to the Boer, Transvaals were the favorites of some of our most eminent and keenest specialists. Mr. Tapling, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Castle, Mr. D. Garth, and a number of lesser lights, specialised in Transvaals. The crude, half suspected labels came into high favour, and prices ran up to a level they have by no means yet reached in many cases.

But when the day of restoration of the country to the Boer arrived the stamps lost rank and were at once dropped by the crowd. Mr. Tapling remained true to the last. He never lost his interest in them, and to-day his splendid array of unequalled gems is one of the charms of the grand collection that his early death has transferred to the keeping of the British Museum. Mr. Bacon sold out, and so did Mr. Garth. Mr. Castle also parted with his fine lot. They were sold by auction, and I was at the sale, but

alas I was then in my philatelic infancy, and had not the knowledge or the foresight to take advantage of the chances that were passing before my very eyes. Now, I look down the list of prices in the priced catalogue and sigh in vain for yet such another chance. There were wide roulettes galore for a few shillings each that would now fetch almost as many pounds; the rare error "Transvral" went for £3. Small "Ts" were given away in mixed lots, and at the price of mixed lots. Right through, the gems may be said to have gone for shillings that would now fetch nearly as many pounds sterling.

The future of the Transvaal, it must be admitted, then looked black enough from a philatelic point of view. And, as if to seemingly justify the fears of those who forsook the country as a rat forsakes a sinking ship, Transvaals remained under a cloud till the British flag floated over Pretoria. No one would buy them but a cranky few. No one cared to deal in them. They were a drug in the market. It was no use for a dealer to buy them, for no one asked for Transvaals, and what was equally important, no one seemed to understand them. They were a mixed medley, a conundrum to even the specialist.

Then came Mr. Tamsen who delved into the archives and helped us to bring order out of the chaos of issues. A few specialists who had not forsaken the country worked away silently and a few big collections were got together. One, that of Mr. R. Pearce, was sacrificed at public auction just before the recent crisis. Mr. Pearce wanted to realise his investment. He needed the money for other purposes. I did my best to persuade him to hold on a little longer. Even then it seemed to me that the clouds were gathering. He did not share my views and declared that they were not shared in the City by the best authorities. Mr. Osborne, one time Postmaster of Johannesburg, was home, and he laughed at my anticipations of coming trouble. Mr. Pearce sold. And the gems that he then sold, two years before the war broke out, would

to-day, as in Mr. Castle's case, fetch pounds sterling where they in many cases only fetched shillings. I bought for 18s. a splendid horizontal pair of a variety of which a single specimen has since been sold for £29. Throughout the sale grand stamps were sacrificed right and left. Most of the best were bought by one of our largest collectors. I am sorry I did not raise the wind and buy the lot instead of the few things that fell to my share. That collection, even at the low prices then ruling, catalogued up to over £2,000. I question very much whether my friend Pearce netted £600 over the sale. To day he would have no difficulty in getting treble the money.

Transvaals have been up, and they have been down. They are now rising once more to their best level. Therefore, they cannot be said to be dear yet.

But if you leave the catalogue out of consideration and take account only of the chances of a well informed specialist in the highways and byways and at the auctions, I have no hesitation in maintaining that Transvaals are the cheapest stamps of the day. But the collector must first acquire the knowledge of the specialist so as to be able to recognise what is offered. When he has done that he will find that he can buy good Transvaals at mere nominal rates so far as the average run of issues is concerned, for the simple reason that they are not known by the multitude, and are therefore generally more or less muddled up, the good with the bad, the good very often, more often than not, being priced as the common run. There are very few dealers to-day who understand them. And the number of dealers who are ever likely to be able to give time to their study so as to know what they are selling will never be very large. Hence Transvaals will always be a profitable field to the bargain hunter. I once looked through the priced book of a specialist dealer in Transvaals. Of the general run of his stuff he was above even Gibbons's catalogue, but there was one stamp I much wanted. It was unpriced by Gibbons, and I expected

to hear him say £4. He said instead 4s. 6d. I took that stamp. And so it will ever be with Transvaals. It is a country for the specialist, and not for the general collector, in its true sense. And it will always, for that reason, pay the man who will give it the attention that the specialist gives to the countries of his choice. The collector who will not do this had better let Transvaals alone, for in all probability he will only burn his fingers.

Apart from the sordid investment point of view there is no country, in my opinion, more full of interesting problems than Transvaals, but it is not my purpose to deal with this view of Transvaals in this article. I am only concerned just now with those timid souls who are frightened by a rise in prices. My experience enables me to assure him that for the present specialist Transvaals are still very cheap. In every auction catalogue there is evidence of this fact. There will probably be fewer opportunities, for many eminent specialists are now absorbing the gems, but the crumbs will ever fall from the master's table.

100 Visiting Cards, 35c post paid. Correct styles and sizes. Samples for stamp. Satisfaction guaranteed.
H. B. CROLE & CO., 409 N. 11th. St. Louis, Mo.

BRITISH COLONIES

are steadily advancing in price and are considered a good investment by most collectors.

I offer the following well centered copies in strict-ly mint condition.

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| ANTIGUA—1p carmine, No. 13 | } 3 copies for 32c |
| " 2½p blue, No. 18 | |
| " 4p orange-brown, No. 19 | |
| CANADA—1c Maple leaf, No. 67 | } 3 copies for.....08c |
| " 2c, No. 68 | |
| " 4c on 3c, No. 84 | |
| NEW ZEALAND—No. 111, 2½c blue..... | 07c |
| " No. 107, ½c green..... | 02c |
| NEW SOUTH WALES—No. 202 carmine..... | 04c |
| NEW FOUNDLAND—Nos. 61, 62 and 80 for..... | 10c |
| SARAWAK—Nos. 37 and 47..... | 07c |
| HAYTI—set of 6, unused, cata. 39c..... | 15c |
| Set of 10 Philippine Islands, o. g. cata. 32c..... | 12c |
| Set of 10 Spain 1900, good copies, cata. 25c..... | 10c |
| LUXEMBERG—37½c, No. 65..... | 03c |
| UNITED STATES—5c, 1847, Franklin on original cover..... | 5c |
| " " 2c, 1869, Horseman..... | 12c |

Cut square envelopes 25 per cent discount from Scott's 1904 catalogue.

Match and Medicine stamps 50 per cent.

Send for selections.

S. VALENTINE SAXBY, Rockford, Ills.

Books of Rare and Scarce Stamps for Advanced Collectors

The following books contain both used and *unused* stamps and are for **GENERAL COLLECTORS**, containing stamps of all parts of the world. *Each book contains 100 stamps.*

X Class. Contains stamps priced from \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, all fine copies containing many bargains, value of books \$200.00 to \$700.00 each, **50% Discount.**

XX Class. Contains stamps priced from \$1.00 to \$10.00 each, all very fine copies, which, owing to the face value, and scarcity, are quite as cheap at **25% discount** as the X Class is at 50% discount. Value of these books \$200.00 to \$500.00 each.

XXX Class. Contains stamps priced from \$2.00 to \$15.00 each, not quite fine, but up to the average, many bargains at **60% Discount**; value of books about \$500 each.

Book No. 55. Contains fine postally used stamps from all parts of the world cataloguing from 10c to \$1.00 each, subject to **25% discount.** The books No. 55 value from \$25.00 to \$75.00 each. We can send quite a series of this number that will be all different.

Book No. 56. Contains perfect used stamps from all parts of the world cataloguing from 10c to \$1.00 each, subject to **25% discount.** The books No. 56 value from \$25.00 to \$75.00 each. We can send quite a series of this number that will be all different.

Book No. 68. Contains both used and unused stamps selected and desirable stamps ranging from 10c to \$1.00 each, subject to **50% discount.** Books of this number range in value from \$30.00 to \$90.00 each.

We describe above books so that stamp buyers may know what to ask for. *Only 10 days allowed* on these approval books. Guaranteed to be the best value on the market.

Descriptive list of 50% and 25% discount approval books of cheaper stamps for less advanced collectors sent free upon request. Tell us how many stamps in your collection and we will know what to send.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Correspondents in New Zealand seem to be unanimous in the declaration that their universal penny stamp has practically put all other denominations out of use. Everything except the penny value in used condition is scarce.

NOTES

There seems to be no reason why the 63d Edition Catalogue should not be circulated very soon if the binder does his part of the work quickly, as the advanced sheets have all been issued and the catalogue is therefore printed complete. The early appearance of the catalogue this year will have a beneficial effect on the trade in general.

We have had the pleasure of receiving visits from Mr. F. N. Massoth of the United Stamp Company, Chicago, and Mr. Frank H. Burt, one of the well-known Boston collectors, during the past week.

The Portuguese Government has just endowed the Geographical Society of Lisbon with the right of Postal Franchise, which authorizes it to issue a special stamp to frank its official correspondence. This stamp, printed in red, black and blue, shows the arms of Portugal surmounted by a royal crown with the legend "Sociedade de Geographia de Lisboa" in a banderole surrounded by branches of laurel, and below "Porto franco."

The Stamp Collectors' Annual and Year-Book of Philately that has been announced by Messrs. C. Nissen & Co., 77-78 High Holborn, London, W. C., England, will be a substantial volume, illustrated, of over 100 pages, compiled and edited by Mr. Percy C. Bishop, who is well known to our readers as the author of notes from London and Great Britain, which have been published from time to time in these columns. Mr. Bishop is also editor of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. While his notes have not appeared recently in our paper he promises to resume them very early, other matters having detracted him.

The "Annual" will be an able compilation of information that is interesting and valuable to all stamp collectors and the publishers' announcement with price will probably appear in these columns in due course.

A series of stamps from the "Empire of Sahara," founded (?) by the much-talked about French millionaire, Jacopius Lebaude, is announced as having been received in France.

The Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand has invited competitive designs for new Governmental Insurance postage stamps to replace the series now in use.

A Prize of \$25.00 will be awarded to the competitor sending the best design.

One of our readers in Napier, New Zealand, writes that he has just completed mounting his collection in a new album that has been sent him. He finds that he has a little over 8,000 varieties and writes:

"I count those years lost that end their rolling tramps
With shorter record than a thousand stamps."

He hopes to go on adding thousand varieties a year to the album which he has laid out with blank pages arranged for the purpose.

The prevailing catalogue prices of unused U. S. stamps of old issues should only be considered for really fine copies. Uncancelled copies of the same stamps, in indifferent condition as to gum, centering and freshness are worth little more than used copies, if, indeed, they are as desirable as fine, lightly canceled copies.

Therefore, a stamp catalogued, for example, \$10.00 unused and \$1.00 used is not *cheap* at 1/10th of catalogue in unused condition if not really fine.

Collectors of experience, of course, understand these things, but some of the newer collectors are often badly misled.

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24		CUBA	
94	5c gray-blue	3	3
95	10c red-brown.....	3	8
96	20c brown	20	40
			
1882.			
97	1c green.....	5	4
99	2c lake.....	8	10
100	2½c dark brown..	10	15
101	5c gray-blue	8	3
102	10c olive-bistre..	6	8
103	20c red-brown ...	1 50	1 00
			
1883. Stamps of last issue surcharged with ornament-devices in five types.			
104	5c gray-blue	5	8
105	10c olive-bistre ..	15	25
106	20c brown	50	1 00
			
1888. Centavo values same as last.			
107	5c gray-blue	5	8
108	10c olive-bistre ..	15	25
109	20c brown	1 50	1 50
 			
1890. Same.			
110	5c gray-blue	5	8
111	10c olive-bistre ..	15	25
112	20c brown	50	1 00
			
1892. Same.			
113	5c gray-blue	5	8
114	10c olive-bistre ..	15	25
115	20c brown	35	1 00
			
116	5c gray-blue	25	50
117	10c olive-bistre..	25	75
118	20c brown	2 50	2 50
1884. Same type without surcharge.			
119	2½c red-lilac	15	15
120	2½c olive-bistre..	6	10
121	10c brown	20	10
122	20c olive bistrre..	25	50
123	¼m black	2	5
124	1m "	5	5
125	2m "	5	8
126	3m "	8	15
127	4m "	5	15
128	9m "	8	15
129	2½c brown	10	6
130	10c blue.....	30	10
131	20c lilac-gray ...	25	50
132	¼m red-brown ...	2	3
133	1m "	2	4
134	2m "	4	8
135	3m "	6	..
136	4m "	10	..
137	8m "	15	..
138	1c gray-brown... ..	10	8
139	2c slate-blue	8	15
140	2½c emer'd green ..	20	5
141	5c olive gray	8	2
142	10c brown violet..	75	20
143	20c dark violet..	10	40
144	¼m violet.....	2	4
145	1m "	2	5
146	2m "	3	..
147	3m "	5	..

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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NOVEMBER 9, 1903

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"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Press dispatches P. O. Department from Washington Investigations November 2, state that the Postmaster-General, acting on instructions from the President, has given directions for the investigation of the Department of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. It seems that the story of the 4c. inverted Pan-American stamp has come to the attention of those in authority and investigation of this circumstance is in line with the general investigations in progress in the Post Office Department.

Many of our readers are familiar with the story which was published and discussed at length in our columns last year, but for the purpose of putting it in concise shape it is reviewed.



The printing of the series **Story of stamps in commemoration the 4c of the Pan-American Exposition Inverted** at Buffalo in two colors resulted in very interesting errors of the 1c. and 2c. stamps, which escaped the careful scrutiny of the examiners in the Bureau of Engraving and were issued to the Postmasters in regular course to be discovered later by the watchful stamp collector. These errors naturally received considerable newspaper mention and as only part of one sheet of the 2c. denomination ever came on the market, as far as stamp collectors were

concerned, the prices at which they were sold assumed considerable proportions. It was variously estimated that there were from six to eight sheets of the 1c. discovered in different parts of the country, which also added to the general interest. After this matter had been thoroughly ventilated and discussed in the public and philatelic press it so happened that a sheet of the 4c. Pan-Americans was discovered in the Department of Printing and Engraving that had been printed with the center inverted. Instead of immediately destroying this sheet, which should have been done, in accordance with the custom and precedents established in the Government Printing Office; it was sent over to the Office of the Third Assistant-General.

One report states the Third Assistant Postmaster-General's office was advised by telephone of the discovery of this sheet, and the Bureau of Engraving was instructed to send it over. Its existence, in light of the agitation that had been made on the 1c. and 2c. stamps, very naturally excited great interest and it is said that an officer who had authority to do so, consented to this sheet of 4c. stamps being separated and distributed gratuitously to his friends and the employees of this Department. It is also stated that in order to conform with the usages of the Department in such cases that a rubber stamp bearing a small word "Specimen" was struck on the stamps from this sheet which were given away.

This was supposed to be sufficient to nullify the postal value of the stamps and to justify the complimentary

distribution. It was stated at the time that only one sheet of 200 of the 4c. stamps was so treated and there was no specific denial of the general story which was current in Washington and throughout the country in philatelic circles with regard to the distribution of the stamps, therefore, it was very surprising to dealers in the trade to become aware that some of the 4c. inverts *without* the word "SPECIMEN" were in existence.

One of the unsurcharged stamps came to the possession of J. M. Bartels & Co. of Boston and was extensively advertised by them in an auction and was reported to have realised over \$300 in the auction sale. H. F. Coleman, a stamp dealer established in Washington, has advertised copies of the 4c. invert with the word "Specimen," but impressed very faintly on the margin at \$100 a-piece.

These two facts, which may be readily confirmed, prove that the parties in the Department of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General who received specimens of this stamp gratuitously profited by their sale. It is known to the stamp trade that copies of the 4c. inverted, both with and without the "Specimen" surcharge, repose in most of the important collections in the United States and that these stamps have realized all the way from \$50 to \$300 a-piece. It will, therefore, be understood that, even though the official was quite innocent of any improper motive in preserving this sheet of 4c. of defective printing and in distributing them gratuitously to his friends, he notwithstanding made it possible for these friends to line their pockets substantially with stamp collectors' dollars.

At the time this story was printed we criticized this action and freely expressed our opinion that the official of the Post Office Department who was responsible for this thing had made a grave mistake. Extracts from our editorial on the subject are printed in this number, together with the press dispatch referred to above, which contains some inaccuracies, as much as this publication has filed

no complaint whatever. It is quite probable that copies of our publication containing the criticism referred to have come to the official notice and the matter has in that way become a subject of investigation."

Mr. Madden is no doubt quite correct in the statement that he has never sold a single stamp to any one. The points to be investigated are these :

- 1st.—By whose authority was the imperfect sheet of 4c. inverted stamps preserved and rescued from the Printing Department, where, by Government custom, it should have been destroyed as defective?
- 2nd.—By whose authority was this sheet broken up and distributed gratuitously to people in and about the Third Assistant Postmaster-General's office?
- 3d.—By whom were the specimens sold to J. M. Bartels & Co., H. L. Colman and others?
- 4th.—If it is a fact that some of the stamps which were supposed to be surcharged "Specimen" were issued without this surcharge, who is responsible for such irregular issue?

The above are the points which should be investigated by the Post Office Inspectors Department and which should decide the point as far as the philatelic world is concerned. The fact that these stamps have been a subject of barter and sale and represent a value, from a stamp collector's standpoint, of several thousand dollars, can be very easily established to supplement the above investigation.

It is needless to say that this journal is not inspired by any feeling of malice towards Mr. Madden or any other official of the Post Office Department but we insist on a position that the officials of the Government should maintain the dignity of the positions which they hold, and we believe that the Post Office Department has been weakly administered in this matter.

THE PRESS DISPATCH

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 2.

Under directions of the Postmaster-General inspectors are investigating

the Department of Third Assistant Postmaster-General Madden relative to charges that have been made against Mr. Madden by MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR, a philatelic journal of St. Louis. Among other complaints is one that reprints of the 4c. stamps with inverted center have been made under direction of Mr. Madden and sold for \$100 each to private collectors.

Mr. Madden, in a public statement this afternoon, denies that he has sold a single stamp to anybody and brands the charge as false and inspired by malice.

The charge was filed with the Department last week and it was learned to-day that the investigation has been in progress for three days. Mr. Madden, however, knew nothing of the charges until he was informed this morning by the Postmaster-General.

EXTRACT FROM OUR EDITORIAL
MAY 19TH, 1902

Transactions of this kind are not uncommon among the P. O. Officials of Persia, Abyssinia, Central America and other places of that class, but for stamps to be issued by the P. O. Department of the United States under such circumstances is humiliating to every true American.

We do not believe that mercenary motives prompted those in authority, or that they profited thereby, but the people to whom the stamps were given have sold them and *thousands of dollars* from the sale of the stamps to collectors will be realized.

That an error of judgment has been made in permitting these stamps to get out, will be realized more fully by the P. O. Department than in any other quarter and this agitation will not have been in vain if it serves to impress the officials with the dignity and responsibility of their position. The confidence of collectors has been very much shaken by the incident.

A BLUE 10c NEWFOUNDLAND?

The "write up" of a London dealer recently published in the *Stamp Collector* of England, includes a tale of the dealer buying what appeared to be a *black* Prince Consort head of New-

foundland. A fortnight later he returned up this stamp and to his astonishment found it a deep *blue*, of course unknown and unchronicled.

The stamp had undoubtedly been affected by the circumstances of its sale and its environment and brooding upon its condition had become *blue*. The story goes that the dealer then sold the stamp for £20, a circumstance which of itself should have been sufficient to turn the stamp *green*.

NOTES FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, October 24.

There is, undeniably, a feeling of uneasiness among those who hold collections of unused British Official stamps. They may not visibly quake or shiver in the presence of their friends, but the feeling of uneasiness is there all the same. One of the leading stamp magazines remarks, very comfortingly, that the Government will probably not go the length of raiding private collections in quest of "forbidden" stamps. Of course, they will not. The proposition is self-evident. So far as mere possession goes the holder of unused "Officials" is, I take it, perfectly secure—so long as he is content to remain in the position of a passive possessor. But what if he wish to realize? That is where the shoe pinches. Will an owner of unused "Officials" be free to sell them, either at auction or by private tender? If the Government acts logically he will not; but as governments do not always act logically, there is just one ray of hope.

The word "ray" here, is, perhaps, happily chosen, for Messrs. Martin Ray & Co., auctioneers, of Chancery Lane, included in their sale at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Monday, October 12th, a mint block of four of the 6d. Army Official, Queen's Head, one stamp showing the inverted "V" for "A," and the lot was knocked down for eleven shillings, without any sign of official opposition or displeasure. And at various times since the conclusion of the famous prosecution I have heard of many individual deals in unused Official

stamps, including in some cases the particular sorts that formed the subject of the charges against Creeke and Richards.

"I have just sold a set of unused O. W. Officials," said a London philatelist to me the other day, and smiled comfortably in the manner of one who has just concluded a satisfactory deal. So, although Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have publicly forsworn all future dealings in such goods it is quite evident that they will continue to change hands as freely and as frequently as heretofore. The Government authorities, in fact, have landed themselves in an untenable position, and their only clear course is to stop the present system of overprinting stamps for official purposes. The heads of the Stamp Department at Somerset House smilingly but firmly decline to give a word of information as to their intentions. That, indeed, is the only attitude a British Government official ever adopts. All the same, these things do leak out somehow, and there is a growing belief that the overprinted official stamps will very shortly become a thing of the past. And a good riddance, most of us will say.

Since the stamp trial nothing has been so much talked about among philatelists here as the "Cistafle," the new system of stamp cabinets which Messrs. Lawn & Barlow, of Regent Street, are placing on the market with a tremendous flourish of trumpets. It is claimed that the "Cistafle" will supercede the stamp album altogether, but I fancy we have heard something like that before in connection with other philatelic cabinets. Nevertheless, the new contrivance very strongly commends itself on the grounds of simplicity, adaptability and economy. The principle employed reminds one greatly of the Wernicke elastic bookcase, since it is a building up of dust-proof cabinets of standard size, and as one's collection grows so the cabinet grows with it. The keynote or the system is its permanency, for as each indi-

vidual stamp is mounted on a separate card it is evident that a stamp once mounted never need be disturbed. I don't agree myself that this thing is going to supercede the stamp album, but as Messrs. Lawn & Barlow declare that they cannot make "Cistafles" fast enough to supply the orders they are receiving it is clear that there will be a demand for the new system among specialists and advanced collectors generally.

That there is always good money for good stamps has been demonstrated once again at the opening auctions of the new season. At all the sales so far held the attendances have been remarkably good and the prices most satisfactory. Consols may be depressed; there may be a "slump" in Home securities and American Rails; trade may be bad; but the really first-class stamps maintain their prices through it all! It's a curious state of affairs, from the point of view of an outsider, but the seasoned philatelist sees nothing phenomenal in it at all. "I'd rather put my money into unused English and Colonials of the older issues than into many of the stocks and shares that are regarded as first-class," remarked a stamp dealer in conversation the other day; "I know which would cause me the less anxiety and return me the greater dividend." And I believe he spoke with perfect sincerity.

Prepare for strange revelations at an early date as to the traffic in forged and faked stamps at our own breezy Brighton. That popular seaside resort has for a long time past suffered from a plague of fakery, and the curious thing is that no one has been able to trace the "stuff" to its actual source. What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and so the evil has gone on unchecked; but vigorous action will shortly be taken in the matter.

Few will covet the task of those earnest members of the Philatelic So-

ciety, London, who are now hard at work on the Society's new volume on the Stamps of Zanzibar. A most intricate country to cope with, especially the overprinted Indians with all their mis spellings, malformed letters, and so on. I have no love for these much-surcharged colonies myself. At one of the exhibitions in the London Society's rooms I saw a big display of British East Africans showing all sorts of microscopical errors "Wonderful!" I heard an admiring philatelist murmur, and I was reminded of the story of Dr. Johnson's visit to a fashionable concert-hall where a famous Norwegian violinist was announced to perform. The learned lexicographer sat out the Norse fid-

ler's performance with undisguised impatience; he endured a long fantasia and a still longer encore, and when it was all over he felt for his hat and rose to depart. Thereupon his companion, a musical enthusiast, who had listened spellbound to the violinist's many elaborate variations, cried ecstatically: "There! was n't that wonderful!" "Sir!" Johnson is reported to have answered, "I wish to heaven it were impossible!"

A collection of surcharged stamps showing an infinitude of microscopical variations of surcharge may also be "wonderful," but I have a feeling that it would be better for Philately if such things were "impossible."

PERCY C. BISHOP.

A Truly Remarkable Offer

My advertisement of two weeks ago, describing fully the merits of my Premium Packet, No. 17—"THE PEERLESS"—proved a grand success, as it added 14 satisfied and much pleased customers to my already large list of purchasers of the above packet.

As a further inducement to better introduce this packet, this enterprising stamp firm has adopted the novel plan of awarding every fifth purchaser of this packet, **free of charge**

A Louisiana Exposition Gold Dollar

250,000 of these small gold pieces were coined by the U. S. government, and they sell at a very high premium.

A Word About Packet No. 17. It contains 1,000 fine, all different stage stamps, no revenues or locals, no telegraph or defective stamps, no cut postal ards, as is the case with packets of 1,000 varieties sold at a low figure. It contains such scarce stamps as Cuba, 1862, ½r green on lilac rose; a complete set of Cuba, 1868, Hawaiian Island stamps of all issues; Johore, surcharged 3c on 5c, catalogued at 60c; complete set of Mozambique Co., 1892, 5r to 300r; complete set of Nyassa, 1898, 2½r to 300r; also stamps from Oil Rivers, Philippine Islands, Porto Rico, used Roman States, San Marino Jubilee issue complete, Transvaal, Tuscany, Two Sicilies and many other rare stamps fully described in my price list.

In addition to the above packet, every purchaser will receive free, as a premium, a fine large International Postage Stamp Album, containing spaces for all stamps issued. Also free with every purchase, a Premium Packet of fine U. S. Postage Stamps valued at \$2.00, and containing among others, a full unused set of Pan American Stamps; unused 3c vermilion 1887; 50c orange and \$1.00 black of 1895 issue, and many other desirable stamps, such as Columbian and Omaha issues.

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UNITED STATES NUMISMATIC ODDITIES

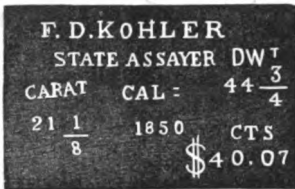
BY FARRAN ZERBE, NUMISMATIST

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Address inquiries to Editor in charge of this Department — FARRAN ZERBE, Lucas Building, St. Louis, Mo.

Kohler Gold Bar, \$40.07



Excluding the octagonal issues, the only oddities of shape in the coinage attributed to the United States are the bars and ingots, produced by private assayers and recorded as part of the California territorial gold issues. Gold bars were issued by F. D. Kohler, commencing May, 1850, and while history records they were of various sizes and values from about \$40.00 to \$150, the only specimens that are known are of the value \$40.07, which is here illustrated. These products were exceptions in their class as they assayed from one to one and one-half per cent more gold than their stamped value. Classed as ingots are the long narrow bars issued by Moffat & Co. They were first issued in 1849, immediately preceding the gold finds, and were intended for commercial remittances but to some degree served a purpose as currency. Eckfeldt & Dubois, in their work published in 1850, give considerable space to the Moffat issues and say: "They are of various sizes from about nine dollars to near three thousand. They are melted and cast in very workmanlike manner, generally in close moulds, making a perfect rectangular bar, without any *sink* at the end." In this wide range (\$9.00 to \$3,000) of ingot values it can be conjectured many and various denominations were made; a specially recorded one

in the work referred to is \$256.24. Of these ingot products but two denominations survive: \$9.43 and \$16.00, both of which, it is believed, were made in large numbers. These ingots and the Kohler bar are now excessively rare; specimens of each are to be found in the National Mint cabinet at Philadelphia. These "oddities" were primarily made for the convenience of gold shipments, the same as gold bars and ingots are issued to-day from Government assay offices and sub treasuries in odd and various denominations. Casts in the same mould produce fractionally different values and an application for a stated amount is supplied by giving a bar of a near value. A \$5,000 ingot order might be supplied with one worth \$4,998.75 or \$5,001.40. These California oddities did a limited service as a circulating medium which commands for them numismatic recognition.

Uncle Sam as a Collector

Uncle Sam, like most collectors, did not start his collection when he was a boy, and for that reason many rare and fine coins he could have had are not now in his collection and for which, some may never be attainable. Accepting Uncle Sam's experience as an example, the youth of to-day who aspires to be a coin collector of the future, should profit by it and zealously promote his numismatic aspirations. The Government coin collection which, in a general way, is the finest in America, is to be found in the Mint at Philadelphia. In the erection of the New Mint special provision was made for its public exhibition and all visitors to Uncle Sam's largest money factory tarry long in wondrous curiosity over the numerous cases of coins from all parts of the world and from every coinage. The Government collection, which was first established in 1838, had a nucleus in small private collections of Mint attaches; prominent among these was W. E. Dubois, then chief assayer. His efforts to establish a national collection received congressional recog-

nition a few years later. As the collection's father, he was its first curator and continued in this capacity during the balance of his life, giving it the benefit of that most essential for success of any collection: enthusiasm, sentiment and pleasure in fostering it. Mr. Debois died in leaving an imperishable numismatic monument in America's greatest collection. This collection does not possess specimens of all of our country's coinage. A few are lacking, among which is the 1853 half dollar without rays and arrows. The confederate coinage is not represented; while the metal currency produced for or by the seceding states was very limited, yet it is represented in a number of private collections. On first discovering its omission I was led to believe that the Federal Government did not numismatically recognize the coins attributed to the Confederacy, but later learned the curator had not had the opportunity of purchasing specimens of this coinage. The Confederacy is represented in the collection by a large fac-simile of the seal of the Confederate States of America. A very limited amount is available for the purchase of coins for the collection: \$300 is regularly appropriated, and when the contingency fund permits \$200 additional may be commanded. From this amount the curator must purchase specimens of our country's coinage, using the balance for obtaining examples of the current coins of the world and such other specimens as may be desired. The cases containing the pattern pieces are particularly interesting to numismatic students, the late trial pieces are all represented and very few of the early ones are lacking. No one with any interest in coins should let an opportunity go by for seeing and studying our National Collection.

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WILLIAM ALEXANDER SMITH, Jr., Deceased,

(CATALOGUE VALUE, \$75,000) WILL BE SOLD

At PUBLIC AUCTION,

— AT —

The Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Ave.

on the evenings of the following days,
the sale commencing promptly at 8 o'clock,

November 30, December 1, 2, 3.

This is in many respects the finest stamp collection ever sold at public auction. It comprises nearly every stamp catalogued at less than one hundred dollars and many of much greater value, both used and unused, including errors, double surcharges, part perfs., proofs, specimens, essays, etc., all in the finest possible condition.

No stamps have been withdrawn or added, and the entire lot will be sold at public auction without reserve. Auction buyers can obtain catalogues by addressing the compilers.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'd, 36 John Street, N. Y. City.

A WARNING

A warning is sounded by the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* against a Hungarian by the name of Bela Szekula now in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is alleged that he is dealing in fraudulently cancelled stamps of the Dominican Republic, sets of which were offered on entire envelopes.

The fraud became apparent when it was shown that the envelopes were made in Zurich by a firm only existing since September, 1902, while the

cancellation used was dated *January 1902!*

The disreputable methods of Szekula have been exposed on several occasions in this country, and our readers are warned to beware of his concern which are extensive advertisers.

Russian Stamps for Nothing

If you want them please write your address on a postcard to

R. PETO, Karavanneja Street 16, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. MeKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 43
WHOLE NO. 95

NOVEMBER 16, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The rumblings in the vicinity of 23d Street, New York City, have brought forth a circular letter which we print below:

NEW YORK, Nov. 5, 1903.

“We desire to inform you that Mr. Geo. Crawford Capen, having resigned from the offices of President and Director of both the American Collector's Company and of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., L'td., is no longer identified with us in any way, other than as a stockholder of the American Collector's Company, and has no authority to transact any business in our behalf. Mr. Chas. W. Morrison and Miss Morrison are, also, no longer in the employ of either of the above-named companies.”

Very truly yours,

JOHN LUFF,

Pres't. American Collector's Co.
Pres't. Scott Stamp & Coin Co. L'td.

Mr. Capen, from 1897 to 1901, was President of the American Collector's Co., a small concern, originated on a co-operative plan with shares at \$1.00 each.

He secured from Henry L. Calman, who controlled the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., an option on that concern, and afterwards took the New England Stamp Co. into the deal.

He was successful in getting the stock underwritten and issued a circular of a most visionary character to

the stockholders of the American Collector's Co., holding forth the earnings of the Companies acquired and continuing as follows:

“This is 28 per cent on the \$150,000 of common stock with the prospect of even greater earnings under consolidation.

“This allows for our regular 10 per cent dividends, and the establishment of a sinking fund for the gradual retirement of the preferred stock, and the final ownership of the whole property by the common stockholders.”

This was an alluring prospect for the six hundred collectors who, at \$1.00 a share, had become stockholders during the development of Mr. Capen's pet hobby.

The capital stock of the American Collector's Company was increased to \$450,000; \$50,000 of this represented the old organization and \$400,000 of the capital was paid by the American Collector's Company for the stock of stamps and the good-will of the business of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. and the New England Stamp Co.

No inventory or any statement of actual value of the acquired assets has been made public as far as we know.

The majority of the stock issued for the purchase of the companies was put on the market by the underwriting syndicate of which Henry L. Calman was agent. In his circular he stated:

“The average net earnings of the combined Companies for the past two years, after paying all expenses, amounted to somewhat over \$60,000. Six per cent dividend on Preferred

Stock requires \$18,000 per annum, leaving a net balance of \$42,000, equal to 28 per cent on the \$150,000 of Common Stock. In addition, it may be confidently stated that considerable amounts may be saved under the consolidation which has been effected, and that the income will be much greater than has been the case in the past. This large surplus above the Preferred Stock dividend will allow annual dividends of 10 per cent on the Common Stock, besides the establishment of a Sinking Fund for the gradual purchase and retirement of the Preferred Stock, so that eventually the ownership of the entire property will be vested in the Common Stock."

Notwithstanding this glowing prospect the Preferred Stock of par value of \$100.00 was offered at \$85.00 per share and with each share sold a *bonus* of twenty shares of the Common Stock of par value of \$1.00 per share was given.

At this estimate of value the \$400,000 worth of stock issued for the purchase of the Scott and New England Companies was only 85 per cent of the value of the Preferred Shares — or \$255,000, on which the Company was obligated to pay \$18,000 per year interest.

Two years and four months have passed but no dividends on the \$150,000 worth of Common Stock have been paid and the "eventual ownership of the entire property" is very dubious.

The first year after the consolidation a sort of an allowance of 10 per cent was made to the original 600 stockholders who were largely customers, but no regular dividend was paid on the full issue of Common Stock. The second year it was passed entirely.

The underwriters evidently had to take a lot of the Preferred Stock, and a scheme was announced in the *American Journal of Philately* for July last to relieve H. L. Calman of his holdings of \$72,000 worth of Preferred Stock by saddling its purchase upon the Company.

This would have practically amounted to a reduction of the capital stock,

as it was proposed to deposit the stock purchased of Calman with a Trust Co. as security for the \$60,000 worth of notes the Company proposed to issue in payment for the stock.

A very poor arrangement it would seem for everybody except the one that was getting out, as the Company thus becomes burdened with a large indebtedness and with largely curtailed financial resources.

It is not known what connection, if any, Mr. Capen's retirement bears to these matters.



We have referred to **An Important Work** that excellent new catalogue published by Paul Kohl of Chemnitz, Germany, in these columns. The catalogue is so admirably arranged, the illustrations so clear and comprehensive that it is appreciated by even those who do not understand the German language. The amplification of perforations, watermarks, etc., in tables are clear enough to be understood by collectors familiar with the stamps even though they do not read German.

A careful study of the work convinces us that it is the highest type of a combined Hand-Book and Advanced Catalogue which has ever been produced. A very readable preface deals with the subject of original gum in its relation to unused stamps and we reproduce the translation of Mr. W. Kuhn, one of the editors of the *Stamp Collector* of Birmingham:

"IS ORIGINAL GUM OF IMPORTANCE?"

"I would directly warn collectors from attaching too great a value to 'original gum.' As this matter agitates many minds I have asked two well-known stamp experts to express their views, and I give the replies for the benefit of collectors and dealers. Herr M. Thiers writes me:—'In reply to your question I find it quite right that you should warn collectors not to lay too much value on original gum. In my experience I have long ago come to the conclusion that it is very difficult, and in most cases directly impossible to ascertain, with

any certainty, the existence of original gum. In some cases the gum is of value, but, upon the whole, collectors should care more for a perfect stamp without gum than for an indifferent and unsightly specimen with original gum. The specialist may value gum to his unused stamps as it gives them a more plastic, and in consequence more excellent appearance, yet, if so, he must also take in the disadvantage adhered to it, because many of the older stamps are made bad looking through the medium of much cracked gum, and are in danger of breaking, whilst newer stamps, at the least contact with air, begin to move and curl up.' Herr J. Schlesinger writes:— 'A faultless stamp with original gum is certainly in first-class condition and is a valuable object to a susceptible collector. But through hunting for such specimens an industry has been created with means which, to its full extent, must be fought against. Generally, by summoning up all experiments, a false gum may be detected; however, there are now frequent cases—and they multiply—

when it cannot be thought to ascertain the genuineness with certainty. Already in the coming decades it will probably be impossible, even with the most extensive research to obtain an exact result. Therefore, I urgently counsel all philatelists not to add too great an importance to the gum, to be able to avoid the dangers and rocks of forgery.' "

Over seven years ago, John N. Luff made the following sensible statement: "I think that the best philatelists are agreed that 'hair-line and pin-hole varieties' are out of place in a general catalogue, and belong only in works intended for specialists and students. There are many things now listed that could well be spared from the crowded pages of our priced catalogues."

If you would know the latest 1904 prices of the standard varieties of United States, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippines and Porto Rico, send the publishers of this paper 10c for the Advanced Sheets.

The Entire Stamp Collection

— OF —

WILLIAM ALEXANDER SMITH, Jr., Deceased,

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THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'd, 36 John Street, N. Y. City.

IT'S A FACT

No firm ever made such liberal offers to the stamp collecting public as has the well-known Stamp Dealer, THEO. MAINHART, of JOHNSTOWN, PA., been doing.

You all read my announcement of last week. Buy my Premium Packet, No. 17—"THE PEERLESS"—and get 1,000 fine all different postage stamps, including many full sets, many scarce stamps and many rare, old issues. This packet catalogues from \$30 to \$40. You also get free, as a premium, one packet of fine U. S. Postage Stamps, containing a full set of unused Pan-Americans, and many others of good value. The stamps in this packet positively catalogue \$2. Besides the Premium Packet, you receive free of charge, one large International Postage Stamp Album, containing spaces for all stamps issued.

Besides the above two premiums, every fifth purchaser of this packet, receives gratis

One Louisiana Exposition GOLD DOLLAR

And the price of the packet, including the two premiums, and the chance of being a fifth purchaser, which entitles you to one of the Gold Dollars, all of this, post free and registered, for

\$10.00 ===== **TEN DOLLARS** ===== **\$10.00**

Theo. Mainhart, Stamp Dealer, Johnstown, Pa.

GERMAN CONVENTION, 1903

The 15th Annual Congress of German Philatelists was held from August 28th to September 1st, at Pforzheim, Baden. Like its predecessors the function has been a great success, combining business with pleasure. A dealer's "bourse" at noon, and a meeting of the Baden Philatelic Club at night, filled the first day. On the second day the business meeting of the Union of German and Austrian Philatelic Societies, and at night a "Kommers" (Smoking Concert on a large scale) came off. On the forenoon of the third day important papers were read:—(1) The black lists in the light of law; (2) Varieties and shades of the German Colonial stamps, eagle type; (3) Photography and projection for philatelic use. The official monthly magazine of the Union, the *Vertrauliches Korrespondenz blatt* (confidential informations from the Societies) was then again committed to the editorial care of the Kiel Society, and Leipzig was elected as meeting place for 1904. The official dinner, taking of a photograph of all present, and a ball at night followed. The last two days were given over to excursions to Baden-Baden and Wildbad, and in happy mood the various parties made tracks for home.—From *The Stamp Collector*, Birmingham, England.

STAMP COLLECTING

Stamp collecting is steadily growing in popularity as a pastime. It is one of the hobbies combining pleasure and instruction, and deals with such a variety of subjects as to make it of greater educational value than most other forms of diversion.

It is essentially an indoor amusement; it is restful and quieting after the mind has been busily occupied with duties, and has no unpleasant features. Being carried on largely by correspondence the opportunities afforded those living in the small towns are almost equal to those enjoyed in the cities. The care with which the specimens are handled and mounted, and the taste and originality displayed in the arrangement of the various issues, have much to do with the appearance of a collection.

It is not necessarily the large collections which make the best showing or give the greatest amount of pleasure. It is the individual ideas used to bring out the effects that make an album most attractive. Specializing, by which is meant the selection of certain countries, is being much favored, as many persons of limited time prefer to make a good showing in a few countries rather than to gather parts of all issues and have them more or less scattered.—[Clipped].

The demand for Panama stamps has been good for the last year, but requests have come with a rush since the announcement that the Department had seceded and started an independent Republic.

The inconsistency, or, perhaps, carelessness in preparing the Scott Standard Catalogue, may be illustrated by the following color descriptions of the 10c. U. S. stamps issued, 1889, and surcharged for use in Cuba, Guam, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. Note the following extracts from the catalogue and consider that in each case the *same* stamp is described:

- UNITED STATES:
 No. 283. 10c. orange-brown.
 CUBA:
 No. 226. 10c. light-brown.
 GUAM, PHILIPPINES AND PORTO RICO:
 10c. yellow-brown.

No wonder the novice enquires for a Color Chart and is confused on the subject of colors.

TO CIRCULATE OUR 1903-1904

Wholesale and Retail Price List

We offer the following very special bargains, less than cost price. Positively not over one of each item sold to one person. Postage, 2 cents extra.

- 100 different all Foreign Stamps 02c
- 200 different all Foreign Stamps 08c
- 20 different Italy 01c 25 different 02c
- 10 different Bulgaria 02c 20 different Spain 01c
- 1/2c Canada Jubilee 10c 50c Jubilee 05c
- 100 Philippines, 7 kinds, unused 15c
- 5 diff. Newfoundland 03c 10 different 10c
- Canada, King's head, 1, 2, 5, 7, 10c. 06c
- Canada, 1893, 20 and 50c, both cata. 37 06c

Remit in unused stamps or money order.

MARKS STAMP CO., Toronto, Canada.

HONDURAS

No 51 to 64, 14 stamps, all in perfect condition catalogue value \$1.44, my price, while they last.

40 Cents

UNITED STATES

No. 163, 15c orange, catalogue value 50 cents, my price for good copies.

15 Cents

I SELL

- POSTAL CARDS
- UNITED STATES ENTIRE ENVELOPES
- ORIGINAL COVERS
- FOREIGN ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS
- PRIVATE, PROPRIETARY AND REVENUE STAMPS (all issues)
- MEXICAN AND CANADIAN REVENUES

If interested in any of the above send for selections

PREMIUM—I will give a perfect copy No. 62, Newfoundland, to anyone writing for an approval selection who is not already on my mailing list.

Mention this adv. and don't forget references.

S VALENTINE SAXBY, Rockford, Ills.

OHIO STAMP FRAUD PROVES TO BE J. R. JEFFERS

The Approval Sheet fraud who has been preying upon stamp dealers from different Post Offices in Ohio has been arrested and is held to answer the serious charge of fraudulent use of the United States Mail.

The party proves to be J. R. Jeffers (not Jefferies as has been printed in some of the stamp papers).

We published a fac-simile of his handwriting and the forgery attached to a registered receipt in our paper for August 31st. We also published information in ours of November 2nd with regard to his change of base to Canton, Ohio, where he was writing under the name of W. R. Mannerlin.

Post Office Inspector Owen worked up the case and made the arrest.

Jeffers has been known to stamp dealers since 1895, at which time he was a resident of Ferguson, Mo. In 1901 he was located at Barberton, Ohio. It will be a relief to dealers to know that he has been apprehended.

It is stated that he is a single man, and since the first part of August has been employed with Contractor John Dunbar, as expert cement mixer. It is stated that when he was confronted with evidence by the P. O. Inspector he acknowledged his guilt and said that he had been obtaining stamps by fraud for some time.

NOTES

The 63d Edition of the Standard Catalogue was received in St. Louis shortly after our last paper went to press.

We hear of the death of Hon. Frank F. Olney of Providence, R. I., a well-known philatelist, who was President of the American Philatelic Association, 1896-99, he having succeeded the late John K. Tiffany. His collection of stamps was sold some years ago.

Mr. Olney was prominent in the local affairs of Providence, having held many positions of importance in that city. He was a man of wealth, with important family connections.

The United Stamp Company of Chicago, which concern consolidated the business of two well-known dealers of that city, P. M. Wolsieffer and F. N. Massoth, recently purchased the general collection of H. W. Wolseley, of that city, excluding the British Colonials, U. S. and Colonies, which Mr. Wolseley retained. When it is known that the United Stamp Company paid in excess of 50 per cent of catalogue for these stamps, it will be realized that they were in superb condition.

This circumstance shows the good general tone prevailing in the stamp trade at present and the staple value attached to stamps in first-class condition.

When dealers can pay for a general collection at the rate of over 50 per cent of catalogue price it shows that stamp business in general is very good.

We congratulate the United Stamp Company on their purchase and are pleased to be assured that they have made important sales from the collection which insures them a good profit over the price paid.

A Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly* **The New 2c. Stamp** *Stamp News* reports to that paper that he has had an opportunity to examine a copy of the new 2c. stamp which he proceeds to compare with the current stamp of that denomination. He is inclined to think that the new stamp is a handsomer one than the current variety which will soon become obsolete. It will be nearly a month before the public have an opportunity to get the stamp as requisitions will be filled with current values which are on hand until the stock is exhausted.

His comparison and description of the new stamp is given in his own words:

"The current design is certainly artistic in the highest degree. The new design is bolder, far more striking and looks as though it would wear well. The bust of Washington is noticeably larger and consequently the lines are coarser and the print shows up to better advantage in the

stamp. Yet we believe the die proof of the current Washington is a finer thing than the new one. In the current stamp some of the shoulders and a portion of the shirt-front of Washington appear, while in the new design much less of the figure below the neck may be seen.

"In the new design the redness of the cheek and nose has been shaded out to a considerable extent by using the coarser lines. In the die proof, however, the old design strikes us as the better.

"The word 'Washington' underneath the bust appears on a ribbon, and instead of being white against a dark background it is dark against a white background. While in the current stamp the name can be read with difficulty, in the new one it is clear and plain. The same is true of the dates of birth and death. The words 'United States of America' are also much clearer in the new design than in the old. In the new design the 'Burnside' whiskers, blocked out on the side of the face, are clearly distinguishable. While they doubtless were engraved on the current plate, they are lost to view in the deep shadow or filling up of the lines.

"We are disposed to fancy the figures '2' in the current design rather than the new one. In the new design the figures are an eighth of an inch higher and the effect seems to be to make Washington's head set down on his shoulders more noticeably. The figures, as previously mentioned, are enclosed in wreaths, and these wreaths cut into the panel reserved for the bust. While this is not by any means objectionable, it is not as artistic or pleasing, in our opinion, as the figures in the current stamp.

"The shield, with its supposedly blue field, and the alternate red and white stripes (supposedly) as the main frame or background for the stamp, is a unique conception, indeed, and worked out by the artists in a most happy manner. * * *

"On the whole, the new stamp, we should say, rather lays over the current one in point of strength and

boldness and its radical departure from the conventional design, yet there is not the soft, artistic effect that marks the current design."



It is reported from Washington that a new paper produced by a process discovered by certain persons connected with the Government is likely to be used in the production of our currency and postage stamps.

Mr. E. H. Fowler, Chief of the Coast of Geodetic Survey and D. N. Hoover, Chief Printer of the same Bureau, are the men to whom the discovery of the new process is to be credited.

It is said to render the paper soft and velvety, making it unshrinkable. This is an accomplishment that has heretofore baffled the ingenuity of the paper manufacturer.

In the production of stamps the paper often shrinks after it has received the impression on one side and the gum on the other which is attributed to the cause of the irregular perforating of sheets of stamps.

The process has been patented both in the United States and foreign countries. The United States Government is to have the first advantage of the discovery and is expected to use the paper produced by the new process at a very early date.

The stamp collector is, of course, immediately interested to know if this change of paper will produce a radical change in the appearance of the current stamps, that is to say, whether the new paper will make a distinct variety. The impression that seems to prevail is that it will do so. This being the case, collectors will naturally lose no time in filling in the new series in their collections printed on the current paper.

CATALOGUES!

Bright & Son, London..... 70c
 Paul Kohl, Germany..... 75c
 63d Edition "Standard"..... 58c
 Advance Sheets of Mekeel's 1904 Edition, containing latest prices of U.S., Cuba, Philippines and Porto Rico..... 10c
 C. H. MEKEEL, STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
 St. Louis, Mo.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

THE J. W. SCOTT CO., L'td.,

36 John St., New York City,

Sell all new issues at trifle over face value.

Kings Heads Bahamas, 1p., 2½p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
 Set of five, o. g. Mint, 61c.
 Kings Heads St. Vincent, ½p., 1p., 2½p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s.
 Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.
 Kings Head Leeward Islands, ½p., 1p., 2p., 2½p., 3p., 6p., 1s.,
 Set of seven, o. g. Mint, 64c.

High values or smaller sets at proportionate prices.

J. W. SCOTT BEST ALBUM, 1903 Edition.

Only complete album on the market, price Boards \$1.00, Cloth \$2.00. Sent by Express free of charge.

1903 GIBBONS CATALOGUE.

1903 Catalogues, Gibbons 60c, Scotts 58c., post free. Circulars free.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.

Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

411 W. Saratoga St.,

BALTIMORE, - - MD.

New special list just issued, sent free on application to dealers only

NUT-SHELL FACTS

— ON —

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An authoritatively prepared volume concisely covering its subjects, describes and prices the over 500 U. S. Coins commanding a premium. A condensed history of money and a complete counterfeit detector.

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30 CENTS PER YEAR

is the regular subscription price of

THE PERFORATOR,

but in order to largely increase our subscription list we will enter you for a year's subscription and mail you a copy of Scott's 1904 catalogue for 75 cts.

THE PERFORATOR,

160 E. 111th Street, New York City.

BLANK APPROVAL BOOKS

Plate impression on thin bond paper, to contain 100 Stamps. Blue Covers.

5 books.....	20c	50 books.....	\$0 75
10 ".....	35c	100 ".....	1 25
25 ".....	50c	250 ".....	2 50

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CHEAP AUSTRALIANS

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LONG SET AUSTRALASIANS

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THESE ARE ALL GOOD COPIES.

New Zealand, 48 varieties.....	\$1 00
New South Wales, 24 varieties.....	50
Victoria, 30 varieties.....	75
South and West Australia and Tasmania, 40 varieties.....	1 00
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The complete set of 170 varieties Australasians (post free) net cash \$3 75

(95)

Remit by P. O. Money Order or American Currency Registered.

NOTES FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, Oct. 31st.

At Nodmin, in Cornwall, the stamp fraud, Malcolm Campbell, has been sentenced to a further term of six months imprisonment, this second sentence to commence at the end of the term the prisoner is now undergoing as a result of his trial in the North Country. Many London and local philatelists gave evidence at the trial, and the story thus pieced together shows that the philatelic career of "Malcolm Campbell, Esquire," (as he always insisted upon calling himself) was a short but exciting one. This man, in fact, is a cunning and canting scoundrel. In a lengthy address to his judges he made an impassioned appeal for mercy and referred to his aged mother going down grey-haired to her grave and his loving wife awaiting her innocent husband's return. This from a man who carried out a series of deliberate and systematic frauds upon dealers and collectors in all parts of the country!

Since stamp collectors are at length awakening to the mistake of hoarding up whole sheets and pairs of recent and current Colonial issues the following will be read with interest. It is a "Notice" just issued by "Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market":—

Notice to Stamp Collectors

1. The continually increasing number of stamps issued makes it impossible for the

ordinary collector to make a general collection.

2. The tendency thus created towards specialism is weakening the market for general collections which can rarely be sold except at a loss or without a very great deal of trouble.

3. There is only a profitable market even for specialized collections when they are made with thoroughness and contain the "pieces de resistance." In fact it may be said, that no specialized collection is likely to sell at a profit until it is *the best of its kind*. But *second-best* generally makes a loss.

4. New Issues bought at a small percentage over face value are the only really safe investment and whether they are formed into a general or a specialist collection makes no difference. They are always worth face value and the Colonial Stamp Market is willing to buy back at this rate if in sets and still in mint condition (although to check speculation not more than four sets of any one kind will be repurchased from each client):

This is cleverly worded, but I think (and hope) it will not deceive philatelists. New issues the only really safe investment, forsooth! Nonsense!

PERCY C. BISHOP.

REALLY RARE STAMPS

If you want to see any of the following on approval—ask us for them:

Switzerland. Cantonal issues; some rare used copies.

Transvaal. Some rare varieties of the V. R. surcharges and other provisionals, used.

Mafeking. (War Provisionals) used.

U. S. Carriers. Some very choice varieties, on and off covers.

British Colonies in Africa. Some choice used and unused copies of the scarcest.

We have \$25,000.00 worth of the choicest stamps for the most advanced collectors on sale at fair prices.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—NO. 44
WHOLE NO. 98

NOVEMBER 23, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

“Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

The Boston Stamp Company, which is conducted by John Favill Capron, of Boston, recently advertised in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* sets of U. S. Newspaper and Periodical stamps. An order for five sets with check for \$16.25 was sent to this concern. The check was cleared showing that the money was collected by John Favill Capron but no stamps were received, and when he was written to in regard to the subject he expressed surprise that the stamps had not arrived claiming that he had mailed them.

If there are any other parties who have had similar experiences with this concern we should be pleased to hear from them.

Since the above was prepared for publication we have noted in the above paper that John Favill Capron, manager of the Boston Stamp Company, has filed a petition in bankruptcy.

It will be remembered that this concern was the one in Boston who caused the agitation some months ago in regard to selling stamps with forged surcharges. The Boston Philatelic Society took it up and made an investigation but their report was very weak, and apparently did not effect the standing of the concern whose advertisements continued to appear as they had done before.

It is stated that George Crawford Capen, the Ex-President of the American Collectors' Company, who is now

engaged in an active discussion with the party in power and John Favill Capron of the Boston Stamp Company are brothers although the reason for difference in names is not explained.



George Crawford Capen, the Ex-President of the American Collectors' Company, issued a circular under date of November 6th for stockholders of the American Collectors' Association.

In reply the present officers and some of the Directors of the Company joined in signing a letter which stated that several of the statements made by Mr. Capen are misleading to the uninitiated. A request that stockholders make a special effort to be present at the annual meeting on the 17th inst. was made.

Mr. Capen is out with the publication of a reply which embodies the letter signed by the officers of the Company to which he adds:

“I challenge directly the assertion that I have made any misleading statement and ask the gentlemen signing why they feared to state openly what they meant?”

“The presence of stockholders at the annual meeting is the one thing to be desired, but those who cannot be there will find in the address which I shall deliver in behalf of all those giving me their proxies a full statement of the necessities of the present situation.

Respectfully,

GEORGE CRAWFORD CAPEN.”

The result of the stockholders' meeting is awaited with interest.

The arrest of J. R. Jeffers, who has been using the U. S. Mails in advancing a scheme to defraud stamp dealers by letters written from different Post Offices in Ohio, is a triumph for C. W. Abbott, Attorney of the National Stamp Dealers' Association.

Chief of Police at Canton, Ohio, wrote to Mr. Abbott under date of the 10th, that the arrest of Jeffers was made the day that his information reached Canton and that it was sent before the United States Commissioner with the prisoner and was the crowning evidence in binding him over to the United States Federal Court to answer to the charge of fraudulently using the United States Mails.



Following is a clipping from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* under date of December 26, 1896, which seems to fit in very nicely at the present time when P. O. investigations are being discussed:

"It would be useless to enlarge at this juncture upon the peculiar and rather unsavory methods of the Bureau and postal officials who pretend to despise collectors and stamp collecting on the one hand but are ever ready to make an honest (?) dollar (in league with some intermediate dealer) out of stamp collectors. What with surreptitious pink two's, 'imperforate sheets rescued from waste-basket,' and special issues of periodicals 'in limited quantities,' the Bureau and Postal officials in Washington are making for themselves an unenviable record of crookedness which is perfectly disgusting. And if rumors are true, there will be other syndicates and further surprises to crown with inglorious renown the present P. O. Department and its Bureau adjunct."

This rather pointed extract was part of an article dealing with the big Newspaper Stamp Swindle, which most of our collectors are familiar with. As this was one of the most flagrant instances of Bureau "rottenness," it perhaps deserves a brief resume:

Towards the close of the year 1896, a clique of New York and Washington dealers offered for sale sets of Newspaper Stamps of the old type with a face value of about \$205 for \$125 a set.

These stamps were unmistakably "Bureau Print," as the paper was

slightly different and the colors somewhat deeper than the recently withdrawn American Bank Note Co. set.

But why the Bureau should take it upon themselves to reprint already obsolete stamps when a set printed from new dies of their own manufacture had been in use for nearly two years has always remained an unanswered question.

The price asked for the set to collectors (\$80 less than face) was another unsolved problem as it was certainly mysterious that the Bureau should be allowed by the P. O. officials to print special issues, apparently without benefit to the U. S. Treasury. The dealers offering the sets for sale undertook to guarantee that only 50 sets were printed. How they were so well aware of this fact must remain another mystery.

The above mentioned dealers were remarkably unsuccessful in selling any of their sets. From the first, the affair was so vigorously attacked by the philatelic press that the U. S. Secret Service investigated the case with such good affect that a Washington dealer was arrested and prosecuted. He was finally cleared but the affair was the means of driving another Washington dealer and one New York dealer out of business.



THE SCARCEST CANADIAN STAMP

In 1851 Canada issued her first stamps, consisting of two values, 3d. and 6d., which denoted the postage



for single and double letters respectively within the colony. At that period the postage to Great Britain was 1s., and it was thought necessary to order stamps of that

value. It was rather singular that the denomination should have been given as "twelve pence" and not "one shilling," but we had a somewhat similar occurrence, though less marked, in the shilling values of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, for it was to be noticed that in the corners of these the values are denoted by the

figure "12" in addition to the words "one shilling" on the side.

The design of this 12-penny stamp was the head of the late Queen Victoria, to the left, as in the familiar design of the Queensland stamps. The color was deep black, and the stamps imperforate as in the other values, but no one seems to know of how many stamps the entire issue consisted. The paper was thin ribbed; another issue, said to be of 1852, was printed on plain wove paper, but no decree authorizing this printing was to be found, and the value in this state was never issued. The whole issue on ribbed paper consisted of 50,000 stamps, which were printed by Raison & Co., of New York, for the Government of Canada.

The scarcity of this stamp has always been so great that it was many years before its existence became generally known, and the earlier catalogues either did not mention it at all, or considered it as an "essay." In the early "seventies," however, several copies became known, and the attention of collectors was drawn to this great rarity, of which, according to official records, only 800 were sold at the Post Offices, the remaining 49,200 being destroyed, though when or

where no one knows.

The twelve-penny value had only a very short life, for almost immediately after its issue the postage of Great Britain was reduced to 10d., which occasioned the issue of the blue stamp of that value with the head of Cabot, thus doing away with the need for a shilling stamp.

Another reason for the great scarcity of the twelve-pence was the practice of that time in vogue of not pre-paying postage, owing to the popular belief that unpaid letters, on which the postage was collected on delivery, travelled more safely than stamped ones, the amount of postage being the same in either case.

As to the money value of this stamp one found, in successive editions of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, that in 1891 and 1892 no price was given, in 1893 it was £60 unused, and £50 used, in 1897 no quotation, in 1899 it was £80 used, and in 1900 and 1902 £70 used. It should be added that the stamp existed with an overprint in red, "Specimen" across the stamp, and that forgers had tried to efface this and then cancel the stamp with a heavy ring postmark to hide the traces of erasure.—MR. E. EGLY before the Leed's Philatelic Society.

THE ENTIRE STAMP COLLECTION

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on the evenings of the following days,
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This is in many respects the finest stamp collection ever sold at public auction. It comprises nearly every stamp catalogued at less than one hundred dollars and many of much greater value, both used and unused, including errors, double surcharges, part perfs., proofs, specimens, essays, etc., all in the finest possible condition.

No stamps have been withdrawn or added, and the entire lot will be sold at public auction without reserve. Auction buyers can obtain catalogues by addressing the compilers.

The J. W. Scott Co., L'd, 36 John St., N. Y. City

The present course of the Post Office investigations with regard to the 4c. inverted Pan-American stamps is to ascertain the identity of the persons who sold these stamps to the dealers. The Third Assistant Postmaster General's office emphatically deny that they have sold any of these stamps but they admit that the stamps were *given away, not sold.*

The presumption is that these stamps were all given to Senators, Congressmen and high officials. It will, therefore, be interesting to know who it was that authorized this *gratuitous distribution* in the Third Assistant Postmaster General's Department because many of the stamps *have been sold and have aggregated a large amount of money.*

As this is the course of investigation it will probably result in exonerating the Department from any charge of illegally disposing of the stamps.

However, the effect that is desired as a result of this whole agitation will undoubtedly be realized if the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General that has charge of the issue of stamps, will regard its duties and obligations more seriously, and that gratuitous distribution of stamps which have a saleable value will and shall be forever discontinued as far as stamp issues of the United States are concerned.

P. O. Inspector Fosnes, formerly Director-General of Posts of Cuba, Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow's chief assistant in the postal investigation and Inspector Williams are in charge of the stamp investigation. They have gone through the records of the Department and have examined a number of persons in the Department and in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and have extended inquiries among dealers and philatelists. Their investigation will probably be concluded shortly. The Department has been placed in possession of the facts and information to sustain all charges and criticisms that have been made by this publication

and we have recently received the following acknowledgment from the Postmaster-General:

November 10, 1903.
 "MR. C. H. MEKEEL, Pres
 C. H. MEKEEL, STAMP & PUB. CO.,
 St. Louis, Mo.

"Sir:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 7th instant, also your letter addressed to the President, which has been referred to this office, and to thank you for the information contained therein.

Respectfully yours,
 H. C. PAYNE,
 Postmaster-General."

We welcome a new advertiser this week, Mr. C. F. Rochfuchs, of Roxbury, Mass. We hope that our readers will favor both the publishers and advertiser by mentioning where the advertisement was seen when sending in orders.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

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1333	1861. 6c. pink on buff	2 00	1 00
1342	1863. 2c. black on buff	1 00	50
1349	1864. 2c. black on orange	2 00	75
1375	1870. 30c. black on white	3 00	1 50
1377	1870. 1c. blue on amber	1 00	45
1391	1870. 12c. plum on cream	4 00	2 00
1397	1870. 2c. brown on orange	15	07
1400a	1874 1c. dark-blue, white	2 50	1 00
1416	1874. 90c. carmine on white	2 00	1 00
1421	1876. 3c. red, Centennial	40	20
1449	1875. 5c. blue on amber	15	07
1451	1882. 5c. brown on amber	20	06
1462	1875. 1c. blue on cream	15	07
1463	1890. 2c. vermilion on cream	1 00	30
1469	1874. 2c. brown on orange	90	45
1478	1875. 1c. blue on fawn	25	12
1477	1882. 5c. brown on blue	3 00	1 50
1504	1881. 2c. red on fawn	40	15
1509	1884. 2c. brown on blue	65	30
1515	1884. 5c. brown on o. buff	6 00	3 00
1527	1881. 30c. black on o. buff	3 50	1 75
1561	1887. 2c. green on o. buff	12 00	5 50
1597c	1899. 2c. dark lake, white	?	2 50
1706	1864. 2c. black, die 1	5 00	35
1707	1864. 2c. black, die 1	2 00	75
1724	1884. 2c. brown on manila	30	15
1727	1884. 2c. red on manila	17 00	8 00
8728	1884. 2c. brown on manila	1 10	40
1834	War 3c. dark-red on cream	5 00	2 00
1813	Postal Service, black on white	06	03
?	black on cream	?	00

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Date of issue of complete catalogue not fixed; we are working on it, you may help it along by ordering the Advanced Sheets now ready.

SAMPLE PAGE
 From Mekeel's Catalogue of the Standard Varieties of Postage Stamps of the World.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS		298
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS		
		
1854. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
1 5c orange	35 00	
2 10c carmine	25 00	15 00
3 1r blue	30 00	15 00
4 2r green	35 00	17 50
		
1855. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
5 5c vermilion	65 00	27 50
		
1859. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
6 5c vermilion	2 50	2 00
7 10c rose	2 00	4 00
		
1861-62. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
8 5c vermilion	4 50	3 50
9 5c dull red	4 00	2 50
		
1863. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
10 5c vermilion	1 75	2 00
11 10c carmine	5 00	6 00
12 1r violet	40 00	35 00
13 2r blue	25 00	20 00
14 1r p green	7 50	6 00
		
1864. <i>Unperforated.</i>		
15 3½c black on buff	35	20
16 6½c green on rose	75	60
17 12½ blue on salm'n	1 50	65
18 25c verm'non fl's'h	1 50	1 25
		
1870. <i>Perforated.</i>		
19 5c blue	4 00	75
20 10c green	60	60
21 20c brown	6 00	4 00
22 40c rose	6 50	3 50
		
1872.		
23 12c rose	1 50	70
24 16c blue	7 50	6 00
25 25c gray lilac	65	1 00
26 62c violet	3 50	2 00
27 1p 25c yel. brown	4 00	3 00
HABILITADO DE LA NACION.		
1871-72. <i>Various issues surcharged. Unperforated.</i>		
28 1r blue (No. 3)		
29 1rp green on bluish (Cuba No. 2)	18 00	9 00
30 2rp carm'n on bluish (Cuba No. 3)	10 00	7 00
31 10c rose (No. 7)	12 00	8 00
32 5c red (No. 9)	20 00	12 00
33 5c vermilion (No. 10)	3 00	2 00
34 10c carmine (No. 11)		

Send 10 cents to the publishers if you would have the 1904 prices for the stamps of the United States, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. Advanced sheets of these countries ready.

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C. H. MEKEEL, STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

PIGEON POST STAMPS

The stamps of the pigeon post which were used in the service between Great Barrier Island and New Zealand, never fail to interest a collector. They were strictly local in character, that is, they had no governmental recognition, being issued by private parties. The success of the originator of the stamps of this character quickly developed a rival who issued most elaborate triangular stamps. While these are interesting there is nothing about them to justify fancy prices.

Mr. W. Kuhn, in an article in the *Stamp Collector* some time ago, gave some interesting information on the subject of the pigeon post for which the stamps were intended:

"The Great Barrier Island is situated about 65 miles north-east of Auckland, N. Z., and at present has a population of some 700 souls. Once a week a small steamer travels between Auckland and the Island carrying the mails and general cargo, and as the steamer only waits long enough to land the goods it is by no means an easy matter to reply to correspondence by the same boat. As, besides, there is no cable communication between the Island and the mainland it will be admitted that the ordinary means of intercourse are not all that can be desired. It, therefore, a few years ago behoved the inhabitants to devise some means of sending messages more regularly when necessity arose, and as the result of several experiments the Pigeon Post originated. It appears that the initial idea of a

Pigeon Post was due to the fact that when the s. s. Wairarapa was wrecked on the Great Barrier, news of the disaster was sent to Auckland by pigeons and it was thought that if the birds could be taught to fly the distance regularly it would prove of benefit to the inhabitants. Mr. Walter Fricker, of Auckland, made many experiments and at the end of 1897 as a result of his labors the Great Barrier Pigeon Post service became an accomplished fact.

"Not much difficulty was encountered in training the birds to fly from the island to the mainland but almost insurmountable obstacles presented themselves in training them from Auckland to the island. This was due to the fact that the island was low-lying and often enveloped in haze, but after much arduous labour the difficulties were overcome and now several birds travel the journey daily.

"The pigeons are, of course, carried over by the weekly steamers, and each bird can carry five messages at a time. Messages have to be written on small slips of very thin paper, and these are securely attached to the pigeon's leg and protected by a waterproof legging from wet in case the bird should encounter bad weather.

"It was not until November, 1898—twelve months after the inauguration of the post—that it was thought necessary to issue stamps, owing to the large increase in the number of messages."

HONDURAS

No 51 to 64, 14 stamps, all in perfect condition catalogue value \$1.44, my price, while they last,

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No. 163, 15c orange, catalogue value 50 cents, my price for good copies.

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Mention this adv. and don't forget references.

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You all read my announcement of last week. Buy my Premium Packet, No. 17—"THE PEERLESS"—and get 1,000 fine all different postage stamps, including many full sets, many scarce stamps and many rare, old issues. This packet catalogues from \$30 to \$40. You also get free, as a premium, one packet of five U. S. Postage Stamps, containing a full set of unused Pan-Americans, and many others of good value. The stamps in this packet positively catalogue \$2. Besides the Premium Packet, you receive free of charge, one large International Postage Stamp Album, containing spaces for all stamps issued.

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100 different all Foreign Stamps	02c
200 different all Foreign Stamps	08c
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10 different Bulgaria 02c	01c
1c Canada Jubilee 10c	05c
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5 diff. Newfoundland 03c	10c
Canada, King's head, 1, 2, 5, 7, 10c	06c
Canada, 1893, 20 and 50c, both cata. 37	06c

Remit in unused stamps or money order.

MARKS STAMP CO., Toronto, Canada.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

VOL. 16—No. 45
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NOVEMBER 30, 1903

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

EDITORS

CHARLES HAVILAND MEKEEL
LOUIS G. QUACKENBUSH
FARRAN ZERBE

All communications of business or literary character should be addressed simply as follows:

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

In this number we are inaugurating a *Coin Department* in earnest.

The illustrated serial, commencing with the U. S. Half Cents in this number and which will extend through the copper, silver and gold coins of the United States, will make a file of the publication from now on most valuable. We make a special subscription offer on page 583 which we hope will have your consideration.

The new U. S. 2 cents stamp is a success and impresses favorably all who have given it consideration.

I enclose check for \$1.00 payment of my subscription. I appreciate your aggressive style and enjoy reading your frank statement of facts.

W. O. Lorell,
Boston, Mass.

If the Louisiana Purchase Exposition is going to recognize Philately and Numismatics at the great show next year, it is time a commission were appointed to assemble a creditable exhibit. Work of this kind is highly technical and could only be properly done by experts.

The Prince of Wales who is to be our Royal visitor from Great Britain, has been the patron of Philatelic Exhibitions abroad, and is the Honorary President of the Philatelic Society of London. This single fact should at least suggest to the Fair officials that they have overlooked something.

Death has removed another of the older philatelists. Oscar Berger-Leveault died at Nancy, France, September 24th. He was born in 1826. As early as 1861 his collection was of great importance, and in the same year he commenced the publication of the first catalogue, not as a dealer but as a compiler and publisher of information. To the older stamp men his life is part of the history of Philately. Our senior editor exchanged many letters with him years ago and has very pleasant recollections of the correspondence which took place, long after M. Berger-Leverault was actively interested in philatelic matters.

I enjoy the COLLECTOR very much and consider it a great source of information and pleasure.

(Miss) C. Porter,
Cornington, Ga.

Our paper is supported by its subscribers. Advertising is a purely secondary consideration with us and space for that purpose is limited, making it the more desirable to those who use the medium. Advertisements of only first-class dealers will be accepted; rates quoted upon request.

MEXICAN STAMP NOTES

The Mexican 1903 1 centavo is given in the catalogue as yellow. The stamp was wrongly chronicled. It has been issued and is *mauve*.

Mexico No. 284, 10c rose-lilac, on unwatermarked paper, is believed to be a mistake in cataloguing. Those who have studied Mexican stamps say that the 10c denomination of the 1895 issue is only known on the first paper watermarked CORREOS E. U. M. stamps from the margin of the sheet and some that have escaped the watermark are known. The unwatermarked paper used in 1898 is heavier and whiter than the other, we have never seen a copy of the 10c on this paper. If any subscriber has a copy we should be glad to see it.

The 3c vermilion 1894 exists perforated compound 5½x11 but has thus far escaped the notice of the chronicler or catalogue compiler. The prices of Nos. 234 and 241, which are omitted in 63d Edition Catalogue, may be supplied as follows:

4c. vermilion, perf., 5½.....	Unused
20c. " " perf., 5½x11.....	\$3 75
	2 00

We were recently shown a used copy of the 4 reales 1856 that had an impression of the 8 reales of the same issue on the reverse side. A sheet of 4 reales stamps was evidently printed on a spoiled sheet of 8 reales, whether by mistake or for reason of economy it would be hard to say.

ASK US TO SEND

Book No. 41

Our Approval Book No. 41 contains 240 varieties of Mexican postage stamps and includes many scarce varieties arranged according to the numbers in the catalogue for ready reference.

Book values \$60.00 from the prices we allow 50% discount. The book must be sent and returned by registered mail. For collectors who want a cheaper lot we will send Book No. 7, valued at about \$20.00.

A net price favorable to the purchaser, will be quoted for the entire book when such request is made.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

It is really laughable to read the apologies some collectors feel that they are called upon to make when asking for Mexican stamps. A country long neglected by the class of collectors who follow the fashionable high-priced lines, has nevertheless some very hard numbers to fill.

To those who really delight in philatelic research and *real* stamp collecting, there are stamps of no country better suited to their purpose.

There is probably no country in the catalogue that would find as lame a showing in the large dealers' stocks as the scarce and rare varieties of Mexico.

Mexico is admirably treated in Paul Kohl's new catalogue. As in many countries, other than Mexico, this catalogue stands a long way ahead of any in the English language in classification, tabulation and general arrangement.

URUGUAY OFFICIALS

It has been noted in our columns that some of the Official stamps of Uruguay of current issue contain two star-shape holes and information has been sought in regard to the reason.

One of our subscribers in Montevideo accounts for it as follows:

"Shortly after the issue of these Official series a lot of stamps were stolen by a postal clerk and sold to a concern in Buenos Aires. After the detection, the remaining stock was perforated with two stars and only in this condition are they available for Official postage. This was done to control the issue and prevent the stolen stamps being used for postage and thus it is, that used copies of the stamps without the holes are rare and unused ones very common. The regular Official stamps are now all issued with the two stars perforated in them."

JUST A WORD

I wish you to secure a copy of my new Bargain List of Stamps, mailed free. It will be well worth while to peruse it. I offer to-day:

Italy, 1890, 5 lire, fine .....	.12
U. S., 1895, 50c. orange .....	.05
Newfoundland Jubilee, 10c. fine08
The three for Twenty Cents; postage extra.	

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SPECIAL OFFERS

The following list is changed weekly. *Watch it.* Bargains are often offered, and special things that come in from time to time are included.

**Indicate unused, others are cancelled.*

	Net Prices
Salvador, 1900, official, 26c, brown, No. 624.....	\$0 30
*Liberia, 1860, 24c, green, catalogue \$4.50.....	1 95
U. S. Envelope, 1853, 3c, red Die 4 on white, (Cat. No. 1304, \$5.00) fine copy.....	2 95
Mexico, 1899, 5 pesos, carmine and black.....	1 00
U. S., 1903, \$5.00, green.....	2 25
*Carrier, Louisville Wharton's, (No. 841, cat. \$15.00).....	7 50
*Boyaca, (Columbia), 1903, 5 pesos, rose, perf.....	30
" " " " " 5 " " unperf.....	35
" " " " " 10 " " buff, perf.....	50
" " " " " 10 " " unperf.....	55
*Colombia, Barranquilla type, 10c, blue on violet.....	02
*Colombia, Barranquilla type, 10c, blue on rose.....	04
*Cuba, 1897, 40c, orange brown (Cat. 50c.).....	25
*Cuba, 1897, 80c, lilac brown, (Cat. \$1.00).....	20
Ecuador, 1991, 50c, blue and black.....	50
" " " " " 1s, bistre and black.....	40
*Niger Coast, 1892, 1/2 on 1p, lilac, (No. 7) pair unsevered; very desirable.....	6 00
*Niger Coast, 1894, 2p, carmine, unwmk, (Cat. \$1.25).....	48
Philippines, U. S. 50c, orange, surcharged.....	28
U. S. Revenue, 2d issue, 10c, inverted medal- lion; desirable.....	13 90
Confederate, 1861, 5c, green, on original cover.....	20
" " " " " 10c, blue.....	38
" " " " " 1862, 5c, blue.....	25
" " " " " 10c, rose.....	1 50
" " " " " 1862, 5c, (small) pair, on original cover.....	15
South Australia, 1902, 6p, green (long).....	15
" " " " " 1902, 9p, claret.....	23
" " " " " 1903, "O. S." 1sh, brown, w'm'k Crown S. A.....	50
*U. S. Envelope, 1853, 10c, green on buff, Die 2 (No. 1317).....	3 00
*Liberia, 1862, 3c, blue.....	25
" " " " " 16c, red (Catalogued \$1.35).....	45
" " " " " 1885, 16c, yellow.....	15
*Hayti, 1896, 3c, pair, (No. 40a, unperforated vertically, cataloguing \$10.00).....	2 90
*Hayti, 1898, 1c, ultramarine.....	35
" " " " " 3c, dull violet.....	50
" " " " " 7c, gray.....	75
" " " " " 20c, orange.....	1 25
" " " " " 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20, set well centered.....	2 75

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

AUSTRALIANS

I have just received a consignment of Australasian stamps and wish to state to my customers that prices of this class of goods are slated for a quick advance owing to change in the postal laws of that country.

BLOTCH DUES

These stamps are the first used by the Australian Commonwealth and are makeshifts. Scott does not price them. I offer

1d and 2d emerald green N. S. W. blotch dues.....	\$0 25
3d New Zealand, 1903, per. 11.....	10
6d " " " " " 11.....	15
2d " " " " " 14.....	05
3d " " " " " 1899, no water mark, No. 89.....	07
5d " " " " " " " " " " " 98.....	2 00
1d London Print, 1901, no " " " " " 99.....	05
2 1/2d error, 1898, no watermark, No. 73, unused.....	12
5d New Zealand, 1899, no watermark, No. 91.....	10
9d " " " " " " " " " " " 95.....	30
Scott's No. 1590, unused 1c, dark blue, U. S. en- tire envelope.....	08
Scott's No. 1731, unused, 1c dark blue, 1895 is- sue, Bartel's No. 1187, cat. 25.....	08
Wrapper 1894, Bartel's No. 1201, cat. 40.....	15

My premium offer of the last issue still stands good.

Purchasers of 50 cts. from above list will be given free a superb new copy Newfoundland No. 61.

I buy collections. Do you want to sell?

Correspondence solicited.

S. VALENTINE SAXBY, Rockford, Ills.

COMPARITIVE PRICES

A few prices of British Colonial stamps are selected here and there from the first few pages of Gibbons' new catalogue, where they differ materially from Scott's 63d Edition, and the two prices are shown in parallel columns.

The following forty stamps price over \$400 by the highest quotations, and less than \$250 by the cheapest. The percentage high and low are about equally divided between the two catalogues:

	Scott's 63rd Ed	Gibbon's 16th Ed
*INDICATE UNUSED		
Antigua 1863, 1p, vermilion.....	\$0 35	\$0 90
" " " " " 6p, blue green.....	60	90
*Bahamas, 1875, 1sh, green.....	60	36
Barbadoes, 1861, 1/2p, yellow green.....	30	1 10
" " " " " 1863, 1sh, black.....	40	90
" " " " " 1873, 5sh, dull rose.....	13 00	8 15
" " " " " 1874, 1/2p, green.....	1 00	2 50
* " " " " " 1874-78, 6p, orange, 12 1/2%.....	25 00	40 00
" " " " " 1sh, purple, 14.....	85	1 50
" " " " " 1886, 5sh, bistre.....	7 00	5 00
" " " " " 1897, 10p, gr and carmine.....	60	1 50
* " " " " " 1897, 2sh 6p, slate and or.....	1 25	1 85
*Bechuanaland, 1886, 4p, blue.....	50	1 25
" " " " " 2p, ochre.....	35	1 00
" " " " " 1887, 2sh, green.....	1 00	36
" " " " " 1898, 6p, violet.....	25	16
*Bermuda, 1893, 1sh, yellow brown.....	50	32
*Br. Central Africa, 1891, 6p, blue.....	50	16
" " " " " 1895, 1sh, carmine.....	2 50	3 16
" " " " " 1896, 1sh, rose.....	1 25	2 50
" " " " " 1897, £ 1 lilac.....	8 00	6 25
" " " " " 1891, 6p, ultrama- rine.....	1 25	1 85
*British Columbia, 1868, 10c, blue rose, 14.....	40 00	20 00
*Br. East Africa, 1890, 4a on 5p.....	12 00	18 75
" " " " " 1891, 8a, gray.....	6 00	10 00
" " " " " 1894, 5a on 8a, blue.....	5 00	3 75
" " " " " 1894, 1/2a on 1r, rose.....	5 00	3 75
" " " " " 1895, 5a, blue.....	30 00	22 50
" " " " " 1895, 2r, brown and carmine.....	5 00	7 50
" " " " " 1897, 1/2a, gr. & red.....	3 00	4 35
British Guiana, 1850, 12c, blue.....	125 00	70 00
British Honduras, 1887, 1sh, gray.....	20 00	12 50
" " " " " 1888, 50c on 1sh, gray.....	25 00	15 00
" " " " " 1898, 25, brown and green.....	2 00	3 75
Br. South Africa, 1896, 3p on 5a, yel.....	5 50	12 50
" " " " " 2p, bistre.....	40	1 00
" " " " " 1sh, buff.....	3 00	4 35
" " " " " 1901, £ 1, lilac.....	7 50	6 00
Canada, 1897, \$1.00, lake.....	75	1 50
" " " " " \$2.00, purple.....	1 50	90

If the Scott Co. have the stock, they may be called upon to supply for \$73.85 stamps from the above list, which, at Gibbons' prices, amount to \$125. If they have *not* the stamps in stock, the question arises—what good is their catalogue, as a guide to values? Gibbons' list is made to *sell* by, and they have the stamps and will supply them.

There are \$289.85 worth of stamps on the above list according to Scott's Catalogue, that Gibbons quotes for \$175.16. Here the shoe is on the

other foot, but as Gibbons will supply the stamps, the advantage is in favor of the English firm.

If part of the British Colonials are 40 per cent under-priced and part of them are 40 per cent over-priced in the American Catalogue, its value as a guide is somewhat questionable. Particularly if buyers find that the stamps under-priced are "out of stock." Better get to work on your catalogues and find out if you can get them.



The regular 10c Colombia (type A87) **Latest from South America** now comes on rose paper exactly the same as the 2c of the same issue. A new series of stamps for the Republic of Panama are in preparation to succeed the provisionally surcharged series already reported.

Our friend J. M. Merry sends us from Chile a new provisional stamp 10c on 30c. The 30c orange (type A8) has been surcharged in two lines of fancy type "Diez"—"Centavos" in blue. The two lines of the surcharge are so arranged as not to mar the portrait of Columbus.

This, our correspondent says, is to replace the 10c red and black which is finished. He says that an entire new issue is contemplated soon. Chile has done more in the stamp line in the last two years than had happened in the previous twenty.

ON JANUARY 1st, 1904

the subscription price to

THE PERFORATOR

will be advanced to 50 cents per annum. Subscriptions received up to December 31, 1903, will be accepted at the present rate, 30 cents per year. The big holiday number will be issued December 15. If you miss it you'll be sorry.

THE PERFORATOR,
106 E. 111th Street, NEW YORK CITY.

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We have counted pound lots weighed out of this mixture that run as high as 8,000 stamps, they average about 6,000. It is the best cheap mixture ever sold, **\$1.00 per pound, post free**, in the United States.

C. H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

BIG VARIETY PACKETS

If you buy a variety packet, with which to start a general collection of postage stamps, buy a *big one*. It is not profitable to buy several smaller packets, as the commonest stamps are thus always duplicated.

Our 2,000 variety packet, the **best** on the market, price reduced to \$12.50, and contents improved. (Will catalogue over \$50.00 by 63rd Edition catalogue.)

The 3,000 variety packet reduced to \$35.00 is better than the *fifty-five* dollar packets offered by others.

Orders have been filled for 4,000 and 5,000 packets this month, and they have given the best satisfaction.

Our **1,000 variety packet** for \$3.25 *net* is far ahead of any similar lot offered.

Our packets should not be confused with the cheap mounted packets made in Europe and offered here by so many dealers.

All genuine postage stamps in our packets; no foreign revenues or reprints.

No. 115 Contains 2000 different postage stamps from all parts of the world. A collection of itself and highly recommended. **\$12.50**

2000 VARIETIES—\$12.50.

No. 152 A collection of 3000 different postage stamps. The best value obtainable. **\$35.00**

3000 VARIETIES—\$35.00.

No. 116 A big packet of 4000 varieties, a regular collection in itself, being stamps from almost every stamp-issuing country or colony in the world. *A great bargain.* **\$80.00**

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No. 156 A really fine collection of 5000 catalogued varieties of postage stamps from all parts of the world. **\$130.00**

5000 VARIETIES—\$130.00.

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES

Part 1, (British Empire) of Stanley Gibbons 1904 Catalogue is out, with prices in American money.

The newest in the publication line is *Morrison's Weekly Stamp Collector*, presumably from the Redfield press at Smethport, Pa. Vol. I, No. 1 is dated November 24th.

From the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, St. Louis, there have been received the advance sheets of a simplified catalogue, based on an approved, unencumbered system, embracing the stamps of the United States and colonies, with Cuba. Only what are called standard varieties are listed, and the plan of the publishers deserves all encouragement for the need of a "straight" sensible catalogue in these days of increasing philatelic complexities is felt directly by the ordinary collector.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*.

If you would know the latest 1904 prices of the standard varieties of United States, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippines and Porto Rico, send the publishers of this paper 10 cents for the Advanced Sheets.

C. A. Nast, of Denver, Clarence H. Eagle, of New York, and C. E. Severn, of Chicago, have each ordered of us within a few days a copy of "Mekeel's Stamp Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World" with appendix issued in 1894-95, for their philatelic libraries. We have very few copies of this work of 584 pages which we will supply as long as they last at \$1.00 per volume. Besides being a completely illustrated catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the world, the appendix contains valuable information in kindred lines including price list of Mexican Revenue Stamps, Confederate Provisionals, U. S. Locals, Telegraph Stamps and the only list of Western

Express Franks that has ever been compiled. Besides this, the appendix contains a very good illustrated list of entire U. S. Envelopes showing illustrations of the different shapes and watermarks and an encyclopedia of philatelic terms. Although the catalogue is of course out of date it would be a valuable addition to any philatelic library and the small supply we have resurrected will not last very long. \$1.00 post free of the publishers.

The latest from Colombia is a provisional surcharge for Return Registry Receipt known as "A. R." stamp. The 10c black on pink regular 1902 issue has been surcharged in three lines in large type running vertically in violet ink

Habilitado
Medellin
A. R.

Messrs. Arango, Valencia & Co., have very kindly reported the new issue.

A Society named the "Syndicat Francais" has issued a series of stamps for use in the New Hebrides. The stamps were intended for inter-island use, but after being in use for a month they were suppressed by the French authorities. The stamps are distinctly local in their use; they were not even accepted by the French Post Office in Noumea, being taxed as insufficiently paid. They are printed in sheets of 100 divided into four panes of 25 each. The stamps are not particularly elegant, two of the values depict a view of Francville, surrounded by an ornamental border, with a native on guard each side. The remaining two values have a scene depicting two well-known native trees, with a native standing in the foreground, surrounded by an ornamental frame, which at the top is surmounted by two boars' heads. Printed on wave paper and perforated.

From the Editorial Chair

It is good, in these days when so substantial a percentage of the philatelic army have seemingly gone money-mad in their collecting methods, to hear a cheery voice uplifted in honor of the simple, wholesome, old-fashioned method of collecting stamps for pleasure pure and simple—and totally irrespective of any possibility of financial gain. We have not for a long time seen in philatelic print any utterances so resoundingly inspiring to those who lack sympathy with the pestiferous activity of the money-changers in the temple as those of Major Evans in the Editorial columns of the *Monthly Journal's* recent issue. This is not the place in which to quote these utterances, or any portion of them—since our Department of Review exists for the specific purpose of dealing with such matters. But we cannot pass them by without some attempt to bring widely before our own readers certain vitally important aspects of this question of whether we shall collect for collecting's sake, or from the standpoint of the broker in securities.

Our Review Department gave due mention a short time since to Mr. Chas. J. Phillips' able paper on "Stamp Collecting as an Investment," which was the direct inspiration of Major Evans' remarks. Mr. Phillips' paper, in its turn, was undoubtedly more or less suggested by the spread of what is sometimes called "the new issue craze" in Europe and by the latest and most astounding claim made in behalf of that craze by its most assiduous boomer. Some of our readers (perhaps many of them) are doubtless familiar with "the only weekly stamp paper in Europe," with the forceful personality of its Editor and Publisher, and with the remarkable—we might almost say, phenomenal—stamp business which forms that paper's inspiration, mainstay and excuse for existence. The business we speak of is, beyond a question, one of the philatelic wonders of the

age. It does, we believe, carry some stock of the usual sort; and sells some stamps on the old, prosaic approval sheet plan. But the main thread of its transactions lies in the importation of new issues and dispensing them far and wide at a modest ratio of increase over face value. This is, in principle, no new thing. Dealers have been importing new issues, and in considerable quantities, too, for, lo, these many years. But no one has ever hitherto done it in so vast and magnificent, almost fabulous, a scale. This concern that we speak of has its agents in every stamp issuing country or colony; it is reputed to number its customers by the thousand; it bears every external evidence of rampant success—and all is the fruit of this one shibboleth, "new issues are bound to increase in value." Only those who have regularly read the organ can realize with what real genius, with what an excellent knowledge of the leading strings of human nature, this creed has been disseminated. Fortune favors the bold, and facts and figures unimpeachable in themselves have time and again come to the aid of the pilot of this new speculative gospel, in seeming to prove beyond cavil the soundness of his assertions. Many new issues *have* advanced in value, and in surprising ratio, within no long lapse of time from their nativity. Neither the materials from which to construct "tables of increase," or the ingenuity to invest them with that significance best suited to the interests of the new issue cult, have ever been lacking. And the number of collectors who to-day are zealously laying by goodly stores of new issues, in anticipation of some future halcyon realization time when pennies shall grow into dimes and dimes be transmitted into dollars, is without doubt exceedingly great.

It is not always given to genius to realize how high it may plausibly poise its flight; and some

time since the gentleman before referred to as the high-priest of this new issue cult somewhat overshot the limits of discretion in one of his articles. That article, which was widely commented upon at the time, bore the unctious title, "How to Become a Millionaire by Investing in Current Colonial Stamps," and, by an exceedingly ingenious series of figures, purported to demonstrate that the possessor of a few hundred pounds capital could become a millionaire inside of fifty years by investing in "unused current Colonials." This enticing mode of million making was founded on the theory that the average increase in value registered during the past few years on a certain list of recently issued stamps selected as the basis of computation would be sustained on the new issues of the next half century. The seeker after wealth, according to this plan, was to buy and lay by one or more copies of each newly issued stamp that appeared during a certain term of years (we believe seven years was the period mentioned) and at the expiration of that time he was to realize on his holdings, at a very large per cent of profit, figured on the basis aforesaid. He was then to "pyramid" his stock (to borrow a phrase from the stock exchange); that is, he was to re-invest his original capital and *all his profits* on the same plan as before; with the exception, of course, that he would this time operate on a larger scale and buy a larger number of copies of each new stamp that appeared. At the expiration of another seven years, he would again sell out; and commence over again—again using all his capital and profits and making still larger investments—and this process was to be repeated every-so-often with his investment constantly growing, snowball fashion, into larger and larger proportions, until at last, somewhere about 1950, he would finally sell out, for good and all, at something over *a million dollars*.

The figures and mode of reasoning by which this startling conclusion is reached bear strong family resemblances to those of the infallible bet-

ting systems devised for the use of those who seek fortune at the race tracks and the equally efficient plans for making the stock market one's own particular milch cow that are to be had of many advertisers in the public press at philanthropically modest prices. There is such an opulence of assumption, such a sweeping breadth of sanguine supposition in the lordly estimates of this prophetic English stamp seller that it quite takes one's breath away to consider them. And it is small wonder that an authoratative voice should have been raised in England to demonstrate their unsoundness and visionary character. Mr. Chas. J. Phillips was the man to puncture the bubble, and his execution of the task was workmanlike and thorough. In his article on "Stamp Collecting as an Investment," before mentioned, he demonstrated most conclusively the fallacy of the idea that great profits are to be expected from the hoarding of new issues. We need not here enter into any explanation or analysis of the points which he brought forward, and the arguments he made use of. These are matters that have already been fully dealt with in their proper place—the Department of Review—and if our readers are as thorough in their perusal of this journal as we hope they are, the giving of any account here of the nature of Mr. Phillips' essay would be needless repetition. Suffice it to say that they were conclusive, and that the folly of "new issue speculation" was made so clear that any man reading it understandingly could no longer be under any misconception of the real facts of the case.

But Mr. Phillips did not stop here. He went on to consider the relative eligibility, from the investor's standpoint, of various classes of stamps, according to various natural and territorial classifications—and to consider it very minutely, indeed. Some of the innermost secrets of stamp dealing are, in a sense, revealed. Collectors are informed which emissions of certain countries are actually scarce and which only artificially and seem-

ingly so. Advice is given as to certain special countries that may advantageously be taken up by men able to spend a certain yearly sum on stamps. To those who are able to set aside a larger stamp appropriation, other and more difficult countries are recommended. This, we are told, we can buy with assurance of safe investment; that, we will do well to let alone. The whole article rings with the thoughts, sentiments and considerations of the market place. What is likely to increase in value; what is fairly certain to stand still or fall back—this is the dominant note of Mr. Phillips' paper. An able paper it is—indeed, the ablest on the subject that we have ever seen—and yet it leaves a bit of a bad taste in the mouth, after all. Is profit and loss the dominant philatelic consideration? Are the aims of modern philatelists grimly, seriously commercial? Is it a pastime or an amateur, free-for-all, brokerage game that we stamp men are engaging in? These are questions that we cannot help debating a little, in the face of so much serious advice to the investor. And then, providentially, up pops Major Evans to restore our equilibrium once more.

The Major does not quite relish all this insistence upon making the philatelic pocket money pay dividends. He realizes, as do all of us, what a grand thing it is that stamps, costing as much money as they do, should have a distinct realizable value. But he believes, if we read his meaning aright, that the real aim and end of true stamp collecting is pleasure and mental profit; that the buying, bartering and selling incidental to the pursuit should be considered as simply a subordinate side of the collector's task, and that the "investment" feature of stamp collecting is usurping to itself altogether too large a share of the attention of the average collector. With these views we are heartily in accord. Philately is not being benefited by the spread of the "investment" idea—which is neither more nor less than our old friend "speculation" under a new guise. The stamp album is not a coupon bond;

and all attempts to so consider it are subversive to the healthy spread of philatelic interest of the unalloyed, unimpeachable kind. It breeds a race of weak-kneed, fair weather philatelists, who cannot be counted on to remain in Philately when unfavorable gales arise. The whole idea and principle of the thing is wrong. Why should self-professed collectors—amateurs, not professional philatelists—seek to make money out of collecting? Philately is not a business, but a pastime. Everyone of us first started to collect stamps because we found something attractive and fascinating in so doing. We gladly spent money on stamps with no thought of return—with no thought but that it was irrevocably spent. We rejoiced in the possession of our stamps, and bought a stamp for no other reason than because we wanted it. Why have so many of us gradually come to view our stamps in so different a light; to prize the stamp that rises in value and almost despise its brother that does not; to make our purchases according to the financial forecasts of philatelic prophets, rather than according to the vagrant fancy and impulse that ruled us in former days? This may, perhaps, seem a severe way of indicating a fact that almost everyone recognizes—namely, that many collectors nowadays are mere automatons, so far as any fixed collection-building policy of their own is concerned, but are governed by the printed advice of those who assume the speech of authority in such matters in making additions to their collections. They buy, not those stamps that form the most interesting study, but those that rumor predicts are likely to rise in value. And this is the grievous feature of the whole matter. As Major Evans points out, the stamps which are the most talked of for a rise are often the least interesting from a true philatelic standpoint. Collecting on the investment principle is almost sure to cramp and narrow the collector's horizon; because he is not really a free agent. We must not collect purely according to the dictates of inclination. That would be totally opposed to the

investment idea. Personal desires and tastes must, to a large extent, be subordinated to the possibilities of profit. Probably a large majority of those collectors who have become thoroughly saturated with the investment idea are not themselves consciously aware of quite what an extent they have departed from their former philatelic ideals. The transition from collecting purely for pleasure to collecting largely for profit is gradual; and many a philatelist who has passed through this transition attributes the peculiar lines on which his collection is being developed to anything but the true cause. This thing of collecting for profit undoubtedly vitiates, to a certain extent, one's philatelic taste. To collectors of this kidney, there is nothing appreciably interesting in stamps that are out of fashion—in stamps that do not often figure in auction quotations and are not, for the nonce, being at all talked about or pushed by the dealers. For example, take the British Colonials. As a whole, these are as intrinsically interesting a body of stamps as could well be mentioned. And yet can any one properly claim that they possess the same degree of interest to American collectors in particular as the emissions of the United States itself? The stamps of the United States form an intensely interesting series from every point of view. Their collection and classification affords ample opportunity for the most pleasant and profitable sort of philatelic study—and there is the further incentive of patriotic impulse to favor their popularity with American collectors. Yet right here in America, where an exact reverse of conditions would naturally be looked for, infinitely more money has been spent in purchasing British Colonials during the last two or three years than on the stamps of the United States. The reason for this seemingly anomaly is obvious. On all hands the cry has been raised that British Colonials were going up; no similar state of affairs has been looked for in the case of U. S. stamps; hence the eagerness in regard to English Colonials and the apathy in regard to the stamps of

Uncle Sam. And this is but one typical instance of the effects of the "investment" idea.

Why, in the name of common sense, should real philatelic enthusiasts follow any such course? Why cannot we all go back to the good old way of collecting as our fancy pleases, in blissful unconcern whether the prices of our stamps rise or fall? That way true pleasure lies. The other is fraught with worryment at the best; and eye-opening disappointment in a vast number of cases. A stamp collection of the right sort is something to be kept and enjoyed, not disposed of whenever there arises the possibility of doing so at a profit. If collectors generally would only regard their accumulations in this light; if they would only disabuse themselves of the idea that sometime they will want to sell their collections, how glorious an era for Philately would be ushered in. There is too much of the transient, here-to-day-and-there-tomorrow spirit in modern collecting. Philatelists treat their collections far too cavalierly. If for a little while other interests intervene and the collector discerns in himself any waning of philatelic interest, away goes the collection to the auction room. By and by, the old liking reasserts itself and a fresh collection is started, to find its way in due course of time to the same disunion under the hammer as befell its predecessor. Indeed, it is no uncommon thing to meet with men who have made and dispersed three or four good sized collections within a couple of decades or less. It was not always thus—nor will it, we trust, be always thus in the future. A stamp collection is, in a sense, a part of the life of he or she who forms it. Oftener than not, its beginnings trace back to the days when manhood or womanhood was still a thing far distant. It has grown with your growth and well-nigh every page is invested with its own special reminiscence. How many pleasant hours are represented between those covers; how many an association lingers about this stamp or that one; how many an episode, or thought, or aspiration is

woven into the collection, discoverable to one eye alone, and valueless to every other person in the whole wide world. Is such a possession as this a thing to be bartered away on slight pretext? And can such a collection ever be built up by those whose interest in Philately, whatever it may have been in the beginning, has come to be nothing more than coldly, dispassionately commercial?

This is the root of the whole matter—whether you buy your stamps to sell again by and by, or for permanent possession. The books in your library—would you willingly sell them? The thousand and one little ornaments and trinkets and household gewgaws that deck your house—would you willingly sell them? Why, then, this eagerness in stamp collecting to so buy that you can profitably sell?

Perhaps we are sermonizing a little; perhaps we may seem to be making stamp collecting purely a matter of sentiment. So be it. The whole fabric of Philately is built on sentiment, pure and simple. Cold calculation and ironbound commercialism are invaders from abroad. The true way to collect is to collect for pleasure and to go whithersoever it leads you. There is no other true way; there never can be any other true way; and the sooner collectors cease to buy for profit, but buy instead for pleasure, the better will it be for all interests concerned.

We would have no reader deduce from all that has gone before that we have any notion that Philately is going to the demnition bow-wows. Quite otherwise. There has not been a time in several years past when we felt so certain that Philately's future was so well assured as at the present time. There are some clouds on the horizon, some unfortunate phases of modern collecting that do not coincide with the best interests of Philately. But adverse conditions of one sort or another have always beset Philately from its very dawn of existence and Philately has always triumphantly overcome them. So

that there need be no real fear but that in the fulness of time Philately will have solved the perplexities of these present-day problems, which will by that time have been succeeded, doubtless, by troubles of some other cast which will for the time being seem fully as vexatious and menacing as those of to-day. For Philately seems to be fated to be always contending with something of this kind—yet, year in and year out there are a good many tens of thousands, counting philatelists the whole world over, who continue to collect as placidly and pleasantly as if there were never a cloud in the sky. And, therefore, we need not be really alarmed, no matter what forebodings; and certainly not over any omens of evil that the philatelic horizon can muster at present.

There is one point which has been brought to our attention lately, and which perhaps deserves some consideration in this connection. We refer to the marked decrease in interest evidenced of late in several American philatelic societies of one sort and another that profess to be national in their scope. One of these has lately expired, through lack of support—namely, the Philatelic Sons of America, a body which at one time, we believe, mustered very nearly a thousand members. This Society, as probably most of our readers are aware, was intended mainly for the younger class of collectors. Its affairs, up to the last two or three years, were ably conducted; its annual conventions were largely attended, enthusiastic gatherings; its Exchange Department handled a considerable volume of business; and it seemed, in short, quite a model young collector's society. Why should this flourishing body have dwindled away into oblivion; why should the American Philatelic Association be languishing along with not many more than five hundred members, when it once had double that number; why should Canada's national society be in similar case, and the one or two other American bodies of any age and standing whatsoever in a semi-moribund condition? Is it not possible to explain in a sentence, or in

a paragraph, the causes underlying these effects? There are, perhaps, quite a number of different reasons why our national societies do not thrive as they used to. And probably the principal reason is to be found in the decided changes that have taken place in the scope and trend of American philatelic journalism within the last few years. A decade ago the land was full of small and more or less amateur stamp periodicals. For some years in the early nineties, there were between sixty and eighty of these in existence, counting all sorts, big and little, worthy and worthless. They were for the most part conducted by enthusiastic young collectors whose school days were scarcely over, and their character was largely personal and political, rather than purely philatelic. The doings of philatelists and of philatelic societies were their meat and bread. From one year's end to the other the concerns of the two or three bodies of national importance were given a word of attention; and for the two or three months preceding the annual conventions and elections these journals were fairly permeated with "society matter." As a natural result of all this, interest in the big societies was kept up to a high mark and they flourished like the green bay tree.

But gradually this school of philatelic journalism passed away. It was, at most, a frail growth, easily toppled over in season of adversity. Few such journals "paid their way." They were published more for the pleasure of their proprietors than from any other motive, and as long as receipts almost equalled expenses—their terms of life was safe. But as Philately gradually developed a new journalistic era, in which the weekly usurped the place of the monthly to a large degree, these amateur periodicals found further existence impossible, in a vast majority of cases, except at a greater loss than their owners cared to face. And so the amateur philatelic periodical faded from the land, and with their departure commenced the decline of the societies they had nurtured. We refer, of course, more

to such bodies as the Philatelic Sons of America and the Sons of Philatelia than to the American Philatelic Association, which, as an association of the older class of collectors, received less stimulus from the cause we have noted and therefore suffered less materially from its extinction. The decline of membership and prestige to be noted in the case of the American Philatelic Association during the past few years is, in our judgment, mostly due to the rise of strong local societies in almost all the larger cities, which local societies have to a great extent replaced the national body in the regard and interest of city collectors—the very class to whom a national organization must largely look for its support and success. There have been some other factors that have helped to hold the national association back, such as factional strife and the loss of credit sustained by the abandonment of its own official organ in favor of meager space in papers not otherwise devoted to its interests. There is also the undoubted disinclination of the average philatelist to pay out his money without some hope of tangible return to be considered in the reckoning. But the cause we have indicated has, we think, been the main factor in the decline of this once very powerful body.

But need we be at all cast down over the faint vitality of American national philatelic bodies at the present time; or over the disappearance of that class of philatelic periodicals that formerly played so large a part in sustaining the interest of the younger collector? Assuredly, we think not. It may very likely be true that there are fewer boys in Philately than in the days when their organs came from every corner of the land—but, on the other hand, there are more men. There is less noise in Philately now than there was a decade since; less of the splutter on the surface that was so very apparent then; but there is more serious collecting. American Philately has settled down to what we may call a more matter of

(Continued on page 589)

Philately and Numismatics at the Great World's Fair?

That the leading collecting pursuits have not been worthily recognized by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition is received with disappointment by the many associated with Philately and Numismatics. St. Louis is not a collectors' city; it is said to have a smaller number of collectors than any city in the world with a Caucasian population of over 500,000. The limited local interest may have been a factor in the Exposition not appreciating the interesting, valuable, educational and curious exhibition that can and would be made by the collectors of the world.

St. Louis Postmaster Stamps, jewels in the philatelic diadem found their origin in the Exposition city, some of the varieties of which are among the most rare and valuable stamps of the world. This has given the Philatelist particular reason to anticipate that a grand stamp exhibition would be provided for. The Numismatist is an indispensable factor in the sale of a souvenir coin; that his much loved science has not been specifically recognized, has not been kindly received. The omission of provision for a Collectors' Exhibit has not been an intentional one on the part of the Exposition. That it has not appreciated the worth, character, and the hundreds of thousands who are students and patrons of these subjects is evident. There is yet time for the great World's Fair to arrange and present the largest and grandest philatelic and numismatic display that has ever been collectively presented in this country.

With proper provision for their installation and safety (as other objects of art) the collectors of the world will be gracious exhibitors of the most interesting specimens extant. There is yet time. Will the Exposition take the proper steps to bring it about?

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Numismatic Department

EDITED BY FARRAN ZERBE

It is our purpose to make this Department a thorough recorder of the numismatic events and to review those parts of past history believed of timely interest to our readers, the student, the collector and the dealer. Inquiries, comments, and contributions for publication, within the field of numismatics will be appreciated and should be addressed to the Numismatic Department.

"Coins are the breviaries of antiquity, the torch light of history, the supplements, of the vacillating and darkening faith, the fabulem of reading. The papyraceous sea has its ebb and flow, all do not break through by force nor do all written pages go forth to immortality. The coin alone scorns the power of death, glorying, in a metallic eternity."

Numismatic Illustration of Coins Permitted

The editor is in receipt of the following circular from John E. Wilkie, chief of the secret service division of the Treasury Department of the United States:

"(PUBLIC—No. 165.)"

"An Act to amend section three of the 'Act further to prevent counterfeiting or manufacturing of dies, tools, or other implements used in manufacturing,' and so forth, approved February tenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section three of an Act entitled 'An Act further to prevent counterfeiting or manufacturing of dies, tools, or other implements used in manufacturing, and providing penalties therefor, and providing for the issue of such warrants in certain cases,' approved February tenth,

eighteen hundred and ninety-one, be, and is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. That every person who makes, or causes, or procures to be made, or who brings into the United States from any foreign country, or who shall have in possession with intent to sell, give away or in any other manner use the same, any business or professional card, notice, placard, token, device, print or impression, or any other thing whatsoever, in likeness or similitude as to design, color, or the inscription thereon, of any of the coins of the United States or of any foreign country that have been or hereafter may be issued as money, either under the authority of the United States or under the authority of any foreign government, shall upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars. But nothing in this Act shall be construed to forbid or prevent the printing and publishing of illustrations of coins and medals, or the making of the necessary plates for the same, to be used in illustrating numismatic and historical books and journals and the circulars of legitimate publishers and dealers in the same."

New Life To Numismatics

Not since 1891 has it been permissible to illustrate coins in publications printed or circulated within the United States. The Act then passed bereft numismatics of its most interesting publication factor, and the father of the law then enacted, had no such purpose in view in the framing of his bill, but the necessity of the most stringent protection of government securities and obligations, against the counterfeiter and unscrupulous, prompted the enactment, which in its wording made its scope so far reaching, that since that time it has been a misdemeanor punish-

able by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for even the making of a tracing or rubbing of any coin of this or any other country.

The rigid enforcement of the law in its relation to coin illustrations was not immediate, but within three years it had been made thoroughly effective; publications were forced to suspend, plates were seized and destroyed, and a number were forced to retire from a business that had for years been a pleasure and profit. In a short time the best illustrated books for numismatic reference were "out of print." Since then there have been many authoritatively prepared and well edited publications covering many fields of the science; most have been without any illustrations; some few ventured a limited use of cuts, and others who desired to give any number of illustrations, gave a partial or dissected view of its subjects; notwithstanding, these publications have sold at a nominal price, the "out of print" illustrated editions, that, when originally published sold for fifty cents, have steadily advanced in value whenever offered for sale, until competitive bidding advanced their price to \$7.50, which is conclusive evidence that thorough and complete illustrations are craved by those interested.

Now that the illustrating privilege has been restored a new life has been given to numismatics and the COLLECTOR is going to be a liberal enjoyer of this new life and privilege. The converts and devotees, the collectors and students who have been added to the numismatic roll within the last decade and who, for the want of opportunity or price have not become the possessors of well illustrated publications, will now have the advantage of what was the A B C's to the older "hobbyite."

It is the aim of this Department to give to those who have not yet celebrated their "tin wedding" with numisma all the advantages of this new life we can command. Commencing with this issue appears our first paper on The Money of the United States, Illustrated; Colonial, Memorial and Governmental—Metal

and Paper. Each division will appear under its subject heading, and its currency will be treated seriatim; parts of different divisions may appear in the same issue, as the matter is prepared and space commanded. The subject matter will be carefully prepared and every type will be illustrated and when completed it will be the most thorough and complete illustrated history of the currency of the United States that has ever appeared within the bounds of a single title.

A file of the coming issues of the COLLECTOR means a complete illustrated history of the money of the United States. To possess this to-day means the purchase of several volumes and an expenditure of about twenty dollars and much of the contents thereof, are facts of a decade ago. If you are not a subscriber, "now is the acceptable time:" To say nothing of the COLLECTOR'S primary feature and its general resume of numismatic events, if you will profit by a sure tip on a 40 to 1 shot, here it is—SUBSCRIBE.

We are voicing the sentiment of the numismatic world at large when we say, all are grateful to Hon. Boies Penrose of Philadelphia, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, for his introduction of the bill and efforts in its behalf by which the illustrating privilege has been restored.

Some errors crept into our late article on Encased Postage Stamps; its publication developed considerable interest in this subject and some varieties not recorded therein have been reported. A list will be re-published with additions and corrections at an early date, and we will be pleased to hear promptly from all who have anything new to offer on the subject.

Was there ever an 1804 half dollar of the United States? "In the variety 5 over 4 we have positive evidence an 1804 die was prepared, it is natural to suppose at least a die trial piece was struck." This is expressing the sentiments of one of the best informed numismatists of the central west; having the advantage of youth, the coming

generation may find him a dean of the science. No 1804 half dollars have ever been known or recorded, and if one should be brought to light there would at least be one argument in its favor: a die had been prepared.

Numismatics in this country needs all the assistance, encouragement and moral support it can command. Honorable dealings between collector and dealer are of vital importance to its future. The beginner can only have his interest maintained by fair treatment and honest statements; from the young collector of to-day is to come the advanced numismatist of the future. To gain and hold the confidence of a new collector is not only giving great moral assistance to the science, but it is the stepping stone to what may prove a very valuable customer for years to come. The beginner, who, for lack of knowledge, becomes the victim of deceptive practices, sooner or later discovers the deception. With his confidence weakened, his interest lags and perhaps the pursuit is given up—disgusted.

A contribution to numismatic literature is now in preparation by an eastern collector, who will publish a work on the Carolina Gold Coins and of which he has for years been a specialist.

Small gold pieces, classed as charms, octagonal and round and of the size of the gold quarters and half dollars that were issued from the private mints of California from the early '50's to the late '70's, are being made, sold and advertised at prices almost approaching those commanded by the coins and in some instances have been represented as genuine coins. They are but charms; have no numismatic value and should be represented as such. Their stamp bears no indication of a money value (the same being prohibited) and though of recent making some bear dates of the '50's. One of this type of charm can be recognized by the word EUREKA which appears on it.

The Peso recently struck at the United States Mint at Philadelphia for circulation in the Philippines has been pronounced the finest silver coin ever issued by a U. S. mint. The peso is comparable with a dollar; the subsidiary coinage, which is equally fine, includes Fifty, Twenty and Ten Centavo pieces; the minor coinage consists of Five Centavo, nickel and One Centavo and One Half Centavo bronze. This, the first coinage of this country, for a territorial possession will be illustrated in a future number of the COLLECTOR.

Chicago Numismatists have taken the initial steps towards organizing a local society. At a preliminary meeting held the early part of October a temporary organization was effected. Mr. Ben G. Green, who is active in promoting the proposed organization, was made temporary chairman.

Antiquarian Knight, Charles Steigerwalt, of Lancaster, Pa., having completed his stock catalogue of coins, is now engaged in preparing catalogues of his other various antique and interesting accumulations including rare books, engravings, autographs, stamps, old china, etc.

Mexican dollars are rapidly disappearing from circulation in the Philippines, being replaced by the new and special coinage of the United States for these Islands, and it is anticipated that by January 1, 1904, at which date the Mexican coins will cease to be legal tender, the only circulating coin will be the Philippine peso and the various centavo denominations.

Numismatists are even sought by cupid. Albert S. Elwell, the well-known collector of Bridgeton, N. J., supposedly a confirmed old bachelor, on November 5th, claimed a Philadelphia lady for his bride. This news comes from one of our "past masters," who has been a confirmed

old bachelor so long it is almost time for a re-confirmation. Since he volunteered a social instead of a scientific item; just wonder if cupid has n't discovered him.

The Southern California Stamp Co. of Santa Ana report that the increasing business in their numismatic department requires all their time and attention and they are considering disposing of their stamp stock, etc. A specimen worthy a place in every numismatic cabinet is a historical medal originally issued in connection with the Columbian Exposition, the small remainder of which has been purchased by this Company. The medal is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, is furnished in silver plate and bronze proofs at 25 cents each.

Dr. Thomas Hall, who has the largest and finest collection of Colonial and copper cents in New England, says regarding the 1799 cent in Morey's late sale and which was catalogued as unique: "I have examined under high power and critically the enclosed '99 cent. I have no hesitation in saying it is thoroughly genuine and authentic as far as my experience and knowledge warrants. The break on the reverse (so-called mint mark) does not show to the naked eye, but under high power I find evidence of its original existence. The long line break on the reverse I do not recall to have ever seen before or heard of. The existence of this line-like break must be a great rarity."

H. E. Morey, the veteran "Little Catalogue" Mail Auction Numismatist of Boston, writes: "Trade is gradually improving as it is bound to do now that the out-door games and recreations are mostly over and the boys are back to school." In his 76th sale, distributed October 25th, for which we are in receipt of priced catalogue, we note that good prices prevail throughout, the most notable

offering being "An exceedingly fine set of cents. It will take many years to get together its equal. It was completed forty years ago. The best set I have had to sell in my fifteen years experience." This set of 64 pieces was reserved at \$200 and sold for \$220. It contained a unique 1799, which is noted elsewhere. His November sale promises a fine lot of Colonials.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE GOLD DOLLAR

Finest Example of Modern Coinage Art



The late coins issued from the United States Mint at Philadelphia to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and known as the Louisiana Purchase Gold Dollar have been pronounced by numismatists the finest examples of modern coining art. This coinage, which will live as a metallic memorial of the great World's Fair of 1904, was provided for by a specific Act of Congress, which also limits their issue to 250,000 pieces. The entire coinage will be delivered direct to the Exposition Company and will represent a part of the Government's general appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Exposition.

These specially designed coins are of two types: two obverses having the same reverse; 125,000 bear an excellent likeness of Thomas Jefferson—the Government father of the Louisiana Purchase. This portrait of Jefferson, which is pronounced the best known, was taken from one of the medals in the Mint cabinet, the original of which was engraved by John Reich, who, for some years during the Jefferson period, was connected with the Mint. The other 125,000 present the profile of William McKin-

ley, the Government father of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The McKinley portrait was also taken from a Mint cabinet medal, for which the late president gave special sittings to Mint Engraver Charles E. Barber, and which is considered by the late president's friends his best portrait.

Surrounding these profile portraits is the inscription: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The reverse is inscribed: LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION | ST. LOUIS | which surrounds ONE | DOLLAR | 1803 | 1903 and a small olive branch, emblematic of peace.

Gold dollars were first issued in 1849 and coined every year until discontinued in 1889. During these forty years over nineteen million pieces passed to circulation, and, though it is less than fifteen years since they ceased to be coined, all have disappeared from circulation. In fact this type of coin is a curiosity to many and the most common dates command \$2 each from coin dealers and the rarest date, 1875, of which but 420 were coined, is in demand at prices approaching \$60.

The general interest that is to be found for the regular issue prompted the Exposition Company to adopt the gold dollar for its commemorative coinage; and the prices the regular issue commands, considering the large number that were coined, led to placing the price of \$3 on the Louisiana Purchase gold dollar. In an official circular it is stated: "No coins of this issue will be placed upon sale at a lower figure." Most all who will find an interest in preserving this coin, which may be called a gem, will want both types and in this respect only 125,000 purchasers can be accommodated.

The Louisiana Purchase gold dollar is the fourth child in the numismatic family of United States commemorative issues; it is the diminutive member of that family but the most artistic and powerful, as it is the finest example of designing, engraving and stamping and is of gold.

The older members of the family are less fine and all in the baser metal, silver. The first commemorative coins to be issued by the United States were in connection with the Columbian Exposition and included the Columbian half dollar and the Isabel quarter, 5,000,000 of the former and 40,000 of the latter were coined. The third coin in this class, which is officially termed "Souvenir," is the Lafayette silver dollar; 50,000 pieces were issued.

It is anticipated that the approaching holidays will produce a large demand for these commemorative gold dollars for gift purposes. With this demand in view a large order was recently filled for a distant point.

This coin is here illustrated for the first time. Justice to its artistic merits cannot be given in an illustration. The excellent portraiture that has been reproduced within the diameter of half an inch, is indicative of our country's progress and leadership in the art of die engraving and metal stamping.

Orders addressed to our Numismatic Editor, enclosing \$3.00 for each coin wanted and 10 cents for postage and registration, will be promptly filled as an accommodation to our readers



Libraries, Colleges and Banks

The COLLECTOR in recording the history of its subjects, presents much worthy of a place on the reading table of every public, college and school library; particularly if they possess museums or a collection, or have any interest in philatelic and numismatic subjects. In thoroughly covering the numismatic field this publication offers much of special interest to those associated with banking institutions. Bankers are well represented in the body of the country's coin collectors, but even those having no interest in the subject as collectors, will find our currency chronicles, new issues, new counterfeits and the value of obsolete and rare coins a valuable weekly budget. Take advantage of our special 50c subscription offer on page 583.

The Money of the United States

ILLUSTRATED

COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL, GOVERNMENTAL

METAL AND PAPER

[Copyrighted 1903 by FARRAN ZERBE.]

In the decade that has elapsed since numismatic illustrations were last permitted in the United States, there have been changes in numismatic conditions; new history has been made and written; new varieties and types have been discovered and recorded, and new issues have been made. The author, compiler, and publisher could not, but give cold type facts being forced to omit that which is appreciated by all interested in the science and most important to the average collector—an illustration. The well prepared and illustrated editions, covering the preceding history of our subject have long ago become almost unattainable and command prices prohibitory to the many that would profit by their possession, notwithstanding they have become obsolete as a guide to values and that time has corrected some of their statements.

There is little new to record in text; the publisher and press contributor has been liberal in telling all the stories and telling them well, but they are scattered through numerous volumes and multitudinous journals; to extract the essence, sift the wheat from the chaff and present it in accessible form will be our endeavor.

Every known type, (not variety) for which material can be commanded (our efforts to date promise no omissions) will be illustrated; a complete album of the numismatic family of this country.

A glance at the title and its divisions suggests that we are going to give the whole show. We hope to, but this only refers to the main exhibition; there will be various side shows in the way of Pattern, Experimental, Confederate Issues etc.

An effort will be made to make a

record of values, impartial and complete; it will not be either a selling catalogue or a buying price list: the average or auction records, with consideration to the supply and prices asked by dealers, will be our guide; a value to be placed on your possession and a fair price to pay a dealer, remembering if you wish to sell to a dealer, he must buy at a price, to sell at a profit. Prices may be missing in connection with a few of the extreme rarities; to value those of which none have been sold in recent years would be pure guess work.

Much within this subject will not be new to the old or advanced collector, but we will strive to have something new for all, even for the past masters; it may only be a bit of some unrecorded history or a first illustration, if nothing more; some subjects will be treated in a new form and, as a whole, we hope to make it worthy of their commendation. It is the young collector we would in this, endeavor to best serve, helping him to know aright and encouraging a pursuit that is educational and profitable and produces an increasing fascination; the study and classification of coins becomes a paramount pleasure for an idle hour, a saving bank and an investment of profit for a spare dollar.

The treatment of our subject will be in no way abridged but much documentary details believed unnecessary for the general collector will be eliminated. He who specializes in coins, etc., must necessarily specialize in their literature. With accuracy for our watchword it is our object to prepare that which to the student and collector will be complete, and a standard for reference and information on the money of the United States.

GOVERNMENTAL

United States Copper Coins.

HALF CENTS

Authorized to be coined, Act of April 2, 1792, weight 132 grains: weight changed: Act of January 14, 1793, to 104 grains: weight changed by proclamation of the President January 26, 1796, in conformity with Act of March 3, 1795; to 84 grains. First coined in 1793; coinage discontinued, Act of February 21, 1857, and never resumed; total number of pieces coined 7,985,222; value, \$39,926.11. None coined 1798, 1799, 1801, 1812 to 1824, 1827, 1830, 1837 to 1839; Mint reports record 12,166 coined in 1799—none are known of this date and if struck in that year were from dies of other dates; 1796, the rarest date of the series, is credited with 115,480 pieces; this number was never coined bearing this date, which is extremely rare, seldom offered for sale and commands from \$20 to \$50; 1831, 1836, 1840 to 1848, 1849 (small date) and 1852 were of limited coinage and in proof only, rarely offered for sale and valued at from \$15 to \$40; there are re-strikes of all these dates (except 1852) struck some years later; these are rare and readily command \$5.00 to \$15. The re-strikes 1840 to 1849 (the latter small date) have the reverse of the 1849 (illustrated) type, smaller berries than originals; it is believed the re-strike of the 1836 is more rare than the original; counterfeits and electrotypes exist of all the rare dates.

In the collection of that excellent numismatist, Mr. Lorin G. Parmlee, of Boston, sold in June, 1890, the series of half cents were represented in almost superb condition and were well worthy of the prices they commanded; an uncirculated, rare type of the 1793 sold for \$25, and what is perhaps the greatest price ever paid for a half cent and one which may never become greater, was \$110 for a "very fine" 1796. As an evidence of what condition means in the price of our early copper coinage, the not "very rare" in ordinary condition

dates of 1800 and 1811 were "very fine" and commanded \$20 and \$21 respectively. The other rare dates "coined in proof only;" originals, sold at from \$15 to \$23, except 1852, \$10?

This coin, the most diminutive denomination ever made by this country, was its first issued currency and the first whose denomination was discontinued. The needs for having adopted this fractional part of our lowest value computing factor were many at the time, and particularly because Colonial and foreign coins of this commercial value were then in circulation and articles were priced and sold in half cents; with our country's progress values rose, the needs for a half cent disappeared and their use following the first decade of the century was mostly confined to multiples. Half of the total number issued were coined previous to 1810, after which year their coinage, with few exceptions, was limited. They long ago disappeared from the channels of trade and while all other discontinued types and denominations of United States coin have found oblivion, the half cent is the only one that Treasury reports do not record some portion of their issue redeemed. Since 1857 each annual report of the Treasury Department has shown \$39,926.11 in half cents (the total issue) "outstanding." Some have been redeemed (not many) but not recorded. The writer prizes a Treasury voucher for the redemption of two half cent pieces. United States Treasurer Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, in reply to a late inquiry, wrote: "It is several years since any half cent pieces were redeemed. The date cannot be stated, as the pieces would be received with other coin and not reported separately." This coin is to-day a curiosity to many. It has always been an interesting one for the collector, Young America in particular, and many with no interest in numismatics enjoy possessing one of the old half cents for a pocket piece. Good quantities are to be found in dealers' stocks but they are gradually becoming scarce, particularly those in fine condition. All now command a premium and well

preserved specimens will increase in value as the years roll by.

NOTE:—Type: illustrated. Varieties: briefly described. Number Coined from Director of the Mint reports: The inaccuracy of the number of pieces coined bearing date of a given year, as recorded for the first years of the Mint's history, is acknowledged in the following note which accompanies late Treasury reports on the coinage of the United States. "Not susceptible of exact statements by years of the actual date of coin, the registry of announced coinage being of coin delivered by coiners of mints within the given year and these deliveries not having been invariably completed within the year of the date of the coin, as now required."

Fair: Worn but everything plain. Good: Evidence of circulation, details distinct. Fine: But little evidence of circulation, trifling blemishes. Value: The prices given are an average of late auction records and dealers' prices, a value to be placed on your possession and a fair price to pay a dealer, remembering if you wish to sell to a dealer he must buy at a price, to sell at a business profit.

1797	.....	lettered edge, pole, l'g'd t.	2.00	5.00
1797	107,048	plain edge, pole, l'g date.	.50	1.00
1797	.....	l over date.	.50	1.00
1797	.....	pole, small date.	1.00	2.00



1800 to 1808

All Plain Edge (Hereafter)

1800	211,530	.....	.25	.50
1802	14,366	over 1800 (always)	1.00	3.00
1803	97,900	over 1802	.50	.75
1803	.....	perfect date	.25	.50
1804	.....	plain 4	.25	.50
1804	.....	plain 4, stemless wreath	.15	.25
1804	1,055,312	crosslet 4,	.25	.50
1804	.....	crosslet 4, stems	.15	.25
1804	.....	4, protruding chin	.35	.60
1805	814,464	over 1803	.25	.50
1805	.....	stemless wreath	.25	.50
1806	356,000	small 6	.15	.25
1806	.....	large 6	.15	.25
1807	476,000	.....	.15	.25
1808	400,000	.....	.15	.25
1808	.....	over 1807	.25	.50



1809 to 1836

1809	.....	.....	.15	.25
1809	1,154,572	over 6, 9 first sunk inv'td	.20	.50
1809	.....	circle in cipher	.25	.75
1810	215,000	.....	.25	.50
1811	63,140	.....	.50	1.00
1825	63,000	.....	.20	.40
1826	234,000	.....	.15	.25
1828	606,000	twelve stars	.25	.50
1828	.....	thirteen stars	.15	.25
1829	487,000	.....	.15	.25
1831	2,200?	proof only	15.00	30.00
1831	.....	restricke	5.00	15.00
1832	154,000	.....	.15	.25
1833	120,000	.....	.15	.25
1834	141,000	.....	.15	.25
1835	398,000	.....	.15	.25
1836	.....	.....	.....	.....



1793. THE FIRST

Edge Lettered: TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR

Date	No. Coined	Varieties	Fair	Good
1793	see below,	small date	\$1.50	\$3.00
1793	.....	large date	2.50	3.50

Coined in proof only, restrickers, see subject matter



1794 to 1797

With Plain and Lettered Edge

1794	.....	lettered edge	.50	1.25
1795	'93 to '95	.....	.50	1.00
1795	142,534	" " date 1,795.	1.00	2.00
1795	.....	plain edge, date 1,795.	.50	1.50
1795	.....	without pole.	.50	1.00
1796	115,480	plain edge, without pole.	20.00	50.00
1796	.....	plain edge, with pole.	25.00	60.00



1849 to 1857

1849	39,864	large date	.25	.50
1850	39,812	.....	.25	.50
1851	147,672	.....	.15	.25
1852	.....	proof only	15.00	30.00
1853	129,694	.....	.15	.25
1854	55,358	.....	.15	.25
1855	56,500	.....	.15	.25
1856	40,430	.....	.15	.25
1857	35,180	discontinued act, Feb. 21	.25	.50

(To be continued.)

Special Subscription Offer

Copies of this COLLECTOR are sent with Numismatic compliments, to many interested in Numismatology, and we trust our initial efforts towards making numismatics a notable feature of the COLLECTOR will meet with your approval and that we may have evidence of your appreciation and support which will contribute to making possible, what is now our aim: to make the COLLECTOR the leading exponent and chronicler of all things of interest to those associated with numismatic subjects.

The most appreciated evidence of your co-operation will be in recording your name on our subscription list and if you have an interest in any of the collecting pursuits, there are abundant reasons why you should have the COLLECTOR during the coming year.

The home of the COLLECTOR is the Louisiana Purchase Exposition city, the great World's Fair of 1904 will present more objects worthy of the collector's interest than perhaps ever before assembled. St. Louis, during the coming year, will be the Mecca for all things interesting, curious, antique, unique and rare, and the COLLECTOR will be a faithful recorder of all happenings, objects and subjects believed of interest to those associated with any one of the "hobbies." A file of the COLLECTOR from now

until the close of 1904 will be one of the most diversified and interesting volumes, perhaps ever published within the field of Philately, Numismatics and Archeology. To those receiving this sample copy we make this special offer: For the immediate remittance of 50c. we will send the COLLECTOR from now until January 1, 1905. By subscribing now you will receive 56 numbers, each one will be brimfull of interesting matter.

Young America is particularly interested in the subjects comprising the field it occupies and will cover during the coming year. It is doubtful if a half dollar's worth of more interesting and educational information for the young—to be eagerly sought and read—could be purchased. The holidays are approaching and a subscription for the child or young friend will make an appropriate and appreciated gift.

We want to send a copy of the COLLECTOR to all interested in Numismatics. Won't you assist us by mailing to our Numismatic Editor the names and addresses of your friends and acquaintances that you believe will appreciate receiving a copy of this issue? Kindly attend to this at once. Should you receive more than one copy, give the others to interested friends.

WILL YOU ENJOY THE SPECIAL OFFER? Use this Blank

C. H. MEKEEL, STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
St. Louis, Mo.

Enclosed find 50 cents for which send to following address Mekeel's Stamp Collector, from now until Jan. 1, 1905, according to your special offer.

Name

Town

County

State

CURIO TOPICS AND QUERY ANSWERS

Copyrighted 1903 by Curio Press Service, St. Louis.

Inquiries regarding Coins, Stamps, Paper Money, and Curios, will be answered through this department.

Address inquiries to Editor in charge of this Department — FARRAN ZERBE, Lucas Building, St. Louis, Mo.

Rosa Americana Coins



The first coins authorized by England for her colonies on the American Continent were issued under a patent granted July 12, 1722, by King George I. to William Wood of Wolverhampton. This patent proved a decidedly profitable one for Mr. Wood as did also his coinage for Ireland, a patent for which bears the same date. His coin product was later refused by the people of the Emerald Isle and quantities of it were sent to America for circulation and which are known as Wood's Irish Series. These patents were relinquished after the proffer of a valuable consideration. The first coins of the Rosa Americana series

antedate the patent and are with no date, believed coined in 1717; the no date variety include $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, and 2d; one of the 2d type bears date 1717. These same denominations with slightly varying device were coined bearing date of 1722 and 1723, 1d 1724 and 2d 1733. The two latter dates are exceedingly rare as are also some of the earlier types. The accompanying cut is one of the common varieties.

First Gold Coin Issued in the United States

The first gold coinage produced within the territory of the United States was issued by Ephraim Brasher in New York and dated 1787 and is known as the Brasher Doubloon. Very few specimens exist, probably not over four, one of which is in the Mint cabinet. This coin is about the size of an eagle, but heavier, as it weighs 408 grains, the weight of the present type of eagle being 258 grains.

Unity States Cent



This was the first of the Washington pieces and on account of its

Important Offer!



Read the Other Side of this Page and Fill
Out Slip.

"Unity" for United it is believed of French origin, originally offered as a pattern in 1783 for the prospective coinage of the then independent United States. Not being accepted, it was later numerously issued by private parties for speculative purposes. Bearing a head of Washington its adoption for regular coinage was never seriously considered for the reason that "The father of his country" was opposed to the President's portrait appearing on the proposed coinage as it was typical of monarchy, anything relating to which was repugnant to the first President. Many pieces intended for patterns for the first coinage of the United States were produced bearing a head of Washington and urgent efforts made for their adoption. Washington's wishes were finally respected and the precedent then established continues to exist. The image of no living person has ever appeared on the coinage of the United States. This coin is not rare, but like all the pre-government issues is becoming scarce.

RESURRECTED

Good Things of Other Days

A MISINTERPRETATION

I have a friend who likes a joke
And knows my taste for copper coin.
One day we met and with a poke,
He said "Come Harry, won't you join

A fellow at his lunch to-day?
I go where little need be spent,
And, if you'll meet me, I'll repay
You with a fine light olive cent."

Although the weather was too hot
To warrant one an appetite,
The promise drew me to the spot
Where sat my friend with visage bright.

A plump mulatto maiden brought
The fruit in such perspiring haste
That, as she hovered 'round I thought
Her odor rather spoiled its taste,

And, pushing by my plate, I said
"Come now, my boy, I want to see
That fine light-olive coin instead
Which you this morning promised me."

As Susan to the kitchen went,
The Scamp replied "Coin? not a bit,
I promised a light-olive *scout*
And there goes all you'll have of it.

—A. G. HEATON, in the *Nunismatist*, Dec. '94.

U. S. CENTS

1793 Wreath, fair, date weak	\$2.25
1793 " good, '93 strong	4.00
1821 good	.70
1823	.65
Common dates, each	.05
<i>Premium List Giving Prices</i>	
I pay for all U. S. coins	.10
J. M. HENDERSON, Numismatist, 31½ N. High St., COLUMBUS, OHIO.	

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U. S. \$10.00 gold, 1799, fine	\$14.50
.. 5.00 .. 1810, ..	7.25
.. 4.00 .. 1879, proof	55.00
.. 3.00 .. 1854, fine	4.10
.. 2.50 .. 1807, ..	7.50
.. 1.00 .. 1852, ..	1.90
Gold ¼ or ½ Dollars	2.00
U. S. Dollars, 1798 to 1801	2.25
.. .. 1836, proof	14.00
.. .. 1840-I, etc., V fine	1.75
.. Lafayette Dollar, uncirculated	1.90
.. Half .. 1795, near fine	1.50
.. Half .. 1806 to 14 ..	75
.. Quarter .. 1806 to 18 ..	50
20 Large Cents, different dates	1.00
8 Half Cents,	1.00
8 Foreign Coins	25
2 Roman Coins	25
20 page, 1903 edition, illustrated Coin book	10

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COINS, STAMPS

and PAPER MONEY

An authoritatively prepared volume concisely covering its subjects, describes and prices the over 500 U. S. Coins commanding a premium. A condensed history of money and a complete counterfeit detector.

Sent Post Paid for 25 Cents.

Mr. L. D. VAIL, of Bushnell, Ind., a member of the American Numismatic Association, under date of Oct., 5, 1903, writes: "I am in receipt of your book, 'Nut Shell Facts,' and am delighted with it. I am now interested in coins and stamps as I never have been."

To those ordering a book and sending five cents additional, 30 cents in all, I will send an interesting piece of paper money issued during the Civil War.

F. ZERBE,

506 Olive Street,

St. Louis, Mo.

"THE ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO. HAS IT FOR LESS"

*PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BUY
AT THE LOWEST PRICE SHOULD GIVE
US THEIR TRADE*

We offer below some items that we will retail at wholesale prices:

10 assorted broken bank bills	.....	\$0.15
25 assorted foreign coins, bronze, nickel and brass, including one before 1799	.....	.25
Collection 540 different stamps mounted in a 75c album	.....	1.10
U. S. Gold Dollar, perfect	.....	1.80
1797 England "Cart Wheel" 1 penny, good, odd looking, large and heavy	.....	.25
3 different Roman coins, over 1500 years old	.....	.24
Curious Copper Coins of the Byzantine Empire, struck during the "Middle Ages," classified, rare	.....	.23
10 large U. S. Cents, different dates, before 1857	.....	.33
20 pieces paper money, good condition	.....	.37
10 varieties Canadian coins and tokens	.....	.22
1903 Phillipine dollar, silver, brilliant proof	.....	1.33
Same, half dollar, brilliant proof	.....	.67
Large illustrated premium list of U. S. Coins worth over face	.....	.10

**Eight page illustrated Selling List
free for the asking.**

WANTED To buy coins and paper money, unused postage U. S. and Canada, 1c to \$5.00.

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

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Uncle Sam's New Curiosity

A late Washington Associated Press dispatch reads: 'For a long time one of the most interesting things shown in the United States Treasury has been a package containing \$8,000,000. Specially privileged visitors to Uncle Sam's great vaults have been permitted to actually touch or handle this small yet stupendous 'curiosity.' Now Treasury attaches display to sightseers another package that is attracting a vast deal of attention. It contains two large, black, badly defaced coins, of the total value of one cent. The same vigilance is displayed by Treasury guards, whether the visitor examines with wonder-wide eyes the one or the other object of interest. These two half-cent pieces recently sent to the Treasury for redemption are the first to be returned in this way. They were forwarded to be redeemed by Farran Zerbe, of St. Louis, who highly prizes a little voucher calling for one cent.' These two half cent pieces were forwarded with a view of disproving Mint records, that have always shown that no coins of this denomination were ever presented for redemption, and produced the information from Director of the Mint Roberts: "No half cent pieces have been redeemed for many years; the few that have been redeemed would be presented with other coin and no separate record was kept of them." These pieces prove to have been the first application for a redemption of one cent's worth of any kind of money and as such may be one of the curiosities in Uncle Sam's museum.

To the Coin and Curio Dealer and Publisher

The advertising qualities of the COLLECTOR may be demonstrated to your satisfaction at a very nominal cost. A recent advertiser says: "I have received three times as many cash orders from my advertisement in the MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR than from any similar publication, and orders were not confined to the States." Through our regular and

special issues your announcements will reach practically all interested in the collecting pursuits. It is considered one of the best mediums for reaching Young America; not that a majority of its circulation is juvenile, but that portion of it that is, multiplies its readers many fold. One in a class or school gets it and it is passed around—eagerly sought and read by all with the opportunity—and it is not so large that advertising announcements are overlooked. Good typography, good position and good circulation we assure you. If you have good offerings at good prices, then the best of the good will be yours—GOOD RESULTS.

NUMISMATIC REVIEW

Publishers of Numismatic journals, books, sales catalogues, etc., who desire to have their publications reviewed are requested to send copies of their publications to the Editor in charge of this Department—FARRAN ZERBE, 506 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.

It is a valuable satisfaction to all coin collectors to keep a systematic record of their possessions, particularly is this true to the United States series for which there are often unanticipated opportunities for addition or improvement. Ben G. Green's "Numismatic Reference and Check Book" just fills the bill. It provides for all the mint issues, territorial coinage, fractional currency and encased postage stamps. Printed on good paper, well bound, pocket size and sells for \$1.00.

Why not have a copy of Frey-Frossard's "Auction Records of Minor Coins" before it is "out of print?" But thirty-five copies remain and these are at the command of the COLLECTOR whose Numismatic Department will supply them while they last at the original price of 50c. each. This publication was carefully prepared, well printed and substantially bound and gives the actual prices commanded by all the minor U. S. coins at the various large sales during two years.

All collectors, and particularly those interested in Canadian coins

and tokens, should possess a copy of P. N. Breton's "Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada." English and French text. This work is the recognized standard, authoritatively prepared, thoroughly illustrated and once "out of print" will be a much sought book. Copies may be had for \$1.00, post free, from A. C. Roussel, 2106 St. Catherine St., Montreal, Canada.

Unusual Numismatic offerings to be found in the late catalogue of Chas. Steigerwalt of Lancaster, Pa., are; A collection of 52 varieties of the 1794 cents, lacking only 5 of all known, \$450; a collection of 102 New Jersey cents formed by the late W. Hays, \$125; a collection of Connecticut cents, also formed by Mr. Hays, 177 pieces, \$150. This latter set was formed by Mr. Hays with a view of publishing a work on the Connecticut cents, elaborating Crosby's classification so as to include every die, with corrections and additions thereto. The almost completed manuscript goes with the collection. "Man is remembered by his works;" let some one capable of the task, profit by completing and publishing that which consumed so much time and money for Mr. Hays, the product of which was thwarted by the Grim Reaper.

From the priced catalogue received from G. C. Adams of his third sale recently distributed in New York and which included the collection of J. Thornley Wilson, of Paris, we note the following prices believed worthy of mention: 1737 Conn., deer and hammers, \$62.25; same, deer and ax, \$59.00; U. S. dollars, 1794, very fine, \$156.00; 1838, brilliant, \$176.00; 1851 proof, \$40.00; 1852, very fine, \$79.00; U. S. cents, 1794, Hays 8, said to be the finest extant, \$40.00; 1799, very good, \$19.10; 1804, fine, \$51.00; 1856, flying eagle, nearly proof, \$15.45; 1877, 3c., \$4.00; 5c., \$3.85; 1838; \$½ flying eagle, \$15.00. Two types of the Montreal bridge tokens brought \$13.25 each; a double stater of Ptolemy II, \$80.00; stater of Alexander

the Great, \$25.00 and the shekel and half shekel of Simon Maccabees \$30.00 each. A copy of Crosby commanded \$11.25, and Smith's "Picture Gallery," \$6.50.

ST. LOUIS—THE A. N. A.—1904

President D. R. Francis, of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, has addressed the following invitation to President B. P. Wright, of the American Numismatic Association:

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION
St. Louis, U. S. A., 1904

October 23, 1903

To the President of the American Numismatic Association:

Sir:—On behalf of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition I desire to extend to the American Numismatic Association a cordial invitation to hold their Annual Meeting of the Association for 1904 in the City of St. Louis.

In that year will be held at St. Louis the Universal Exposition in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana Territory. The Exposition Management will be prepared to furnish without charge a satisfactory hall for the holding of the sessions of the Association. The Committee on Ceremonies will, if desired, recognize the presence of the American Numismatic Association by setting apart a special day, or by providing some distinctive feature on the program.

The Information Service, conducted without charge by the Exposition Management, will assist delegates in obtaining satisfactory accommodations at reasonable prices. The fair name of Saint Louis for hospitality will not be marred in 1904. Assurances given by the railroads warrant the promise of very low rates in transportation. Respectfully,

(Signed) D. R. FRANCIS,
President.

The COLLECTOR, whose home is in the Exposition City, has, through its

Numismatic Department, taken the initiative towards inviting the American Numismatic Association to hold their 1904 Convention in St. Louis and will gladly give its aid and support for the entertainment and success of the Convention and hopes the Association will at an early date accept the invitation of President Francis, name a time for the Annual Meeting and arrange a probable program of papers, exhibits and events that will make the 1904 Convention more successful and memorable than any of its predecessors. The Exposition Management assured your Editor that everything required for the Convention accommodations would be furnished without cost and that a special room with a view to perfect safety and Exposition guards for the care of same, would be provided for a convention exhibit.

With exceptional convention facilities assured, on the grounds of a greater World's Fair than has ever been held and which promises to be the greatest for many years to come is a particular reason why the 1904 Convention should be held in St. Louis and if it is, there is every reason why every member of the A. N. A. should arrange to attend and prepare to contribute to its features.

The City of St. Louis, the Management of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and the COLLECTOR extend invitation.

RENEW your subscription to this paper if you have not done so.

CANADIAN COINS

P. N. Breton's Standard Work on Canadian Coins and tokens, a beautiful large volume of 240 pages with 1015 engravings **\$1.00**
Cash with Order.

Your want list of Canadian Coins priced, giving Breton's Numbers.

A. C. ROUSSEL, 2108 St. Catherine Street, MONTREAL.

The Copper Coins of the United States

Being the actual prices realized for coins at Auction during 1900-01. The best guide to Cent, Half Cent and Minor proof sets ever published. But 35 copies remain, then will be "out of print." 50 cents, postpaid, while they last.

F. ZERBE, 506 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo

FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR

(Continued from page 573)

fact basis than it used to have. Philatelists collect quietly—but earnestly. We believe there are a greater number of thoroughly serious, bona fide collectors of adult years in America to-day than ever before. And we think there need be no concern whatever over the passing away of certain philatelic institutions whose usefulness has been, to a great extent, outgrown. These large young collector's societies, and these innumerable young collectors' journals played honorable part in their day in helping Philately along. That they no longer seem to be able to command any adequate degree of support may, we think, be taken to indicate that the need for them no longer exists in any marked measure.

We are not saying that we would not like to see a greater number of active collectors in this country, or counselling a policy of apathetic inaction in regard to the "booming" of Philately by all practicable and judicious means. On the contrary, we are stout believers in the need for a systematic campaign of philatelic missionary work for the purpose of increasing public interest in Philately and making new converts to the cult, and strongly sympathetic with any and all kinds of judicious proselyting efforts. At present there seems no possibility of any sort of concerted action on the part of American philatelists in this regard. And whatever fresh adherents Philately may gain (other than the considerable number of those who drift into our realm on the currents of chance and without any coaxing or beckoning from those on the inside to lure them in) must be the fruit of individual effort. If only any substantial percentage of philatelists were willing to exert themselves to this end, individual effort would very likely form the most effective dragnet that could possibly be employed. Unhappily, however, it is at present only in isolated cases that philatelists bestir themselves to interest their friends in the hobby. In

the hope of stirring up some of our readers to activity in this direction we will cite a little instance of success in this line that was lately mentioned in one of our English contemporaries, the *Stamp Collector* of Birmingham. The journal in question runs each month a portrait and brief biographical sketch of some more or less distinguished philatelist, residing in or about Birmingham. In a recent number was shown the portrait of a gentleman who, in the accompanying text, was stated to have built up an exceedingly fine and interesting collection and to have become an extremely well posted philatelist, in less than two years' time. Furthermore, it was stated that this gentleman was led to become a collector through the interest evoked by a sight of a few odd and picturesque stamps shown him by one of the editors of the magazine in which his portrait appears. This unassuming paragraph might be made the text for a pretty long sermon. We shall give it no such prolonged treatment here. But we do think that every collector might do well to store this incident away in his memory—and at the same time store a few of his showiest and most interesting duplicates in his pocketbook, ready to bring them to light when fitting opportunity offers. If every collector in this land were to practice this plan in his own immediate circle of intimate acquaintance—should get the habit of displaying a few interesting specimens now and then to this friend and that friend, quite in the way that he would exhibit any other curiosity or personal treasure—we believe the plan would result in a very large number of accessions to the philatelic ranks in the course of time. Even if but one collector in ten adopted this plan; it ought to bear not a little fruit, viewing the crop as a whole. Why couldn't you, dear reader, constitute yourself a "one in ten" for this purpose?"

❖ ❖

Send 10c for the 1904 prices of the stamps of the United States, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippines and Porto Rico. See sample next page.

YOU MUST HAVE IT!!

The Stamp Collectors Annual 1904 is a novelty. A fat volume full of stamp news **absolutely indispensable to collectors and dealers.** Profusely illustrated. Free by mail 25 cents from the publishers.

C. NISSEN & CO.

77-78 High Holborn, London, England.

DON'T OVERLOOK

The fact that my Premium Packet, No. 17.—"The Peerless"—contains 1,000 fine, all different postage stamps, many of rare value, and catalogues between \$30 and \$40. **ALSO REMEMBER,** that every purchaser of this packet receives free, as premiums, one Large International Postage Stamp Album and one Packet of U. S. Postage Stamps valued at \$2.00.

Every Fifth Purchaser Receives Gratis One Louisiana Exposition Gold Dollar.






Price of Packet, No. 17, including Premiums, post free and registered

\$10.00 — TEN DOLLARS — \$10.00

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.
"First in the Minds of Stamp Collectors"

Date of issue of complete catalogue not fixed; we are working on it, you may help it along by ordering the Advanced Sheets now ready.

SAMPLE PAGE
 From Mekeel's Catalogue of the Standard Varieties of Postage Stamps of the World.

PORTO RICO		217
PORTO RICO		
		
1873. <i>Cuban stamps of the same dates, surcharged in black like illustrations.</i>		
1	25c gray.....	3 00 10
2	50c brown.....	7 00 50
3	1p red brown.....	15 00 2 50
		
1874.		
4	25c ultramarine...	1 50 15
1875.		
5	25c ultramarine...	1 25 12
6	50c green.....	3 00 85
7	1p brown.....	6 00 2 50
1876		
8	25c blue gray	75 10
9	50c ultramarine...	1 25 40
10	1p black.....	2 00 1 50
		
11	25c blue gray	3 00 10
12	1p black.....	5 00 2 00
1877. <i>Same as 1878 type dated 1877, no surcharge.</i>		
13	5c yellow brown ..	60 60
14	10c carmine.....	1 50 1 50
15	15c green.....	2 50
16	25c ultramarine...	50 10
17	50c bistre.....	1 50 30
		
1878.		
18	5c olive bistre ...	3 00 2 50
19	10c red brown...	18 00
20	25c green.....	40 10
21	50c ultramarine...	1 00 25
22	1p bistre.....	3 00 60
1879. <i>Same with change of date.</i>		
23	5c lake.....	1 25 60
24	10c dark brown ..	1 75 1 00
25	15c dark olive....	2 50 2 50
26	25c blue.....	25 6
27	50c green.....	1 00 25
28	1p gray.....	2 50 75
1880. <i>Same as 1881, type dated 1880.</i>		
29	1c green.....	3 00 3 00
30	1c rose.....	40 40
31	1c lilac.....	1 25 2 00
32	2c gray lilac	75 75
33	3c buff.....	1 00 1 00
34	4c black.....	75 75
35	5c gray green	20 15
36	10c rose.....	50 35
37	15c yellow brown ..	1 50 75
38	25c gray blue	40 8
39	40c gray.....	1 25 30
40	50c dark brown ..	2 00 40
41	1p olive bistre ...	3 00 1 00
		
1881.		
42	1m lake.....	6 18
43	1m violet.....	8 25
44	2m pale rose....	5 15
45	4m green.....	12
46	6m brown lilac ..	15
47	8m gray blue....	35
48	1c green.....	25 20
49	2c lake.....	50 25
50	3c brown.....	1 00 75
51	5c gray blue	75 10
52	8c chocolate	1 50 20
53	10c slate.....	2 00 35
54	20c olive bistre ...	3 00 60

Send 10 cents to the publishers if you would have the 1904 prices for the stamps of the United States, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. Advanced sheets of these countries ready.

WANTED IN EXCHANGE

The Stamp Exchange enables collectors to add to their collections by the exchange of their duplicates. Only stamp cataloging 10 cents each and upwards will be considered however. Circular giving rules and conditions sent free upon request.

A member of the Exchange in South America desires the following stamps and will accept defective copies if they are to be had at reduced prices in accordance with condition:

New Brunswick, 1 shilling, mauve
Newfoundland, 1 shilling, scarlet; or any of the pence values, scarlet or scarlet vermilion.

Nova Scotia, 1 shilling, mauve.

Parties having poor copies of any of above stamps may exchange them for fine copies of desirable stamps upon an equitable basis of trade.

The Exchange has members in all parts of the world and can furnish many desirable stamps not usually found in dealers stocks.

The Exchange has a cash buyer for a 6c Proprietary, orange. Please quote.

The Exchange has for realization a superb \$20.00 Probate of Will, unperforated, lightly cancelled. Inquiries solicited.

A member who is completing a collection of used stamps showing light but distinct cancellations will exchange the following rare unused stamps for fine cancelled copies of European and British Colonials prior to 1896. Only stamps cataloging over \$1.00 solicited. Duplicates, pairs and strips taken, any country.

*British Columbia 1868, 10c rose lilac, perf. 14. \$40 00
" 1868, \$1.00 green, perf. 14. 50 00
*Niger Coast 1894, 1sh on 2p, vermilion surcharge 30 00
*Oldenburg 1858, 2g, black on rose 40 00
*United States Pan American 1c, inverted center 25 00
Any of above will be sold for part cash and part exchange if desired.

A member specializing in Mexico wants the following for cash or exchange:

1864, 3c brown, used or unused.
1864, 1/2r brown " "
1865, 7c litho " "
1866, 7c engraved " "
1867, 1/2r gray " "
1867, 4r rose " "
1868, 50c yellow, perforated, unused.
1868, 100c brown, " "
1892, 5p and 10p carmine.
1892, 5p and 10p blue green.
1895, 5p and 10p with R. M. interlaced.
1898, 50c, 1p and 5p with Eagle and R. M.
1898, 5p and 10p unwatermarked.

The following varieties of rare and scarce Mexican are offered for cash or exchange:

Provisional fractions of 1856 and 1861 issues used on covers 1/4 of 8 real stamp used as 2 reals, etc. A number of fine specimens.

1882, 6c ultramarine, pair unperforated.
1884, 1c error blue color of the peso.
1884, 1, 4, 10 and 50c green, pairs of each unperforated.

Entire sheet of 5c 1887, on ruled paper, unused, showing all varieties. Very desirable.

Rare varieties of the numeral issue, on the thin, hard paper in use in 1895—perforated 11, 5 1/2 and compound 5 1/2 x 11.

A foreign member would buy for cash the following Columbian issues:

Twenty 15c Columbian used.
Two \$1.00 " " one used, one unused.
One each \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 Columbian, used or unused.

Address all communications to

THE STAMP EXCHANGE,

Care Mekeel Co.

St. Louis, Mo.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION

It is with sincere gratification that we are at length enabled to announce that the Taping Collection is now finally arranged and permanently thrown open to public inspection. The cases were unlocked on Monday the 5th of October, and the whole of the adhesive stamps are now on view. Unfortunately, however, there is not room to display the entire collection of entires, the exhibition area required for these being enormous, but an endeavour will be made to show the most interesting of these. To this end eighty-four slides in the last cabinet will, later on, contain a selection of the envelopes and post cards. We are glad to hear from Mr. E. D. Bacon that an Index of the collection is being prepared for public use, by which the visitor will easily and promptly be able to find any particular issue or country that he may desire to inspect.

The system adopted for the display of the stamps of sliding vertical drawers has been fully described in this journal, and now that public access thereto is allowed, there is scarcely need for further description of the system of arrangement; but we are confident that every visitor will join with us in our expression of the highest approval of the scheme of display, than which, in our judgment, nothing could be better.

There can be no two opinions about the cases; they are superb examples of joinery, exquisitely pieced together in English oak, with mahogany panels. In size the cases are ten feet long by six feet wide, and they form quite a prominent feature in the King's Library at the Museum. The 1,188 vertical glazed drawers contained in the three cases are in every way admirably adapted for the purposes of display, and we quite fail to see how any better scheme could have been devised. The drawers pull out very easily, remain quite firm, and allow the eye of the student to approach quite close to the stamps; while the glass is so excellent in quality as to permit the most minute in-

spection. The weight of the drawers when fully extended causes them to bear downwards a little, and they will be found more easily returnable to their places by slightly raising them when so doing.

The Museum is open from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., electric light being used after dark; but the best hours for inspecting the stamps will probably be between twelve and three o'clock, when the sun is overhead and the light equally distributed on both sides of the glass drawers. A special custodian has been appointed to watch over the stamps, and the authorities seem to have neglected no precaution to ensure the safety of this valuable exhibit. We must confess, therefore, to some little surprise at finding that a few of the rarest stamps—presumably as a precautionary measure—have been withheld from view. These include the 2c., rose, and the two varieties of the 4c. of 1856 of British Guiana, the two types of the 2c. of Hawaii, the two "Post Office" of Mauritius, and a few others. So great is the reputation of these latter two stamps as *the* great rarities—how far deserved may be open to a little questioning—that to many collectors it will seem like *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark, and we think their exclusion will be received with general regret. Surely in the British Museum, and even in the King's Library itself, there must be very many exhibits of books, MSS., etc., of value far transcending that of these stamps, and we feel convinced that these "great rarities" could with equal safety be exposed to the public gaze.

We understand that there has already been much interest displayed in the exhibition of the collection, the visitors at times being so numerous as almost to interfere with the inspection; while not infrequently at least two hundred people have examined the cases in one day. With the publicity that will now be given to the fact of the display, the attendance will doubtless be largely increased, and the authorities of the Museum will be now convinced that the adherents of and interest in Philately far trans-

ceed those of many other forms of collection that have a far greater scientific value.

The thanks of all philatelists are, however, richly due to the Trustees of the British Museum for the magnificent manner in which they have at length displayed the bequest of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, and we anticipate that the news of so important an event will be received with the greatest gratification throughout the ranks of collectors. The educational advantages to the younger collector, and the assistance in comparing and ascertaining the genuineness of specimens to all classes, scarcely need dwelling on; but we hope in the near future to call attention to some of the features of and advantages derived from a visit to the British Museum. The Tapling Collection is, however, now worthily and properly displayed for all time for the benefit of all of His Majesty's lieges who have an interest in stamps.—*London Philatelist*.

CHOICE UNUSED STAMPS

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MY PRICES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Cata. No.	1904 Cata. Price	My Price	
25a	Cyprus 1884, 12 pia, die B.....	\$3 50	\$1 25
17	Cuba 1864, ¼ r p on buff.....	1 00	50
21	Cuba 1864, 2 r p vermilion.....	2 00	1 00
5a	Danish W. Indies 1873, 1c.....	2 00	80
24	Dominica 1890, 1sh, C. A.....	17 50	8 50
22	Germany 1872, 2 Kr orange.....	1 25	75
4	Gibraltar 1886, 2½d.....	3 00	1 25
24a	Grenada 1883, 6d Tete beche.....	1 25	75
25a	Grenada 1883, 8d Tete beche.....	3 50	1 75
29b	Hawaii 1869, 13c dull rose.....	30 00	15 00
	Hawaii 1896, official set.....	5 00	2 50
1	Ionian Islands 1859, ½d.....	1 75	85
3	Ionian Islands 1859, 2d.....	75	35
20	Madagascar 1886, 1d (large).....	2 50	1 00
18	Newfoundland 1863, 4d.....	75	40
19a	—1863, 5d orange-brown.....	3 00	1 25
22	—1863, 8d, lake.....	2 00	1 25
23	—1863, 1sh, lake.....	1 25	65
55	Niger Coast 1898, 10sh purple.....	8 00	4 50
127	Philippine 1898, 60c black.....	1 00	50
128	Philippine 1898, 80c red.brown.....	1 25	60
88	Porto Rico 1890, 40c orange.....	7 50	3 75
106	Porto Rico 1891, 80c orange.....	1 50	75
10	Prince Edw. Is. 1870, 4½d.....	1 50	85
48	St. Vincent 1883, 4d brown.....	2 50	1 25
49	—1883, 6d dark-lilac.....	7 50	5 00
50	St. Vincent 1883, 5sh, lake.....	3 50	2 00
61	Spain 1864, 2c blue.....	1 00	50
64	Spain 1864, 19c violet.....	3 50	2 25
237	Spain 1877, 40c d p brown.....	2 00	1 50
2a	Surinam 1873, 3c green.....	2 50	1 25
16	Virgin Islands 1884, 4d.....	1 50	70
	Chungking 1885 set of 5.....	1 33	66
	Postage Due 1895, set of 5.....	1 50	70
	Scott's 1904 Catalogue, post free.....		58

TERMS: Cash with order. Please remit by Bills or Money Order. Mention this paper when writing.

C. F. ROTHFUCHS, 38 Munroe Street, ROXBURY, MASS.

MR. NANKIVELL'S ARRAIGNMENT OF MR. CASTLE'S VIEWS OF NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Castle has, in the last number of the *London Philatelist*, indulged in a wholesale and ill considered condemnation of all and sundry new issues of New Zealand. A more unwise article, or one based on more flimsy reasoning, I have not read, even in the *London Philatelist*. To begin with, as he deliberately charges a responsible colonial government with venal practices, he should have taken the sense of a meeting of the members of the Philatelic Society of London before he used the Society's organ to put forth such a charge in its name, for, as the article is published in the Society's journal unsigned, it will naturally be inferred that the charges are made and published on the authority of the Society.

After commenting on the numerous varieties which are to be found in recent New Zealand issues Mr. Castle says: "In our humble opinion," that is in the humble opinion of the Philatelic Society of London, "The New Zealand Post Office casts a grave shadow upon the reputation of Colonial administration," and then, as if that did not go far enough, he finally declares it to be more venal than the "most venal of the South American States." If the New Zealand authorities do not take up this insulting charge seriously I shall be very much surprised, and I shall be even more surprised if many members of the Society do not resent this misrepresentation of their views.

Now what is the basis of all this furore? Some five years ago New Zealand got Messrs. Waterlow to design and engrave a very handsome series of postage stamps, all more or less illustrative of local scenery. The engraving was done on the finest steel plates. A first supply, by way of showing what such plates could produce, was printed by the engravers themselves. Then the plates and an expert to initiate the local printers into the secrets of fine art printing

from high class steel plates, were sent out to the colony. It was a plucky thing for the local men to tackle printing from such fine plates, but they have succeeded wonderfully well. Nevertheless, they found the task a very difficult one, and, in their struggle to equal the English workmanship, they have successively tried various papers, as every printing office does. The perforation of paper dampened for steel-plate printing also presented great difficulties, and consequently a new and finer gauge machine was ordered from home. In this way we have had four different papers and two different gauge machines, and the consequent varieties therefrom. And for this Mr. Castle, foresooth, bedaubs the New Zealand Postal administration as being more venal than the most venal of the South American States.

There is not a shadow of evidence that the New Zealand Postal authorities have rung the changes on these happenings for money making purposes. Any one who knows anything at all about the difficulties of steel plate printing will appreciate the task that the local printers undertook and wonder that they have done so well and produced the stamps so uniformly. One would, under the circumstances, have expected no end of variation in the printings, and yet the shades are, except in a very few cases, very close. And as to the varieties of paper, the experimenting has practically been confined to the one-half penny and one penny values. If the changes were being rung on the papers for revenue purposes it would have been a very easy thing, and also a very plausibly excusable thing, to have rung the changes of paper on all the values instead of confining them to the one-half penny and one penny values. But nothing of that sort has happened. And then as to perforations: there are only two machines in use; one 11 and the other 14. There could not be much less to complain of. But, ah! terrible to relate, there have been all sorts of dodges in double perforations. It is very sad, of course, but I understand that, owing to the

very bad perforation on one or two sheets, they were saved from destruction by pasting strips along the misplaced perforation and re-perforating those lines. Of course that was a terribly venal bit of business.

It is all very well to wax wroth over real cases of venal postal dodges for milking collectors, but it is neither dignified nor reputable to lose one's temper over mere fancies conjured up by a disturbed imagination. Even to the uninitiated the case of New Zealand is not one of those which, upon a calm consideration of the circumstances, can, by any stretch of legitimate growling, be twisted into a cause for just complaint. So long as there is no evidence that the postal authorities are purposely manufacturing varieties we collectors have no right to complain. On the contrary, I hold that the most interesting issues of the world of stamp collecting are just those which have resulted, as the New Zealand varieties are resulting, from the more or less crude attempts of local printers to do their own stamp printing. I am aware that there has been, and probably will be, a lot of regrettable speculation in the varieties of New Zealand, and it is also probable that some postal authorities know enough of philately to appreciate them as well as collectors, and now and again, as occasion offers, may put aside a few of them. Who would not? But until

we have some real evidence that postal speculation is answerable for those varieties it is, certainly, somewhat early to jump to the conclusion that the postal administration of a leading and responsible colonial government is more venal than the most venal of the South American States. Theself respect of the collecting fraternity is jeopardized by such reckless assertions. Who will take any notice of us if we cry "wolf" over every issue that does not quite run on all fours with our personal likes and dislikes. Old issue collectors will have to be a little more careful in their criticisms or they may find the tables turned in respect to some of their own special favorites, for every one knows that many old favorites are by no means above suspicion, and would rank very badly in comparison with these venal issues of New Zealand.—E. J. NANKIVELL, in the *American Journal of Philately*



WHITFIELD KING'S CATALOGUE

Some of our readers asked us for Whitfield King & Co.'s UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE, 1903 Edition. We have secured a few that may be had, 38c. post free, as long as the supply lasts. It is a 380-page book, with 2,693 illustrations including those of United States stamps.

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Theo. Mainhart, Stamp Dealer, Johnstown, Pa.

MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

A philatelic phantasy in **A Philatelic** verse, a book of nearly **Phantasy** three hundred pages has just been published in London. It is intended as a humorous skit on Philately by W. E. Imeson and illustrated by twenty-eight pen and ink sketches by the author. It glories in the name, "The Stamp-Fiend's Raid (In Philatelia's Cause)." "The story contains no prosy matter—being told in verse, and is sufficiently disconnected to be understood by any reader of extraordinary intelligence."

The chief characters are given as follows:

Will Wylie (Captain H. A. C.), the *raconteur*—an incorruptible journalist and philatelist, who has fallen among thieves.

Captain Paul Jones, the Philatelic Privateer (of "The Blues")—Will Wylie's special chum (and evil genius), a Prince in Philately, a Machiavelli in diplomacy, a Napoleon in strategy, and a "poet" (in quotes).

Pedlar Jim ("the Cape boy")—a long-suffering and short-sighted atom, with only a ghost of a part.

Big Birdcage Ben (Chief of the "Ole Clo" Contingent)—one quite at home on most subjects, but much at sea on Stamps.

Percy Pennyweight (Ex-Stamp Auction-

eer)—a soldier of (bad) fortune, reduced to the (cab) ranks, with a rare badge (plate) No.

"**Tough**" **Tucker**—mine host of "The Pedlars' Arms."

Phil Philpot, of "The Boar's Head"—a host in himself.

Bill Bludgeon ("The Boer o' Bethnal Green")—the Hereward of Cockneydom, a born leader and war critic *par excellence*, and the holder of weird and wonderful War Stamps.

Liliuokalani ("The Lily o' Killarney"), Ex-Queen of the Sandwich Islands. A lady with a Philatelic mission—from far Hawaii.

Philatelic Flo' (a charming serio comic). Also with a mission—in keeping with her stage name.

Pauline (the peerless). The one and only sister of "The Philatelic Privateer"—a lady of rare appearance—and many parts.

We shall give a sample of the verse next week, no doubt many of our readers will get the book.



STAMP EXPOSITION IN ARGENTINE

The September number of the *Revista*, the organ of the Argentine Philatelic Society (*Sociedad Filatelica Argentina*) gives the program of the 3rd Philatelic Exposition held under the auspices of that flourishing society. The medals and certificates of honor are illustrated, also a full page half-tone showing the room upon the occasion of the opening of the Exposition in Buenos Aires.

THE STAMP FIEND'S RAID—By W. E. Imeson. Crown 8vo, Cloth. Post free, 90 cents, from publisher Horace Cox, Windsor House, Breams' Building, London, E. C., England.

NOTES FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, Nov. 14.

That most unlucky Society, the Stamp Trade Protection Association, has recently suffered a further severe reverse through the dishonesty of its late Secretary, William Ewing. Subscriptions sent in by the members of the Association found their way into the wrong pocket, and Ewing has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the second division.

Apart from misfortunes of this kind the S. T. P. A. has been languishing from lack of philatelic support. Stamp men who should have given the Association not only their subscriptions but their active assistance in the detection of wrong doing have held severely aloof. Looking at the S. T. P. A.'s experience one is forced to the conclusion that the average stamp collector or stamp dealer does not regard protection as a thing desirable. He thinks he can do his own protecting, but he is mistaken. What he really needs is to be saved from himself, but I do not know of any society or association that is prepared to undertake *that*.

Experience shows that a philatelist needs a sharp lesson before he will subscribe to a society for his own safe-guarding. In the columns of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* I recently inaugurated a "White List of Philatelists," which, as its name indicates, was intended to be the exact antithesis of a Black List. That "White List," after repeated editorial exhortations, and after being hailed on every hand as "the very thing that was wanted" has received the support of only twenty-five philatelists! Only twenty-five persons were prepared to pay the nominal subscription of eighteen pence per annum for what would have been not only a guarantee of their own *bona fides* to all enquirers, but also a means of enabling them to ascertain, in confidence, the standing of other philatelists with whom they proposed to do business! Now a membership of 25 is worse than useless for an undertaking of this description, and I

see no alternative but to return the eighteen pence these public-spirited philatelists have paid me and decline reluctantly to proceed further in the matter. But to return to the point with which I opened this paragraph. As evidence that a philatelist needs a sharp lesson before he will subscribe to a protective movement I may mention that quite a noticeable proportion of the 25 applicants for enrollment on the "White List" were the victims either of Malcolm Campbell or of some other swindler recently exposed.

Are the stamps of Panama going to boom as a result of recent happenings on the Isthmus? It would be odd if one saw a rapid rise in the stamps of a Central American Republic; but strange things happen in Philately nowadays. I have no doubt that on your side of the pond there will be an awakening of interest in the "Map" stamps of the Straw Hat State. It is a curious thing, by the way, that I have vainly tried to procure unused specimens of the 5 centavos stamp of the first issue of Panama from no less than three fairly large firms of dealers. The reply in each case was "out of stock," and this is a stamp that is catalogued, used or unused, at about sixpence! Possibly the first Panamas are scarcer to-day than the cataloguers make out.

It is curious to note the persistency with which the eternal and inevitable canal has figured on all the postage stamps proper of Panama. On the first issue there is a small central design showing two sailing ships on the two great oceans with only a narrow ribbon of land dividing them. The thing is drawn hopelessly out of all true proportion, but it brings home to one the great importance of the canal. That issue appeared in 1868, and three years later Ferdinand de Lesseps began his great but ill-fated work of cutting a waterway through the Cordilleras. Panama from that day to this has lived on its canal scheme, and a pretty thin living it must have been. But now there are signs that the business will be carried through, and perhaps the next "Map" stamps of

Panama will show us the completed canal, with American, British, French and German ships of commerce passing through it!

There is much bustle and activity in the London stamp shops now. The season is in full swing, and there appears to be plenty of business about. The auctions, too, are choke full of good stuff, and as the prices realised are highly satisfactory there is every reason to suppose that this will prove a record season for our philatelic auctioneers.

The mention of auctions reminds one of the sensational "find" of a twopenny "Post Office" Mauritius in a small collection sent to Messrs. Pattick & Simpson for disposal. The collection was nothing great—this Mauritian, in fact, was its one great rarity. The owner, I am told, had had the book by him since 1864, without having the slightest idea that it contained one single stamp worth hundreds of pounds sterling. The twopenny "Post Office" is a beautiful specimen. I wonder what it will fetch when put up for sale in January next? It would not be a bad subject for a guessing competition. **PERCY C. BISHOP.**

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100 different all Foreign Stamps.....	02c
200 different all Foreign Stamps.....	08c
20 different Italy.....	01c
25 different.....	02c
10 different Bulgaria 02c.....	01c
20 different Spain.....	01c
½c Canada Jubilee 10c.....	05c
50c Jubilee.....	05c
100 Philippines, 7 kinds, unused.....	15c
5 diff. New Zealand 03c.....	10c
10 different.....	10c
Canada, King's head, 1, 2, 5, 7, 10c.....	06c
Canada, 1893, 20 and 50c, both cata. 37.....	06c

Remit in unused stamps or money order.

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SPECIAL OFFERS

The following list is changed weekly. *Watch it.* Bargains are often offered, and special things that come in from time to time are included.

	Net Prices
<i>*Indicate unused, others are cancelled.</i>	
*Danish Wt. Indies, 1873-96, 12c red-lilac and green	\$0 15
* 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 23) <i>rare</i>	6 00
* 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 24)	10
* 1902, 8c on 10c (No. 25)	25
* 1902, 2c on 10c large surch.	06
* Unpaid, 1, 4, 6, 10c, set of 4	30
British Honduras, 1884-87, 1sh g. ay, fine used copy, No. 17, cata.	9 75
British Columbia and Vancouver Island, 1861 2½p. pink, very fine, lightly cancelled	3 75
*Barbados, 1873, 6p vermilion. wmk. large star unperforated, No. 41a	6 00
*Gold Coast, 1884-91, 2sh brown, (cata. \$2.00) ..	95
*Gibraltar, 1889, 5 pesetas, steel blue	1 20
*Hawaii, 1893, 25c Prov. Gov't	75
*Liberia, 1860, 12c blue, No. 5	1 95
* 1860, 24c green, No. 6 (cata. \$4.50)	1 95
* 1869, 24c light green, No. 15	1 50
* 1882, 8c blue, No. 22	45
* 1882, 16c red, No. 23 (cata. \$1.35)	45
* 1885, 16c yellow, No. 30	16
Samoa, 1877-81, 9p yellow-brown, fine used	3 75
.. .. 1877-81, 1sh green, fine used	7 50
*Somali Coast, 1894, 25 francs, large diamond shape	6 00
*Surinam, 1900, 50c on 2gr 50c green and orn'g. ..	1 60
Salvador, 1900, official, 26c, brown, No. 624	30
*Boyaca, (Colombia), 1903, 5 pesos, <i>rose</i> , perf. ..	35
* 5 unperf.	50
* 10 unperf.	55
* 10 unperf.	25
*Cuba, 1897, 40c, orange brown (Cat. 50c.)	50
*Cuba, 1897, 80c, lilac brown, (Cat. \$1.00)	50
*Niger Coast, 1892, ½ on 1p, lilac, (No. 7) <i>pair</i> unsevered; very desirable	6 00
*Niger Coast, 1894, 2p, carmine, unwmk, (Cat. \$1.25)	48
Philippines, U. S. 50c, orange, surcharged	28
Confederate, 1861, 5c, green, on original cover. ..	20
.. .. 10c, blue,	38
.. .. 1862, 5c, blue,	25
.. .. 10c, rose,	1 50
South Australia, 1902, 6p, green (long)	15
.. .. 1902, 9p, claret	23
.. .. 1903, "O. S." 1sh, brown, ..	50
w'm'k Crown S. A.	35
*Hayti, 1898, 1c, ultramarine	50
* 3c, dull violet	75
* 7c, gray	1 25
* 20c, orange	2 75
* 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20, set well centered.	2 75

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

THE JAIL BIRD

A young German frescoer, by name Wollé, was sent to the Missouri penitentiary some years ago for swindling stamp dealers. He was convicted in the U. S. Court at St. Louis and has made Jefferson City his home since, being designated by a *number*.

Wollé was an artist of some ability and made fraudulent postmarks and die varieties his specialty, altering reprints, proofs and stamps to suit his purpose. He has made the Types I of the 1c 1851 and 1856 by altering the common variety. Bi-sected U. S. 1869 issues, and Confederates have been fixed up on envelopes, and unperforated proofs of 1856 issue have

been made to appear on original covers beautifully postmarked.

From the Missouri penitentiary he has carried on correspondence with dealers in different parts of the country and has obtained good stamps and even money in exchange for his rubbish.

There was nothing that he produced that we have seen that would be very dangerous, as all that was submitted to us by correspondents was instantly pronounced spurious, before the source was known.

The attention of the P. O. authorities has been brought to the matter and it is likely his imprisonment will be prolonged.

He is evidently a dangerous and habitual criminal who will have to be looked out for, for all time in the future.

W. W. Jewett of Portland, Me., formerly the Publisher of the "Philatelic Era," sends in his subscription to the COLLECTOR, and thereby transferred his name from the exchange list to the regular subscription list, that now numbers over 4,000.

OUR CIRCULATION

The renewals of subscriptions to our little paper have been very gratifying and the list is growing very fast. We have set our mark at 10,000 and expect to reach it during this season.

The publication is only a side issue with us, and for that reason it must be limited to the time we can give it, but it is our aim to add to the general knowledge about stamps, with light from our point of view on stamp affairs in general.

We do not wish to make it a general advertising medium, relying upon subscriptions for its main support. In this respect we have been liberally seconded, and the letters of readers show that our efforts have met with approval.

A dealer recently wrote that he would advertise, but for the fact that we discouraged the collection of U. S. cut square envelopes.

Our editorials and general comment on the news and affairs of the

day will never be affected one *iota* by any advertising considerations.

Our columns are open to all first-class dealers and our rates will increase with our circulation. There is no paper published that reaches a larger or better class of buying collectors. We have one rate, \$2.50 per inch, regardless of size of advertisement or number of insertions. More than eight inches from any one dealer in a single number declined for 8 page papers.

Twenty per cent discount for fifty inches, to be used within six months.

Many thousand dollars are spent every month by the collectors represented by the bona fide subscribers to this little paper. You cannot get it all, but you might get some of this business by advertising.

MRS. STANTON'S STAMP ROOM

That Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was interested in stamps has just come to light by the discovery of a unique stamp room in her old home at Woodcliff. The house is being overhauled by J. Geddes, the present owner, who is having alterations made in the historic house. In a recess of one of the rooms more than 18,000 stamps were found pasted on the walls. Portions of the walls and ceilings were covered with stamps of every country. There are indications that the stamps were detached from letters received by Mrs. Stanton herself. She carried on a voluminous correspondence with friends whose homes were located in almost every part of the civilized world.—*Clipped from a daily paper.*

PERF. 11, 11½, 12, 12½, Etc.

Upon the subject of perforation the *Australian Philatelist* says:

"One, who is engaged in the paper trade, told us that when paper in a damp state is perforated, say with a machine guaging 12½ holes, and dried with the usual process in stamp printing establishments, it would, when dry, probably not guage even 12 holes. But whilst we admit that

there should be a difference made in the collection of stamps severed by hole perforator, rouletter, or other known methods, we contend that the perforation craze has gone too far."

CURIOUS USE FOR STAMPS

A gentleman on a visit to Sydney has related to us some interesting experiences he has met with in connection with stamps. Amongst others he tells us whilst in Buenos Aires in the year 1885 6 small coins were so scarce there that postage stamps were accepted in paying tram fares. The fare was 5 centavos, and when a 10 centavos stamp was tendered the tram guard tore it in halves, returning one of them. At other times the guard on receiving a 10c. stamp would hand over one of the torn halves he had previously collected as change. This system of payment must have been very rough on the guards, especially during damp weather, when the stamps were likely to stick to each other.—*The Australian Philatelist.*

SO. AUSTRALIAN O. S.

The use of South Australian stamps surcharged O. S. was finally discontinued on September 30th. All such stamps in the possession of Government Officials having to be returned to headquarters on that date. From October 1st the Official stamps were perforated with large letters, S. A. The letters are very large, somewhat similar in size to those on the Victorian stamps.

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GENERAL COMMENT

About catalogue quotation:—A reader who was much interested in the comparative figures we gave last week from Scott's and Gibbons' Catalogues writes as follows:

"I believe you have done collectors a great service in calling attention to the catalogue question in the way you have been comparing Gibbons' actual selling prices of British Colonials with Scott's 'quotations—58c post free.' My specialty is Gibraltar; I note the following:

	Scott	Gibbons
1886-98. 4p.....	\$1.50	\$4.35
1889 50c.....	50	12

"These figures destroy my confidence in the so-called *Standard Catalogue*. If some stamps are quoted at $\frac{1}{4}$ of what they are worth and others at 4 times their value, what are we to think?"

The P. O. Inspectors in charge of the stamp investigations now going on in connection with the Third Assistant Post Master General's office, will make a most thorough report, as their researches are being pushed in all directions. It is understood that the principal cities of the country will be visited, and personal interviews with leading dealers and collectors will be had on all subjects connected with the case.

It is said that dealers who have handled a number of the 4c inverted centers, have very bad memories and cannot remember very much about their purchase.

Philately in the United States has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a most thorough investigation, and the knowledge that will come to the Post Office Department in this connection will dignify and benefit the pursuit. Therefore, we believe that every facility should be offered to the Inspectors in charge of the matter that they may be able to render a full and satisfactory report.

It would be strange, if the present investigation, started to probe the 4c invert should develop something about other U. S. stamps that have

come out from P. O. or Bank Note Co. sources. We refer to the sub-varieties of Continental and American printings, and the special printings made for sale with the early reprints. The catalogue has been larded with these varieties to support a market for varieties that were not considered in the old days and the source of supply is not unknown. Unperforated and unused embossed stamps of 1867; Continental grills at \$10.00 apiece and upwards; special printings at \$40.00 and \$50.00 each, were very fine for those who handled the sales, but U. S. Philately has suffered thereby. A clean and sensible list of standard varieties divested of the trial, experimental and sample-book rubbish will re-establish U. S. stamps with collectors. Let those who want to go into it thoroughly, take these things with proofs, essays, etc., but the "sample-book" stuff should be passed by the general *postage stamp* collectors.

A ROYAL NUMISMATIST

A dispatch from Paris says: "During the late visit of King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena of Italy to Paris they visited the Mint accompanied by President and Mme. Loubet, where special medals were struck in their honor. The President presented the visitors with the first pieces coined and Finance Minister Rouvier made them the recipients of two caskets containing unique specimens of counters used by members of the royal house of France. The City of Paris presented to King Victor Emmanuel, who is a distinguished numismatist, a beautiful cabinet containing specimens of medals struck off for sovereigns and two ideal figures in ivory and bronze."

A GOOD LOT

of 500 genuine postage stamps, all different, no reprints, cut cards or envelopes, catalogue over \$10.00, post paid for \$1.00. Dr. A. H. Phelps, 40 Bay Street, Glens Falls, N. Y. Bought one and was "agreeably surprised." Upon receipt of his fifth "good lot," he wrote that "it should be called best lot." If you buy it and for any reason return it, I'll return your cash. If I did not expect you to be pleased, as was the doctor, I could not afford to make that offer.

T. A. HAYWARD, Alamosa, Colo.

Hobbies Add Spice to Life's Menu

WILLIAM MATHEWS

Arctic explorers tell of the dreadful persecution of the six months' polar day, and of the terrible depression produced by perpetual darkness in the six months' night. But hardly less depressing is perpetual work, work, work, day after day in the same shop or office, at the same unchanging task, in the same mill-horse round. A hobby, to which a man springs the moment the pressure of his customary work is removed, draws him out of his rut. It breaks up the stagnation and monotony of his life, and vivifies the faculties which have become blunt and dull. It emancipates a student from the books over which he has pored too long, a merchant or a stock-broker from the click of the telegraph and the bondage of the day-book and the ledger, a clergyman from his musty theology, and a lawyer from his wearisome precedents, *obiter dictas*, and *fi fas*. Last, not least, it delivers a jaded and fretted housewife from the round of petty, monotonous domestic cares which tyrannize over her daily life, and out of the toiler reproduces and recreates the woman.

Not the smallest merit of a hobby is that it liberalizes its rider. It delivers him from narrowness and one-sidedness,—the tendency to judge everything from a single standpoint which is so often the curse of the toiler in one groove. It has been said that there is not an artisan in the country who, if he but had a hobby,—a pet avocation,—would not be a more contented man, less a victim of acidity, and less disposed to believe in the wrongs of inequality of condition.

In nothing are men's differences and idiosyncracies more vividly seen than in their hobbies. Of the odd tastes of collectors, especially, there is no end. A century or two ago there was a mania for collecting old hats, caps, and boots,—of which last there was a famous collection at Hotel Cluny

at Paris, showing all the changes in the cobbler's art since the flood,—also shoes, slippers, garters, wigs, snuff-boxes, pipes, walking-sticks, brushes, gloves, watches, clocks, and even ropes, with which men had been hanged! In our day there is a rage for old china, armor, brasses and bronzes, bric-a-brac, cameos, pictures, furniture, books, postage stamps, butterflies, and bugs. One of the pleasantest, but one of the most expensive hobbies, is that of the picture-collector. A charming hobby for a man with money is that of a rose-fancier. The favorite diversions of the greatest number of persons are probably autograph-hunting and collecting rare books. Few men ever experience a keener delight than that of a bibliomaniac when, after mousing for days and even weeks about old bookstalls, he comes suddenly upon a rare old volume, for which he has been long searching, and which, thanks to the ignorance of the owner, he bears triumphantly home for a few silver coins.

One of the best of all hobbies, for one who has the requisite natural gifts, is music, because it has the charm of perpetual variety, and its delights are inexhaustible. Gardening is another varied diversion which is healthful as well as pleasant. Sketching and natural history have similar attractions.

The best hobbies are intellectual ones,—science, art and literature. They not only delight and recreate their devotees, but are also preservative against selfishness, vulgarity and worldliness. They have, however, one disadvantage,—that they are apt to be ridden too hard, and thus, instead of refreshing and invigorating, to send a man back to his work fatigued and depressed. Such was the case with that English glutton of work, Sir George C. Lewis, who, when chancellor of the exchequer,

home secretary, and secretary of war, devoted himself, in the intervals of his official labors, to the study of history, politics, philology, anthropology, and antiquarianism, and to the copying of Greek manuscripts in the British Museum. The result was that he died at the age of fifty-seven, when, if he had had fewer hobbies, and ridden them less hard, he might probably have lived to fourscore or longer. "Blessed is the man that has a hobby!" says Lord Brougham, who kept a whole stableful, and I agree with him; but I agree also with Bulwer that it will not do to have more than one at a time. "One hobby leads you out of extravagance. A team of hobbies you can not drive, till you are rich enough to find corn for them all."—*Success*—December, 1903.

Every stamp collector will appreciate the truth of Mr. Mathews' little talk on the subject of hobbies in general, and they will also feel that they have decidedly the best of it in the general collecting lines that he mentions. Stamp collecting is adapted to all classes; it may be pursued in a very economical way as a developing and instructive pursuit for young people, or its more scientific side may be enlarged upon by the student and specialist, while the realm of great rarities will require the expenditure of very large sums of money to make a good showing.

NUT-SHELL FACTS

— ON —

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To those ordering a book and sending five cents additional, 70 cents in all, I will send an interesting piece of paper money issued during the Civil War.

F. ZERBÉ,

06 Olive Street,

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CONDITION OF TRADE

The demoralization of stocks and bonds of a certain class, has hit some people pretty hard, but the great body of American people were never as prosperous as they are at the present time. Money is easy and stamp business is good, and there is something out of joint with any dealer who finds it otherwise.

The stamp trade of the country at large is a dozen times the volume of that of all the big Eastern cities combined.

U. S. POSTAGE		U. S. REVENUES, Perf	
1c, 1869	\$0 20	5c. Playing Card.....	\$0 21
10c, 1869	31	10c. Foreign Exch'ge	16
24c, 1869	2 40	30c. " " " "	62
50c, 1895	06	50c. " " " "	17
\$1.00, 1895	20	\$1.90, " " " "	39
		2.00, Probate of Will	37

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If my Packet No. 25, "The Flood City Special," does not give you entire satisfaction, Collectors from all parts of the country have bought this packet, and all claim it to be the best value for the money. Packet No. 25 contains 50 picked stamps that catalogue from four to five dollars. The price of this packet is

ONE DOLLAR.

Send for one to-day. You run no risk. If it does not please you, get your money back.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

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C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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IN ADVANCE

"Entered August 30, 1902 at St. Louis, Mo. as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

[Office of Publication: 408 North Eleventh Street.]

Reference made last week to the stamp trade Country's of the country, was not Stamp Trade clear. What we intended to say was that the volume of stamp trade of the country at large, meaning the buying collectors, was a dozen times the volume of the resident local buyers of all the big Eastern cities combined.

Much of this outside trade is of course supplied by the Boston and New York dealers. The stamp trade of the country is largely supplied by dealers located in the Eastern cities, *but there are others*. And on the other hand hundreds of collectors in Boston, Philadelphia and New York buy their stamps in St. Louis through our approval system.

There are dealers in the East who thoroughly appreciate the outside trade and profit by their advertising enterprise, but there are others with good stocks and ability to handle a greater volume whose range of vision is limited to a restricted local trade, and it was for the benefit of these that our original remarks were intended.

\$100,000 a month would not cover the casual buying of the average collectors of the U. S., excluding the "big fish" and the auction sales. Dealers and "collector-dealers" which cut no small figure in this estimate, split this amount into many parts, but the business is *here* and getting your share is a matter of personal effort and judicious advertising.

Der Philatelist, Dresden, Germany, for November 15th, chronicles and illustrates as a new issue an Official Stamp supposed to have been issued for the official use of the Pay Department of the United States Army.

The label described is not a stamp at all. It was never issued with any authority and has been distinctly repudiated by the U. S. War Department as a *fraud*.

The following extracts from a letter from the Adjutant General's Office at Washington, under date of November 11th, 1901, was published in our paper of December 2nd of that year.

"It's issue was never authorized by the War Department or any of its Bureaus, and therefore, would not have been recognized by this Department had it been observed." * * * "that if used during the war with Spain, or at any other time, its franking value would not have been recognized, but on the contrary would have been regarded as a fraud, and action taken accordingly."

These stamps were offered as remainders by B. C. Kenyon, of Long Beach, Calif., and the following extract from the Third Assistant Postmaster General's Office in a letter under date of November 27th, 1901, substantiates the purely private character of this label.

"Mr. Kenyon was informed by this office July 27th, 1898, in response to a letter received from him that his frank labels or stamps were not good to secure the free transmission of official matter through the mails."

The above extract was published in our paper for January 13th, 1902. We are sure that *Der Philatelist* has been imposed upon, else they would not chronicle a label which has absolutely no philatelic character and is of no value.

ILLUSTRATED POST-CARD COLLECTING

GEORGE E. SEELY.

From *The Exchange News*:

I am often interrogated by novices as to the general lines to follow in forming the nucleus for an Illustrated Post Card collection. As a matter of fact I would advise my colleagues to follow the plan of "generalization"—on a modest scale.

By generalization I mean the collecting of cards throughout the world—which are best obtained through the medium of the *Exchange News* and European magazines of the same caliber.

To begin with, secure the best cards possible and send one to your correspondent abroad or at home, with the request to send you the particular style of card you desire.

It is a very good and inexpensive idea to make it a rule to limit each individual nation's card to three, viz., the ruler of the nation, one of the ruler's subjects (type) and a view of the ruler's metropolis. By following this rule you may easily compass the world with a very little expenditure, and have a foundation on which you may erect a valuable collection. If there should be portions of the globe that are not represented in your album—and that seem to be outside the shade of Post Cards—do not despair, but continue to ask your tried and true fellow collectors if they could possibly send you the names and addresses of collectors in the desired country, and I assure you that will eventually obtain the coveted addresses and others that you never dreamt of.

After one masters the elementary ethics of exchanging and collecting, specialization is next in order. By specialization I refer to any one certain ruling ambition at one time until the spirit of the same fades away and reposes for the time being between the leaves of their cherished albums.

To those who inherit the spirit of Mars—and conjures in their mind's eye the clanking of swords, the rattle

of hoofs, and the booming of cannon, I would commend a collection of Post Cards depicting the most important battlefields of the world, and vouched for by that pink of truth—the postmark. All of us, at one time or another, have breathed the spirit of Washington at Valley Forge and felt humiliation of Napoleon at Waterloo. If space would allow I could go on for hours mentioning the battlefields of the world for reference. Ah! you ask the method of procedure to secure these gems of historical facts. Now, for instance, you desire to obtain a card depicting the scene of Wellington's victory at Waterloo, bearing the postmark of the same. You simply write to your Belgian correspondent, stating your wants, which will most undoubtedly be gratified. I have a Waterloo card which was sent to me by a fellow collector living one hundred miles from the battlefield. He secured the cards in his home town and sent them (postage prepaid) to a very obliging hotel keeper in the village of Waterloo, who uncovered it and sent it to me.

The field of this specialization process is a very large one and embraces all of the great events of the world's history.

A card from Palos, Spain, reminds us of Columbus and his discovery of America. Genoa, Italy, tells of the great navigator's boyhood days. Plymouth, England, is connected with the early pilgrims of Massachusetts. Banby, England, the ancestral home of our beloved George, of cherry tree fame, also the scenes of Christ's life throughout the holy land, etc., etc.

There are no limits to the production of the Souvenir Post Cards. Semi-barbarous nations tolerate the Post-Card where they would cast cannibalistic glances at pious missionaries, which goes to prove the stability of the little pasteboard missives.

Go, little card, in happy strength,

Make all thy beauty known;

From West to East

Let many feast

On grace so sweetly grown.

There's naught can bind thee 'neath the
sun,

In peace bind ev'ry race in one.

TETE BECHE SYDNEY VIEWS

When Solomon exclaimed "There is nothing new under the sun!" he probably spoke from the bitter depths of experience, having just discovered that his unique fourpenny Ophir, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, for which he had paid a thousand shekels, had recently been triplicated owing to a find in one of the old warehouses at Tarshish. Even Solomon, however, would not have recognized a discovery made by Mr. Hagen as "something new."

This discovery consists of a *tete beche* pair of the twopence, "Sydney View," on the original cover.

It will, I think, be admitted that this is a most remarkable find. Nearly twenty years ago the genius of Philbrick, Tapling, and other leading lights of philately, established the fact that the first twopence of New South Wales was printed from a hand-engraved copper plate, containing 24 types arranged in two horizontal rows of twelve. This number and arrangement was clearly shown to have been preserved throughout no less than five different stages of the plate, which, indeed, was supposed by the philatelists named to have represented either five separate plates, or three plates, the last of which were twice retouched. That there was only one plate which had been re-engraved from time to time was subsequently proved by Dr. Houison.

As this plate of twenty-four types, original and re-engraved, has been entirely re-constructed in each of its changes; and reproductions have been made available for the purpose of comparison, it is well-known that every stamp was placed in a normal position with relation to its neighbour. How then could this remarkable variety occur where two stamps are placed "head to head" on the one sheet of paper?

First, let me describe the discovery, and then explain how the variety occurred.

This unique pair (for I believe it to be absolutely without a known parallel) franked a letter "O. H. M. S." and endorsed "Col. Treasury, 30th

July, 1850." The postmarks are "Sydney—JY. 30, 1850—New South Wales," and "Melbourne—AU. 8, 1850—Port Phillip."

The stamps are from the stage of the plate generally known as "Plate II.," and are medium or slightly worn impressions. They are placed horizontally on the cover, the right hand stamp, with the value label facing the right margin, corresponds with No. 1 on the reconstructed plate. The left hand stamp, which has its value label facing the left margin, and consequently its top label facing the top label of the other "stamp," corresponds with No. 12 on the reconstructed plate.

At first sight Mr. Hagen thought the discovery meant that there were more than the accepted number of 24 types on at least one of the plate stages. The explanation, however, shows that we have not to add more vexatious varieties to our already long list, and may be found in the following letter, a copy of which is published in Dr. Houison's "History of the Post Office in New South Wales":—

"Stamp Office, 25th March, 1851.

"SIR:—Enclosed we beg to hand for inspection one sheet sample impression of the two-penny postage stamp. The plate from which this impression was struck has been three times repaired, and is now nearly unfit for use.

"Carmichael is under contract to furnish steel plates for the three kinds of stamps by the end of June; but we know that the penny and three penny plates are not commenced, and the two-penny (the one most required) barely more than half completed, and will not be deliverable for at least six weeks. Serious inconvenience will thus arise, as our printer says he will not be able to work off more than 20,000 (four days work) from the two-penny plate.

"Under these circumstances we do ourselves the honor to request that such steps may be taken as will enable us to continue our issue to the public. The present plate might again be repaired as heretofore in this office. This will take at least sixteen days, from 9 to 5 o'clock; but anticipating

our present position, we have a considerable supply on hand, enough, we think, to prevent any inconvenience while the plate is in the hands of the engraver.

"We shall feel obliged by your returning the enclosed sheet (forty-eight stamps) at your earliest convenience, as no note is made in our books of its issue. We have, etc.,

"J. C. C. BOYD,

"A. W. MANNING."

"The Colonial Secretary."

It will be seen that one sheet was submitted, and that sheet contained 48 stamps, or just double the number of impressions that we know were on the original plate. The explanation appears to me to be that two impressions were taken from the plate on the one sheet of paper. After the first impression had been taken, the paper was taken out of the press, turned round and a second impression taken on the unoccupied part of the paper. This would account for the one impression being printed upside down as regards the other, and also for No. 12 on the plate being immediately under (or over) No. 1.

Doubtless in most cases the two impressions were severed before being placed on sale at the Post Office, but the pair under review being from the supply used by an important Government, was probably cut straight from the "double" sheet, the two impressions being so close together that it was considered unnecessary to sever them.

Had this pair been at the disposal of the original "platers" of the views, I am inclined to think it would have very considerably delayed and hampered them in the labours which they brought to such a successful conclusion. It would have at once led them to believe that there were more than two rows on the plate, and caused them to despair of ever reconstructing a plate!—A F. BASSET HULL, in the *Australian Philatelist*.

100 Visiting Cards, 35c post paid. Correct styles and sizes. Samples for stamp. Satisfaction guaranteed.

H. B. CROLE & CO., 408 N. 11th. St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL OFFERS

The following list is changed weekly. *Watch it.* Bargains are often offered, and special things that come in from time to time are included.

*Indicate unused, others are cancelled.

	Net Prices
*British Honduras, 1898, 25c, brown and green (Gibbon's, \$3.75).....	\$2.00
*Gold Coast, 1884-89, 1sh, violet, (cat. 60).....	33
Gt. Britain, 1882, £5, orange, small cancellation	7.50
*Bosnia, 1901, 5k, greenish blue.....	1.25
*Porto Rico, 1893, 3c, dark green (Jubilee).....	45
3c Playing Cards, good specimens (cat. \$6.00).....	2.50
*U. S., 1895, \$2.00, sapphire, (cat. \$3.00).....	2.25
Same, used.....	1.50
*U. S., 1895, \$5.00, green, (cat. \$7.50).....	5.75
Same, used.....	1.95
Above U. S. 1895 are now out of issue, no remainders	
U. S., 1902, \$5.00, green, good used copy.....	2.00
*Gibraltar, 1889, 40c, or brown (cat. 35).....	12
*Gibraltar, 1889, 50c, violet, (cat. 50).....	12
Paraguay, 1802-03, 1c on 14c, (No. 70).....	05
5c on 60c, (No. 71).....	08
*Afghanistan, 1893, 1ab, orange (No. 181).....	40
1ab, yellow (No. 182) used	40
1ab, lilac rose (No. 184)	40
used.....	40
*U. S., 1873, 3c, green, double paper, (No. 158e)	7.50
* 3c, green, (No. 158) catg. \$1.00, fine	30
* 1879, 3c, green, (No. 184) fine.....	30
*Sierra Leone, 1895, 6p, brown violet.....	18
*Danish Wt. Indies, 1873-96, 12c red-lilac and green.....	15
* 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 23) rare	5.70
* 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 24).....	10
* 1902, 8c on 10c (No. 25).....	25
* 1902, 2c on 10c large surch.	.06
* Unpaid, 1, 4, 6, 10c, set of 4	30
*Gold Coast, 1884-91, 2sh brown, (cata. \$2.00).....	95
*Gibraltar, 1889, 5 pesetas, steel blue.....	1.20
*Hawaii, 1893, 25c Prov. Gov't.....	75
*Liberia, 1860, 12c blue, No. 5.....	1.95
* 1860, 24c green, No. 6 (cata. \$4.50).....	1.05
* 1869, 24c light green, No. 15.....	1.50
* 1882, 8c blue, No. 22.....	25
* 1882, 16c red, No. 23 (cata. \$1.35).....	45
* 1885, 16c yellow, No. 30.....	16
*Cuba, 1897, 40c, orange brown (Cat. 50c.).....	25
*Cuba, 1897, 80c, lilac brown, (Cat. \$1.00).....	50
*Niger Coast, 1894, 2p, carmine, unwmk, (Cat. \$1.25).....	48
Philippines, U. S. 50c, orange, surcharged.....	28
South Australia, 1902, 6p, green (long).....	15
1902, 9p, claret.....	23
*Hayti, 1896, 1c, ultramarine.....	35
* 3c, dull violet.....	50
* 7c, gray.....	75
* 20c, orange.....	1.25
* 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20, set well centered.....	2.75

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

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THE

Stamp-Friends' Raid

(IN PHILATELIA'S CAUSE)

A PHILATELIC PHANTASY

BY

W. E. IMESON

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by the Author.

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WAR STAMPS EXTRAORDINARY

From "*The Stamp Fiend's Raid*," by W. E. Imeson.

From Mars to Philatelia
 Bill now I tried to lead—
 It may be on the fatal plan
 Of "Much haste, little speed."
 I mentioned Philatelia, but
 It proved of little use,
 For Bludgeon thus unconsciously
 Her fair name did abuse:

"Who's this 'ere *Filly Tilly* wot
 Paul talks so much abaht?
 That 'e 's a good judge ov an 'orse
 I ain't th' slitis' dahbt.
 I'd like to 'ave a bit on; if
 Th' *Filly's* one to stay
 I'm on th' job—so 'elp me bob,
 I'll have a bob each way!"

Then gently I explained that
 Fair "Philly" was no horse,
 Though safe to put one's money on,
 And bound to stay, of course.
 "Her name," said I, was "short for
 Stamps,"
 Then, having broke the ice,
 I plunged the subject into, thus
 Forgetting Paul's advice.

As gentle hint, Bill forward then
 His empty pot did push.
 "Yer 're cummin 'ere to waste me time,
 A-beatin' rahnd the' bush!
 I fort yer wanted fer ter 'ear
 Me speak abaht th' woar,
 But if it's *Stamps* yer wants why ain't
 Yer mentioned it afoar?"

Paul saved the situation here,
 For he re-filled the pot.
 The subject nearest to my heart
 I'd broached, and nearer got.
 Yet not too soon from off his track
 I'd try "The Boer" to shunt,
 Who lied as well as any
 "Correspondent at the front."

Tho' Paul now whispered, "Shunt him
 on!
 Or leave the track he won't,
 You must have got the needle!" But
 I failed to see the point.
 "That's needless—I don't care a pin
 So please let me alone!
 Bill's unofficial war-news has
 A charm that's all it's own."

Paul to a certain place consigned
 Myself, but I said, "Well,
 Why should I go to—Halifax?"
 But why he could not tell.
 "Now, please remember that you're not
 (I spoke in mighty tones)
 The only pebble on the beach—
 You're not the only Jones!"

Paul left us and the "Boer" forthwith
 Produced a leathern pouch
 That held War-Stamps and other
 Stamps,
 Unique indeed, I'll vouch.
 Upon the bench we spread them out,
 Then I picked out the best,
 For which I gave the "Boer" five "bob"
 And now I'll give the list:—

A dozen *Transvaals*, £5 green (I'm holding
 for a rise!)
 With *V. R. P.'s* without the dots, and dots
 without the I's.
 This lot contained an "error" ('twill be
 rarer by-and-bye)
 A *V. R. F.* without the V., and *minus R.*
 and I.

An orange *Orange Free State*, showing the
 orange tree
 An overprint—"The late *O. F. S.*, now the
O. R. C."
 (This novel overprint was, like the Burgh-
 ers, "up a tree")
 A set of seven postal-fiscals "telegraphs"
 (What coous
 Are half the War-Stamp specialists) for
 franking war balloons.
 No speculative issue these for those who
 specialise,
 For, tho' not yet "inflated" the "Balloons"
 are bound to "rise!"
 They will not "drop"—no matter what the
 wary Philipines
 (The only *Transvaal* stamps that drop are
 stamps dropped at the mines).

A *Transvaal* overprinted with a figure ('pon
 my soul!)
 Of "Bobs" in full War-harness—but with-
 out the shafts or pole.
 "Bobs" wears a *Cape*, which makes me ask,
 apart from "fakers'" jobs,
 To such a stamp what says the other Rob-
 erts—Vernon Bobs?

A "picture-set," from whose wide range of
 subjects did I choose
 A *Kitchener* in operation, cooking *Kruger's*
 goose;
 With *Kruger* in a *stove-pipe* hat, and—what
 was stranger still,
 Tho' certainly not out of place—the stamp
 had got a *grille*.

A *Ladysmith* in brown-and-green on black,
 with *White* relief
 (Rarer than *Lady McLeod*—at least that's
 my belief)—
Ladysmith is watching with relief the dawn
 of day.
 (Would such a "copy" come as a relief to
 Duan C. J?)
Gibraltar's rare provisional poor *Lady-*
smith bereft!)
 With bust of *White* with head to right—the
 only one that's left.
 A very "scarce" gray *Kruger's Head*, with
hairlines just a few,
 The face looks very much cut up, and also
 rather "blue."

A *Baden Powell*, on bicycle, perf., ten, with punctured tyres,
The watermark's a "*Bathing Towel*," (supported with barbed wires);
On safety paper's B. P.'s "safety" (tinted orange peel)
A "*Rhodester*" pattern *Mafeking*, fitted with *Free State* wheel.

"This last looks rather doubtful, Bill,
The front wheel isn't true,
And that blue safety *bleute*—well,
I half suspect the blue."
"Wot bloomin' rot yer talkin', nah;
That *Bad'n Pal's* orl gay—
I 'ad it orf B. P. 'isself,
Wot swore it was O. K."

"Well, that's a guarantee, of course;
But what about the rest?
Have any dealers seen them, and
How did they stand the test?"
Bill's next and naive admission raised
My throat in quite a lump;
My five "bob" capital was sunk—
I'd visious of a "slump."

Bill said he'd called when in the Strand
(The day he stormed "*Pell Mell*")
At two or three stamp dealers' shops,
And tried these stamps to sell.
"I showed 'em Peckitt fust ov orl,
Who'd peck at 'em, yer'd fink,
But as 'e 'didn't touch them sort'
I didn't touch 'is chink!

Giwelb wudn't look at 'em at fust
(*'Is shop I chanct ter pass*),
But w'en 'e did 'e looked at 'em
A long time fru' a glass.
Sez 'e: 'They're werry prutty, but
I dunno wot they mean,
Was this lot made in Germany
Or made in Bef 'nal Green?

I 'ad 'igh words wiv Hadlow nex'
An' wish I'd laid 'im low
Fer sendin' fer a copper jus'
Acos I wudn't go.
The nex' I tries wos Gibbons, but
I didn't git no show;
An' werry fiy I fahnd 'is birds—
'Cos Hiscox giv' a crow!

I jus' goes in an' arsts 'im—jus'
As civil as cu'd be—
'Ah much ought I ter git for them?'
'Abahtsix monf's!' sez 'e.
'E shoves me w'en I tries ter take
'Em in ter *C. J. P.*—
Tho' I guess I'm as bright as 'im
An' knows me *A. B. C.*

But w'en I goes acrost th' road,
Yer 'd fink, th' way 'e cussed,
As Oliver wos Cronwell, an'
Th' Boar wos Charles th' Fust.
I called on Ginn, but won't agin;
'E sed I'd made (th' snipe,)
Lwo lydies faint in 'is shop fru'
A-smoking this 'ere pipe!"

"Try Alfred Smith?" "I did," said
Bill,
But 'ad to tell 'im strate—
Yer only bloomin' Alfred Smiff,
An' not Alfred th' Great.'
W'en 'e sed, 'Go to Lincoln,' I
Sed, Who's ter pay me fare?
D' yer fink I'm goin' to take 'em all
Th' way to Lincolnshare?"

I arst J. Jones to take 'em on,
Sed 'e, 'You take 'em off!
So then I tries annivver one,
An' sez ter Myerscough,
'Yer've been in this biz long enuf
Ter kuow yer way abaht,
'E looks me up an' dahh, an' sez,
'Ah long 'ave you bin aht?"

This ole pipe made 'im congh, (Bill's
Stamps
Would not make Myerscough!)
W'en Hamilton-Smith nex' I see
'E starts a takin' snuff!
An' Bluett sed she'd be blowed
If I sh'd draw a sub,
'E sniffed an' said, 'Yer'd only go
An' blow it at th' pub.'

I tries ter plant the lot on Shiells,
(Th' Shiells spelt wiv a Ross
Sed 'e, 'Well, if yer lose 'em orl
No one 'll feel the loss.'
I finds a Field that wosn't green,
But 'wider' than th' door,
I've laid th' field—but this Field tried
Ter lay me on th' floor.

Ter Marchant I march in an' arsts
'Is name. Sez 'e, 'March aht.'
An' Pemberton's a member, too.
Wot knows 'is way abaht.
Sum' sez, 'Try Brown, of Salisbury.' But
Yer 'as ter take th' train,
So I ain't yut seen Salisbury Brown,
Nor ain't seen Salisbury Plain.

I pops inter th' old *Bazaar*
Wot's called *Exchange and Mart*,
I'm up ter seein' 'Upcott Gill,'
Sez I, 'If as 'e 'll part.'
I tumbles in a room w'ere sits
A cove orl quiet an' still,
Them Stamps quite upset Upcott, tho'
Cos up got Upcott Gill."

What if—the thought was horrible—
What if I paid the "Boer"
Five "bob" for this "lot," worth, maybe
But fifty "bob"—no more!
Dealers are only mortal, tho',
And War-Stamps may deride,
When even such an expert as
Myself could not decide.

Was Paul the fool who'd put up Bill
These "gems" to try and sell?
"I tole yer as I seed them shops
We'n marchin' ter Pell Mell."
Then deeper still I sounded Bill,
The rivals most I dread
In "*Transvaals*" did I name, and lo!
He knew them all he said!

Bill claimed acquaintance intimate
 With *Transvaal* specialists,
 There wasn't one he didn't know
 Of such Philatelists.
 Said he, "I finks at Croyd'n
 Nex' Toosday I shall be,
 'Cos Mr. Nankivell 'as bin
 An' arst me dah'n to tea"

"Don't—don't go, Bill," I pleaded hard,
 "The journey's long and dear.
 Why pick up friends afar?—You prize
 Dear friends too cheaply here!
 The big collectors thousands have
 Of each stamp you can show.
 Don't take offence—take my advice
 For your own good—don't go!"

"I won't," sez he, "If wot yer sez
 Is true." Said I, "It is"
 "Tho'," added Bill, "this five bob ain't
 A werry payin' biz,
 It's 'arf a bloomin' pedlar's price!"
 The time, I now discerned,
 Had come to change the subject. Read
 How I the subject turned!

We have only given ten of the two hundred and ninety-four pages from the book referred to last week. No doubt many of our readers will want a copy. The publisher's announcement is in another column.

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Here is a special inducement to beginners, who have just started or desire to start a collection. My packet No. 20 contains 250 all different postage stamps from all over the world. With it you receive free, one nice album having spaces for about 4000 postage stamps, also 1000 gummed stamp hinges. All this, postfree, for only

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THE COLLECTORS' CLUB

There was a Vaudeville Entertainment at the Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Avenue, New York, on Saturday Evening, December 12, 1903.

The following programme for the season is announced:

Series of Evening Competitive Stamp Exhibitions to be held at the Collectors' Club, 351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

December 14, 1903

SIAM—Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Mr. Geo. L. Toppan.

January 11, 1904

U. S. TELEGRAPH STAMPS—Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Mr. Alex. Holland.

February 8, 1904

PORTO RICO—Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Mr. J. N. Luff.

March 14, 1904

U. S. POSTAGE, OFFICIAL, DUES, NEWS-PAPERS AND REVENUES—Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Scott S. & C. Co.

April 11, 1904

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Mr. Jos. S. Rich.

May 9, 1904

U. S. PROOFS AND ESSAYS—Silver and Bronze Medals. Donated by Collectors Club.

RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIVE STAMP EXHIBITIONS.

1. All exhibitors must be members of the Club and in good standing.
2. All stamps exhibited must be the absolute property of the exhibitors.
3. In any exhibition in which arrangement is to count, the stamps must be arranged by the owner.
4. A collection which has previously won a prize in this country shall not be eligible in competition for a prize of the same grade, but it may compete for a prize of higher or lower grade.
5. When a competition is limited to a certain number of stamps, only that number of stamps may be shown.
6. Pairs and blocks may be shown, but only one stamp will be considered and counted.
7. In judging a collection, condition is to count 25 per cent., rarity 25

per cent., and completeness 50 per cent.

8. Unless at least two competitive entries are entered, no first prize can be awarded; likewise three competitive entries must be entered for a second prize to be awarded and four competitive entries for an award of a third prize.

9. The name of the exhibitor should not appear on the package, but a private mark may be affixed indicating such exhibitor's ownership.

10. All exhibits must be in the hands of the judges at least two days before the date of exhibition.

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9 New Zealand	34	08

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

VOL. 16—NO. 48
WHOLE NO. 100

DECEMBER 21, 1903.

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

“Entered August 30, 1902, at St. Louis, Mo.,
as second-class matter, under Act of Congress
March 3, 1879.”

(Office of Publication, 324 North Third Street.)

In our Number of
American November 23rd, we referred to the trouble in
Collectors' the Collectors' Company, printing the circular of the Ex-President, George Crawford Capen, issued in anticipation of a stockholders' meeting.

The American Collectors' Company have mailed us the printed extracts from the minutes of the stockholders' meeting referred to, from which it would appear that Mr. Capen would have been retired as President even though he had not seen fit to resign.

The New Directors and officers are as follows:

- E. M. Carpenter, President.
- John N. Luff, 1st Vice-Pres.
- Alex Holland, 2nd Vice-Pres.
- Joseph Rich, Treasurer.
- Geo. L. Toppan, Secretary.
- A. W. Batchelder.
- H. L. Calman.
- E. H. Fallows.
- Webster Knight.
- Sam. R. Simmons, Jr.
- A. C. Wall.

A summary of the receipts for the fiscal year, from July 1st, 1902 to July 1st, 1903, of the two Subsidiary Companies (Scott Stamp & Coin Co. and New England Stamp Co.):

Gross Receipts	\$196,212.64
Expenses.....	64,377.83
Gross Profits.....	97,670.31
Net Profits.....	33,292.48
6 per cent. Dividend on Preferred Stock.....	18,000.00

Leaving a Net Surplus of \$15,292.48 on the books, not in cash, as some of this had been reinvested and become part of Merchandise Account.

The following extract from the minutes of a Directors' Meeting was presented to the stockholders; the resolution having been passed, it was stated, upon legal advice:

“Moved by Mr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Toppan, that, all acts performed, all papers, documents, certificates of stock, etc., signed by Geo. C. Capron as President of this Company, under the names of George C. Capen or Crawford Capen, be hereby declared legal and that the same be and hereby are approved by the Directors. Carried unanimously.”

So Mr. Capen or Mr. Capron, as you please, is *out*, and the bubble so beautifully blown, has passed with his visions of the common stockholders retiring the preferred stock and being “sole owners.”

BIG PROFIT IN STAMP BOOKS.

The sale of U. S. stamps in little books by the Department is netting a handsome profit. For the past year it was about \$70,000, and in the three years they have been in existence the Government has made almost \$200,000. The cost of the books to the Department is one-third of a cent each and they sell for one cent.

ORIGINAL GUM.

In the preface of Herr Paul Kohl's excellent catalogue for the year current, recently reviewed in this journal, will be found some interesting notes on the subject of original gum. Herr Kohl indulges himself in a little sermon anent the difficulties of procuring stamps in fine condition, the waywardness of some wicked collectors, who can never find anything fine enough, and their too high appreciation of the merits of original gum. In support of this latter contention he appealed to two well-known German philatelists—Herren Max Thier and J. Schlesinger—for their opinion on subject. The gist of their observations is as follows, and although we agree with them on some of the main points, our agreement must be tempered by one or two observations.

Herr Max Thier writes:—"In reply to your question I agree that you should warn collectors not to attach too much value to original gum. In my experience I have come to the conclusion that it is very difficult, and in most cases practically impossible, to determine with any certainty the existence of original gum. In some cases the gum is of value, but upon the whole, collectors would be wiser in preferring a *perfect* stamp without gum to an indifferent and unsightly specimen with original gum."

Herr J. Schlesinger writes:—"A faultless stamp with original gum, in first-class condition, is naturally the *desideratum* of a true collector. Through the search for such specimens, however, an industry has been created which must be fought against to its full extent. False gum may generally be detected; there are, however now, frequent cases—and they multiply—when the genuineness of the gum cannot be determined with certainty, and it will probably be impossible in coming years, even with the most diligent research. I therefore, urgently counsel all philatelists not to attach too great an importance to the gum."

It will be seen that both gentlemen state that the detection of false gum is practically impossible, but we can-

not quite adopt this conclusion. We should rather state the case thus: In certain cases, especially where the general condition of the stamp is not mint, it may occasionally be very difficult to determine as to the gum; but in cases where the *entire condition of the stamp, face and reverse, is in its condition as issued*, the recognition of the original gum is comparatively of no great difficulty.

We are at one with Herr Thier in his remark "that it is better to attach value to a specimen in fine condition without gum than to a poor one with it," and we are convinced that in many cases too much importance is attached to the gum alone. In the case of many old stamps—say the provisional issues of British Guiana or the first two issues of New South Wales—specimens with full gum hardly ever occur, and the collector who declined such issues without gum might wait until the Greek Kalends before completing his series. In these and doubtless many similar old issues, the gum was frequently very scantily, or even only partially laid on, and even if original is sometimes of so indeterminate a character as to present but little security against imitation. This latter remark applies also to such stamps as the Prussian Head issue with solid background, of which the 2 sg., blue, is so rare. This is a bold, well-printed stamp, with plenty of color, and one that well retains its freshness of appearance, while the gum is but a very simple white mucilage; yet we have seen really fine specimens without gum go begging for a fourth of the price paid for a stamp with the gum that otherwise was in no better condition. On the other hand, with such stamps as the first issue of Oldenburg, that often occur penmarked, and some values of which are of great rarity unused, the original gum, if undoubted, is of the greatest importance.

The real truth, therefore, of the matter is that original gum is like condition generally, as to which every collector can set up his own standard. Too much value should not be attached to the presence of the gum unless the

other determining factors of condition are all present. A perfect stamp should be as it was on the day of issue, assuming always that it was well printed and correctly perforated. It should be absolutely clean, the colors fresh and clear, the perforations or margins not impinging on the design, and the original gum undisturbed. This is what is understood by the now generally accepted phrase, "in mint condition," but it is hardly felicitous. It may savour of bathos to compare such a humble object as a stamp with the beautiful work of Nature as exemplified in fruit or flowers, but the *bloom* that is their crowning glory really represents that almost indefinite perfection which is the concomitant of true color and form as applied to a postage stamp.—M. P. Castle, Editor *London Philatelist*.

PROPER AUDIT OF STAMP ACCOUNTS.

No account is kept by the Auditor of the postage stamps, stamped paper and envelopes, etc., between the Post-office Department and the manufacturers or contractors for furnishing such paper. There are in existence what are known as "stamp agents," "postal card agents" and "stamped envelope agents," provided by law, the legitimate functions of which are not clearly defined. It was apparently the intention of Congress that they should be charged with the accountability for all stamps and stamped paper of each class coming into their possession, but as at present organized the stamps and stamped paper never come into their possession, actually or constructively. And they are, therefore, not required to make any accounting therefor.

In my annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1900, attention was called to this fact in the following language:

"No account has ever been kept by the Post-office Department of the stamps and stamped paper furnished to it by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing or by outside contractors. This account should have been opened

when postage stamps were first introduced, say fifty years ago, and continuously kept until this time. That account would be the fundamental corrective check upon substantially the whole revenues of the Post-office Department, amounting to over \$90,000,000. That no such account has ever been opened or kept is an astonishing revelation of defective methods, all the more glaring because similar accounts have always been rigidly kept by the Auditor for the Treasury Department with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, whenever stamps have been required by law."

The Treasury Department has been recently advised, confirming the above statement in emphatic terms, that such an account should be kept; that some officer should be chargeable with all the postage stamps, stamped paper, envelopes, etc., coming from the manufacturers, and that credit should be allowed upon proper evidence of the same having been delivered to the respective Postmasters. All damaged stock, or that lost in transit, should be properly accounted for, and credit allowed only upon satisfactory evidence presented to the accounting officer.—From Annual Report of H. A. Castle, Auditor for P. O. Dept.

COUNTERFEIT POSTMARKING.

Counterfeit postmarking stamps have been used on advertising matter circulated outside the mails, and such use has resulted in many complaints to the Department, of the missending and delay of such matter, some of which complaints have been investigated.

I recommend that Congress be requested to provide a penalty for the counterfeiting of the postmarking stamp or for the use of a postmarking stamp for any unlawful or improper purpose.

ROBERT J. WYNNE,

First Assistant Postmaster General.

—Extract from Annual Report.

SPECIAL OFFERS

The following list is changed weekly. *Watch it.* Bargains are often offered, and special things that come in from time to time are included.

*Indicate unused others are cancelled. **Net Prices**

*Canada, 1872, 6c, yellow brown, <i>mint</i> , (Scott \$1.00, Gibbon's \$1.25).....	\$0.35
*Same, block of four, <i>mint</i>	1.00
Queensland, 1899, 1 sh, lilac, (Scott 40c).....	17
1900, 2 sh, gr. blue, used.....	35
1903, 9c, Commonwealth.....	17
Salvador, Official, 1900, 13c (No. 621).....	30
24c (No. 622).....	50
1c (No. 623).....	06
26c (No. 624).....	50
*Danish West Indies, 1873-96, 12c, red-lilac and green.....	15
*Danish West Indies, 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 22) <i>rare</i>	5.70
1902, 2c on 3c (No. 24).....	10
1902, 8c on 10c (No. 25).....	25
1902, 2c on 3c, large surch.....	06
Unpd, 1, 4, 6, 10c, set of 4.....	30
*Gold Coast, 1884-91, 2sh, brown, (cat. \$2.00).....	95
*Gibraltar, 1889, 5 pesetas, steel blue.....	1.20
*Hawaii, 1893, 25c, Prov. Gov't.....	75
*Liberia, 1860, 12c, blue, No. 5.....	1.95
1860, 24c, green, No. 6, (cat. \$4.50).....	1.95
1869, 24c, light green, No. 15.....	1.50
1882, 8c, blue, No. 22.....	25
1882, 16c, red, No. 23 (cat. \$1.35).....	45
1885, 16c, yellow, No. 30.....	16
*Boyaca, (Colombia), 1903, 5 pesos, <i>rose</i> , perf.....	30
5.....	unperf.
10.....	buff, perf.
10.....	unperf.
*Cuba, 1897, 40c, orange brown (cat. 50c).....	25
*Cuba, 1897, 80c, lilac brown, (cat. \$1.00).....	50
*Niger Coast, 1892, 1/2 on 1p, lilac, (No. 7) <i>pair</i> unsevered; very desirable.....	6.00
*Niger Coast, 1894, 2p, carmine, unwtmk, (cat. \$1.25).....	48
Philippines, U. S., 50c, orange, surcharged.....	28
Confederate, 1861, 5c, green on original cover.....	20
10c, blue.....	38
1862, 5c, blue.....	25
1902, 9p, claret.....	15
South Australia, 1902, 6p, green (long).....	15
1902, 9p, claret.....	23
*Hayti, 1888, 1c, ultramarine.....	35
3c, dull violet.....	50
7c, gray.....	75
20c, orange.....	1.25
1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20, set, <i>well centered</i>	2.75
*Gold Coast, 1884-89, 1sh, violet, (cat. 60).....	33
Gt Britain, 1882, £5, orange, small cancellation.....	7.50
*Bosnia, 1900, 5k, greenish blue.....	1.25
*Porto Rico, 1893, 3c, dark green (Jubilee).....	45
3c Playing Cards, good specimens (cat. \$6.00).....	2.50
U. S., 1903, \$5.00, green, good used copy.....	2.00
*Gibraltar, 1889, 40c, brown (cat. 35).....	12
*Gibraltar, 1889, 50c, violet, (cat. 50).....	12
Paraguay, 1802-03, 1c on 14c, (No. 70).....	05
5c on 60, (No. 71).....	05
*Afghanistan, 1893, lab, orange (No. 181).....	40
lab, yellow (No. 182) used.....	40
lab, lilac rose (No. 184) used.....	40
*U. S., 1873, 3c, green, double paper, (No. 158).....	7.50
3c, green, (No. 150) cat. \$1.00, fine.....	30
1879, 3c, green, (No. 184) fine.....	30
*Sierra Leone, 1895, 6p, brown violet.....	18
Italy, 1901, 5 lire, blue and rose (cat. 50c).....	.16
U. S. Square Env. 1853, 3c die 4 on white (catalogued \$5.00). Superb lightly cancelled copy with wide margins.....	2.90
*1853, 10c die 2 on buff (cat. \$6.00), square.....	2.90
New Zealand, 1900, 2 1/2p, blue (Lake Wakatipu).....	03
3p, brown (Birds).....	04
4p, blue (Pictorial).....	04
5p, brown.....	10
6p, pink.....	06
1s, red (Birds).....	13
*Tollma, 1903, 1 peso, bistre.....	12
2 pesos, slate.....	20
5 pesos, vermilion.....	30
10 pesos, black on green.....	45
10 pesos, black on blue.....	45
*Antioquia, 1903, 10c yellow.....	03
20c purple.....	04
"Urbano," 20c rose.....	06
40c lilac.....	12
Victoria, 1902, £2 dark blue, lightly cancelled.....	6.25
*Australia Commonwealth, 1902, 5sh, first issue.....	3.00

C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. St. Louis, Mo.

PARCELS POST BILL.

The American Postal League, of which Col. Albert A. Pope is president, promises to become a very important factor in postal matters, and it is probable that its influence will soon be felt in securing more satisfactory merchandise postal rates. Colonel Pope is entering into this work with the same energy with which he fought for good roads some years ago. He has already prepared a merchandise post bill to be introduced in Congress, embodying a number of good features, the provisions of which are as follows:

The consolidation of second and third-class postal matter, including authors' manuscripts, commercial papers, etc., and the extension of the present weight limit to eleven pounds, with the rates as follows: On parcels up to three ounces, one cent; over three up to six ounces, two cents; over six up to nine ounces, three cents; over nine to twelve ounces, four cents; over twelve ounces to one pound, five cents; on larger parcels for each additional pound or fraction thereof, two cents; on eleven pound parcels, twenty-five cents; this, with house-to-house collections and delivery, and with insurance up to the value of the parcel. On unregistered parcels the ordinary rates carry insurance up to \$10. On registered parcels the eight cent registration fee insures up to \$25. On more valuable parcels the rate proposed is two cents for each additional \$50 insurance.

This bill seems to be eminently practicable and reasonable, and its eventual adoption is probable. The great question is, however, how long will it be before such adoption is brought about? The most difficult work of the League will be to secure legislative action in the near future.

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106 East Eleventh Street NEW YORK CITY,

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The following suggestion is made by the *Australian Journal of Philately*:

The various philatelic societies throughout the Commonwealth, and philatelists not connected with any society, should bestir themselves in an endeavor to have the following when the new stamps appear.

1. Suitable designs.
2. Permanent paper.
3. Permanent colors.
4. Satisfactory printing.
5. A fixed and definite perforation.
6. A simultaneous issue.

SALVADOR, 1899.

It would be just as well to enquire into the character of the set of labels now on the market as the *Issue of 1899*.

It is well known to those familiar with Salvador stamps that the type of 1899 were issued and used with certain control surcharges. The unsurcharged sets now on the market undoubtedly belong to the "made for collectors" class, and should be regarded in the same way as "Seebecks."

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Stamps on Original Covers.—For the last few years a number of collectors have been going on acquiring envelopes with the adhesives on as originally posted. It was a curious fancy, as nobody could ever expect to get complete sets of any country of importance, and their bulk, if obtained, would, as a rule, exceed that of Post-cards or Entires generally. In this case, the to-be-expected has happened, for cheap remainders or others, postmarked in sheets, are stuck on pieces of paper, with a forged completion (in part) of the postmark. A German contemporary reports a noted dealer formerly of Buda Pesth as having gone a little further in producing complete used sets of the Dominican Republic 1902

issue at suspiciously low figures. But the Liepsic paper illustrates the postmarks and condemns them as forgeries, the dates being as early as January, 1902, whereas the envelopes were supplied by a Zurich firm some nine months later, and addresses printed on them in March last!—*P. J. of Great Britain.*

SHIN PLASTERS.

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F. ZERBE,

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MORLEY'S ON THE OFFICIAL STAMP CASE.

The sensation of the past few months—attracting attention even amongst the general public—has been the Official Stamp case recently concluded. The continued leakage of Official stamps at last caused the Government to take drastic steps to stop it, with a very effectual result, at least for the present. It is a very unpleasant business all round, not only for the persons concerned but for the British philatelic world in general. Yet the evolution of the affair is simple enough. When the great officials of a Government office are known to take official stamps for the purpose of presentation to their stamp collecting friends naturally the smaller fry endeavour to obtain them likewise. At first, some are allowed official permission to have specimens and then it gradually grows to substituting ordinary stamps for official ones without permission. This being no fraud but merely “a breach of confidence,” the substituters expect that even if detected it will be condoned. Finally, since there are people willing to pay heavily for specimens, some less scrupulous officials effect the the substitution on an ever increasing scale and are tempted to sell their ill gotten gains, till at last the substitutions even are effected by tricks, which if not absolutely fraudulent are so closely allied thereto as to be indistinguishable, such as substitution by pieces of mutilated “specimen” stamps for the coveted articles—a practice to which the two culprits pleaded guilty at the recent trial. Then comes the penalty and terribly severe it was in the present case.

It seems to us that the matter should not now be left by the Government with the result attained. Sooner or later the leakage will begin again and like disastrous results will arise therefrom unless some method is adopted to prevent it. There are in our opinion, *only* two remedies, (1) to stop overprinting stamps for Government departments, (2) if overprinting is really necessary, to sell such overprinted stamps to collectors at face value. It

has been widely suggested that if the stamps were perforated with initials nobody would collect them. We cannot, however, agree with this suggestion. If the stamps are perforated there are sure to be some individuals who would want them. There are collectors of the Id. stamps perforated with the firms' names, of which we gave a lengthy list in recent numbers. Moreover, it is true that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons do not catalogue the stamp perforated with a crown and “B. T.” used by the Board of Trade, yet they do catalogue and price a set of stamps for Luxemburg, perforated with the word “Official.” It appears therefore, that the “perforated method” will be useless. We should much like to see all the official stamps abolished. They do not, to us at any rate, present any special interest and we could well spare them, in view of the alarming quantity of new issues from all parts of the world. If this is impossible, the sale of them at face value, at Somerset House would at any rate legitimize the possession of these in mint state by collectors and would knock the bottom out of the tall prices which are paid for them.

If the authorities would go so far as to recognize philately by selling official stamps to collectors at face value, we might perhaps venture to ask for a further boon on behalf of those interested in fiscal stamps. As for us, we are aware Scotch and Irish fiscals cannot be purchased in London and there are various sets of English ones which the average collector does not know where to get. Could not all current fiscal stamps be sold at Somerset House? There are many who would appreciate the privilege.

HAWAII.

Stamps of this U. S. Colony in good condition are becoming scarce. I offer, unused and in perfect condition:

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S. VALENTINE SAXBY,
ROCKFORD, ILL.

NOTES BY PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITIAN.

New forgeries of Greek stamps by a photographic process are exposed in another German paper, probably those referred to in Mr. Padgett's interview two months back; also the surcharges have been forged by stolen type from the Government printing office at Athens, we read elsewhere.

Collectors in India, where duty is claimed on stamps, grow eloquent on the subject. Such an impost serves no useful purpose, and its addition to the revenue is almost infinitesimal. We hope the manufacture of stamps in England is not an industry that needs protection! Perhaps the Customs will discriminate between genuine and forged stamps, treating the latter as "manufactured." There will be plenty of employment for experts at the Post Office.

At the present moment there is a great run on Seychelles stamps, a fact which is difficult to understand. The authorities out there have certainly shown themselves very keen business people, and have worked the game for all it is worth; there is, too, evidently a little ring of speculators on the spot who know how to pull the ropes, and, unfortunately, collectors all the world over are only too eager to encourage them. The continuous flood of surcharges will, if not stopped, soon make the names of Salvador, Seychelles, Nicaragua, and other places stink in the nostrils of philatelists.

Mauritius is another colony which is in the same boat. In this busy centre an "Express Delivery" stamp has been created by surcharging the old Labourdonnais monstrosity, the remaining stock of which was not commanding any sale in its pristine purity. The collectors of new issues, by their heavy speculations, are giving direct encouragement to this form of imposition, and they may expect still heavier demands on their patience while they take it "lying down." Eventually, of course, the speculating

Governments will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, but by that time they will have dealt a severe blow at Philately.

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MEKEEL'S STAMP COLLECTOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
C. H. MEKEEL STAMP AND PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

VOL. 16—NO. 49
WHOLE NO. 101

DECEMBER 28, 1903.

\$1.00 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

“Entered August 30, 1902, at St. Louis, Mo., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.”

(Office of Publication, 324 North Third Street.)

St. Louis World's Fair Stamps. E. C. Madden, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, has transmitted to the postmaster general his recommendations for the figures to appear on the special St. Louis Exposition stamps. The recommendations are:

One Cent—Robert Livingston, Minister to France when the Louisiana Purchase treaty was signed.

Two Cent—Thomas Jefferson, President when the treaty was signed.

Three Cent—James Munroe, special envoy to France to negotiate the treaty.

Five Cent—William McKinley, President who approved of the bill creating the Exposition.

Ten Cent—Map of the United States, showing the territory acquired by the treaty.

The stamps will be in the same colors as the present stamps of the same denominations. They will be rectangular in shape and about the size of those issued in 1892 for the Columbian Exposition. The issue will be put on the market with the opening of the Exposition. The size of the issue will depend entirely upon the public demand.

Early philatelists were all agreed as to the desirability of obtaining perfect and immaculate copies, but it is only of comparatively recent years that this view has be-

come general, with the result that the difference in market value between a fine copy and a poor one has increased by leaps and bounds. This distinguishing between good copies and inferior ones is perfectly just and sound; a first-rate specimen of anything, from a boiled potato to an Old Master, is preferable to a second- or third-rate one, and, therefore, fairly worth more money, but the question does occasionally arise in stamp matters, Which of two copies is the best, or how are their excellencies or defects to be reckoned? An unbounded faith in the superiority of *unused* copies is still somewhat too prevalent, and is only equalled by the perversity of those who regard an obliteration as a necessary qualification for admission into a collection. We have always maintained that, *other things being equal*, the unused copy is in every case the better specimen, but we have never argued that a poor unused copy is better than a fine used one. In fact, we have always thought that far too little attention was paid to *fine* used copies, which in many cases are only inferior to equally fine unused. — *Monthly Journal* Editorial.

**Index to
Volume 16.**

We shall issue an 8 page form, with title and table of contents, for Volume 16 which is completed with this number. It will be prepared as soon as convenient and mailed as supplement with one of our regular editions. We wish all our readers a very Prosperous and Happy New Year.

A SEDANG STORY.

"The A B C of stamp collecting" is a new book by Fred J. Melville brought out in England, the following story of the Bogus stamp of Sedang is reprinted.

A few years ago a very extraordinary "affaire" aroused great interest in Paris. The whole story has been explained by Mr. Henry Norman in his book on "The Far East."

During 1889 a tall, well-built Frenchman appeared at Hong Kong. He called himself Marie David de Mayrena, and on his visiting card were printed the words in French; "His Majesty the King of Sedang,"

Mayrena had had an adventurous career in the Far East; and, in the course of long wanderings, had reached the region of the Sedangs, a tribe inhabiting the hinterland of Annam. By these people he was elected king and, according to Mr. Norman, there is no doubt whatever about the genuineness of his election.

On his arrival at Hong Kong, the "King of Sedang" was vouched for by the French Consul, who introduced him to the society in the Colony, and to His Excellency the Governor. In consequence of the latter introduction Mayrena was invited to a dinner at Government House.

From the description given of his person he was a most striking figure when in his royal attire. He wore a short scarlet jacket with enormous galons on his cuff, a broad blue ribbon a magenta sash, in which was struck a long curved sword worn across the front of his body, while trousers with a broad gold stripe, and a white helmet with a crown of gold and three stars. Having instituted the "Order of Marie I," he decorated the captain of a little Danish steamer who had hoisted his "royal standard" in Haipong Harbor. Later, he even decorated the British Governor of Hong Kong with the ridiculous ribbon and cross. To a number of merchants he conceded rights for the development of the country of the Sedangs, in return for certain duties on exports. He had prepared in Paris a series of postage stamps, not for use among

the savages, but obviously for sale to philatelic enthusiasts. Soon after the issue of these he was discovered to be an imposter. He left Hong Kong in a German steamer with the French authorities close at his heels. He had passed round the hat to a few friends and acquaintances in Hong Kong to pay his passage. After a term of imprisonment for debt at Ostend, he turned up in Paris. Here he lived for a time in luxury, the French Press and the Parisian people themselves scarcely knowing what to make of him. The Far East, however, still had a fascination for him, and he returned thither, taking up his abode with two or three companions in an uninhabited island off the Malay coast. Here a cobra brought the strange career of Marie I. to an end by biting him on the foot."

AN OLD PHILATELIST.

The passing of W. E. Image is recorded, an old and eminent philatelist of the early days of our hobby.

He was born in 1807 and was a noted surgeon in England from the active following of which profession he retired in the early seventies; a man of great mental attainments, who had occupied high positions, among which may be mentioned that of Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Suffolk. His first wife was a keen collector, and on her death in 1872 he took up the study and arrangement of the stamps, increasing it so largely and so well as to realize \$15,000 for the collection (even then considered a low price for such rarities as it contained), when it passed to the late Mr. Tipling in 1882. It was specially noticeable for the splendid condition of its specimens, which have now found a home in the British Museum. He was an ardent and devoted philatelist in the highest sense of the term, and his name and fame as a scientific worker will remain as long as Philately itself. Considering the advanced age to which he had attained, mere expressions of regret on his loss to the pursuit may seem unnecessary, if not out of place; but all his fellow-

students will sympathize with his family in the personal loss they have sustained.

A SCRAP OF HISTORY.

The modern collector—the man who became interested in philately in consequence of war provisionals issued during the South African Campaign—looks with pride on his collection of Mafeking's and Pietersburg's, and points them out to his non-collecting friends as an instance of the historic interest of Philately.

This same man will scoff at the idea that fiscals have any such claim to interest and historic value.

The fiscalist, if he be lucky, may be able to show a stamp which far outshines any of the modern war provisionals in the fact that it was not issued during a war, but was the actual cause of the war which severed that portion of the world now called the United States of America from the list of British possessions.

This stamp, a commonplace British fiscal surcharged "America," was prepared for the collection of taxes from the colonists of the New World, and one of the most irritating of those taxes was the duty on tea. Every one, is familiar with the story of how the Bostonites disguised as Mohawks boarded the ship and threw its cargo into Boston Harbor. This was the first overt act of rebellion in the great War of Independence, a war directly due to the imbecility of North, the chief adviser of a not-to-clever king,—a war which has produced the most far-reaching effects by creating a new nation, one which is now playing its part among the powers of the world, following in the footsteps of the mother-country in its aversion to tyranny and oppression, and one which has taken up its share in the White Man's burden.—*E. W. Wetherell in the Philatelic Journal of India.*

EWEN'S ADVICE.

Do not avoid stamps because they appear at first sight to be speculative

or unnecessary. Stamp collectors are not such important personages that stamps are often made for their especial benefit. Even in the case of little islands where the smallness of the population would not seem to warrant the issue of stamps, the cause of such issue is quite as likely to be local pride in possessing a post-office and a desire to adopt the methods of civilization. Collectors forget that even big colonies had small beginnings, For instance, Victoria, the richest of the Australian states, with a present population of 1,200,000, was almost unknown 70 years ago. In 1836 the State had a total population of 236, exclusive of a few thousand aborigines. In 1837 Melbourne was founded. Thirteen years later stamps were issued, the issue of 1850 being represented by 23 varieties. In 1851 gold was discovered and the colony's era of prosperity set in. When the first stamps were issued, 23 varieties in a year would no doubt have been characterized as too liberal an allowance had their been a specialist to carp. New South Wales' 110 varieties in five years is also a very liberal supply for a young colony, but critics are apt to forget that the same facilities do not exist in young colonies of getting the same quality of paper, ink, etc. Why a colony should be dictated to by collectors and told that it may not change the quality of its paper if it finds something more suitable, may not buy a new perforating machine without being assailed with abuse, may not use up old stock by surcharging it with values which render it saleable, we utterly fail to see. When a small colony which can't afford two or three separate sets of stamps for postal, fiscal and telegraph use, makes one set do, rude remarks are sometimes heard to the effect that the amalgamation has been made to exploit collectors; but it is absurd to suggest such a thing; apart from which it is often much more convenient to have only one set and one series of designs. Our strongest advice is to collect everything without fear or favor.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.*

SPECIAL OFFERS

The following list is changed weekly. *Watch it.*
Bargains are often offered, and special things that come in from time to time are included.

	Not Prices
<i>*Indicate unused, others are cancelled.</i>	
*Canada 1872, 6c yellow brown mint. (Scott \$1.00, Gibbon's \$1.25)	\$0.35
*Same, Block of four mint	1.00
Queensland 1899, 1 sh. lilac. (Scott 40c) .....	.17
1900, 2 sh. gr. blue, used .....	.35
1903, 9c Commonwealth .....	.17
Salvador, Official 1900, 13c (No. 621) .....	.30
24c (No. 622) .....	.50
* " " " 1c (No. 623) .....	.06
26c (No. 624) .....	.50
*Danish Wt. Indies, 1873-96, 12c red-lilac and green .....	.15
* " " " 1902, 2c on 3c (No. 22) rare	5.70
1902, 2c on 3c (No. 24) .....	.10
* " " " 1902, 8c on 10c (No. 25) .....	.25
* " " " 1902, 2c on 3c large surch. .....	.06
Unpaid, 1, 4, 6, 10c, set of 4 .....	.30
British Honduras, 1884-87, 1sh gray fine used copy, No. 17, cata. \$20.00	9 75
British Columbia and Vancouver Island, 1861 2 1/2p, pink very fine, lightly cancelled	3 75
*Barbados, 1873, 6p vermilion. wmk. large star unperformed, No. 41 a	6 00
*Gold Coast, 1884-91, 2sh brown, (cata. \$2.00) .....	.95
*Gibraltar, 1889, 5 pesetas, steel blue	1 20
*Hawaii, 1893 25c Prov, Gov't .....	.75
*Liberia, 1860, 12c blue No. 5	1 95
1860, 24c green. No. 6 (cata. \$4.50)	1 95
* " " 1869, 24c light green, No. 15	1 50
1882, 8c blue, No. 2? .....	.25
1882, 16c red, No. 23 (cata. \$1.35) .....	.45
* " " 1885, 16c yellow, No. 30 .....	.16
Samoa, 1877-81, 9p yellow-brown, fine used	3 75
1877-81, 1sh green, fine used	7 50
*Somali Coast, 1894, 25 francs, large diamond Shape	6 00
*Surinam, 1900, 50c on 2gl 50c green and orange	1 00
*Boyaca, (Colombia), 1903, 5 pesos, rose, perf. .....	.30
" " " 5 " " " unperf .....	.35
" " " 10 " " buff, perf .....	.50
" " " 10 " " unperf .....	.55
*Cuba, 1897, 40c, orange brown (Cat. 50c) .....	.25
*Cuba, 1897, 80c, lilac brown, (Cat. \$1.00) .....	.50
*Niger Coast, 1892, 1/2 on 1p, lilac, (No. 7) pair unsevered; very desirable	6 00
*Niger Coast, 1894, 2p carmine, unwmk, (Cat. \$1.25) .....	.48
Philippines, U. S. 50c, orange, surcharged	2 28
Confederate, 1861, 5c, green, on original cover .....	.20
10c, blue .....	.38
1862, 5c blue " " .....	.25
South Australia, 1902, 6p, green (long) .....	.15
1902, 9p, claret .....	.23
1903, " O. S." 1sh, brown .....	.50
w'm'k Crown S. A. .....	.50
*Hayti, 1888, 1c ultramarine .....	.35
* " " " 3c, dull violet .....	.50
* " " " 7c, gray .....	.75
* " " " 20c, orange	1 25
1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20, set well centered	2 75
*Gold Coast, 1884-89, 1sh, violet, (cat. 60) .....	.33
Gt. Britain, 1882, 45 orange, small cancellation	7 50
*Bosnia, 1900, 5k greenish blue	1 25
*Porto Rico, 1893, 3c dark green (Jubilee) .....	.45
3c Playing Cards, good specimens (cat.) \$6.00	2 50
*U. S., 1895, \$2.00, sapphire, (cat. \$3.00)	2 25
Same used	1 95
Above U. S. 1895 are now out of use, no remainders.	
U. S. 1903 \$5.00, green, good used copy	2 00
*Gibraltar, 1889, 40c or brown (cat. 35) .....	.12
*Gibraltar, 1889, 50c violet, (cat. 50) .....	.12
Paraguay, 1802-03, 1c on 14c. (No. 70) .....	.05
5c on 60, (No. 71) .....	.05
*Afghanistan, 1893, lab, orange (No. 181) .....	.40
lab, yellow (No. 182) used .....	.40
lab, lilac rose (No. 184) .....	.40
used .....	.40
*U. S., 1873, 3c, green, double paper. (No. 158c)	7 50
* " " 3c, green, (No. 150) catg. \$1.00, fine .....	.50
* " " 1879, 3c, green, (No. 184) fine .....	.30
*Sierra Leone, 1895, 6p, brown violet .....	.18

C. H. McKeel Stamp and Publishing Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

Every year more and more attention is being given to stamp collecting by those outside the ranks of collectors. Publishers of periodicals now regularly make room for stamps as an attractive subject. Several first class periodicals are now publishing regular monthly contributions on stamps as a feature. They know that the stamp collector is to be counted by the thousand, that he is to be found in groups in every city and town of the country, and that he is numerous enough and influential enough to be seriously and regularly catered to.

An English paper reckons that there are over nine million stamp collectors nowadays in the world. What a large army to cater to! No wonder stamps issued in limited quantities soon become rare. The fact is there are not enough rarities to go around, hence the constantly increasing values of good stamps.

Bright & Son, 164 Strand, London, have issued a Supplement to the 5th Edition of their "A. B. C." Catalogue. Same will be sent post free by the publishers for 14c.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News for December 19th comes out in colored cover, enlarged as a Christmas number.

XMAS SPECIAL

I offer the following bargains in U. S. unused stamps in perfect condition:

No. 212—2c. green.....	Cat. 10c.....	.04
" 222—4c. dk. brown.....	" 10c.....	.06
" 225—8c. lilac.....	" 18c.....	.10
" 226—10c. green	" 20c.....	.12
" 228—30c. black.....	" 50c.....	.38

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Ceylon, No. 89—8c. Orange, O. G. Col. 2512
U. S. Postal Card, 1c. Brown, Large Watermark02
Newfoundland 1/2c. Prince Edward O. G. ....	.01

Until Jan. 31st I will give a special discount of 10 per ct. to all purchasers from my approval books amounting to \$2.00. Try a selection stating what you desire. Postage extra. Don't forget references.

S. VALENTINE SAXBY
ROCKFORD, ILL.

Numismatic Department.

EDITED BY FARRAN ZERBE.

THE DEXTER 1804 DOLLAR SOLD

A Denver, Col., daily says: "Two thousand dollars is the price received by Rolla G. Parvin, secretary and treasurer of the Union Deposit and Trust Company, for a silver dollar made in 1804. The man who paid this sum was H. G. Brown of Portland, Ore. The money was received and immediately upon its receipt Mr. Parvin shipped the coin via Wells Fargo express.

The silver dollar made in 1804 is the gem of the United States coinage, and the price paid yesterday is the highest ever paid for an American coin. The story leading up to the sale is interesting. For some years past there has not been a mail that has not brought to Mr. Parvtn inquiry in regard to the coin, and each contained a query as to what price would buy it. Mr. Parvin would usually write down the first figure which came into his mind, because he did not wish to part with the coin. When he answered Mr. Brown's letter he placed the figure at \$2.000 and forgot all about the matter. No sooner had the letter been received than telegrams began to pour into the office of Mr. Parvin from Mr. Brown. The Denver man disliked to part with it, but in order to keep his word he sent the dollar today in receipt of the order for \$2.000."

Mr. Brown confirms the sale, but to our certain knowledge has been silent, Perhaps modestly so, as to the price. This coin long recognized as "the king of American rarities" has if the price, \$2.000, is correct moved up several points in the lead of high price, U. S. coins. This particular specimen, widely known as the "Dexter Dollar" is the only one that has been considered purchasable in many years and during which time the calling value of an 1804 has been problemical, but that this identical coin could have been purchased since

the death its ours for \$1500, there is no doubt, whether from the late seller or not, we cannot say.

This coin which was property of the late J. V. Dexter of Denver, has, since his demise been for sale by his estate. Mr. Dexter became the possessor of this coin through Scott & Co, who purchased it for him in the sale of the Chapman collection, sold by S. H. & H. Chapman, May 14 and 15 1885, the stated price being \$1.000. The Chapmans in cataloguing this coin stated: "In superb, extremely fine condition, with beautiful proof surface, as fine as, if not the finest of the seven known. We guarantee it genuine. In white velum and gold plush lined case with plate. It is the first one offered in eight and half years. (purchased by) S. H. and H. Chapman Oct. 13, 1884 at a sale of a fine collection in Berlin!

Messrs Chapman before guaranteeing the genuineness of this specimen compared it with all the others known, and that it is a gem of the first water there is no doubt.

A LETTER.

MR. FARRAN ZERBE,

Numismatic Editor of Mekeel's Collector.

Dear Sir:—

I have read your editorial in the issue of the Collector for Nov. 30th, with considerable pleasure, and would offer the following suggestion, in the event of the American Numismatic Association meeting in your city during the ensuing year:

First: Let every member who intends to be present bring some special coins, tokens, or medals with him—these collections to constitute a temporary exhibition while the meeting is in progress.

Second: I suggest that such members as are willing to read short papers

at the meeting, signify their intention to you, so that provision can be made by you to have these essays printed.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT R. FREY,
Vice-Pres. A. N. A.

Brooklyn, N. Y.,
Dec. 18th, 1903.

Vice-President Frey is right in line for the "A. N. A., St. Louis, 1904." The services of the COLLECTOR and its Editor are at our command. (Ed).

NUMISMATIC NOTES.

Publishers of Numismatic journals, books, sales catalogues, etc., for exchange and review, are requested to send copies of their publications to the Editor in charge of this Department, and to whom all inquiries regarding coins, paper money, etc., should be addressed:—Farran Zerbe, Administration Building, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis.

For the benefit of the many inquiries and the victims of the World's Fair joker, we repeat: There is no premium on any silver dollar of the current type, except 1895, with no mint mark (coined at Phila.), when in proof condition, commands about \$5.00.

Copper cents, of any date, when in very fine condition, command a premium. 1793; a few types of the 1794, 1799, 1804 and 1809 are the only dates in any condition but "fine" that command a premium worth the postage to find out.

The action of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, in relation to their souvenir coin is worthy of numismatic commendation. Their official statement that "None will be sold for less than three dollars," offers a guarantee and price protection that has never been given with a souvenir coin offered as a premium. The Exposition invites the assistance and cooperation of numismatists, banks, etc., in the sale of this coin, and that none may repeat that which has been their past experience with souvenir coins,

any number that may be subscribed for will be forwarded prepaid; and any number that may be subscribed for, on the blanks provided for the purpose, and returned before July 1st, 1904, will be redeemed at the purchase price.

The Secret Service Department have succeeded in capturing a gang of counterfeiters, whose products have for some time been a menace to the safety of our currency. Seven men were taken into custody in Boston; and the raid on their den resulted in the seizure of a number of well executed plates and a quantity of very dangerous "queer," including the \$5 Indian head, \$10 Buffalo and \$20 gold certificate.

The most interesting character in the gang is Harry Davis, the engraver and the brains of the band. He is only 37 years old, and once worked for the United States Government. He has all the appearance of a well-bred man, and is acknowledged as one of the most dangerous counterfeiters in the world. He is a Russian, and, according to Chief Flynn's men, he went to London a few years ago and while there made five-pound notes on the Bank of England and also Russian notes.

Davis is so clever at engraving that he can make notes that will deceive experts. Davis also understands the art of Government paper manufacture. He has a process of his own by which he can imitate the silk thread that is a part of the genuine Government note. The secret-service men have been after the Davis gang for the last year or more.

The current *Numismatist* presents a good portrait of that genial numismatist dean, Lyman H. Low who claims the medal for the many sales in a two year period, with more than a score to his credit. Mr. Low's next sale will take place December 28th. His usual offerings of U. S. "good stuff" is not in evidence but to those interested in masonic and society medals, war and Indian relics the catalogue presents some notable objects.

Results to date have been decidedly gratifying and encouraging for the numismatic efforts of the COLLECTOR during the coming year, numerous subscriptions are being received from the coin collectors, who are liberal in their praise for the promised best budget of "hobby thunder" ever offered. To give all a chance to have their subscriptions entered, we will defer publishing the second installment of "The Money of the United States" until the first of the new year, then this series will be continued regularly.

(Our N. Ed. is leaving himself down easy. Why dont he say right out he is taking a holiday vacation, at his old home in the east, with his family and friends, to say nothing of the best girl.)

It is probable the Papal coinage will be well represented in the Vatican exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. This coinage which had few interruptions for almost a thousand years up to 1870, is decidedly interesting to numismatists. A coin of each pontificate would portray Papal history and be one of the best examples of the centuries' advancement in the art of die engraving and metal stamping.

G. C. Adams, the New York numismatist, reports his first public auction sale a decided success. Mr. Adams has secured the services of Mr. Frank Scott, who will hereafter have charge of his auction sales' department. Mr. Scott for a number of years has been associated with Mr. Lyman H. Low, is well schooled in the auction business and will be a valuable assistant to Mr. Adams.

A middle west banker has lately been the victim of an oily-tongued individual who gave a hard luck story and wanted a small loan on a "genuine 1804 dollar," authenticating it with a pedigree a yard long. The banker advanced \$50—and as the possession is a very nicely altered 1801, has a memento of the transaction.

Numismatist J. Barnet of 720 East 138th street, New York city, announces his first public auction sale of coins, which will be held at the Collector's Club of that city, January 8. The catalogue presents a good number of varieties, including 1795 and 1836 dollars; 1875 gold dollar, proof; 1804 dime; 1841 and 1852 1/2 cent and a fine 1793 Liberty Cap cent.

B. Max Mehl of Fort Worth, Texas, is bulling the gold dollar market. He has issued a special premium list of this specialty in which he offers to pay very fair prices.

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Priced Catalogue of my Ninth Auction Sale, largely composed of Greek and Roman Coins—25 cents. Correspondence solicited.

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Hudson, Ohio, November 24, 1903.

THEO. MAINHART, Johnstown, Pa.:

Dear Sir—I wish to express my satisfaction with your Peerless Packet No. 17, received a few days ago.

It is without exception the best 1000 variety packet I ever bought. I added 458 stamps to my 3000 collection. Sold 400 to two other collectors and will use the remainder in trade. I also sold what I did not keep of the stamps contained in the Premium packet. Besides the 458 added I replaced about 50 with better copies. Very truly yours, C. L. RIDEOUT.

PEERLESS PACKET No. 17 contains 1000 all different Postage Stamps to the catalogue value of about \$40.00. All are nice, clean stamps, some unused, and quite a few of high value, also some complete sets. Every purchaser receives gratis, as Premiums, one large International Postage Stamp Album and one Premium Packet of U. S. Postage Stamps, containing among others a full, unused set of Pan Americans, unused 3c of 1887 issue, used 50c and \$1 of 1895 issue, and many others. Besides these two premiums, EVERY FIFTH PURCHASER receives entirely free of charge,

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