POSTAGE STAMPS

AND

THEIR COLLECTION

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BY

WARREN H. COLSON

A Series of Handbooks Describing
THE Great Collectors and Collections of the
World

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THE BOWERS COLLECTION

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INTRODUCTION.

Of the many advantages to be derived from a hobby of some sort it seems hardly necessary to speak, but a few words may be said on the hobby of stamp collecting, which by many, nowadays, has been reduced to a science.
Intelligent collecting of anything—stamps, coins, books, ob-jects of

CHAPTER I.

To Be or Not to be—^a Collector.

THE student of human nature is often bewildered by
the strange fads and fancies which seize upon men in
the various stages of their careers, yet if he

Even the child, before life's purposes are formed, before life's work is begun, cannot escape the fascination of a pursuit which in later life may dominate the

such unremitting ardor that it seemed almost impossible to marshal thought in anything

These differences lay in perforation or in the size of water-marks. Sometimes also by the aid of secret marks, different printings were discovered. Yet granting that these minor varie-ties were worthy of collection, and

How absorbing the passion for collecting becomes when first we consider the necessities of civilization, which carry us in
imagination from the time of picture writing

of a page from his wonderful United States collection as shown at the last exhibition in London. This page out of a great collection shows better than any words can tell the

method followed by the student collector of today. The idea of giving with the stamp its

CHAPTER III.

Among American Collectors.

MANY of America's largest collectors are found among
"Captains of Industry." These leaders of men and re-organizers of industry are still in

don Exhibition, the two-cent Missionary, Die I, is

Boston. Although in his seventy-ninth year, he

CHAPTER IV.
The

IV. The TheIV.

The variety used in Boston is

Brattleboro Vt. num8er five om

to the fact that the grill, from

a faintly impressed copy,F1

earlier method. In that day some of the carriers were paid a stipulated salary, but by far the greater number depended en-1 1421 2362

seen the rare merit and individuality of

regular government cancellations." This bald statement does

not mean

wood-cut block. Nothing is known

known wod-cut block.

laws passed by Congress and in a careful study of the changes wrought by these successive legislative acts in the mode of dis-

tribution of letters and in the rates of postage.... The agitation in favor and final adoption in England of
the penny postage system, excited a corresponding interest and movement in the United States in favor of a reduction of what were felt to be, in comparison with British rates, extortionate postal charges. As happened with all political reforms, it took time to develop public sentiment, and

less than the sum charged for transporting a

the public had become accustomed to from the private com-panies, were

decision in the one case had served as sufficient warning, and at the present time, (1863), private posts and local stamps in the United States may be

The second issue is complete with many shades and includes fine copies of the rare $200. and $500. revenues. Among the

is

presentedne

Then follows an interesting and varied assortment of the Macons, not including however, the great rarity—the two-cent. One of the five-cent unused is illustrated. The two-cent Marion, unused; the two-cent black Mobile; and a Pleasant Shade,' of type III are shown in fine condition. The latter is very difficult to obtain. Many misleading counterfeits are

Description of the Bowers Collection.

PART II. The size of the large modern collections may be somewhat

better appreciated when one considers that the "Americans" of the Bowers collection form in themselves alone a

one-shilling, long fiscals, used postally. These are very scarce indeed.

The first issue of Argentine is shown unused and used in sev- eral copies of each value, together with several bi-sected ten
and fifteen-cent. The next set is separated into the two sets with and

12 1-2; and a fine lot of the "C. C." unused, o. g. perforated

perforated 14 and two of the one-penny on five shillings, pro-visional. These last are illustrated.

In Bavaria, other than the rare six-kreuzer broken circle, practically everything is here, unused and, in many instances,
used as

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British Columbia
5c. ROSE, IMPERFORATE

British Guiana
12c. BLUE, CIRCULAR

Brunswick
1 &gr. on yellow, perce en arc.

British Guiana Guiana halp op 8c. rose, 1861, used as 4 cents

also a block of six of the ten-cent yelm ET /F1 340 085.17 Tf BT 1 0 010127

off

these beautiful stamps lend themselves. All the unwatermarked
set is

Denmark is shown complete, and includes a particularly fine unused copy of the first two-rs. blue, and the i6s. rouletted, un-
used. All the

Dominican Republic
1 real on

The interest in Fiji has increased greatly the past few years, and a very fair lot is shown here, although nothing approaching

a really specialized collection. The "Times Express" stamps are here complete on both papers. The surcharges of 1874 are shown merely in a single copy of each variety. Possibly the

best of these are the two-pence on twelve-cents, Gothic'; the two-pence in black on six-cents,' Gothic; and the two-pence on twelve-cents, Roman. The

Great Britain
60. DULL LILAC, 1854

Great Britain

IOd. red brown, 1848 Great Britain

ISH. green, 1847

Grenada, Id. orange and green

manuscript surcharge "POSTAGE"

o^:3:?:iX'7:5ij-jiiii?.Tjia3

Grenada 4d. upright, on 2 shs. 1888-89

The Bordeaux set lacks the twenty-cent, type I, unused, but otherwise is very rich, in mint condition, every possible shade of the other types being present. All the varieties of unofficial

After passing over Gibraltar which is complete, unused, as might be expected, there may

use, and are not "recent discoveries." Several of the early

and rare roulettes are shown. Of the second type there is a good showing in the different perforations of both the Belgian
and Athens prints, unused. A very interesting piece in the postage dues is an imperforate strip of three of the 90I. of the 1878 issue.

The early stamps of Grenada are attractive indeed, and are shown in a fine lot of shades, mostly unused. Of the first six-pence, watermarked and unwatermarked, he shows nine

fine

earl4.58 Tf 34.17 Tf BT 1 0 0 907 /676 2152 (unwatermarked4.4 30 Tf BT 1 0 0 995 /676 2152doublnot)Tj ET /F1 32.38 Tf BT an

the Belgian rare

given. All logic seems to support this manuscript surcharge. It may be asked, by way of supposition, what more sensible thing to do than to write the surcharge while waiting for a die from which to print it—as was afterwards done? Collectors should not allow their

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Five Cfi^i--,

jllawaYhin'

l.ti;. rents.

Hawaii, 5c. blue " Missionary 1851 13c. BLUE Missionary 1851

$^^^

sary to make only a few of them. In the last few years Mr. Whitney's memory (being a very elderly gentleman) became unreliable, but there is

being the first one in the second row. The mistake was dis-covered after the first printing, and

Under India may be seen, in the first issue, the one-half anna red and the other values unused and used, in pairs. Of the 1855 issue, there are fine unused copies of the two-annas green, and also the rose. All the later issues are shown in many shades. The service surcharges are complete, as are also the postal fiscals, including fine copies of the long four-anna and

eight-anna. Apropos of these latter, a story is told by a west- ern collector, that is amusing, to say the least:—He once sent
some auction bids to an eastern dealer, on some of these

stamps. Upon the

The later issues are complete, including all the varieties of the "two-pence half-penny" surcharge. There is also a fine assort-
ment

that a similar set, today, would cost, probably, in the neigh-borhood of one hundi-ed and twenty dollars.
Under Liberia is shown an entire page of the first type, while the later issues ast

cosmplet,

aunused

Under

the unwatermarked series, and of the "C. C." as well. The

later issues are all present, including several inverted sur- charges, and a number of the

States, general issue. As is well known, this stamp was bi-
sected diagonally and each half was used as ten cents. In the ET /F1 32.

theofates,

three different splits of the eight-pence scarlet, one used in con-junction with a three-pence, making seven-pence in all. An ex-tremely rare cover is one bearing the one-penny brown violet
with half another joined,

the cover, the half of the five being uppermost. This piece must be of the greatest rarity—possibly even unique. There

degree the most discriminating collector. Others who have been privileged to look through his AustraHans have been equally surprised at

to obtain in even fair condition. Several

of all these plates, however, is that of the "registered," imper-forate. This is completed entirely in

ated 13, and another shilling of the

used. This is scarce. The moss green is shown both ways. The error "Dritto" is also present.
A very good lot of Orange River Colony is shown—rich in the early surcharges, but mostly used.

A very interesting lot of Peru is here, chief among

is

In Porto Rico, the early paraphes are shown complete

New South Wales, Error
1 D. "Wale on bluish
LAID
LAID Wales, New "Wale onNewwew Wales, New New Wales,les, New onWales, New onWales, Erale
New 1 New

Rhodesia makes a very pretty showing, being complete un-
used.i23973 0 0 cm /F1 369T 1 0 0 1 477 23366Tm (prettyRoumanET /F1 39.33 T8

are imperforate copies of the four-pence and one-shilling, which although only singles, have satisfactory margins, and bear every indication of being genuinely imperforate. The scarce i-zd. surcharge on the "C. C." is shown unused, and all the varieties on the "C. A." are present also. There is a fine lot of the 1897 "Postage and Revenue" surcharges, includ-ing several in strips, showseveral

in all perforations and frequently in three or four copies

The two rare stamps of Stellaland and Swazieland are here. Of the "Twee" on four-pence it is said that but three
hundred

rare stamp, and on hard-surfaced

paper the one-penny wide

and 28. Then comes a rarity in an unused copy of the four-

pence

Victoria is not as well done as it should be, to rank with the other Australians. None