

Braunford 134

TESTIMONIALS

FROM LEADING AMERICAN PHILATELISTS.

1883 to 1888.

Complimentary Notices from the Press,
Biographical Sketches,
&c., &c.,

IN REGARD TO THE BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE ONLY DEALER WHO EVER MADE A
SPECIALTY OF UNITED STATES STAMPS. THE ADVANCED COLLECTOR,
THE BEGINNER AND THE DEALER ALL TESTIFY TO THE
GREAT BENEFIT DERIVED FROM
THE USE OF

Sterling's Standard Stamp Catalogues

(POSTAGE AND REVENUE),

DESCRIBING THE ISSUES OF EVERYTHING WORTH COLLECTING IN THE UNITED STATES
STAMP LINE.

*This List is Free to All, and will be Sent to any Address on Receipt of Ten-Cent
Stamp to Cover Cost of Mailing.*

E. B. STERLING,
132 E. STATE ST., BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING,
P. O. BOX 294,
TRENTON, N. J.

TRENTON, N. J.:
ALBERT BRANDT, JR., STEAM-POWER BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

1888.





Your Respect
E. Stealing

BIOGRAPHICAL.

What the Press in Various Sections of the Country, and especially of the City of Trenton, N. J., has to say about the Compiler of the Standard Catalogues of the United States Stamps.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., January, 1886.

E. B. STERLING.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well known collector and dealer in United States postage and revenue stamps, was born at Trenton, N. J., September 9th, 1851. Circumstances denied him the advantages of a thorough early education, as he was left an orphan when quite young, and at the age of thirteen years he was obliged to leave school and earn his own living.

He commenced as a clerk in a dry goods store, after which he was engaged in the coal business. Although deprived of the advantages of the regular school, he pursued a course in the evening classes of a commercial college. The training received there, together with natural keen perceptive faculties, developed him into one of the self-made business men for which our country is distinguished. For the past seven years Mr. Sterling has occupied a position of trust and responsibility in the Trenton Banking Company.

He was married in January, 1874; he has a family of four children, two sons and two daughters. As a philatelist Mr. Sterling's attention has been devoted entirely to United States issues, including postage stamps, envelopes, fiscal and proprietary stamps. His catalogues of these stamps are regarded as *standard* in all parts of the world.

His collection of U. S. revenues is without doubt the most complete and valuable of any in existence. It contains thousands of varieties and shades, perforations, oddities and everything that goes to make a collection interesting and valuable. He is always glad to see stamp collectors when visiting his city, and will show his collection with pleasure to those who will call upon him.

He has a trade in stamps that amounts to \$5,000 per year, which business is attended to evenings with the help of his son, who bids fair to out-do

his father as a collector, as he is already the owner of a collection of foreign stamps numbering 2,500 and about the same number of United States.

Mr. Sterling expects at a future day to devote his time entirely to the stamp business, and he will then publish several descriptive works which will be of great value to collectors.

From the *Trenton Times*, Saturday, April 10, 1886.

MEN OF PROMINENCE.

EDWARD B. STERLING'S PECULIARLY PROFITABLE HOBBY.

*A Case of Great Importance to the Government Ferreted Out by Mr. Sterling—
A Handsome Reward Just Received—What a
Hobby has Grown to.*

E. B. Sterling, the subject of this week's sketch, has been of such service to the Government during the past few weeks as to render this article peculiarly appropriate.

James Sterling, the great-grandfather, was a wealthy resident of Burlington, through whose patriotism a company was formed for Washington's army, and at whose personal expense it was equipped and maintained.

Joseph Sterling, the grandfather, was a resident of Trenton and was prosperous in mercantile pursuits, but owing to adverse circumstances, he was compelled to abandon active business.

Wm. H. Sterling, the father of our subject, was the proprietor of the well-known Sterling's medicine, which at one time had a wide sale. While on one of his business trips in the lower part of the State, he was suddenly stricken down, leaving two children, a daughter and the son who is the subject of this sketch, dependant upon their own resources.

The mother of E. B. Sterling was Maria Ferrell, of Ewing, a sister of the late Chas. J. Ferrell, who for many years was the respected chief clerk in the Chancery office. She died when Edward was but three and a half years of age. He managed to attend school until he was about thirteen years of age, when it became necessary for him to quit study and seek employment. This was found with G. W. Grant, the dry goods dealer, who, however, could not take him for about a month after his leaving school. Not willing to lose this time, he hired his services to C. W. Street, who was then in the auction business in a store on the site of the present Washington market, a part of his duty being to go around with the auction bell to announce sales. Before long, however, the opportunity offered for his going with Mr. Grant. He remained here for about five years, but was continually revolving in his mind the question as to how he could better his condition. To this end he purchased a scholarship in the then Rider & Allen Business College, where he studied for about three months in the day classes and

about the same time in the night school. He then found employment with the Lehigh Valley Railroad, at their Coalport station, his duty being the checking off of all the empty coal cars that were returned from South Amboy and keeping a record of the time they stood idle. During his work here he came under the eye of S. B. Packer, Esq., who offered young Sterling a position as book-keeper at the coal wharves, at an increased salary, and before the year was up had a further increase so that he received nearly double the first salary. His ability and activity made him valuable and he remained in this position until Mr. Packer resigned his office as shipper, when he was promoted to a still better position in the employ of the New York Coal Shippers, who leased the wharves here and continued business until the opening of the Packer road at Perth Amboy, after which the business here was abandoned.

Mr. Sterling then found employment with the wholesale firm of William Dolton & Co., with whom he remained for one year, when he applied for a position in the Trenton Bank. Though the list of applicants was large, Mr. Sterling was successful, and by his attention to duty has risen from the position of Corresponding Clerk to that of Note Teller, which post he has occupied during the past five years with great credit to himself and the Trenton Banking Company, being to-day one of the most efficient and popular officials in that well-known institution.

On September 9th, 1851, Mr. Sterling was born, and he is therefore not yet thirty-five years of age. In 1874 he married Miss Bella Aitken, daughter of the Hon. Robert Aitken, of this city, and in January, 1884, a large circle of friends gathered at his residence to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Sterling has proven a true helpmate and an able counsellor and adviser. Four children, two boys and two girls, gladden and grace their home, which is pleasantly located at the corner of Prospect and Bellevue avenues, and which home was purchased from the profits of Mr. Sterling's hobby of stamp collecting. To this pursuit he has for some years devoted his evenings and all spare moments not required in his banking business, and he has so enlarged and increased this pursuit that he stands to-day the largest individual stamp collector and dealer in the country, his only equal being a stock concern in New York city.

Mr. Sterling's venture in the business of stamp collecting was contemporaneous with his venture in the matrimonial world, and in both the venture has proven equally happy and prosperous.

The first branch of philately attacked was that of revenue stamps, which were sought, and frequently found, in the most obscure and out-of-the-way places. By diligent effort he soon had a large collection, and by shrewdly exchanging any duplicates he possessed for stamps which he did not have, he rapidly built up the foundation of his present prosperous business. He claims that the attics and garrets of Trenton are filled with valuable stamps on old letters and documents for which he will pay fair prices

many stamps from 1846 to 1861 being valuable and some worth many dollars apiece. Mr. Sterling foresaw the coming importance of United States stamps and determined to restrict his collection to the issues of this country only. It may surprise the reader to know that this little hobby represents transactions amounting from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year.

His office is at his home and the office hours are from 7:30 in the evening to 12 o'clock midnight. An experienced clerk, beside his son Welling, assists him in his work of assorting, arranging and correspondence. The daily mail matter turned out would make quite a showing and goes to every nook and corner of the country. His collection of proof stamps is the finest in the world and embraces the celebrated Carpenter collection, the face denominations of which represent over \$30,000. Mr. Sterling's entire stock as a dealer is valued at over \$10,000. His numerous and various Catalogues are considered as the standard authority all over the United States for values, etc.

His great ability to detect counterfeits has been utilized by the Government in over a dozen instances of infringement, &c. A most important event occurred in May last. A collection of stamps had been sent to Mr. Sterling for examination. His quick eye instantly sighted out a suspicious beer stamp, which he found to be counterfeit. He immediately placed himself in correspondence with the Secret Service Department and in less than a week one of the largest brewing concerns in the country was under seizure, the proprietors arrested, convicted and a payment of \$30,000 made to the Government. In recognition of his service the Treasurer of the United States sent to Mr. Sterling a check for \$2,000, which has just been received. This will only serve to increase the facilities for business in the future.

This is one of the greatest pieces of detective work that has come to the Government's notice for years, and the manner in which the fraud was detected and worked out is highly creditable.

Mr. Sterling has never aspired to political preferment, though interested in the success of the Republican party and principles. He is also a member of the Board of Trade and a number of Philatelic Associations. He is a believer in insurance and is a member of several companies and is insured to a good round sum.

During this season he contemplates enlarging his office and beautifying it. When this is done his numerous friends will have the opportunity for a peep at his treasures.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., February 22, 1887.

The Philatelic Journal of America, a monthly magazine published in St. Louis, has a picture of our fellow townsman, Mr. E. B. Sterling, who has a national reputation for his collection and counterpiece in the stamp business. While the portrait is easily recognized, it is not so good looking as the original, but displays that beaming good nature and accommodating amiability for which he is celebrated among the customers of the Trenton Banking Company and which his numerous friends wonder did not secure him the position of Cashier, which was so long vacant.

From *Plain Talk*, Brooklyn, N. Y., April, 1887.

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., the subject of this sketch, is the largest individual stamp collector and dealer in the country. He was born in Trenton, on September 9th, 1851, and is therefore not yet 36 years of age. He began the collection of stamps about 1874, the first branch of philately attacked being that of revenue stamps.

By diligent effort he soon had a large collection, and by shrewdly exchanging any duplicates he possessed for stamps which he did not have, he rapidly built up the foundation of his present prosperous business.

Mr. Sterling foresaw the coming importance of United States stamps and determined to restrict his collection to the issues of this country only. It may surprise the reader to know that this little hobby represents transactions amounting from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year.

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This is one of the greatest pieces of detective work that has come to the Government's notice for years, and the manner in which the fraud was detected and worked out is highly creditable.

His day hours are employed at the Trenton Banking Company, where he is Note Teller, and all his spare time is devoted to his stamp business. That Mr. Sterling is a busy man, the following organizations to which he belongs will probably show. He is a member of the Board of Trade of Trenton, N. J., the Royal Arcanum, Golden Chain, United Workmen, Legion of Honor, Improved Order of Heptasophs, Life Union, N. Y., American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of N. Y., New Jersey Historical

Society, American Philatelic Association, National Philatelic Society of New York, Quaker City Philatelic Society of Philadelphia, and the Young Men's Republican Association of Mercer County, N. J.

From the *New York World*, May 2, 1887.

PROMINENT JERSEYMEN.

The largest individual dealer in stamps in this country is Edward B. Sterling, of Trenton, whose collections embrace over sixteen thousand varieties. With him this hobby is not merely a pastime, but also a source of profit. It represents transactions amounting to from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year. Mr. Sterling's regular occupation is Teller at the Trenton Bank, one of the most responsible financial positions in the city. His evenings, from 7:30 o'clock till mid-night, are devoted to the selection and assortment of his stamps and other collections. His pretty home on Prospect Hill was purchased out of the profits of this hobby, and one good-sized office in it is devoted entirely to the collections.

An experienced clerk, in addition to his son, assists him in attending to the voluminous correspondence that has grown up in his business.

He has letters from all sections of the country and from abroad daily, and is constantly buying and selling.

His Catalogues of Stamps, several of which have been issued, are elaborate publications, and are accepted as authorities on the subjects treated. His collection of proof stamps is the finest in the world, and embraces the celebrated Carpenter collection, the face value of which represents over \$30,000. Mr. Sterling's entire stock as a dealer, is valued at over \$10,000. His fancy for collecting oddities first obtained practical development in 1874, and he has followed up the enterprise since with ever increasing interest. Nothing pleases him more than to gather his friends about him and unfold to them the peculiarities of his queer treasures. Mr. Sterling's ability to detect counterfeits has served the Government on more than one occasion. Recently his quick eye sighted a suspicious beer stamp in a collection offered to him for sale, and he immediately entered into a correspondence with the Secret Service Department, the up-shot of which was the seizure of one of the large breweries of the country and the payment over to the Government, by the proprietors, of \$30,000. In recognition of his services, Mr. Sterling obtained a warm letter of thanks and a check for \$2,000 from the Treasury Department. Mr. Sterling deals not only in postage and revenue stamps, but also in private proprietary stamps, old stamped paper, Confederate State stamps, postage currency of 1862, and various other oddities. He claims that thousands of valuable stamps on documents and letters lie about the garrets of our homes unnoticed, and that a collection of them would result in a fortune for the possessor.

From *The Youths' Ledger*, New York City, July, 1887.

PROMINENT PHILATELISTS.

The subject of our sketch this month, Mr. E. B. Sterling, is known, by name at least, in every hamlet and town where philately has its followers. He is known as a dealer in United States stamps of all kinds for collections only. He is a man of fine form and splendid physique, while his face wears a perpetual smile, but this is but an index to the man, as a more pleasant and affable gentleman it would be hard to find. He began collecting about thirteen years ago, and during the time intervening he has amassed a stock of United States stamps, which in variety and value is second to none. This stock includes the adhesives, both postage and revenue; locals, envelopes, wrappers, letter sheets, postals, metallic currency, telegraph stamps, Confederate issues, &c. His Catalogue of United States Stamps, of which the sixth edition has just been published, is considered the standard by philatelists everywhere. It contains over one hundred pages and gives an exhaustive review of every variety, oddity, &c., of the various issues of our country. It has been aptly said that what Mr. Sterling doesn't know about United States stamps isn't worth knowing.

His residence is on the northeast corner of Bellevue avenue and Prospect street, Trenton, N. J., and here he has his office, in which any philatelist will meet with a hearty welcome should they call. His large business is attended to in the day time by his son Welling and a clerk, Mr. Sterling being Note Teller in the Trenton Banking Company. He is usually at home, giving the business his personal attention, from 7:30 in the evening until midnight.

Mr. Sterling has probably had more newspaper articles written about him and his business than all other dealers combined, and it is to such men as him, who hold a high position in the social and commercial world, that much of the credit is due for the many adherents philately has among the older and well-to-do class of people. One cause of the steady increase in his business is his constant aim to please his patrons, a stamp never going out from his place unless it is a fine specimen. His customers can rely on being suited, or have their purchase money refunded. He attends in person all auction sales of stamps in New York City, executing bids for his customers, and usually carries off the bulk of the United States stamps.

Mr. Sterling is a member of the National Philatelic Society of New York City, the Quaker City of Philadelphia, the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York, the New Jersey Historical Society, Trustee of the American Philatelic Association, and a member of various other societies and orders. One of his duties in connection with the Trenton Banking Company is paying the employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at South Amboy, N. J. This he has done for the past six years, going there once a month, and during that time he has paid out

upwards of half a million dollars, without the loss of a cent—truly a good record.

When the American Philatelic Association was organized Mr. Sterling's name was prominently mentioned as Vice-Président, but he has no desire for office whatever, his sole object being the advancement of philately.

From *The Practical Educator*, Trenton, N. J., October 1, 1887.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

It is always a source of gratification to the conscientious teacher to see the progress of his pupils, and this interest does not cease when they become men and enter upon the business of life. Apropos to this thought may be cited the career of Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city. Mr. Sterling's mother died when he was three and a half years old. He attended school till he was thirteen, then entered a dry goods store as clerk, where he remained five years. Leaving the store he entered the Trenton Business College for a six months course, before the completion of which the Principal secured for him a position with the Lehigh Valley Railway, at its Coalport station in this city. While employed here he completed his course in the night school of the College. He afterwards entered the employ of S. B. Packer, Esq., at an increased salary. Leaving Mr. Packer, he was for a time employed by Wm. Dolton & Co., the wholesale grocers, after which he took a subordinate position in the Trenton Bank, where his industry and intelligence raised him to the position of Note Teller, which position he has filled during the last seven years. He recently resigned to enter upon business for himself, or rather to more successfully prosecute his business of real estate agent and dealer in postage and revenue stamps and rare coins.

Mr. Sterling is an enthusiast in rare stamps, and has for several years given his spare time to this industry, and we venture to say much that might profitably have been given to sleep. But he has succeeded in taking the highest rank among collectors and dealers in stamps and coins, and has a collection worth over fifteen thousand dollars. His Catalogues on the subject are considered standard authority throughout the United States. In May last he detected a fraudulent beer stamp, which secured the arrest and punishment of the person using it. For this service he received the United States Treasurer's check for \$2,000. He has recently taken a suite of offices in the new Scott Building, State street, where he devotes his entire time to the prosecution of a general brokerage business and his hobby—a hobby he can well afford to ride, as it pays abundantly.

Mr. Sterling is thirty-six years old, was married in 1874 and is the father of four children. He has a pleasant home at Prospect and Bellevue avenues, purchased with the proceeds of the stamp business. We trust that his present promise of a long and happy life may be fully realized.

From the *Sunday Express*, Trenton, N. J., January 22, 1888.

A PHILATELIST OF RENOWN.

EDWARD B. STERLING, OF THIS CITY, AND HIS STAMP COLLECTION.

If there is one man more than another in this Republic who enjoys the reputation of being what is technically known as an "expert" in philatelic lore, it is Edward B. Sterling of this city. As a postage stamp collector he has not his equal in this or any other city. He has in his albums nothing but United States Stamps, of all kinds, embracing several thousand varieties, and extending through fifty years. Edward Sterling's "hobby" is stamps; he has stamps in his house, stamps in his office. All objects to him have perforated rims, and every man's back is covered with Government glue. In fact he lives in an atmosphere redolent with the exhalations from stamps of every color known to artists. Profitable? Of course it is. There is "big money" in the business, "very big money." And Edward Sterling deserves all he makes. All his life he has been what is known as a "hard-worker"—early to rise and seeking his couch often in the wee sma' hours. It was then that he studied and prepared descriptive catalogues, and aided young collectors. Foolishness to do this? Indeed, surprise may be expressed at the shortsightedness of such an exclamation. It was Edward Sterling who discovered the counterfeit Internal Revenue stamp, and after sending the same to the U. S. officials, received a neat reward. Not much foolishness in unearthing fraudulent transactions and obtaining a good sum for so doing.

Edward B. Sterling is a man of prepossessing appearance. Tall, looking somewhat like a prominent French military man; careful, but not snobbish, in dress, genial to all, he is a favorite wherever he goes. He has "worked his own way," all his present success being the result of his own effort. He is just such a man as Trenton needs—progressive, and yet conservative enough to prevent rash measures from injuring the public weal. Trenton may well be proud of this philatelist, with his world-wide reputation.

Mr. Sterling has just disposed of a part of his valuable collection, consisting of the Carpenter & Goodall collection of rare proofs, postage and revenue stamps, silver dollars, paper money and other curios, for the sum of \$7,000, to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., a young collector of note and wealth.

From the *Press*, Philadelphia, Pa., Sunday, January 22, 1888.

EDWARD B. STERLING.

Mr. E. B. Sterling is one of the most distinguished philatelists and archaeologists in the United States. He is said to be the possessor of the finest collection of United States stamps in the world. It is estimated to be worth at least \$20,000. He devotes all his time to the collection, and his

rooms are literally covered with rare specimens of old and new stamps. His collection of United States dollars comprises every issue from 1794 to date, and he has paper currency in four thousand varieties. Mr. Sterling was formerly Note Teller of the Trenton Banking Company, previous to which he held positions of trust and responsibility in the mercantile business. He is a member of the New Jersey Historical Society and also of several philatelic societies. He belongs to the Royal Arcanum, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the American Legion of Honor, the Improved Order of Heptasophs, the Order of the Golden Chain and the Order of the Chosen Friends. He is also a member of the Young Men's Republican Association of Mercer County, the Young Men's Christian Association, and of the Prospect Presbyterian Church. In fact, Mr. Sterling is one of the busiest men in the city of Trenton.

From the *Daily Graphic*, New York; March 21, 1888.

E. B. STERLING, THE "PHILATELIST."

(Illustration.)

The subject of this sketch, and whose well-known face herewith appears, is a notable example of what energy, perseverance, faithfulness and pluck can do without capital. He has, from the smallest possible beginnings, created a business for himself which has earned him fame and fortune in a few years.

He was born in Trenton, in 1851; his mother died while he was still an infant, and when he became a lad his father was suddenly killed. Thus Edward was compelled to leave school at the age of thirteen and battle for his bread. By diligent work and great economy he bought a scholarship in Rider's Business College, and being quick to learn, in due time was fitted, in a measure, to enter mercantile life.

From one position to another he advanced himself until a vacancy occurred in the Trenton Banking Company's office, for which he applied and was selected (out of about fifty other aspirants) to fill the place.

By his natural aptitude and marked ability he made rapid advancement to the position of Note Teller, which place he held for nine years, with great credit to himself and satisfaction to the Banking Company.

Having married in 1874 an estimable lady, and his family growing up around him, naturally made him ambitious to improve his financial condition. Having always been a young man of painstaking nature, diligent research, fond of historical statistics, it was quite natural for him to enter into the stamp and coin collection business, as an amateur philatelist. He became an enthusiast on "collections," and by his judicious methods his business increased rapidly, and his collections were much sought after by many amateurs and professionals in this and foreign countries.

The name of E. B. Sterling, the "philatelist," of Trenton, became famous through his wonderfully unique collections and arrangement of the many existing and obsolete American and foreign stamps, coins, war envelopes, United States fractional currency, antique and modern curiosities, minerals, &c. In fact, he became a leader, and (with one or two possible exceptions) is the largest dealer in the country. Once, when examining some old stamps which he had purchased, he discovered among them a bogus beer keg revenue stamp. He communicated the fact to the Revenue Department at Washington, and it resulted in the seizure of a large brewery, the arrest and conviction of the proprietor and the recovery of \$30,000 by the Government. For his valuable services he received from the Revenue Department a check for \$2,000. His stamp business to which he hitherto only devoted his evenings, grew to such proportions that in 1887 he resigned his Teller's position and has since devoted his entire time to the business and has combined with it the buying and selling of real estate, insurance, local and other securities.

Out of his profits earned by his hobby he has purchased and furnished a handsome home for his family and still his present stock of stamps represent about \$20,000 of invested capital.

Mr. Sterling is the recognized authority in all local securities, and his judgment is often sought in regard to the value of investments.

By his strong individual worth of character, his fidelity to duty and his patrons and friends, he has lifted himself up to an honored place in the community. He is an active member on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trade and the Young Men's Republican Club, President of the Trenton Alumni Association, and connected as officer and layman with about a dozen secret orders, as well as the various stamp, coin and other collection societies of the country.

His office, No. 132 East State Street, might be appropriately termed an archaeological museum, for, with the countless curiosities, minerals, weapons of war used by the uncivilized tribes of our own and foreign lands, rare specimens from sea and land, and the artistically arranged cabinets of coins and albums of stamps representing every nation almost on the globe, it certainly is worth a journey to see. Visitors are always shown as much attention as buyers. His Stamp Catalogues have long been recognized as standard by the trade.

He has just sold his rare Carpenter & Goodall collection of revenue proof stamps, also his collection of United States fractional paper currency, Confederate bonds, battle flags, silver dollars and sundry curiosities, for the sum of \$7,000 cash to Mr. H. E. Deats of Flemington, N. J., who is a young amateur collector, and this is probably the largest single sale ever made by any collector in the country.

From the *American Philatelic Magazine*, Pittsfield, Mass., March, 1888.

E. B. STERLING.

Mr. Edward B. Sterling, the subject of our sketch, was born at Trenton, N. J., September 9, 1851.

The Practical Educator, in a biographical sketch of his life, says:

* * * * *

"Mr. Sterling's mother died when he was three and a half years old. He attended school till he was thirteen, then entered a dry goods store as clerk, where he remained five years. Leaving the store he entered the Trenton Business College for a six months course, before the completion of which the Principal secured for him a situation with the Lehigh Valley Railway, at its Coalport station in this city. While employed here he completed his course in the night school of the College. He afterwards entered the employ of S. B. Packer, Esq., at an increased salary. Leaving Mr. Packer, he was for a time employed by Wm. Dolton & Co., the wholesale grocers, after which he took a subordinate position in the Trenton Bank, where his industry and intelligence raised him to the position of Note Teller, which position he has filled during the last seven years. He recently resigned to enter upon business for himself, or rather to more successfully prosecute his business of real estate agent and dealer in postage and revenue stamps and rare coins.

"Mr. Sterling is an enthusiast in rare stamps, and has for several years given his spare time to this industry, and we venture to say much that might profitably have been given to sleep. But he has succeeded in taking the highest rank among collectors and dealers in stamps and coins, and has a collection worth over fifteen thousand dollars. His Catalogues on the subject are considered standard authority throughout the United States. In May last he detected a fraudulent beer stamp, which secured the arrest and punishment of the person using it. For this service he received the United States Treasurer's check for \$2,000."

Mr. Sterling was married in 1874, and is the father of four children. He has a pleasant home at Prospect and Bellevue avenues, purchased with the proceeds of his stamp business. We trust that his present promise of a long and happy life May be fully realized.

PRESS NOTICES.

What is said by Newspapers and Periodicals from all Sections
Concerning E. B. Sterling, the Standard Stamp
Catalogue, Stamp Collecting, etc., etc.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., September 15, 1883.

A FORTUNE IN ODDITIES.

THE CRAZE FOR OLD STAMPS AND COINS.

Teller Sterling's Valuable Collections, which Yield Him a Yearly Income of Hundreds of Dollars—His Many Varieties of Stamped Tin Foil.

Edward B. Sterling, the Note Teller at the Trenton Bank, on Warren street, has a book that he values at \$2,000. It is not a bank book, nor is it a manuscript copy of the Bible. It is simply a volume of some two hundred blank pages, upon each of which a number of revenue stamps—some used, some unused and some mutilated—are pasted. Mr. Sterling is one of the largest individual collectors of stamps and like curious things, in the country. He has a list of two thousand correspondents who deal in stamps more or less extensively. It is believed that there are a hundred thousand persons in the United States who collect either for amusement or profit. Mr. Sterling began with coins, for mere amusement, before the War of the Rebellion. He next turned his attention to postage and revenue stamps, and finally took up, a year ago, the comparatively new branch of the business, which includes all kinds of tin foil and other tobacco wrappers. To give an idea of the extent to which the craze for collections has grown, it need only be stated that his sales last year netted him a clear revenue of \$800. His expenses for printing descriptive catalogues of his stock run annually into the hundreds. He is classed among the "advanced collectors," whose collections of stamps are so perfect that nothing can be added to them except by the sale of some private stock of very rare gems.

A RARE COLLECTION.

There are only about ten dealers of any account in the tin foil branch of the business. Mr. Sterling has a list of their names and they are con-

stantly corresponding among themselves, buying and selling. He has over three hundred and seventy-five varieties of foils. Each of them is stretched out on a piece of white card-board, around which runs a line of bright-red border. The stamped side is turned out. While his arrangement gives them a pretty appearance, their value arises rather from their rarity. The rarest of all is the Rose Leaf, eight-ounce, of the sixth issue: The half ounces of the first issue are all rare, the price running from one to three dollars each. The others vary in price from fifteen cents to six dollars. The Western brands are generally the rarest. It is always hard to find the wrappers of such tobaccos as only had a temporary popularity.

"Being occupied in the bank all day," said Mr. Sterling to a reporter, "I have only the evening to devote to my collections. I spend four hours every night at the work. While I realize considerable, it is also a labor of love. I am in receipt every day of from fifteen to twenty letters on the subject from all parts of the country."

Just at that moment the postman brought in a package of letters, two of which contained stamps ordered by Mr. Sterling. One was from the South and the other from the West.

"My correspondence," he continued, "is growing too heavy, although I gave up my coin collection to my son. My favorite collection is revenue stamps. I have sold two different collections, and as soon as I dispose of this one, which I value at \$2,000, I will begin on another. My private collections of all kinds of stamps, foils, etc., number over six thousand. Every one of these is a different variety. In addition, of course, I keep a stock of each variety for sale."

A MATCH STAMP WORTH TWENTY DOLLARS.

It would be an endless task to describe the varieties of stamps or foils Mr. Sterling possesses. The collection is well worth seeing. One old match stamp he recently sold for \$20. The color of a stamp often gives it value. Pink colored medicine stamps bring big prices, simply because it is a rare color. Henry's pink stamps, with a face value of a few pennies, are worth one dollar each, while the same in watermark are not worth above fifteen cents. Husband's two-cent (medical) of purple is one of the gems. It is valued at \$25 by Mr. Sterling. He has all the stamps of the States and the Southern Confederacy. At a sale in New York last year, he cheerfully paid \$15 for a black McLain's one-cent liver pill. One of blue color would be worth only ten cents. A very rare document stamp of the first issue is the probate of will, unperforated, which is valued at \$25. The red and blues (\$25, \$50 and \$200) are also rare, and Mr. Sterling does not think he could duplicate the last named. He has complete sets of all department proofs, mounted on white cards, and worth over \$200. "Occasionally there is an auction sale of stamps," said Mr. Sterling, "by a collector who wants to retire from the business. The bidding is generally very brisk. At the Wm. P. Brown sale in New York last year over \$3,000 was realized. A rich shade

often makes a stamp valuable. So does the fact that there are not perforations each side of it; so does a misprint, and any other oddity to render it rare. Envelope collecting is also followed by many. I am always on the look-out for rare stamps. I search the bank waste paper baskets for them every afternoon. I once got several valuable ones in a barrel of rubbish thrown out from a Greene street store." Mr. Sterling has a separate room in his residence on Bellevue avenue for his collections. It is a perfect store-house of carefully arranged and valuable oddities.

He estimates the value of his entire collections at over \$5,000, and believes they would bring that sum at auction. He has them insured for \$2,000.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., April 1, 1884.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF HOME ISSUES AND THE DEMAND FOR THEM.

Some months ago *The Times* contained an interesting interview with Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, respecting collectors and collections of postage stamps. Mr. Sterling, who resides at Bellevue avenue and Prospect street, has just issued a neat and complete Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States. The Catalogue reveals some extremely interesting facts. There are 551 varieties of stamps in the United States. The demand for the rarest of these stamps is so great that the value of them has increased over four-fold in two years. Stamp collectors have been so eager to secure large collections of foreign stamps that they have just awakened to the fact that in hunting for foreign stamps they have neglected to secure valuable home collections. Hence the supply is much less than the demand. Mr. Sterling makes a specialty of United States stamps and endeavors to keep on hand most of the rare issues. In addition to the regular varieties already mentioned, there are 1,421 varieties of United States revenue stamps. These stamps are much cheaper, however, and do not rank so high in the estimation of the average philatelist. Mr. Sterling's book must prove well nigh invaluable to every collector. •

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., January 5, 1885.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has upon exhibition in the show window of Cook & Jaques' establishment, three interesting United States revenue stamps. Their respective denominations are—\$5,000, \$500 and \$200. The set is very rare, the selling price being \$175.00.

From the *True American*, Trenton, N. J., January 9, 1885.

There is a pretty display of rare stamps, tastefully mounted, in Cook & Jaques' window. They are from Mr. E. B. Sterling's most valuable collection. He collects every shade, variety of perforation, and all oddities of each and every detail. His revenue proofs are the finest in the country, for he is the sole owner of the celebrated Carpenter collection, which he values at \$2,000 alone, besides his other collections.

A few years since, he contributed frequently to the Philatelic press, but of late, his other work has deprived the public of his useful articles. His published writings, however, have educated collectors up to a degree of knowledge in this branch of Philately, that was unthought of before.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., March 4, 1885.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has on exhibition in a State street show window an interesting revenue stamp. Its denomination is \$5,000, and it is not only uncanceled, but is perfectly clean and bright. It is the highest in value of any stamp issued in the world, and was made especially for a wealthy gentleman who annexed three of them to his will. The stamp goes to the New Orleans Exposition to morrow.

From the *Philatelic Herald*, Portland, Me., December, 1885.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has been a dealer in U. S. and Revenue Stamps for many years, and now has one of the largest and most varied stock in the world. His private collection is valued at \$5,000, and contains about six thousand varieties.

From the *Collector's Companion*, Chicago, Ill., December, 1885.

This well known collector of, and dealer in stamps, was born September 9, 1851, in Trenton, N. J., where he has always resided. His first acquaintance with Philatelic matters dates back to the time of the late war, but his stamps were subsequently given up for coins, the love of which he inherited from his father, who was an enthusiastic numismatist in his day.

At thirteen, Mr. Sterling left school and served five years in the dry goods business, after which he tried the coal business, and for the last seven years, he has been employed by the Trenton Banking Company, and has been steadily advanced from the lowest to one of the most important positions in the bank—Discount Clerk, or Note Teller.

He dates his return to Philately from his marriage in 1874. He has always had a love for revenue stamps, and has probably done more than any one else to encourage the study of this class of stamps, as he has devoted several years to the study of the different papers upon which the stamps

were printed, being the first one to note the different varieties of papers. He has, by careful attention to business, established a trade in United States stamps only, which is second to none in the world, his annual sales aggregating more than \$5,000, and this large business is carried on entirely in the evenings, with no help, save that of his eldest son.

He has over \$10,000 actually invested in stamps of the United States only, and under his attentive care, his stamp business has increased each year until he now has far more than he can properly attend to, and he anticipates soon giving his time entirely to stamps.

But our readers must not think his interest in stamps is entirely on account of the income he derives from their sale. His hobby is revenue stamps (of United States only) and of these he has no doubt the best collection to be found. Not long since, a collection of stamps was sent Mr. Sterling for examination. His quick eye instantly singled out a suspicious beer stamp, which he found to be counterfeit. He immediately placed himself in correspondence with the Secret Service Department, and in less than a week one of the largest brewing concerns in the country was under seizure, the proprietors arrested, convicted, and a payment of \$30,000 made to the Government. In recognition of his services the Treasurer of the United States sent to Mr. Sterling a check for \$2,000, which has just been received. This is one of the greatest pieces of detective work that has come to the Government's notice for years, and the manner in which the fraud was detected and worked out is highly creditable.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., January 22, 1886.

E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, of this city, has just issued a new Catalogue of Postage Stamps of the United States. Mr. Sterling's previous compilations have been looked upon as models for completeness, but the present publication is by far the most comprehensive of any of its predecessors.

It describes over seven hundred and fifty varieties of United States postage stamps, and the description embraces the color, size, denomination, price both new and used, date of issue, characteristics of the different dies, and in fact, every minute particular in reference thereto.

While revenue and proprietary stamps form an endless collection, the seven hundred and fifty varieties here catalogued are exclusively the postage stamps of the United States. These other departments are classified in other Catalogues, and make a total of over sixteen hundred varieties described and priced by Mr. Sterling.

The book just issued is from the press of Edwin Fitzgeorge, and Mr. Sterling has spared no pains or expense in producing a most creditable publication in its general appearance.

The Catalogue is sold at 25 cents, postage free. A neat novelty in each pamphlet is the insertion of an excellent photograph of the compiler, sur-

rounded by a border and perforated edge similar to a postage stamp, and of the same size. Many rare stamps have been added to Mr. Sterling's collection since the issue of his last Catalogue.

From the *Capital City Philatelist*, Washington, D. C., February, 1886.

We have received the fourth edition of E. B. Sterling's Descriptive Catalogue of U. S. Adhesive and Envelope Stamps. It describes over seven hundred and fifty varieties, and should be in the hands of every collector of U. S. Stamps.

From the *Signal*, Trenton, N. J., February, 1886.

Not only does the recently issued fourth edition of Mr. E. B. Sterling's Catalogue of United States Stamps contain a full and accurate list of all stamps now issued by the Government, but it also abounds in valuable information concerning each of the seven hundred and seventy-five specimens described. When we look through the neatly printed pages of the copy which lies before us, we must congratulate Mr. Sterling upon the enterprise, industry and ability which he has displayed in the "make up" of his publication. One of the many novelties introduced is Mr. Sterling's photograph upon a stamp on the inside of the front cover of the book. In every respect this '86 edition is the finest stamp publication which has been brought to our notice, and we sincerely recommend it as a valuable work of reference to all who contemplate starting or making additions to collections.

From the *Philatelic World*, New York, February, 1886.

We have just received the fourth edition of Mr. Sterling's Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States. Many additions have been made, including telegraph stamps, postage currency, postal notes, etc., and the book is ornamented with the genial countenance of Mr. Sterling himself. All collectors should be supplied with copies.

From the *Stamp and Coin Gazette*, Altoona, Pa., February, 1886.

Sterling's Catalogue of U. S. Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes is a most excellent and complete compilation, and will be a great help to those especially who are making collections of the stamped envelopes of the country.

From the *Carson Philatelist*, St. Louis, Mo., February, 1886.

It surpasses all former editions, which were each universally regarded as the *best* at its time of issue.

From the *True American*, Trenton, N. J., February, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well-known collector of United States stamps, has just issued a new Catalogue, describing over seven hundred and fifty varieties in a most interesting way.

From the *State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., February, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, has issued the fourth edition of his Catalogue of United States Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes, descriptive of over seven hundred and fifty varieties, with prices, &c. These stamps range in value from one cent to a hundred dollars, a three-cent stamp of New York City, of 1842, being catalogued at the latter price. Newspaper stamps, of 1875, are worth \$30, \$40, \$53, \$65 and \$79 each, which is from \$4 to \$10 above their face value. A one-cent New York stamp, of 1849, is worth \$10, and another of the same denomination, but on different colored paper, is worth \$15. Mr. Sterling is the largest collector of stamps in the United States, and his book, which sells for 25 cents, is full of interesting information on the subject.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., March, 1886.

Over his signature, dated New York, Oct. 4, 1876, Mr. Chas. Christodoro, who disposed of the original lot of S. D. Howe medicine stamps, states that but one hundred and seven of these stamps existed printed in red and a like number in green. There is naturally a spirited demand among advanced collectors for varieties of such limited issues, several of them having brought over five dollars each, in this country and abroad. The remainder is now owned by Mr. E. B. Sterling, the enterprising philatelist, of Trenton, N. J.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., March, 1886.

E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, of this city, has just issued from the press the fifth edition of his Descriptive Catalogue of Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes. The fourth edition was issued about January 1st, and was exhausted in two months. It was at the time the most complete publication of the kind ever issued. The fifth edition, however, is superior to its predecessor, in that it includes a new department under the issues of the "Southern Confederacy." Nearly one thousand varieties are described, and described in such manner as leaves nothing to be desired. The face value, date of issue, color, general description of engravings, &c., size, and price both cancelled and uncanceled, that any given stamp will bring in the philatelic market. With each Catalogue there is a neat stamp photograph of Mr. Sterling, with a *fac-simile* of his signature.

From the *Signal*, Trenton, N. J., April, 1886.

"True merit is everywhere recognized." This old saying has never been more strongly verified than recently, when Mr. Sterling issued the fourth edition of his *Catalogue of United States Stamps*. Since the day of issue copies have constantly been in demand, until at present this edition is exhausted. This unprecedented success led Mr. Sterling to issue his fifth edition during the last days of March. A copy lies before us. We once thought the fourth to be perfection; we must say that the fifth is superior in every way. Among important and valued additions is a full descriptive list of the stamps of the Confederate States, which list certainly reflects great credit to the compiler. We wish Mr. Sterling the best of success, and hope that his enterprise will be rewarded.

From the *Daily Republican*, Springfield, Mass., April 24, 1886.

ABOUT PHILATELY.

THE MANIA FOR STAMP COLLECTING—A FAMOUS DEALER IN UNITED STATES STAMPS, MAGAZINES AND CATALOGUES.

* * * * *

It costs so much now to get even a fair collection of the stamps of the world that many are confining their attention and money to the stamps of their own country. For twelve years one dealer has handled nothing but United States stamps, and his business now amounts to \$12,000 a year. This dealer is E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., who has done more than any other ordinary person to work up interest in the various stamp issues of this country. He deals not only in postage stamps, but in revenue stamps, private die proprietary stamps, old stamped paper, postage currency of 1862, and Confederate State stamps, and issues Catalogues in each of these departments. There are many who collect only revenue stamps, and for them Mr. Sterling's Catalogue describes over sixteen hundred varieties. He tells an odd story of his skill in detecting counterfeits. He was running through a collection of "revenues" sent him for examination, when he caught sight of a bogus beer stamp. He immediately placed himself in correspondence with the Secret Service Department, and in less than a week one of the the largest brewing concerns in the country was under seizure, the proprietors arrested and convicted, and a payment of \$30,000 made to the Government. In recognition of his services, the Treasurer of the United States sent Mr. Sterling a check for \$2,000. One of Mr. Sterling's latest hobbies is the preparation and publication of a Catalogue of over five hundred tin-foil labels for tobacco, which, of course, are only one form of proprietary stamps. His private collections are worth a big sum, among them being the Carpenter collection of proof revenue stamps, representing a face value of over

\$30,000. His stock in trade is worth over \$10,000, and a good share of his business is with correspondents in foreign countries. He doesn't give himself up entirely to his hobby, for he has been for some years in the Trenton Banking Company. His "office hours" for the stamp business are from 7:30 p. m. till midnight, and he has two clerks. He is a native of Trenton, thirty-five years old, and lives in a \$10,000 house at the corner of Prospect and Bellevue avenues, which has been paid for from the profits of his hobby.

Mr. Sterling began business at a lucky time. It was early in 1874, when the contract for making and embossing the stamped envelopes was taken by the Plimpton Manufacturing Company, of Hartford, from George H. Reay, of New York, who had held the contract for four years. The Hartford concern had great difficulty in getting out the set of stamps required, and experimented for some months. During the first year of Mr. Sterling's business no less than seven varieties of dies of the denomination of one cent, two cents and three cents, were issued on white, amber, cream and orange paper, and one collection in this city has thirty distinct specimens of dies and paper of this 1874 issue, while the different sizes of envelopes carry the number up to ninety-nine. Of course very few of some of these envelopes were printed, and Mr. Sterling's energy at buying up all he could get at the time has kept the prices of the 1874 stamps quite low, and thus made it possible for almost every collector to study from his own collection this most interesting period. The department postage stamps came at the same time, being issued till 1879, when the franking privilege was restored. In classifying and cataloging the stamped envelopes of the United States, a valuable and painstaking work was done by W. E. V. Horner, of Freehold, N. J. His book of seventy-six pages is published by L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, an extensive dealer in United States and foreign stamps, who also publishes the *Philatelic Monthly*. * * * Of the hosts of dealers in postage stamps in this country, few can afford to issue price catalogues. * * * While nothing in the line of United States stamps competes with Sterling's new Catalogue, which describes eight hundred and eighty-six specimens of postal stamps and currency.

The above article about philately was published also by the following well-known and reliable papers:

Weekly Republican, Springfield, Mass., April 30, 1886.

Daily Courier, Lowell, Mass.

New York Graphic, May 1, 1886.

Record, Lambertville, N. J., May 12, 1886.

Also portions of above article in various other papers.

From the *Monthly Journal*, Carlisle, Pa., April, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling is one of our best and most reliable dealers in stamps that we have.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., April, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has published the fifth edition of his most popular and successful Catalogue of the Stamps and Envelopes of the United States. This edition also embraces a list of the stamps of the Confederacy, which should be included in all collections of United States stamps, on account of the historical associations.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., May, 1886.

Sterling's new Revenue Stamp Catalogue is a valuable work and would be a credit to any compiler. It must be a part of the outfit of every collector of U. S. revenue stamps.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., May 18, 1886.

MR. STERLING'S NEW WORK.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the now quite famous stamp dealer, of this city, has just issued from the press of Edwin Fitzgeorge, a fourth edition of his Catalogue of Internal Revenue Stamps of the United States. To praise its completeness seems like adding adjectives to the superlative. The former editions were supposed to be as complete as was possible, but this new one seems to have reached out into vaster space and greater heights and depths. With the thousands of stamps which are described, it seems almost impossible that any sort of order or arrangement could be made that would be at once concise and comprehensive. This is accomplished, however, and with such minuteness as to give every little particular as to color, size, denomination, date of issue, description of engraving, perforations, kind of paper, and whether watermarked or not, and the present market value of each. In this last matter of market price Mr. Sterling's Catalogues are authority in the philatelic world. Should this edition meet the fate of its predecessor, a fifth edition will soon be necessary.

From the weekly edition of the *New York World*, May 19th, 1886.

* * * For the values of old stamps, correspondents should consult the catalogues of dealers. The *World* cannot give the prices unless the stamps are sent, as there are variations of color and die that may make a stamp worth only one cent, or fully one hundred dollars. It does not wish to receive them on account of the danger of loss. Catalogues cost 25 cents each. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., publishes the best Catalogue of American stamps, but his Catalogue does not give the price of foreign stamps. * * * The price charged by dealers for cancelled American stamps of the common issues are as follows:

1851.	1 ct.	Blue	\$0 10	1861.	30 ct.	Orange.....	\$0 50
"	3 "	red.....	01	"	90 "	blue.....	1 50
1856.	5 "	brown	2 50	1868.	1 "	blue*.....	05
1855.	10 "	green.....	25	"	2 "	black*.....	02
1851.	12 "	black.....	1 00	"	3 "	red	01
1860.	24 "	lilac.....	10 00	"	5 "	brown.....	25
1857.	1 "	blue*.....	05	"	5 "	red brown.....	50
"	3 "	red.....	01	"	10 "	green*	20
"	5 "	brown	1 00	"	12 "	black.....	25
"	10 "	green	15	"	15 "	black.....	25
"	12 "	black	50	"	24 "	lilac.....	1 00
1860.	24 "	lilac.....	50	"	30 "	orange.....	1 00
"	30 "	orange	50	"	90 "	blue.....	2 50
"	90 "	blue.....	2 00	"	3 "	grilled rose.....	5 00
1861.	1 "	blue*.....	02	1869.	1 "	buff.....	10
1863.	2 "	black	02	"	2 "	brown*.....	05
1861.	3 "	red	01	"	3 "	blue.....	01
"	3 "	scarlet.....	10 00	"	6 "	blue.....	25
"	5 "	yellow	2 50	"	10 "	orange	25
"	5 "	brown	15	"	12 "	green.....	25
"	5 "	red brown.....	25	"	15 "	brown*.....	50
"	10 "	green*	05	"	24 "	green and purple*	1 50
"	12 "	black	15	"	30 "	red and blue*.....	1 50
1866.	15 "	black	25	"	90 "	blue and carmine,	3 50
1861.	24 "	lilac.....	20				

The above of 1869 are all grilled. The plain variety is worth a little less.

1870, present issue, if grilled, worth from 50 cents to \$2.50 each, according to denomination. Plain ones:

1882.	5 ct.	Chocolate	\$0 05	1870.	12 ct.	Purple	\$0 10
1883.	5 "	brown.....	01	"	24 "	violet	50
1870.	6 "	carmine.....	10	"	90 "	carmine.....	10
1871.	7 "	vermillion.....	25				

These prices are condensed from Sterling's Catalogue, and will show the range and give a general idea; but every one who wishes to know exactly what his stamps are worth, should buy a Catalogue, with the full description of each stamp, as a slight variation in the die or the printing often makes a very great difference in the price. Stamped envelopes are rarer and more precious than stamps. The minutest variation in a die, or the cut or size, will make one worth from one hundred to one thousand times more than another. No general description will do. Stamps on original letters or envelopes are worth more than when detached.

* Varieties as high as \$25. † Different designs.

From the *Chambersburg Press*, Trenton, N. J., May 29, 1886.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. B. Sterling, R. A. Donnelly & Co., have been enabled to decorate their window with relics of the civil war, embracing war envelopes and stamps, camp scenes and pieces of the battle flags of New Jersey regiments, in honor of Decoration Day.

From the *Cumberland Collector*, Nashville, Tenn., June, 1886.

A lengthy sketch of the life of E. B. Sterling, the well-known dealer in U. S. stamps, appeared in the *Trenton Times* a few days since. It was splendid, and complimented Mr. Sterling very much; but we are certain he is worthy of all the praise bestowed upon him, as he is undoubtedly better informed on the subject of U. S. stamps and envelopes than any dealer we have, for he makes this particular country a special study.

From the *Empire State Philatelist*, New York, June, 1886.

In a recent issue of the *Trenton Times*, I notice that my friend, Mr. E. B. Sterling, is the recipient of a handsome reward from the Government for the detection of a counterfeit stamp. The facts are as follows and I trust they will interest your readers:

Not long since a collection of stamps was sent Mr. Sterling for examination. His quick eye instantly singled out a suspicious beer stamp, which he found to be counterfeit. He immediately placed himself in correspondence with the Secret Service Department and in less than a week one of the largest brewing concerns in the country was under seizure, the proprietors arrested, convicted and a payment of \$30,000 made to the Government. In recognition of his services the Treasurer of the United States sent to Mr. Sterling a check for \$2,000, which has just been received.

This is one of the greatest pieces of detective work that has come to the Government's notice for years, and the manner in which the fraud was detected and worked out is highly creditable.

From the *Stamp*, Denver, Col., July, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well-known collector and dealer in United States stamps, recently received a check for \$2,000 from the U. S. Government, for the discovery by him of a fraudulent beer stamp. A well-known brewing firm was compelled to pay \$30,000 through Mr. Sterling's detection of this stamp. Who said stamp collecting was a worthless pastime?

From *Plain Talk*, Brooklyn, N. Y., August, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has kindly favored us with his Catalogue of Revenue Stamps, fourth edition, 1886. It describes over sixteen hundred varieties of revenues, including every kind of surcharge yet discovered.

From the *Chariton Gazette*, Iowa, September, 1886.

E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., is selling stamps recovered from the wreck of the steamer Oregon, at one dollar each.

From the *Cumberland Collector*, Nashville, Tenn., September, 1886.

The rarest Document stamp that is for sale is the \$20.00 orange, Probate of Will, first issue and unperforated. It is the property of Mr. E. B. Sterling, and is priced in his Catalogue at \$35.00.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., October 1, 1886.

Among the treasures of ancient lore in valuable papers which Mr. Edward Sterling, of this city, has collected, is a quaint little book which he recently came across in New York city. It is entitled "Green's Register for Connecticut," with an almanac for the year 1792. The little book is well preserved, but bears the yellow marks of age. In it is a large amount of varied information in regard to State and national affairs.

* * * * *

From the *Philatelic Magazine*, La Grange, Ill., November, 1886.

Sterling's U. S. Catalogues are universally conceded to be the standard. The fourth edition of the Postage Stamp Catalogue is no exception to the rule. It describes and prices over seven hundred and fifty varieties, is finely printed on cream toned paper, and is published at only 25 cents a copy.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., January 27, 1887.

VALUABLE AS DIAMONDS.

At a recent sale of rare stamps in New York city, a single stamp, less than an inch square, brought \$195. E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, of this city, bid \$190, but the purchaser had authority to buy it at any price, and Mr. S. was compelled to let it go. The valuable little bit of paper was a five-cent Brattleboro postage stamp, issued in 1846. There are but five now in existence and they cost their possessor \$1,000.

From the *Golden Eclipse*, Sycamore, Ill., February, 1887.

We have just received E. B. Sterling's Catalogue of Revenues, which is the most complete and best arranged list that has been issued, and much credit is due to the publisher.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., February 1887.

We have received advance sheets of Mr. Sterling's new Catalogue of United States Stamps only, sixth edition. It describes over one thousand varieties, including adhesives, envelopes, wrappers, letter sheets, postal and metallic currency, telegraph stamps, the issue of the Southern Confederacy, and also the standard reference list of the private local postage stamps, by Dr. W. H. Mitchell.

From the *Texas Stamp*, Fort Worth, Tex., February, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., is about to issue a new edition of his Catalogue of United States Stamps.

From the *New York World*, March 25, 1887.

OLD STAMPS.

The prices charged by dealers for cancelled American stamps of the common issues, are as follows:

Year.	Description.	Price.	Year.	Description.	Price.
1851.	1 ct. Blue	\$0 10	1861.	30 ct. Orange.....	\$0 50
"	3 " red.....	01	"	90 " blue.....	1 50
1856.	5 " brown	2 50	1868.	1 " blue*.....	05
1855.	10 " green	25	"	2 " black.....	02
1851.	12 " black	1 00	"	3 " red	01
1860.	24 " lilac†.....	10 00	"	5 " brown.....	25
1857.	1 " blue*.....	05	"	5 " red brown.....	50
"	3 " red.....	01	"	10 " green	20
"	5 " brown	1 00	"	12 " black.....	25
"	10 " green.....	15	"	15 " black.....	25
"	12 " black	50	"	24 " lilac.....	1 00
1860.	24 " lilac.....	50	"	30 " orange	1 00
"	30 " orange	50	"	90 " blue.....	2 50
"	90 " blue.....	2 00	1869.	3 " grilled rose.....	5 00
1861.	1 " blue*.....	02	"	1 " buff.....	10
1863.	2 " black	02	"	2 " brown*.....	05
1861.	3 " red	01	"	3 " blue.....	01
"	3 " scarlet.....	10 00	"	6 " blue.....	25
"	5 " yellow	2 50	"	10 " orange	25
"	5 " brown.....	15	"	12 " green.....	25
"	5 " red brown.....	25	"	15 " brown*.....	50
"	10 " green*	05	"	24 " green and pearl*..	1 50
"	12 " black	15	"	30 " red and black*....	1 50
1866.	15 " black	25	"	90 " black and carmine,	3 50
1861.	24 " lilac.....	20			

* Varieties as high as \$25. † Different designs.

The preceding of 1869 are all grilled. The plain variety is worth a little more.

1870, present issue, if grilled, are worth from 50 cts. to \$2.50 each, according to denomination. Plain ones:

Year.	Description.	Price.	Year.	Description.	Price.
1882.	5 ct. Chocolate	\$0 05	1870.	12 ct. Purple	\$0 10
1883.	5 " brown.....	01	"	24 " violet	50
1870.	6 " carmine.....	10	"	90 " carmine.....	10
1871.	7 " vermillion.....	25			

The prices charged by dealers for Confederate stamps are as follows:

Year.	Description.	New.	Used.	Year.	Description.	New.	Used.
1861.	5 ct. Green	\$0 40	\$0 25	1863.	2 ct. Rose	\$0 25	\$1 00
"	5 " dark green,	40	25	"	10 " blue.....	03	05
"	10 " blue.....	1 00	35	"	10 " pale blue...	05	15
1862.	2 " green.....	2 50	2 50	"	10 " blue (outer		
"	5 " blue.....	30	25		line).....		2 00
"	5 " dark blue...	30	25	"	10 " blue, per-		
"	10 " rose.....	1 00	1 00		forated...	2 00
"	5 " blue.....	05	05	"	10 " blue.....	2 00	2 00
"	5 " pale blue...	02	02	"	20 " green	05
"	5 " blue, litho-			1864.	1 " orange	15
	graphed..		10	"	10 " rose	5 00
"	5 " blue, per-						
	forated...	2 00				

Local Confederate stamps are worth from 90 cents to \$90. Goliad, Tex., \$90; Mobile, two-cent, \$30 to \$35; five-cent, \$7.50; Charlestown, five-cent, \$7.50; Knoxville, red, five-cent, \$2.50; Lynchburg, \$10; Memphis, \$1 each; New Orleans, \$1.50 each; Petersburg, \$6. Varieties and specialties are worth more.

For the values of old stamps, correspondents should consult the Catalogues of dealers. There are variations of color and die, which may make a stamp worth one cent or one dollar. E. B. Sterling, Trenton, N. J., publishes the only complete Catalogue of American Stamps.

From the *Collectors' Review*, Denver, Col., March, 1887.

The sixth edition of Sterling's Descriptive Postage Stamp Catalogue, which was to appear January 1, 1887, has been greatly delayed, but is in press at the present time, and Mr. Sterling promises it as soon as possible. The sixth will be, however, a great improvement on the former editions, and the prospects are that purchasers will be fully repaid for waiting.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., April 15, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well-known philatelist, of this city, has just issued a new edition of his Catalogue of Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States. It is probably the most complete catalogue of the kind ever published. It contains forty-two pages and describes over one thousand varieties. These varieties include all the recent discoveries in old issues, a complete list of the Government reprints in adhesives and a standard reference list of the private local stamps. Every stamp is numbered. The varieties of envelopes are fully explained. Mr. Sterling is an enthusiast in his line of work. The collection of oddities in stamps, envelopes, etc., is for him a labor of love. His collection is among the finest in the country.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., April 15, 1887.

E. B. STERLING'S NEW CATALOGUE.

It seems as though E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, is determined to exhaust the stock of adjectives of the superlative degree in the matter of his stamp publications. Each preceding edition of these Catalogues has been characterized as the best then in existence. And the words were true till now, when we have before us a copy of the sixth edition. It is a splendidly edited and printed book of about one hundred and twenty pages, and if there is anything about stamps which it does not contain nobody but E. B. Sterling could ever find the flaw. It is by far the most complete and voluminous publication of its kind, though the price, 25 cents, is the same as heretofore. All the distinctive features are retained, such as the color, size, paper, die, perforation, date, denomination and price in the market to-day, both cancelled and uncanceled. Mr. Sterling is a member of the New Jersey Historical Society, Trustee of the American Philatelic Association, member of the National Philatelic Society of New York, Quaker City Philatelic Society of Philadelphia, American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York, &c., &c. He is therefore in a position to speak knowingly in reference to the whole range and scope of philately, and it is this which gives value to the Catalogues. The book is from the press of Edwin Fitzgeorge and is a model.

From the *Chambersburg Press*, Trenton, N. J., April 16, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, who is well-known as a philatelist of repute throughout the world, has issued his sixth annual Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps. It is admittedly the best work of its kind published, and no collector can afford to neglect sending twenty-five cents for so valuable an encyclopedia of philatelic lore.

From the *Daily State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., April 19, 1887.

STERLING'S STAMP CATALOGUE.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS ENTERPRISING TRENTONIAN'S
CURIOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, has issued the sixth edition of his Catalogue of Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States. This is the best and fullest Catalogue published, describing over a thousand varieties, embracing adhesives, envelopes, wrappers, letter sheets, postals, postal and metallic currency, telegraph stamps, issues of the late Southern Confederacy, &c. Mr. Sterling took up stamp collecting as a boyish fancy, pursued it with industry and intelligence, and has developed it into a large and profitable business. He is now probably the best authority on the subject in this country. The *Springfield Republican*, in an article describing Mr. Sterling's remarkable success and prominence in this curious industry, said: "Mr. Sterling tells an odd story of his skill in detecting counterfeits. He was running through a collection of 'revenues' sent him for examination, when he caught sight of a bogus beer stamp. He immediately placed himself in correspondence with the Secret Service Department, and in less than a week one of the largest brewing concerns in the country was under seizure, the proprietors arrested and convicted, and a payment of \$30,000 made to the Government. In recognition of his services, the Treasurer of the United States sent Mr. Sterling a check for \$2,000. One of Mr. Sterling's latest hobbies is the preparation and publication of a Catalogue of over five hundred tin-foil labels for tobacco, which, of course, are only one form of proprietary stamps. His private collections are worth a big sum, among them being the Carpenter collection of proof revenue stamps, representing a face value of over \$30,000. His stock in trade is worth over \$10,000, and a good share of his business is with correspondents in foreign countries. He doesn't give himself up entirely to his hobby, for he has been for some years in the Trenton Banking Company. His 'office hours' for the stamp business are from 7:30 p. m. till midnight, and he has two clerks. He is a native of Trenton, thirty-five years old, and lives in a \$10,000 house at the corner of Prospect and Bellevue avenues, which has been paid for from the profits of his hobby."

From the *Keystone State Philatelist*, Philadelphia, Pa., April and May, 1887.

We are in receipt from Mr. E. B. Sterling of a printed apology for not coming out with his new Catalogue at the time he stated, but we think that his many friends will find that their patience has been well rewarded, as we understand that Mr. Sterling has prepared a list of all U. S. locals, a very necessary addition to his already complete list of postage and revenue stamps and stamped envelopes.

From the *Bayonne Herald and Greenville Register*, N. J., May 14, 1887.

A WORK OF REFERENCE.

E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., the well-known philatelic publisher, has just issued the sixth edition of his famous Catalogue of the Postage Stamps used in the United States. The new work describes the postage stamps of the United States, postmasters previous to the issue of stamps by the department in detail, and in the most minute manner gives full information on the stamps issued by the government and departments of the government for official use.

The stamps issued by the Confederate postmasters and government have been endorsed by Mr. Joseph Rechert, who is a specialist in that line, and is pronounced to be the most correct list ever published. In connection with the work is a complete and detailed list of the stamps issued by the private mail companies that formerly existed in the larger cities and great west. This is compiled by Dr. W. H. Mitchell, of this city, and contains forty-two pages of closely printed matter—more than has ever been published on this subject before, and is not only instructive to the philatelist, but will become a necessity to one if he wishes to be up to the times.

Mr. Sterling has issued many Catalogues, but this exceeds all others in the beauty of the typographical work and the value of the contents.

From the *Signal*, Trenton, N. J., May, 1887.

STERLING'S SIXTH CATALOGUE.

Each new venture is better than the last. Most truthfully can this be said of Philatelist Edward B. Sterling, of this city. And now the sixth edition of his Catalogue has just been issued. Replete as the others have been with valuable information concerning United States stamps, this sixth surpasses by far all that has gone before. First dealing with official local stamps, it next treats exhaustively of the general issue of the United States from '47 to the present time. Department and telegraph stamps are then considered, only to be followed by envelopes and newspaper wrappers and local and regular issues by the Confederate Government. Many pages are devoted to what the author calls "Oddities." Private local postage stamps are also treated at length.

Collector Sterling is high authority on all matters connected with United States postage stamps. This is his "hobby," and a profitable one he finds it. There is "big money" in it, to use the vernacular. Witness some of the quoted prices for certain varieties of stamps. There is the black "three-center" issued by the New York office in 1842, and it is worth \$100, whilst another stamp of the same issue sells for \$25. In the general issue of '51-60 a twenty-four-cent stamp is worth \$10, whilst a variety of thirty-cent stamp

of '69 sells for \$50. A ten-cent envelope stamp, '73, of the War Department, is valued at \$18. Confederate issues of different denominations sell from five cents to three dollars. These are among the highest figures paid for these curios, but it only serves to show what a man will pay for a thing when he wants it.

From the *Collectors' Review*, Denver, Col., May, 1887.

The sixth edition of Sterling's United States Postage Stamp Catalogue has appeared. It consists of about one hundred and twenty pages, and embraces all kinds of U. S. postage stamps. The list of locals is compiled by Dr. W. H. Mitchell. The Catalogue is an excellent one, and should be in every library. Price, 25 cents, including a millimeter scale.

From the *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, Chicago, Ill., May, 1887.

STERLING'S SIXTH EDITION CATALOGUE.

Just as we go to press we receive Sterling's Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps. The work excels all of Mr. Sterling's former efforts in arrangement and neatness. A valuable list of locals, by Dr. Wm. H. Mitchell, is appended, making it the most complete Catalogue of U. S. Stamps issued. It can be had of the compiler. Price, 25 cents.

From the *Philatelic Herald*, Portland, Me., May, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the veteran dealer in United States stamps, has resigned his position as Note Teller of the Trenton Banking Company, and will hereafter give his entire time to the stamp business.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., June 1, 1887.

E. B. STERLING'S NEW DEPARTURE.

E. B. Sterling, for years the Note Teller at the Trenton Bank, has resigned his position, taking effect immediately. It is well known that Mr. Sterling's business in philately has been constantly increasing for some time and now has reached such proportions that it offers even greater inducements than did the bank position.

Besides devoting his whole time hereafter to his stamp business, Mr. Sterling will also find leisure to engage in the real estate brokerage business, and already has a number of fine lots on his hands for sale in the north-western end of the city.

From the *Signal*, Trenton, N. J., June, 1887.

Edward Sterling has made philatelic study his life-long object. Thousands of dollars represent the value of his collection.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., June 2, 1887.

E. B. Sterling, the well-known philatelist, has resigned his position as Note Teller at the Trenton Bank in order to give his whole attention to his profitable stamp collections.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., June 2, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the Note Teller at the Trenton Bank, has resigned his position.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., June 9, 1887.

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.

GIVEN BY E. B. STERLING, AT HIS RESIDENCE, LAST EVENING.

Last evening there was a merry company at the residence of Mr. E. B. Sterling, on Prospect Hill. It will be remembered that Mr. Sterling has just resigned his position as Note Teller with the Trenton Banking Company, where he has been employed since 1878, and expects to devote his entire time to his large and increasing stamp business. Accordingly he invited a number of gentlemen, principally those connected with the banking interests of the city, to partake of a complimentary dinner at his home.

After a tour of inspection of the grounds surrounding the house, the company were shown Mr. Sterling's collection of stamps and rare coins, and the magnitude and completeness would astonish the reader.

Dinner being announced, the host called upon Cashier Stelle, of the Mechanics, and Tellers Clark and Cochran of the Trenton Bank, to lead the way to the dining-room. There were seated at the tables W. W. Stelle, E. B. Sterling and sons Welling and Joseph, W. A. Clark, Chas. D. Waters, Elwood T. Hutchinson, Clayton L. Traver, J. D. Cochran, Austin Snider, Joseph S. Brearley, Horace A. Thompson, Chas. W. Pette, William H. Noble, James F. Brook, Ira Frost, H. Aug. Martindell, George R. Ewan and Alfred B. Hutchinson. The following menu was then served in elegant shape by Caterers Hill & Son:

	Little Neck Clams.	Sauterne.
Radishes.	Cucumbers.	Tomatoes.
	Consomme in Cups.	
		Sherry.
Soft Shell Crabs.	Parisian Potatoes.	
Boiled Spring Chicken.	Creamed Asparagus.	
		Claret.
	Roman Punch.	
Sweetbread Croquettes.	French Peas.	
		Champagne.
	Chicken Salad Mayonnaise.	
French Cream in Fancy Shapes.	Assorted Cake.	
Fruits.	Coffee.	Cigars.

Cashier Stelle sat at the head of the table and opened the speech-making, in which nearly all present followed. Host Sterling gave a very interesting talk, in which he recounted his early experiences in the stamp collecting business. Messrs. Traver, Pette, Hutchinson and Ewan interspersed the speech-making with some fine male quartettes, and on leaving each guest very truthfully assured the host of having spent a most pleasant social evening. The dining-room was tastefully decorated with flowers, prominent on the wall being the device, "T. B. C., 1878—1887." Letters of regret were received from William S. Stryker, Thomas S. Chambers and others.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., June 24, 1887.

Mr. Edward B. Sterling last evening entertained a number of friends at his house on Prospect Hill. He exhibited to them some of his rare stamps.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., June 24, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, entertained a company of friends with an exhibition of stamp treasures at his home on Prospect Hill, last night.

From the *Philatelic Magazine*, La Grange, Ill., June, 1887.

We have just received the sixth edition of Mr. E. B. Sterling's Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps, and for completeness and accuracy, it is second to no other work of its kind. Well printed, on good paper, and at a popular price—25 cents per copy. We can supply same on receipt of price.

From the *Philatelic World*, New York, June, 1887.

We have received the sixth edition of Mr. Sterling's valuable Catalogue of U. S. Postage and Envelope Stamps. An important addition is the reference list of private local postage stamps, compiled by Dr. W. H. Mitchell.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., June, 1887.

Mr. Sterling's new Catalogue of "U. S. Stamps Only," is now ready. It is unexceptional in every respect and indispensable to any collector. It is also largely increased in size. Send 25 cents for one and help Mr. Sterling spend his money, for we are sure he loses on every copy.

From the *Quaker City Philatelist*, Philadelphia, Pa., June, 1887.

Sterling has more stamps than could pave a road from Boston to Philadelphia. And his private collection is immense.

From the *Philatelic Fortnightly*, Belleville, O., June, 1887.

Mr. Sterling's Catalogue of U. S. Stamps is a model in every sense of the word. The addition of Mitchell's list of locals will fill a long felt want.

Mr. Sterling is bound to make his Catalogue better every year. If it keeps on improving and increasing, it will be like Webster's Unabridged, an absolutely indispensable.

From the *Stamp*, Denver, Col., July, 1887.

E. B. Sterling, the well-known dealer, at Trenton, N. J., has resigned his position in the bank at that place, and will devote his entire attention to the stamp business.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., July 3, 1887.

E. B. Sterling is one of Trenton's happiest men.

From the *International Philatelic Advertiser*, New York City, July, 1887.

We have received an announcement from Mr. E. B. Sterling which states that he has resigned his position as Note Teller to the Trenton Banking Company, in whose employ he has been nine years. He will continue on with his extensive stamp business, combining it with the brokerage business.

From the *Practical Educator*, Trenton, N. J., July 1, 1887.

E. B. Sterling, Esq., has resigned his position as Note Teller at the Trenton Bank, and will give his entire time to his stamp business, which has grown to large and profitable proportions.

From the *American Philatelic Record*, Binghamton, N. Y., Aug., 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has resigned his position with the Trenton Banking Company in order to devote his entire time to his philatelic business.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., August 30, 1887.

E. B. Sterling has fitted up two rooms at 132 East State street, where he will carry on a real estate and insurance business. He also has his large collection of stamps and curiosities, in which he will still continue to deal.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., August 30, 1887.

E. B. Sterling, the Trenton philatelist, has fitted up two rooms, 4 and 5, in the Scott Building, 132 East State street, where he has arranged, in scientific order, his collection of stamps and curios. He will also engage in the real estate and insurance business and deal in bank stock, western

farm mortgages and securities of various kinds. The public is invited to inspect his collection of stamps and coins on September 1st.

From the *Keystone State Philatelist*, Phila., Pa., Aug. and Sept., 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling informs us he has resigned his position as Note Teller of the Trenton Banking Co., and that he will hereafter devote all his time to the stamp business; also the real estate and bank stock brokerage.

From the *Stamp*, Denver, Col., September, 1887.

The writer ("Wanderer") had the pleasure of examining the collection of proof and document stamps of Mr. Sterling, with the intention of giving the readers of the *Stamp* some description of his rarities, but, alas, the rarities were legion, and he confesses his inability to do anything but admire, and envy, and wish the lovers of revenues would be equally fortunate in obtaining a chance to see them.

From the *Texas Philatelic Journal*, September, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has resigned his position in the Trenton Bank, and will hereafter devote his whole time to the stamp business.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., September 1, 1887.

E. B. STERLING'S ROOMS.

THE WALLS COVERED WITH RARE STAMPS, RELICS, &c.

The Handsome Border Made of Emblematic War Envelopes—A Painting that Once Belonged to Benjamin Fish—Mr. Sterling's Complete Collection of United States Dollars.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has taken a suite of rooms in Scott's new building, on East State street, where he has on exhibition collections of rare and valuable stamps and other curiosities.

The brokerage department is in the rear, and it is very handsomely fitted up. On the walls are all kinds of rare stamps, pictures, envelopes and currency, all of which are handsomely framed. Among the curiosities are: Specimens of New York currency, from 1790 to 1815; complete set of United States postage stamps from one cent to sixty dollars, including every issue of the United States Government from 1847 to date; specimens of fractional currency issued during the war; relics from the steamship Oregon, which foundered at sea; one hundred specimens of stamped envelopes, from 1853 to 1885; one of the first notes issued by the Trenton Banking Company, with which Mr. Sterling was formerly connected; a specimen of the first

issue of stamps of the British Government in 1840; a specimen of the first issue of United States stamps in 1847; three ancient indentures, dated 1680, 1730 and 1750; a collection of old Continental money from different States; specimens of Federal money; seven or eight different varieties of paper money; a dollar bill dated 1862, found in the pocket of Benjamin Moorehouse after a bullet had passed through it.

On one side of Mr. Sterling's desk is a picture of James G. Blaine, while on the other side is the picture of John A. Logan. Between these two is a handsomely framed picture of Blaine, Logan and Lincoln. One of the features of the brokerage room is the handsome border on the wall. It is made up entirely of emblematic war envelopes that came out during the War of the Rebellion. There are four thousand of them. It took a paper hanger over a week to fit up the brokerage department.

Mr. Sterling also has on exhibition the famous counterfeit beer stamps which he detected, for which he received \$2,000 from the Government. They are enclosed by a frame. In the center are the two counterfeits and two of the genuine stamps. There are also accounts of the detection taken from the secret service to Mr. Sterling.

Over the large door between the brokerage and stamp departments are five old paintings. They were painted in oil colors, on glass, in 1745.

The stamp department is probably the most handsomely fitted up of the two rooms. It is provided with show cases filled with all kinds of curiosities. Among the specimens exhibited are: Valuable collection of stamped envelopes; revenue stamps from one cent to five thousand dollars face value, from five dollars to one hundred dollars market value—handsomest collection of revenue stamps in existence; the original design of the San Francisco Match Company stamp executed with pen and ink; frosted silver medal; stamp albums, containing specimens of old stamps issued by the United States; display of Confederate bonds, of over fifty varieties of all issues, from \$100 to \$5,000; display of proof and other medals and complete collections of fractional currency; collections of shells from the South Sea Islands, and birds' eggs from all sections; minerals from all over the country.

Besides the above Mr. Sterling also has a collection of the battle flags of the New Jersey regiments that were in active service. There are twenty specimens, and five specimens of Confederate flags captured by New Jersey regiments.

Mr. Sterling's collections of United States silver dollars is indeed complete. He has specimens for every year, dating from 1794 up to present time. Some of them are very valuable. The coin issued in 1794 is worth \$75; 1839, \$50; 1851, \$60; 1852, \$60; 1858, \$50. The whole collection is worth more than \$500. It took Mr. Sterling many years to get together these coins, which constitute the most complete collection in the country.

The above article was also published in the *Chambersburg Press* on Saturday, September 3.

From the *State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., September 2, 1887.

COINS, STAMPS AND BATTLE FLAGS.

E. B. Sterling opened his real estate and insurance office in the Scott Building, near the City Hall, yesterday. Many friends dropped in to view his display of curios. He has one of the most valuable coin and postage stamp collections in the country, and in addition, other rare things in the way of battle flags, autographs, pictures, &c. He will make monthly displays of parts of his collection and cordially invites the public to call and see them. The varieties now being shown consist of a complete set of American silver dollars from 1794 to 1887; a complete set of fractional currency—six different issues—with the autographs of Colby, Spinner and Jeffries; twenty specimens of battle flags of New Jersey regiments that were actually in service; five specimens of Rebel flags that were captured by New Jersey regiments; \$50,000 worth of Confederate bonds issued from 1861 to 1864, the denominations being from \$100 to \$5,000; and shells, minerals and rare stamps, including a set of document stamps whose face value is from one cent to \$5,000, and whose market value is from one cent to \$100. The market value of the silver dollar of 1794 is \$75; those of 1838, 1839 and 1858 are worth \$50 each, and those of 1851 and 1852, \$60 each.

Mr. Sterling has a small fortune invested in curios. By buying and selling he gets his money back, and manages at the same time always to keep a first-class collection.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., September 2, 1887.

DISCOVERY OF A RELIC.

A *Times* representative yesterday called on Mr. E. B. Sterling, at his rooms in Scott Building, on East State street. In the course of a conversation Mr. Sterling remarked that he had "barrels" of old Confederate money and offered to enrich the reporter therewith, which he did. To-day was found written on the top of a twenty dollar bill which Mr. Sterling had given away, the words: "Sunk with the steamer Chickamauga for about six months." The *Times* representative returned the bill to Mr. Sterling, who was ecstatic over the fact that he had regained the possession of a valuable relic.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., September 3, 1887.

ODD, CURIOUS AND RARE.

E. B. STERLING'S MANY INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE POSSESSIONS.

Several days might be spent profitably in the examination of the many rare and instructive objects that have been gathered together and are now being displayed by E. B. Sterling, in rooms 3 and 4 of the Scott Building, on

East State street. Streams of visitors, having heard much of Mr. Sterling's collection of stamps, bills and coins, are constantly pouring into his office, now that an opportunity offers to gratify their curiosity.

A possession of which Mr. Sterling is proud is an old oil painting of William Henry Harrison, formerly owned by the late Benjamin Fish. His collection of United States dollars comprise every issue from 1794 to date. Some of these have a market value of \$75. It is the most complete collection in existence.

An interesting document is a *fac-simile* of the Declaration of Secession of the State of South Carolina, dated December 17, 1860. Several old indentures, conveying the titles of land, engrossed upon parchment, and in use before the time of printed deeds, are in his collection of curios, together with twenty specimens of New Jersey regimental battle flags, and five of Confederate flags, captured by the Jersey boys.

Mr. Sterling has between six and seven thousand war envelopes, on which are patriotic designs, from North and South, no two of which are alike. In a frame upon the wall is a complete set of United States postage stamps from one cent to sixty dollars, face value, from 1847 to date.

Here also is a collection of paper currency of four thousand varieties. It includes first State issues of Colonial States, first issues of Continental Congress, and all issues down to date, embracing the bills of the Southern Confederacy and Southern States, and also old State bank bills.

Other noteworthy displays are the counterfeit beer stamps, for the discovery of which he received \$2,000; specimens of fractional currency issued during the war; relics from the steamship Oregon, which foundered at sea; stamped envelopes from 1853 to 1885; a specimen of the first issue of stamps of the British Government, in 1840; a specimen of the first issue of United States stamps, in 1847, and a dollar bill dated 1862, found in the pocket of Benjamin Moorehouse after a bullet had passed through it.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., September 27, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, at his handsome rooms in Scott's building, has a veritable museum in his collection of stamps, coins and medals. The latest addition to his collection is a Roman copper coin, which is supposed to have been cast five hundred years before the Christian era. It is two inches in diameter and weighs eight and a half ounces. On one side is the head of Janus and on the obverse a proin.

He also has a collection of American dollars, from the first struck, in 1794, which is worth \$95, up to the present date. None are so valuable as that, however, the scarce ones being 1851, 1852 and 1858. He also has a like collection of half dollars. He has recently added to his collection eleven frames of the collection of foreign coins made by Jacob R. Freese, when he was abroad, some twenty years ago, which includes Roman, Turkish, Holland, Austrian, French, Belgium and others. His collection is the largest

and most complete in the country, and one who takes an interest in such things can spend days in their examination.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., October 4, 1887.

E. B. Sterling is busily engaged in arranging his complete and costly collection of rare coins, stamps and all manner of curiosities, for exhibition at the Mercer County Fair. He will have the handsomest and most complete exhibit of the kind.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., October 5, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling will have a fine valuable display of coins, stamps, &c., at the Mercer County Fair, which will attract a great deal of attention.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., October 5, 1887.

THE MERCER COUNTY FAIR.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has his large collection of coins and other curiosities on exhibition. All who see his collections marvel much where he ever obtained such a complete and interesting exhibit of all sorts of relics and curiosities. Among other things that he has on exhibition are strange and pretty sea shells of all kinds, collections of birds' eggs, Indian relics, such as arrow heads of all shapes, hatchets, spear heads, &c.; old Colonial money, collections of nearly every kind of money that has been and is now in circulation, minerals, polished stones and agates, all kinds of stamps and of other things too numerous to mention. The curiosities are much admired.

From the *Express*, Trenton, N. J., October 7, 1887.

A CHOICE COLLECTION.

MR. STERLING'S MEDALS, MINERALS AND COINS.

Interesting Conversation with the Philatelist—How his Business is Done, and How his Collections are Made.

Probably the most valuable and at the same time the most worthless exhibit at the Mercer County Fair, is that of E. B. Sterling, the Trenton Philatelist. As to intrinsic value, the junk-shop man could give it, were he to put it in a bag and average the lot, at half a cent a pound. This, of course, does not refer to the medals, minerals and coins. The market value of the display, however, is another matter altogether, and were a dozen stamp collectors and hoarders of rare and curious things, such as are embraced in his collection, to compete for their possession at a public sale,

the exhibit could probably be turned into more money than any other at the fair, as the question of utility would be entirely dropped, and the prices bounded only by the zeal for possession of the bidders. As a challenger of curiosity, Mr. Sterling's collection will hold its own with any on the fair grounds, and all day long a throng of curiosity-hunting people hang over the cases which contain the exhibit.

A very interesting attraction in the collection is a correspondence between Thomas Lowry and George Washington, the former of whom sought to become United States Marshal in 1793. He backed up his application with a petition that was signed by a number of the prominent men of New Jersey at that time. Mr. Sterling has the document, also the certificate of appointment, signed by George Washington, and a letter signed by Thomas Jefferson which accompanied the same.

Only the revenue stamps of the higher denomination are in the display at the fair, but Mr. Sterling has a complete set, ranging from one cent to \$5,000 in full value.

A head of Janus ornaments an old and very roughly made coin in the collection. A card in the case informs the visitor that it is of the oldest coinage in existence. In this case there are medals without end. An adjoining case contains enough Continental currency to make its possessor rich, were it good for its face value.

An *Express* reporter, after spending several hours in examining the many odd, curious and rare things embraced in the display, called at Mr. Sterling's office in the Scott Building, on East State street, with a view of learning something of the business methods which had built up a large trade in such queer commodities.

"My trade," said Mr. Sterling, "comes from all over the United States, but principally from the West."

"How did you reach so many people so widely scattered?" inquired the reporter.

"Well," said the philatelist, "I have been in the business a number of years. It was a slow growth, but I finally came to know about all the collectors in my line in the country. I have my collection stored in scientific order, so that I can instantly put my hand upon any particular one of the many thousand specimens of stamps. I also have them listed in catalogue form. This catalogue I have printed and sent to the addresses of all stamp collectors known to us."

"Is yours a large business?"

The office boy had just returned from the post office, and for a reply Mr. Sterling handed the reporter a bundle of about thirty letters, which bore post-marks from almost every State in the Union. "Every mail," said he, "brings me about this number of letters, each containing an order for some more or less expensive specimen."

"As much of your stock is rare, when you sell an article, how do you replace it?"

"Some of my stock cannot be duplicated. Such rarities bring fancy prices. Being so well known to the collectors, I frequently have an opportunity of acquiring rare specimens. A collector dies and his relatives dispose of the collection."

"I understand you have a private collection which you would not sell."

"Yes; I am the owner of the celebrated collection of Prof. Joseph R. Carpenter, of Philadelphia, who held the government contract for making revenue stamps from 1861 to 1882; also the collection of fine proofs on India paper, formed by Mr. Goodal, late President of the American Bank Note Company. This latter cost me over \$1,000, and I do not wish to sell it. It is the most valuable collection in existence."

Several days might be profitably spent in examining the many instructive objects that are to be found at Mr. Sterling's place of business. A possession of which he is proud is an old oil painting of William Henry Harrison, formerly owned by the late Benjamin Fish. His collection of United States dollars comprises every issue from 1794 to date. Some of these have a market value of \$75. It is the most complete collection in existence.

An interesting document is a *fac-simile* of the Declaration of Secession of the State of South Carolina, dated December 17th, 1860.

Several old indentures conveying the title of land, engrossed upon parchment and in use before the time of printed deeds are in his collection, of curios, as are also twenty specimens of New Jersey regimental battle flags, and five specimens of Confederate flags captured by the New Jersey boys.

Between six and seven thousand war envelopes, from North and South, upon which are patriotic designs, and no two of which are alike, also grace his collection.

A complete set of United States postage stamps, from 1847 to date, and ranging in face value from one cent to \$60, and four thousand varieties of paper currency are in the lot.

From *The Youths' Ledger*, New York City, October, 1887.

In connection with his stamp business, Mr. E. B. Sterling acts as a general broker in real estate, insurance, bank stock and other securities.

From the *Philatelic Gazette*, Altoona, Pa., October, 1887.

Collectors will do well to keep an eye on the auction sales of stamps, etc. They frequently afford opportunities for obtaining rare stamps and others at a bargain. Any leading dealer in the east will, we presume, furnish catalogues and execute bids. Among these we may mention Mr. E. B. Sterling, Trenton, N. J., whose rates of commission are very reasonable.

From the *Daily State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., October 8, 1887.

NEW STAMPED ENVELOPES.

E. B. Sterling, the local philatelist, has just received specimens of the new issue of stamped envelopes, and will have them on exhibition at his office to-day. There are sixty-six varieties, as follows: ten of one-cent, ornamented with the head of Franklin, in blue; forty of two-cent, head of Washington, in green; twelve of four-cent, General Jackson, in vermilion, and four of five-cent, head of Grant, in blue. They are printed on seven varieties of paper. The envelopes have not yet been placed on sale in the post offices of the country, and may not be for several weeks, consequently the specimens sell at a premium. Each post office has a demand for envelopes of a certain size, Mr. Sterling says, and therefore some of the varieties are rarely seen in some parts of the country.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., October 8, 1887.

NEW STAMPED ENVELOPES.

Last evening E. B. Sterling received by mail, from Boston, a complete set of new United States stamped envelopes, of the issue of October, 1887. There are sixty-six varieties, and many colors, including white, amber, blue, Oriental cream, manilla and amber manilla. The ten varieties of the one-cent stamps are blue, and bear the head of Benjamin Franklin. There are forty varieties of the two-cent stamps. They are green and bear the head of George Washington. There are twelve varieties of four-cent stamps. They bear the head of Andrew Jackson and are vermilion. Of the five-cent stamps there are four varieties. They are blue and bear the head of Ulysses S. Grant. The stamps have not yet been distributed to the post offices. Their face value is a little over three dollars, but Mr. Sterling sells the sets for three dollars and a half.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., October 8, 1887.

ALL THE NEW ENVELOPES.

E. B. Sterling received last night, by express, from Boston, a complete set of the new stamped envelopes, issue of October, 1887, consisting of sixty-six varieties. The colors comprise white, amber, blue, Oriental cream, manilla and amber manilla. The ten varieties of one-cent stamps bear the head of Franklin, and the color is blue. Of the two-cent stamps there are forty varieties. They bear the head of Washington, and are green in color. There are twelve varieties of the four-cent stamps, bearing the head of Jackson. The color of these are vermilion. There are four varieties of the five-cent stamps. They bear the head of Grant and are of blue color. The new issue has not yet been distributed to the post offices.

From the *American Philatelist*, (Journal of the A. P. A.,) October 10, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, in addition to his stamp business, is able to find time to devote to brokerage, real estate, insurance, bank stocks, etc. We wish him all possible success.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., October 30, 1887.

EDWARD B. STERLING'S HOBBY.

SOME INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO HIS WORLD-FAMED COLLECTION.

"E. B. Sterling," accurately arranged from a collection of old war envelopes, greets the eye of the visitor as he enters the offices of that distinguished philatelist, and every other available space upon the walls shows some antiquity or rare relics of years and centuries gone by. Show cases full of delicate little novelties in stone and bone, engraved with little heathen gods and horribly grotesque animals. Bows and arrows from the famous Indian tribes of the far West, and postage stamps of all nations and values, occupy the visitor's attention as the polite collector plainly discusses their history, rarity and value. Mr. Sterling's wonderful collections have been elaborately described many times, but the recent valuable additions have never, as yet, been written up.

These new curiosities were obtained from the collection of Eugene Boban, a celebrated Parisian, whose name is conspicuous among the greatest collectors of antiquity in the world, and who recently parted with many of his treasures by public sale in New York city. Among the many bidders was Mr. Sterling, and the portions of the collection obtained by him comprise arms of the savage tribes of Asia, Africa and Oceanica, and a rare lot of Aztec antiquities. Also a superb collection of pre-historic implements, representing the stone age of Europe, in the Paleolithic period. silex axes, blades, knives and scrapers, cut from stone, and with edges as keen and sharp as the modern cutlery. In this division are interesting specimens of wheat, hazel nuts, apples, and red ochre for tattooing, from the Lacustral stations of Switzerland. Then there are stone axes with deer horn handles, fragments of pottery and bone implements from various caves in Denmark, Italy, Switzerland and France.

The portion of this collection that is possibly more interesting to the average person, is that of the Mexican division, which consists of a lot of Aztec idols, from the valley of Mexico, about thirty in all, and of various designs. They were the household gods of the ancient Mexicans or Aztecs. They are coarsely, but not unskillfully, fashioned from terra-cotta, and are generally in seated positions. Most of the stone age implements are handsomely mounted and labeled on heavy cardboards, in conspicuous places about the office.

Among the new additions to Mr. Sterling's collection is a Pagair, or chief's paddle, a spoon-shaped affair of hard wood, used for propelling a

canoe. Its entire surface, front and back, is carved in minute characters. The end of the handle is conical, with open work decorations and human figures carved in relief, and represents the work of years of patient and skillful labor.

A lance-shaped ornament or flag staff point, formerly surmounting the flag of the Emperor Iturbide, and finely carved, and treacherous looking clubs and war implements from the savage tribes of Africa. A temple hook to suspend offerings to idols, from the Tonga Island, and about four yards of white tapa, used by the native women in place of clothing. This piece would costume four of them to their entire satisfaction.

Mr. Sterling's collection from the Fiji Islands is also a rare and interesting one, the most curious piece being a lance point about two feet long, armed with four long rows of shark's teeth, making one of the most horrible weapons imaginable. The head bolster or pillow used by these people can be seen also. No downy feathers prompt their repose, but a simple round bar of wood, supported at each end by horse-shoes, is their only rest, and the higher the workmanship of their carving the sweeter their dreams.

Mr. Sterling is to be congratulated on this wonderful purchase, and on the success his favorite pastime has brought him, for his name is conspicuous throughout the world as a high authority on all matters pertaining to his business. A visit to his elaborately furnished offices is becoming the fashionable thing when showing visitors the points of interest about the town, and he is visited daily by large numbers of people, who go away praising his wonderful exhibit, and fascinated by the charming courtesies extended them by the popular philatelist.

From the *American Philatelist*, (Journal of the A. P. A.,) November 10, 1887.

I have to complain of the poor quality of paper hinges which some members use, as I often receive sheets from which the stamps have fallen off and I have the trouble of fastening them again. I will not recommend any one, but I must say the best gummed paper I have found, is by our Mr. E. B. Sterling, in Trenton, N. J., who sells a sheet for ten cents. I have used it for years, and it is always the same good paper. HENRY CLOTZ,

Supt. American Philatelic Association.

From the *Youths' Ledger*, New York City, November, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling had an interesting exhibit of coins, stamps, medals and autographs at the Mercer County Fair last month. It attracted a great deal of attention, as a throng of people crowded around the cases during the whole session of the fair. Of his revenues, only the higher values were displayed, and with these were Continental currency, autograph letters, and coins and medals without number.

From *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., November, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., the popular dealer in United States stamps of all kinds, conducts in connection with his stamp business, a general brokerage business in real estate, insurance, bank stock and other securities.

From the *Chambersburg Press*, Trenton, N. J., November 11, 1887.

A FREE EXHIBITION.

Lovers of the antique and curious in Trenton, have an opportunity of inspecting specimens seldom afforded in a city of this size. The finest collection of U. S. postage and revenue stamps in the world, an interesting and valuable display of archaeological specimens of the stone age, a large variety of coins, paper money, medals and other curiosities, are on free exhibition at the rooms of Mr. E. B. Sterling, Scott Building, East State street. An hour may very profitably be spent in examining Mr. Sterling's collection, and it costs nothing.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., December, 1887.

Will somebody tell us how it is that Mr. Sterling manipulates newspaper men? We will soon have to start a new volume of newspaper clippings relating solely to Mr. S., if the reporters do not stop interviewing him.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., December 18, 1887.

E. B. STERLING.

REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE AND CURIOSITIES.

This driving and popular business man in comparatively few weeks has built up a fine business, and how he has accomplished so much in so short a space of time would puzzle one not acquainted with his splendid executive abilities. A very acceptable gift to those depending upon the bread-winner would be a life insurance policy, and to the little folks a collection of rare stamps would be just the thing. A visit to Mr. Sterling's handsome rooms in the Scott Building would well repay the lover of antiquities.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., December 19, 1887.

E. B. STERLING'S CURIOSITIES.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, who has rooms Nos. 4 and 5 in the Scott Building, No. 132 East State street, has most complete sets of stamps, coins and curiosities. He has gathered them from all parts of the world and has many stamps, coins and curiosities that have no duplicates. He also deals in general brokerage, real estate, insurance, etc.

From the *Signal*, Trenton, N. J., December, 1887.

A WONDERFUL COLLECTION.

Those among our students who may be interested in the philatelic science, should see the famous collection of United States stamps made by Edward Sterling, of this city. Mr. Sterling is well known to our pupils, and since he has been located in the new Scott Building, on East State street, in a handsome suite of rooms, "our boys" often call upon him. The walls of his office are covered with rare specimens of pre-historic art, with remains of the Neolithic period, with curious papers and legal documents, with letters sent during the late war, with flags and with art curios. Cases full of interesting minerals and objects from the domain of nature. In fact Mr. Sterling has the most unique rooms in the United States. Mr. Sterling's record has been a phenomenal success and only goes to prove that any Trenton boy may win laurels of fame if he will only try.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., December 25, 1887.

Wonder if Santa Claus left some rare stamps in E. B. Sterling's stocking last night.

Extract from letter of Chas. H. Mekeel, in *The Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., January 1, 1888.

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After some other business calls, I set out for Trenton, to see Mr. Sterling. Mr. Sterling has a nice family and lovely home in the fashionable part of the city, on the corner of Bellevue avenue and Prospect street. The most of the evening was spent at his office, which occupies two large rooms in a new business block. These rooms are a regular museum and it would take more pages than there are in the *Journal* this month to describe everything I saw. Most of my time was spent examining his postage proofs, but I saw but a tithe of them.

Mr. Sterling has extensive real estate, mining and business interests in Trenton, and the stamp business is but a side issue. Several clerks and Sterling, Jr., attend to this.

Declining Mr. Sterling's pressing invitation to remain at his house, I took the midnight train for Philadelphia.

From the *Sunday Express*, Trenton, N. J., February 19, 1888.

Philatelist Edward B. Sterling has been making some additions to his stamp collection. Scarcely a day passes without he does not receive a letter from some far-away point. His foreign mail is large and constantly increasing. Stamps evidently pay.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., February 28, 1888.

Seen on Trenton streets—Edward B. Sterling telling some infatuated reporter about the beauties of philatelic research.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., March 3, 1888.

Ed. Sterling, who gets hold of many curious things and keeps them until their value in cash is realized, has a *fac-simile* of a letter written by Christopher Columbus.

From the *Collector*, Easton, Md., March, 1888.

E. B. Sterling knows everything about U. S. revenues and has compiled a Catalogue containing some of his knowledge on the subject.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., March 14, 1888.

E. B. Sterling has just come into possession of a *fac-simile* of a letter written by Christopher Columbus, which he values at three dollars.

From New York Notes in the *Western Philatelist*, April, 1888.

The *Daily Graphic*, of this city, in its issue of March 21st, published an excellent portrait of E. B. Sterling, together with a half-column sketch of his life, fully brought up to date.

From the *Republican*, Springfield, Mass., March 31, 1888.

The *New York Graphic*, in a recent illustrated article on Trenton, N. J., "did up" among the lions, E. B. Sterling, his portrait and his collections.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., April 14, 1888.

E. B. STERLING'S CATALOGUE.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well-known authority in philatelic matters, has just issued his fifth edition of Revenue Stamp Catalogues. It is a book of one hundred and seventy pages, replete with all the varied items of interest and information in reference to over four thousand varieties of stamps. And this great list does not treat of postage stamps in any form, but is a Catalogue of revenue stamps exclusively. The work is of great value to collectors, and represents in its compilation an amount of labor known only to Mr. Sterling. It is a handsome publication and will bring credit to all concerned in its production.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., April 18, 1888.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has issued the fifth edition of his Revenue Stamp Catalogue, making nearly two hundred pages, and describing, with their

price, over four thousand varieties of stamps. Mr. Sterling is authority throughout the country on these matters, and a glance through the Catalogue shows that it requires a great deal of work and patience to keep posted on them as well as to classify them so nicely as he has done in this edition, which seems to grow with every issue.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., April 22, 1888.

A GREAT STAMP COLLECTOR.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has issued the fifth edition of his Revenue Stamp Catalogue, making nearly two hundred pages, and describing, with their price, over four thousand varieties of stamps. Mr. Sterling is authority throughout the country on these matters, and a glance through the Catalogue shows that it requires a great deal of work and patience to keep posted.

From the *Daily State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., April 25, 1888.

STAMP CATALOGUE.

E. B. Sterling, philatelist, has just issued his Catalogue for 1888, describing and giving the price of over four thousand varieties of stamps. This is by far the largest and most complete list he has ever issued. The standard of these Catalogues increases with each issue, and this, the fifth edition, is meeting with far greater success than all previous editions. Mr. Sterling has made a special feature of revenue stamps.

From *Chambersburg Press and Anglo-American*, Trenton, N. J., April 28, 1888.

A UNIQUE CATALOGUE.

Trenton is proud in having as one of its honored citizens the most celebrated philatelist in the United States, Mr. E. B. Sterling. This gentleman has just published his fifth Catalogue of U. S. Revenue Stamps, describing over four thousand varieties. The Catalogue, a book of one hundred and seventy pages, while a mystery to the uninitiated, must of necessity be a valuable addition to philatelic lore.

From the *New Jersey Staats Journal*, Trenton, N. J., May 2, 1888.

AN INTERESTING CATALOGUE.

Mr. E. B. Sterling sends us the fifth edition of his large Catalogue of all kinds of Government Stamps. A glance through this highly interesting work is sure to astound the reader, because of the fabulous values of certain

issues of these stamps. Mr. Sterling is one of the most prominent judges and collectors of all kinds of stamps and coins, and his Catalogues are held in high estimation as authorities with those engaged in the collection and sale of these curiosities.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., May 3, 1888.

REVENUE STAMP CATALOGUE.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the philatelist, has favored the *True American* with a copy of his "Descriptive and Price Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the United States." It was issued on the 3d of last April. Mr. Sterling began the edition in October, 1887, when he expected to give descriptions of about two thousand varieties, but before he completed the work four thousand one hundred and ninety-one varieties were embraced. It is the largest and best work he has ever sent out and each day is bringing him words of praise from his correspondents. On pages 108 to 150 are recorded the stamped paper issues of the United States Government from 1755 to 1865, giving in detail the historical part of each issue. No one has ever attempted such a list before. The book covers one hundred and sixty-eight pages of small type.

MILLIMETRIC SCALES.

I can unhesitatingly say it is the best work on the subject I ever expect to see. Combined with your Millimetric Scale it makes an excellent guide to the study of U. S. stamps. Yours truly, C. F. HOTCHKISS.

Many thanks for the Scales, which I have been greatly in need of for some time. Very respectfully, J. D. TOWNSEND, JR.

U. S. STAMP ALBUMS.

The "National Stamp Album" which I ordered a short time since from you arrived to-day, and I am well pleased with it. Just the thing, I think, for "U. S. Phils." Yours respectfully, W. C. MICHAELS.

POSTAGE STAMPS, &c.

The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue—Two Hundred Testimonials from Individual Collectors and Dealers.

Your latest Revenue and Postage Catalogues received. I am pleased to find them so far in advance, as to completeness and accuracy, of all other catalogues. I have never before written a word in commendation of any philatelic publication (although I have been receiving complimentary copies of the majority of them for the past twenty years), for the simple reason of their lack of value to any one but the greenest amateur, coupled with the supremely selfish and illiberal styles of their publishers. It is fair to believe that if you ever become interested in foreign postage stamps, we would soon have a Catalogue to be relied upon for its good arrangement, completeness, accuracy and estimate of values. There is no doubt but that publications of this class do more than all else to make intelligent collectors.

D. PROSKEY.

The mail brings me your elegant Catalogue of Stamps, and if ever I regretted not being a philatelist, it is now, at finding myself unable to appreciate all the hidden mysteries your industrious work contains. I am sure, however, it is a volume which does credit to your industry as a man and to your ability as a philatelist, and that same will strengthen the high position you already hold in the philatelic world.

Yours very truly, PAT. CHALMERS.

Having lately received and examined the sixth edition of your Postage Stamp Catalogue, I am constrained to say that I consider it the most thorough and nearest to perfection of any work of its kind. Not only does it enumerate and thoroughly describe all the known varieties of United States postage, envelope and telegraph stamps, but the Confederate States, oddities, etc., are a host in themselves. The reference list of private local stamps completes a task that reflects much credit upon the author.

This, in conjunction with your admirable list of U. S. Revenues, form a valuable compilation, the use of which no true philatelist can well dispense with.

Yours truly, H. N. TERRETT.

Accept my thanks for copy of your new Catalogue. It deserves the highest praise and should be on the desk of every collector.

Yours truly, J. V. PAINTER.

Your Catalogue will require much study, as it differs materially from any I have seen. I have been a collector, in a measure, since 1860.

Respectfully, L. BRICKHEAD.

I have received the sixth edition of your Postage Stamp Catalogue. It is very complete, showing an immense amount of labor, and will no doubt be fully appreciated by collectors.

Yours truly,
GEO. W. MASSAMORE.

Accept my sincere thanks for the Catalogue. In regard to it I can only say that I never saw anything that could approach it in completeness. It is a boon to those interested in collecting the stamps of our country.

Very truly yours, ALVAH DAVISON.

Beyond a doubt your Catalogues are the best I have seen.

Sincerely yours, JOHN F. HENRY, JR.

It is the best of the U. S. that I have yet seen.

Yours truly, F. E. P. LYNDE.

The sixth edition of your valuable Stamp Catalogue received. It is very fine. I would not be without it.

Yours respectfully,
W. V. NICHOLSON.

Your excellent Catalogue received. It is certainly the best of its kind I have ever seen. It has evidently cost much research and pains in its preparation, to say nothing of the expense, and I trust it will bring you the handsome return that it merits.

Yours, EDWIN R. HODGE.

Your sixth edition came to hand in good shape, and the amount of work put out on the same must be a heavy labor of both mind and eyesight, to give such close detail, and it is the best Descriptive Catalogue of U. S. Stamps you have put out. Please to accept my thanks for scale. It was only a short time ago that I got one, but yours is the best.

Respectfully yours, ALFRED DAWSON.

'Tis far superior over all others in its details, while the information therein is fully worth its weight in gold to any intelligent collector. Unquestionably the monarch of American Catalogues.

Yours respectfully, E. F. GAMBS.

I have received your Catalogue and wish to return my thanks. It is indeed a thing of beauty, and it will be to me a joy forever.

Yours sincerely, THOS. E. WILSON.

Your Catalogues have been worth at least fifty dollars to me, so far, in putting me on the track of many scarce U. S. items not even hinted at in the small-boy and baby-package dealers' price lists which I had been consulting, but which soon found their way to the paper basket after your Catalogues came to hand.

Truly yours, N. SPANG.

Your most excellent and complete Catalogue has arrived. I have not had much time to examine it, but what I have seen from hasty skimming, tells me it is the result of hard study, much research and faithful application. I congratulate you on it.

Very truly yours,

LIEUT. J. M. T. PARTELLO (U. S. Army).

I think you are entitled to credit, *great credit*, for advancing the collection of United States stamps as you have done by your perseverance and intelligent industry. Indeed, I have become myself quite interested in it.

Very respectfully, GEN'L DUNCAN S. WALKER.

I certainly compliment you, not only for the care taken in the compilation of your Catalogue just to hand, but also for the neat and careful arrangement of the same. Well worth being in the hands of every collector.

Truly yours, L. H. ADLER, JR.

Thanks for your handsome memento. It is a beauty, and if I can ever say a good word for you and your work, I shall be more than glad to do so.

Respectfully, E. S. ELLIS.

Your Postage and Revenue Stamp Catalogues received, and am very much pleased with them. They are much better than anything issued before, and to one who makes a specialty of U. S. Stamps, are about the only catalogues worth having. In arranging stamps in a blank album and in exchanging, they are invaluable. My best wishes for your success.

Respectfully, W. S. ALDRICH.

My friend, who is a man of some fame as a historical writer on American subjects, says he considers your Catalogue worthy of a place in the library of every student of United States history, as a reference book on the subject, and I agree with him, especially as regards the present edition, with its list of U. S. Locals, and your list of U. S. Revenues also gives information that one could not find only after great research in public documents, etc.

Yours respectfully, W. K. WATKINS.

Your Catalogue, sixth edition, duly received, and I can only say that it is as much superior to the fifth edition as the fifth was to any of its predecessors, emanating from any source whatsoever.

Yours very truly, A. F. LAW.

Your sixth edition Catalogue received, and it is a good one.

Yours, etc., THEO. M. LINCOLN.

I have received your Catalogue of Stamps and Stamped Envelopes, and and consider it the most complete publication of the kind that I have seen.

Yours, &c., JOHN MOSES.

I have just received your Catalogue, and after looking over it carefully, I must say that it is the *best* Catalogue I have seen yet, and I have Catalogues from all over the world. Allow me to congratulate you for what I think is the *nee plus ultra*.

Fraternally yours,

JOHN M. SHERIDAN.

I received the Catalogue and am highly pleased with it.

Yours truly, ERNEST L. SCHUMANN.

I have just received the sixth edition of your Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the United States, and consider it the only reliable and accurate Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps extant.

Yours truly, GEO. B. MASON.

I received with real pleasure your new Catalogue, sixth edition, of 1887. It is not only the most complete, but the most useful work of its kind, as it explains a good many questions about which I was in doubt.

Yours respectfully, W. RASMUS.

Your Catalogue I consider a *Sterling* friend to the collector of United States stamps.

Respectfully, E. T. PARKER.

I am in receipt of the sixth edition of your Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes of the U. S. I am well pleased with it. I think it by far the best I ever saw.

Yours respectfully,

W. H. SAGE.

Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps to hand. I think Trenton midnight oil must put daylight in the shade. I thought I had about all the U. S. varieties, but you spring so many new ones that I think I will have to commence over. Undoubtedly I have let many valuable stamps pass by not examining them as fully as I can with the help of the work.

Yours truly, H. F. NEEFUS.

I think the sixth edition of your Postage Catalogue is a great improvement over the previous editions. It contains a vast amount of interesting information, and is very complete and accurate. The lists of oddities, misprints, pairs, etc., are very interesting. Yours truly, E. B. HANES.

I wish to say a word about your two Catalogues. They are splendidly gotten up. Could not ask for a better arrangement than your 1887 Postage, etc. Yours very respectfully, HOWARD S. WILLIAMS.

Your sixth edition Postage Stamp Catalogue just received. I think collectors owe you a debt of gratitude for the excellent work done in compiling and furnishing such excellent Catalogues as you do for so small a sum. Consider me a subscriber for each new edition of your Postage and Revenue as soon as issued. Very truly yours, P. H. HILL.

I find your sixth edition Catalogue a very complete and valuable work for collectors. The information is presented in a practical shape, being arranged and classified in a manner which does great credit to your enterprise and taste. Very truly, O. D. JONES.

Although I thought your last Catalogue perfect, I find that you, with your extensive knowledge of U. S. stamps, have made such improvements that the most fastidious collector could find no fault with the present edition. Very respectfully, WM. D. ACKER.

I cannot half express my idea of your Catalogue on this small sheet of paper. Its perusal has resulted in my finding many scarce and heretofore unknown stamps in my duplicates, which would have been thrown away or burned up but for the timely arrival of your Catalogue. It is simply perfect, and I only regret that I did not send for it long, long before I did. Let all who wish a good standard Catalogue order yours at once.

Yours very truly, B. S. MONROE.

We would say that it is the best we have ever seen.

Yours truly, UNION STAMP CO.

Received Postage Stamp Catalogue and must say its a daisy. I was surprised to get such a large Catalogue. JAMES C. JAY.

Your Catalogue was received in due time. It is a very complete thing on stamps of all kinds. Much more so than I expected.

Very truly, J. G. OLDFIELD.

I have just had the pleasure of receiving by mail your sixth edition of Postage Stamps, etc. I have looked over it very carefully and find it by far the best of all American Catalogues so far published. This, in connection with your Revenue Catalogue, should be in the hands of every advanced collector, for as books of reference they are invaluable.

Yours truly, T. K. STEWART.

After examining your Catalogue I find that it is the best thing of its kind I have yet seen.

Very truly, C. B. BERRY, JR.

Your latest Catalogue of U. S. Stamps is superior to all others. It gives the most minute details, which in other Catalogues I fail to find.

Yours truly, PAUL HUSTON.

I received your sixth edition of Postage Stamp Catalogue. I was surprised at the great number of varieties named, as Scott and others only give a very few, and I thought they went into details very much. I must say it is fine.

Yours respectfully, C. W. TALLMAN.

I have looked your Catalogue through carefully, and can say that in my opinion it is just what should be in the hands of every collector. I would not take five dollars for mine if I could not get another like it. I have several Catalogues from different dealers, but have none to beat your sixth edition. In fact, it skins them all.

Yours respectfully,

E. J. ECKERSON.

It is perfect.

Very truly, W. F. BISHOP.

I received your Catalogues this day, and think they are just perfect in every respect. Your Adhesive Catalogue is very nice and helps any collector who does not understand stamps, in distinguishing issues.

Yours most respectfully, WM. A. HARRIS, JR.

Think your Catalogue is the best one published. It contains more information than any I have ever seen.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN SCHEIDT.

I received your Adhesive Postage and Revenue Catalogues and am very much pleased with them. They are as fine Catalogues as I ever saw and I have received great information from them. Every collector should have one.

Yours respectfully, W. D. CROCKETT, JR.

I have shown your new Catalogue to two or three boys, and they agree with me that it is the best Stamp Catalogue ever published.

Yours truly, ERNEST B. COOPER.

Your Catalogue received. Am well pleased with it.

Yours, etc. A. A. DIENALT.

Your Catalogue, sixth edition, to hand. It is perfection, and no one can afford to be without it who is a collector of stamps. It is a grand Catalogue.

Yours, FRANK P. ADAMS.

Your Catalogue received and I think it is the best ever published.

Respectfully, H. C. BEARDSLEY.

The sixth edition of your Catalogue of United States Postage Stamps has come to hand. It is the most complete and exhaustive Catalogue upon this subject ever published, and will prove invaluable to collectors. No one can afford to be without it.

Yours respectfully,

REV. J. K. MENDENHALL.

Am much pleased with it. It is the first Catalogue of U. S. Stamps I ever saw.

Yours respectfully, FRANK W. REID.

Your sixth edition of the Postage Stamp Catalogue received. It is beyond improvement.

Yours truly, HUGO KUENSTLER.

Please accept our congratulations on the Catalogue. It is excellent and in great demand. Please send four more by return mail.

Very truly, BABB & CARSTARPHEN.

Your Catalogue received a few days ago. Allow me to congratulate you on what must have taken months of careful study and work to complete and bring to such perfection.

Respectfully yours,

JAS. H. MORTIMER.

I received the sixth edition of your Catalogue and am very much pleased with it. It is surely the most complete Catalogue ever published and deserves great praise. The measure which came with it is also very handy and is neatly gotten up.

Yours, F. ELLSWORTH BIGELOW.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your Catalogue of Adhesive and Envelope Stamps for 1887. I have given it a thorough examination and would say that it is the most complete work of the kind that I have ever had the pleasure of examining, and I heartily recommend it to all Philatelists.

Yours truly, LEON G. YOUNG.

Your handsome and complete Catalogue at hand.

Yours truly, J. P. REYMOND.

Your sixth edition Postage Stamp Catalogue received and to say that I am more than surprised at the fullness and completeness of the subject would only be putting it mild. It is better than I expected.

Yours truly, WM. J. J. CULROSE.

Your Catalogue received. Am very much pleased with it.

Yours respectfully, S. B. BOYD, M.D.

Your Catalogue of U. S. Stamps, Envelopes, etc., received. I think it is the most complete work in the U. S. line of stamps I have ever seen.

Respectfully, N. E. CARTER.

I must say I think this last by far the most complete. 'Tis just what I wanted.

Yours very truly, FRANK P. BROWN.

I received your Catalogue of U. S. P. O. Stamps, Stamped Envelopes and Confederates and like it very much.

E. J. BLAKESLEY.

Your Catalogue of U. S. Stamps received. I am very much pleased with it and think it is the best and most complete Catalogue ever published on U. S. stamps.

Yours, JOHN GUADINGER.

Your Catalogue received. It is the most complete I ever saw. It was well worth waiting for. It is the only Catalogue that I ever saw that gives a good description of United States envelopes.

Yours respectfully, J. T. HUMPHREY.

My boy was very well pleased with the Postage Catalogue received from you some time ago; so well pleased that he wishes you to send him the Revenue Catalogue.

Yours, J. C. COGGESHALL.

It is enough to make a fellow's hair stand on end to run over the list of varieties, &c., you have chronicled and it certainly more than makes up for any delay in getting it out.

Yours, &c., C. R. GADSDEN.

I think it is the best I have seen yet. Respectfully yours,

M. G. BITTING.

I have examined your sixth edition Postage Stamp Catalogue and believe it to be invaluable to collectors of U. S. stamps and envelopes.

Yours respectfully, WALTER BOULT.

I am very much pleased with it.

W. H. WITTE.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue, which I received some three months ago, is without doubt the best work of its kind published. Feeling assured that your Revenue Catalogue will prove satisfactory,

Remain, yours respectfully, L. J. PRIETH.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue received. I think it is the best and most complete Catalogue of U. S. stamps. Very respectfully,

E. L. RAISIL.

Have procured one of your Catalogues and will say that it is a splendid thing. It describes every particular stamp and gives the most minute details which other ones fail to do, and which collectors generally don't know.

Yours respectfully, PAUL HUSTON.

Your Catalogue, 1887 edition, just at hand. Your previous edition was very fine, but this edition is a vast improvement. Yours, etc.,

L. M. LIBBEY.

Your Catalogue is a "daisy." Very truly yours, C. D. SMITH.

I am in receipt of your Catalogue. It is the most complete work of its kind published.

Yours, etc., L. BUDDY, Jr.

I have got so used to consulting your Postage Catalogue that I don't know what I should do without it. I find I have many varieties of certain stamps which I thought were duplicates until I got your book.

Yours very respectfully, FRANK W. REID.

Your Catalogue received. Am very much pleased with it.

Yours truly, JOHN C. BECKER.

Your Catalogue has been received, and I think it is the best one of the kind I have ever seen.

Yours truly, T. McCLURG, Jr.

I consider your Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps invaluable to all advanced collectors.

Yours very truly, J. F. CUMMINGS.

I received your Postage Stamp Catalogue to day. I must say that I am more than pleased with it. It is the best descriptive Catalogue I have ever seen.

Yours truly, B. ABRAHAM.

Am very much pleased with it, and I think it the most complete of its kind.

Yours truly, H. J. TURNER.

Your Catalogue received. It is the finest Catalogue of U. S. Stamps I have ever seen or heard of.

Yours, etc., F. D. BELL.

In regard to your Catalogue, I think it is the best and handiest and most descriptive Catalogue I ever saw, (and I have seen a good many too,) I cannot speak too highly of it.

Yours very truly,

F. C. BARTLETT.

Received your Catalogue to-day. It is very fine in every respect.

Yours, J. C. KOLLETT.

Catalogue received, and we like it and will give good review of it.

Yours truly, WM. J. MEYERS, *Treas.*

(*Plain Talk.*)

Your sixth edition of U. S. Postage Stamp Catalogue far exceeds my expectations and should be in the hands of every collector who makes a specialty of U. S. stamps.

Yours, GEO. L. GILMORE.

I thank you very much for your Postage Catalogue. It is the best descriptive work published of its kind.

Respectfully,

L. C. BAKER.

I think it is a first-class book of its kind, and is worth more than twenty-five cents.

Yours truly, FRANK H. CHILDS.

In regard to your Catalogue, I must say it has taught me to pay more attention to the U. S. Postage, and I consider it at the head of all I have had.

Yours, THEO. L. BOLANDER.

As to your Stamp Catalogue, I do not see how a collector of U. S. stamps could get along without it.

Yours, K. B. SCHOTTE.

I consider it well worth the money asked for it.

Yours truly, A. G. GARDNER.

I think it is excellent.

Yours respectfully, O. D. JONES.

If you ever issue a Catalogue which is better gotten up than it is, you are a genius and no mistake about it. I am pleased to say that it is the most complete Catalogue that I have ever seen. You get more into a Catalogue than a great many who publish Catalogues of stamps from all over the world. The reference list in the back by Dr. Mitchell is a pleasing feature and of great value. Let the good work go on, Bro. Sterling.

Yours very truly, A. K. McCORKELL.

I think your list is the very best one I have ever seen and so complete in all respects that it is a pleasure to have it about.

Yours truthfully, LOUIS E. WALTER.

Your Catalogue received a few days ago. The information contained therein is invaluable and we think no dealer or collector should be without it.

Yours very truly, CHAS. J. DEAHL.

Your Catalogue surpasses all others. Respectfully,

W. C. KURZWEG.

Your Catalogue received. It throws all others in the shade. It is undoubtedly *the* Catalogue for U. S. stamp collectors.

Yours truly, E. KAUFMANN.

The sixth edition of your Postage Stamp Catalogue was received a few days ago. It completely surpasses all other editions, and as far as I can see, is perfect. The fourth edition of your Revenue Catalogue is also very fine and complete.

Yours truly, OTIS I. FRISBY.

I can only say that it is evidently a volume which is well worth its price to every collector.

Yours truly, H. A. CUSHING.

It is the most complete Catalogue of U. S. Stamps, etc., that I ever saw and am well satisfied with it.

Yours, etc., E. W. RUSSELL.

We are in receipt of your Catalogue, sixth edition. It is a marvel of completeness.

Very truly, PUTNAM BROS.

Your Catalogue received. I have no hesitation in saying that it is the finest and most complete work of its kind ever produced in this country. I could no more get along without it than collect stamps without an album. In order to show my appreciation of it, I enclose a postal note for seventy-five cents and return the paper-covered one you sent me, for which please send me a copy of the edition *de luxe*.

Yours very respectfully,
CHAS. E. HUTCHISON.

It is a marvel of completeness and I never imagined that there were as many varieties of U. S. postage stamps as are mentioned in it.

Yours truly, C. F. BISHOP.

Your Catalogue, edition *de luxe*, also received. The philatelist who tries to collect the stamps of this country without its aid does not know what he is about. It greatly excels all its predecessors and that is saying a great deal. The interleaving is very convenient.

CHAS. E. HUTCHISON.

Received your Catalogue and think it is the best on U. S. stamps out.
Yours, ROBERTS SCYPPES.

Your sixth edition of the U. S. Postage Stamp Catalogue received. Please accept my thanks for same. It seems to be, from a cursory glance, a very thorough and reliable work, and well worth the small sum you ask for it.
Yours truly, MILLIARD F. WALTON.

I received your Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps some time ago, and have gained over ten dollars' worth of information from it. I found several reprints in my collection and found some stamps were worth more than I thought. I don't see how any stamp collector can be without one.
Yours, MILO C. REYNOLDS.

I have studied your 1887 Catalogue, and found it a wonderful mine of knowledge, which still remains unexhausted.
Yours respectfully, B. E. WOLFORD.

It is very fine, and I enclose fifty cents for two more copies.
J. V. PAINTER.

It seems to me to be as perfect as a Catalogue could be.
C. H. MEKEEL.

It even exceeds the previous one, which I hardly expected.
GEO. B. MASON.

Your Catalogue is in advance of the others in thoroughness, and is indispensable to an advanced collector.
F. P. RICHARDSON.

I acknowledge the receipt of the fifth edition of your Standard Descriptive and Price Catalogue (1886), which I consider the best of its kind, and is certainly everything it claims to be. Yours very respectfully,
CHAS. H. LEVY.

The Catalogue is very interesting, and indicates that much research and careful study was required in its preparation. SAMUEL HODGKINS.

I have examined it carefully, and am pleased to be able to say that, to my mind, your work far surpasses in arrangement, description and completeness, any other catalogue yet published, whether of revenue only or of postal issues. The service you have rendered to philatelists, I am convinced will be duly appreciated, and your work will certainly take a first place—to which its merits entitle it—in philatelic literature.

Yours very truly, ROBERT C. H. BROCK.

It is a marvel of completeness and excellence, which certainly marks an epoch in philately, not only in this country, but in the world, for no handsomer or more valuable and painstaking work has been done for our pet hobby in any land. It has justly won renown for its compiler.

Very truly yours, JAS. B. SMITH.

Your Catalogue received. I would not part with it at ten times the amount I paid for it, if no other was to be had. It is invaluable to collectors who desire to collect all the different varieties—U. S. envelopes especially. I heartily recommend it to every true philatelist.

E. W. VOUTE.

It is complete and in the best style and execution. L. A. JUDKINS.

It is perfect.

T. C. WATKINS & CO.

It is the best I have seen. Every collector should have one.

W. F. FRASER.

Thank you for your nice Catalogue.

BESSIE G. SCOTT.

I am well pleased with it.

THOMAS CUNNINGHAM.

It is quite complete.

W. W. RANDALL.

Your Catalogues sent me are the best and most complete I have seen.

F. A. WRIGHT.

Your new Catalogue is perfection in itself.

CRAIG S. TRINGLE.

I value it very highly. It is so complete.

W. W. NOLEN.

It is very neat.

E. B. CORNWELL.

In regard to your Catalogue, I can only repeat what others have said—It is the most complete one I have seen, and think every collector of U. S. stamps and envelopes should have one. Yours respectfully,

ED. C. BAILEY.

Yours is the best Descriptive Catalogue of U. S. Stamps that I have ever examined.

Yours, J. H. BUCHANAN.

I was pleased with your fifth edition of Postage Stamp Catalogue, and consider it the most complete of any which I have seen.

Yours truly, C. F. ROTHFUCHS.

They both beat anything I ever saw in the way of Catalogues, and I never even dreamed there were so many varieties as you have listed.

Yours truly, A. G. BISHOP.

Have received your Stamp List. It is the best list I ever had the pleasure of examining. It should be in the possession of every collector, for it is the most comprehensive book published on U. S. postage stamps. Wishing you success, I remain,

Yours truly, L. V. LINDSEY.

The Catalogue is all that could be wished. It should be in the hands of all, young and old.

Respectfully, J. H. HOUSTON.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue is excellently gotten up.

Yours truly, EDWIN T. POLLOCK.

I have examined your Stamp Catalogue for 1886 with considerable care. It is very complete and accurate and I consider it valuable to collectors.

Yours very truly, FREDERICK H. KRULL.

Your Catalogues came to hand this morning. The labor of compilation must have been very great, but then it has not been without avail, as you have, to my mind, a perfect edition of both your Catalogues, and you deserve all the credit you may receive for what you have done.

Yours truly, THOS. P. OWEN.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Catalogue and Price List of United States Stamps and Stamped Envelopes. It well merits the title of "Descriptive," and is the only list I have ever seen of the emissions of the United States that does merit such designation. It is an unfortunate fact that collectors in general have not devoted to this branch of philately that attention which is demanded and warranted by the importance thereof, and, in consequence, the average knowledge of the subject is not great. I opine that the difficulties experienced in identifying the stamped envelopes, heightened, not aided, by the lists of even the best of the standard general catalogues, have been sufficient to discourage many, even among the faithful, and produce the lack of interest above noted. In the light of your exceedingly clear and carefully compiled Catalogue, there should be no difficulty whatever experienced in the identification of every stamp and stamped envelope issued by this Government. A word of praise is especially due to the list of the Confederate States. Viewed as an entirety, your Catalogue is a most valuable addition to philatelic literature, and should be in the possession of every collector. As a standard of exchange, it is invaluable.

Very truly yours, A. F. LAW.

Your Catalogues received, and I think them the most complete Catalogues of U. S. Stamps ever issued, and don't see how any collector or dealer can afford to be without either of them. Yours truly,

J. A. PETRIE.

Your Catalogue of Stamps came very promptly and I am highly pleased with it. It is nicely gotten up and full of very clear descriptions, prices, etc.

Respectfully yours, S. S. BAKER.

I am very much pleased with it. I think it is the most comprehensive and concise U. S. Catalogue ever published. Yours, etc.,

EDW. J. STEBBINS.

Your Catalogue just received, and I think it is the best Catalogue I ever had the honor to look at. Yours, etc.,

GEO. K. POOLE.

I think your Catalogue is No. 1. Yours truly,

W. E. WARREN.

Catalogue received, and I must say it is immense, and reflects great credit on its ambitious author. Respectfully your friend,

R. W. MERCER.

I think it is a very good one. The best I have seen.

Yours truly, C. T. ALLERT.

It far exceeds my expectations.

Very respectfully,

E. M. TRASK.

I have thoroughly examined your Catalogue, and can say that it is truly the finest I have ever seen.

Yours respectfully,

G. C. TROWBRIDGE.

It seems to be as complete as anything of the kind could well be.

Respectfully, LEONARD D. WHITE, JR.

After a careful examination, I think it is all that is called for in a work of its kind.

Very truly yours,

H. C. MORRISON.

Your Catalogue is certainly a most excellent one, in my opinion although I am only a beginner in collecting, and perhaps cannot appreciate all its merits.

Yours respectfully,

H. L. WALLS.

They are the best "got up" Stamp Catalogues I have ever seen, the paper being first-class and the printing good and clear. If anything, it is too complete. It almost discourages a small collector to look at it, there being so many rare varieties.

Yours respectfully,

WILL C. MUNSON.

It is just what I, and I suppose many other collectors, have long wanted. It is simple, concise and comprehensive, and embraces features not found in any other Catalogue that I have seen. Truly yours, G. C. BAKER.

I have both your Catalogues, and I must say, although it is an old story to you no doubt, that you deserve the prestige in the stamp business of this country, for the able manner you have catalogued the large number of stamps which have been issued. S. B. SPOFFORD.

I received your Catalogue some time ago. Am very much pleased with it. Very respectfully, B. F. CHEATHAM, JR.

Your Catalogue of U. S. Stamps at hand. I find it very valuable, being complete and comprehensive. Yours truly, L. A. WEYBURN.

I think, after careful examination of your Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, etc., that it is the most perfect of any I have seen. Your Revenue Stamp Catalogue is arranged in excellent style. Yours respectfully, GEO. L. HICKMAN.

In regard to your fifth edition Catalogue, I think it is the best and most complete Catalogue of U. S. Stamps ever published. Yours respectfully, EDW. J. WILSON.

The Catalogues are very fine indeed. Far beyond my expectation. Yours most respectfully, L. S. MORRISON.

I think your Catalogue very complete. W. K. WATKINS.

Your Catalogue is the best and most complete that I have seen. ALLEN CHASE.

I have just received your Standard Descriptive and Price Catalogue and think that it is the most complete I have ever seen. HUGH DALLAS.

Your Catalogues, both Postage and Revenue, are regular stamp encyclopedias. WM. F. SUTZE.

Your Catalogues received. They are very fine. I had no idea American stamps had advanced so much in value. PAUL DER WILLIGEN.

Your Catalogue is the neatest, best and most complete ever placed before the public, and I recommend it to all collectors. C. B. SMELTZER.

Your Catalogue is something extra, and in a word, perfect.

LINCOLN RAPPLEYE.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue, I think, is superb.

ALLEN LOGAN.

I think your Catalogue is the most complete work of the kind I ever saw; in fact, I can't see how it can be improved.

R. J. SNEAD.

Catalogue received. It is the best I have seen. It is indispensable to the collector of U. S. stamps.

O. DORMITZER.

I consider your new Catalogue just perfect.

HENRY L. DWIGHT.

I find, upon a careful examination, that they are simply perfect, and have decided that collectors who have any interest in United States stamps, cannot afford to be without them. I would not take anything for mine.

SAMUEL B. BRADFORD.

I would say that I think it the best and most complete work that I have ever seen in relation to the P. O. Stamps of the U. S.

LEWIS T. WHITNEY.

Your Catalogue is very nice and aids greatly in distinguishing issues.

THERESE MAYER.

I find it one of the very best and plainest I have seen, especially the envelopes.

CHAS. E. OSBORN.

I am more than pleased with it. It is the most complete and comprehensive U. S. Catalogue published, and no collector ought to do without it.

R. W. FRENCH.

I consider it the best Catalogue of U. S. Stamps I have examined.

T. W. MAGILL.

It is very handsome, besides a very interesting and instructive book.

G. W. DARTNELL, JR.

I am very much pleased with the Catalogue. It is just perfect.

F. L. STODDART.

Think it the best I have seen.

GEORGE ODELL.

I consider your Catalogue perfect.

W. G. LAURENT.

I find it very complete.

HENRY P. SAGE.

Your Catalogue has been received and am well pleased with it.

W. W. WALTER.

It surprised me on account of its low price and the great amount of care expended upon it. The Government could not give a better list and description of its issues.

R. S. HAMBLETON.

I received a copy of your Catalogue. I am very much pleased with it, as I find a great deal of information in it about U. S. stamps which cannot be gathered out of any other Catalogue.

JOHN A. THALHEIMER.

After a careful examination, I find your Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps as good or better than any I have examined, for advanced stamp collectors, and consider it indispensable to all who take an interest in the collection of rare and ordinary U. S. Postage stamps for sale or collections.

Respectfully, J. C. MILLER.

I have not yet had time to carefully inspect your Catalogue, but have seen enough to satisfy me that much more accurate data upon the subject of U. S. stamps and envelopes can be found in these Catalogues than in any which I have yet examined.

N. SPANG.

I am more than pleased with it, as it will be of great value to me.

VERNON A. ALLEN.

I think it is well worth the price.

EDWARD T. WEED.

It is the most complete and perfect I have ever seen, and I would not sell it for double its cost if I could not get another.

FRED. F. BENNETT.

Just received your Price Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps, fifth edition, 1886; also your Price Catalogue of U. S. Revenue Stamps, fourth edition, 1886. To say that I am well pleased with them, expresses my appreciation of the Catalogues mildly. Every dealer or collector of U. S. adhesives should possess them, as they are the most exhaustive Catalogues published upon these two most important topics of American philately.

O. D. WALBRIDGE.

Your Catalogues received, and the least I can say is, they are immense, and I fail to see why they should not be the standard for the philatelic world.

Yours truly, LON SNIFFEN.

I do not see how you could have made it so complete for the price. It far surpasses any foreign Catalogue of similar scope with which I am acquainted. Congratulate you on your success. Send me, please, the fifth edition of your Price Catalogue of Adhesives. No family can be without your Catalogues.

Sincerely yours, W. W. NOLEN.

I am highly pleased with your Postage Catalogue and admire the accuracy of its description. It is, indeed, a work of which every philatelist ought to be proud.

Respectfully yours, S. D. REED.

Your Catalogue to hand and am very well pleased with it. I think it far superior to any other Catalogue of U. S. Stamps.

Yours very respectfully, F. E. BOOK.

Your sixth edition U. S. Postage Catalogue is one of the most complete Stamp Catalogues published. It is invaluable, both to the advanced and amateur collector of United States stamps, as its descriptions of the various stamps are so clear and explicit that the youngest collector has no difficulty in determining the various varieties he may possess.

GEO. W. McFARLAND.

I have looked through your sixth edition Catalogue, and pronounce it perfect in every respect.

H. E. WALLACE.

GUMMED PAPER.

Received gum sheets all right. They are very nice.

Yours respectfully, H. D. KING.

Your gummed paper just received. I must say that it is the very best I ever used. I have bought a good deal, but never had as good.

Yours, etc., W. S. KINZER.

I am much pleased with gum paper. The best I ever used.

Yours respectfully, G. BAKER.

Your adhesive paper is by far the best of any we have used.

Respectfully, R. S. HARRIS & CO.

I have received your sample of gummed paper, and my candid opinion is, that it is the best and cheapest paper that any philatelist can use.

Yours respectfully, H. J. TURNER.

Your gummed paper is unequalled. I have tried many dealers, but yours is the best.

Respectfully yours, S. D. REED.

REVENUE STAMPS, &c.

The Standard Revenue Stamp Catalogue—Over One Hundred Testimonials from Individual Collectors and Dealers.

It is only after possessing it sometime and making valuable use of it, that I discover your wish—an opinion of your Revenue Catalogue of 1886. It is a monument to your painstaking and effective study, and as a record is of very great value. The true philatelist notes what he sees in stamps, and comes at last to deductions which are valuable. You seem to have disregarded nothing, and to what significant interest all the surcharges, etc., your list may point, no one is able to say. But all these things ought to be noted, and collectors owe gratitude to one who has done the weary work of inspecting such multitudes of stamps and publishing the results of his observations. One fact is beyond cavil as to collecting unperforate stamps. They should, when possible, be taken in unsevered pairs. I would sooner pay five dollars for an unsevered pair of unperforates, than one dollar for a single unperforated stamp. Your work is almost faultless—as nearly so as human work can be.

Faithfully yours, ALFRED A. POST.

It is not at all surprising that the Revenue collecting, which has been neglected and very little understood in the past, should get a decided boom from the publication of such a capital Catalogue as yours.

Very truly yours, JAS. B. SMITH.

Your Catalogue most promptly sent. Your photograph in the stamp is unique, and I understand the Catalogue is without a rival. When will the issue of 1887 come out?

Respectfully yours, GEO. W. WARE, JR.

I regard your fourth edition Revenue Catalogue as a remarkably fine and valuable publication, and have no doubt but that its successor will prove to be equally so. I want it very much.

Very respectfully,
J. K. FURLONG.

I think your Revenue Catalogue as complete and even more clear than your Postage Catalogue. In fact, it is the best thing I have yet seen.

Yours truly, HOMER COLLINS.

I thank you for copy of fourth edition of your Revenue Catalogue. I note particularly the several additions you have made to it of "surcharges," "oddities" and "proofs,"⁷ which are both interesting and valuable in advanced collections and well worthy of place in any publication which purports to be complete as a Catalogue. Yours very truly,

STEPHEN BALL.

Shall hail your Catalogue with much joy, and trust it will be as much ahead of the other editions as any of your publications are superior to those published by other dealers. Please send as soon as issued.

Very truly yours, WILLIS D. KING.

Although very tardy, I wish to commend very heartily your new Catalogue of Revenue Stamps. The pains you take with American stamps ought not only to make you the authority on them (as it already has), but also to bring a pecuniary reward. Respectfully,

S. J. CASWELL.

Your Revenue Catalogue received. It is very complete in every respect.

Yours, WM. H. LEPERE.

I have received the Catalogue of Revenue Stamps you sent to me. It is well gotten up and is altogether very satisfactory.

Yours truly, H. WICKHAM HORE.

Thinking I might have some rare stamps, I sent for one of your "Fourth Edition." I have one of your "First Edition," 1877, but when I got your last one, I was thunderstruck at the size and completeness. It strikes me very forcibly that a great amount of labor and pains must have been involved to bring out such a work. The first thing I said upon seeing it was, "Jerusalem! how did he ever do it?"

Yours respectfully, CHAS. A. TOWNSEND.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, with thanks. I think it fine. If I could not get another, I would not take five hundred dollars for it.

Yours respectfully, W. H. LA FETRA.

Received Catalogues this A. M. Like them very much.

Yours, R. VICTOR BROWINSKI.

I could not get along without your Revenue Catalogue.

Yours, LYNN COMFORT.

I think the Revenue Catalogue will be of use to me, and like it very well.

Yours respectfully, F. J. GRENNY.

It is an utter impossibility for a collector of U. S. revenues to do without your Catalogue, and it is so complete that I believe no-one but yourself could ever surpass it.

Yours very respectfully,

CHAS. E. HUTCHISON.

Your Revenue Catalogue received. A first-class Catalogue and gotten up in splendid style. Every collector who does not own a copy misses a rare treat. You deserve a very liberal patronage.

Yours very respectfully, L. V. LINDSEY.

I am very much pleased with your Catalogues. They are perfect.

M. G. BITTING.

I am more than pleased with your Revenue Stamp Catalogue, which exceeds all my expectations.

Yours truly, CHARLIE W. BELL.

Have just received your Revenue Catalogue, and it is better than I could ever expect. Am sorry I did not get it before, as it would have saved me many dollars in exchanging and selling my stamps. I would not sell it for double what it cost me if I could not procure another.

E. J. BOISSON.

Your Revenue Catalogue is complete in all its branches and very explicit in its information. In a word, it just fills the gap for which it was intended.

Respectfully, ALF. FITLER HENKELS.

I am much pleased with your new Revenue Stamp Catalogue. It is the most complete and convenient work of the kind I have ever seen, and is invaluable to all Philatelists.

Very respectfully, W. J. STUDLEY.

My opinion is that yours is the most complete, by far, I ever saw.

Yours respectfully, R. MORRIS DARRACH.

Your Revenue Catalogue is the best I have seen or examined.

Yours respectfully, J. S. HALL.

I received your Catalogue this morning and am much pleased with the same.

Yours with respect, LEWIS T. WHITNEY.

Catalogues duly received. Please accept thanks for these two able productions. Am more than pleased.

Respectfully,

O. D. WALBRIDGE.

It is certainly the most complete Catalogue of U. S. Revenues that has ever appeared in this country.

Yours truly, SPENCER COSBY.

Your Revenue Catalogue was received the 19th inst., and it is the finest of its kind I have seen. In publishing so complete a list you are doing collectors a great service. May you live long and prosper.

Yours truly, W. J. STANTON.

It is simply immense, and the finest gotten up of any that I have yet seen.

Most sincerely yours, W. A. ACKERMANN.

Speaking of your Catalogue, I cannot praise it too highly. I think it to be the best Catalogue on Revenue Stamps ever published. I am more than pleased with mine, and think it will aid me greatly, as I make it a specialty.

Yours, F. N. COSTAN.

I am in receipt of Revenue Catalogue, which I think cannot be surpassed, either in uniqueness or compilation. It is the most complete work of its kind that has ever been placed before the public, and should be in the hands of every one that is interested in the study of philately. (Long live philately!) I do not see how you could have got such an exact list of the California Revenues. It is the most perfect list that I have ever seen.

"CALIFORNIA."

As for the Revenue Catalogue, I had no idea such a one could be arranged.

Most respectfully, R. W. FRENCH.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, for which please accept my thanks. It is complete in every particular and is indispensable to every collector of revenues. It reflects great credit upon its author.

Yours respectfully, H. L. HILL.

I am very much pleased with it and consider it an excellent and exhaustive List of the Revenue Stamps of the U. S.

Very truly yours, W. A. CASTLE.

I do not know what collectors would do without it. It is the best thing in the way of a Catalogue that I have ever seen.

Yours truly, P. H. HILL.

Yours has no equal.

Respectfully, FRANK A. WRIGHT.

Your Revenue Catalogue at hand. I am very much pleased with it.

Yours respectfully, O. D. JONES.

If your Revenue Catalogue compares with your Postage, I am sure it will aid me a great deal in collecting.

Yours truly,
FRED. F. BENNETT.

I desire to again express my opinion of your excellent Catalogue, the prices in which cannot be beat, besides which you offer a liberal discount on orders of over ten dollars.

Very respectfully yours,

E. W. VOUTE.

I received both your Catalogues of U. S. Stamps and Revenues, and I must pay you my compliments on the execution of these works. They are unique in their compilation.

Very respectfully, HENRY CLOTZ,

Supt. A. P. A.

Your Price Catalogue of U. S. Revenue Stamps is the most complete and unique thing of the kind in existence. Its increased size over the previous editions exhibits the labor and zeal you have bestowed upon its compilation. Your splendid personal collections, especially of proofs, doubtless aided you considerably, but even with your knowledge and familiarity with your favorite subject, I wonder that you have been able to discover and chronicle such a list of differences and oddities. The study and collecting of the postage and revenue stamps of our own country certainly furnishes a most interesting and valuable branch of the subject of philately any one can possibly pursue, and large enough to devote all the spare time one ordinarily has leisure for that purpose.

This Catalogue, with yours on the Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes, makes a harmonious whole on the subject of the U. S. issues, and they deserve to be bound together, when, with a few blank leaves for the entry of new postal issues, one may have an accurate and perfect handbook on all the U. S. stamps, and the best guide for their arrangement in one's album.

Very truly yours, CHAS. A. COOLIDGE,

Capt. 7th Infantry.

Yours at hand, with Catalogues of Revenue and U. S. Postage Stamps. They are both marvels of patience and accuracy, and indispensable to any collector who wishes intelligently to gather these curious and interesting specimens of our war and civil taxes. I only regret I had not one long ago.

Sincerely your friend, T. A. H. HAY.

Your Catalogues are received and examined, and very satisfactory. The Revenue Catalogue is entitled very justly to be the standard work in revenues, and every collector should have a copy of it in his possession, whether he collects revenues or not, as it will give him some idea that he may turn to his advantage. It is the only work that I have come across during my eighteen years' experience in collecting, that is really worthy of the revenue collector's time and notice. Your Postage Catalogue is also very good.

T. J. MITCHELL ("Wanderer").

It is a fine one, and covers the field more completely than any I have known.

J. N. MORSE.

I have made use of, and carefully examined all of your Catalogues, both Revenue and Postage, and find them the most complete and comprehensive of any that I have seen. One great feature is the millimetric sizes of stamps.

JOHN A. WHITNEY.

Your Postage and Revenue Catalogues were duly received. I prize them very highly. The pages devoted to the State issues in the Revenue Catalogue contain information of considerable value.

W. P. YOUNG.

Your Catalogue of U. S. Stamps came duly to hand. It may interest you to know that I have used your Catalogue as my standard for U. S. Stamps, both postage and revenue, for several years; in fact, ever since I knew of you. The description of stamps, especially the postage, of which "Uncle Sam" does not allow you to use cuts, is very clear to me.

Yours very truly, A. K. McCORKELL.

They are carefully gotten up and their scientific (if I may use the term in this case) arrangement will make their use a necessity to the philatelic world at large. I therefore wish them the success they so well deserve.

G. DE LACHSSE.

Yours are ahead of all in every respect.

F. A. WRIGHT.

I am so well pleased with it that I enclose twenty-five cents for your 1886 Catalogue of U. S. Adhesive and Envelope Stamps, confident that if it is anything like your Revenue Catalogue, it is the finest issued.

Yours respectfully, M. T. BOGERT.

The Postage and Revenue Catalogues received. They are the most complete I have ever seen and must have required a good deal of labor in compiling. Every collector ought certainly to possess a copy.

Yours respectfully, F. K. RISING.

I will say that I consider your Revenue Catalogue a most complete and valuable reference book for both collectors and dealers. The faithful attention to detail places it far in advance of any similar work. And what I say in regard to the Revenue Catalogue may also be truthfully spoken of your Catalogue of U. S. Postage Stamps.

Yours truly, F. L. PERRY.

To Mr. E. B. Sterling the stamp collecting world owes a debt of gratitude. To him the compilation of the Revenue Catalogue of 1886 has been a labor of love. To young and old collectors of the revenue stamps of our country it will prove equally useful—especially to the rising generation, in determining the true value and position of oddities and doubtful issues.

M. F. SAVAGE.

I think it is fine. I find on looking it over that I am the owner of far more varieties of stamps than I had known of before seeing it.

Yours respectfully, G. W. PEPPER.

Your fourth edition Revenue Catalogue reached me a few days since, for which many thanks. I have since given my entire time to its examination and comparison with my collection, and find it correct and exact in every particular and as near perfection as can be attained in a work of that kind. Advanced collectors of U. S. revenues are to be congratulated upon having a catalogue to meet all their requirements. Yours very truly,

GEO. B. MASON.

Your fourth edition of the U. S. Revenue Stamp Catalogue is at hand, and I congratulate you on its fine appearance and the many additions and improvements it shows in comparison with the third edition. The only thing I regret about it is that, in your liberality, you supplied your printer with too good paper for it, for I fear its fine glaze and finish will make it difficult to make pencil memorandums on it. You will have the thanks of collectors for the attention you have paid to the State revenue stamps, which have been too long neglected. I wish you would extend your researches to the Canadian revenues also. Yours very truly,

CHAS. GREGORY.

Your Catalogue of the Proprietary and Document Stamps of our Country is, in my opinion, a very thorough work, and as exhaustive as anything of the kind can be at this time. In the future when our collectors recognize the fact that mutual help must rest on mutual knowledge, other bits of information will be given you that will be valuable in a new edition. Exemplifying as they do, a phase in our financial history, these stamps have more of interest attached to them than any other set of revenue or postage stamps can possess, and the very comprehensive list you have issued will be valuable alike to the collector and the student of history. Specially valuable to the collector is the list of oddities that you have added to the main sets, and the Catalogue is indeed a compilation of which you may well be proud, and for which I, as a collector, thank you.

THOS. S. COLLIER.

The fourth edition of your Standard Revenue Stamp Catalogue has been duly received. I gladly hail its appearance, as a new basis is needed for appraisal and transactions; the prices must be considered fair, the advance in so many cases is certain to be maintained, while the reductions in a few will, I believe, be restored at no distant day. It is as complete as may be at this time, and much can be said in detail of this important and interesting feature of the work. Allow me to congratulate the author for all it claims, and more; and the printer as well, for its uniformly clear and beautiful style.

Your truly, L. A. JUDKINS.

Fourth edition of Revenue Catalogue just received. Allow me to say that I have used your Revenue Catalogues ever since they were first issued, and have ruled and designed many a page for revenue stamps from them. They have always proven very trustworthy, but this, the fourth edition, is a marvel of information, and is everything the most fastidious collector can wish for. The State revenue list all lovers of revenue should be thankful for.

Yours philatelically, CHARLES BLACKBURN.

The Catalogues are of very great benefit to all collectors, and especially advanced ones, and I should say more, of equal benefit to dealers. Being the only work of the kind, it will take its place as a standard of values. The arrangement, I don't think, could be improved upon; it is a marvel of completeness. I think the advance in prices of the match and medicine stamps in most cases is fully warranted.

Yours, F. L. SMITH.

Your Revenue Catalogue received. It is a perfect work and no collector can afford to be without it if he cares to understand and appreciate the value of his collection.

Respectfully, RUFUS P. BIRDSEYE.

Your new Revenue Catalogue has come to hand, for which please accept my thanks. It is the best and most complete Catalogue of Revenue Stamps I have ever seen, and reflects great credit on yourself.

Yours respectfully, H. O. HARRIS.

At last I found time to give your Revenue Catalogue due attention, and I take great pleasure in stating that though my expectations were to find a very elaborate list of all revenue stamps, yet they were greatly surpassed, as this Catalogue is as near complete as it can be made, and will satisfy even the most advanced collector. No doubt you will be able in your next issue to still add more, but in its present condition the Catalogue is already invaluable.

Yours very truly, JOSEPH RECHERT.

Yours 18th and 19th, with Revenue Catalogue, for which accept many thanks. I have been greatly interested in its perusal. It is a valuable work.

Yours truly, J. V. PAINTER.

The Catalogue is cheap and worth as many dollars to a collector as a guide or standard work. There are hundreds described, though, which I never expect to lay eyes on unless I pay you a visit to see them.

Yours, etc., J. N. T. LEVICK.

I am much pleased with your new Catalogue of Revenue Stamps. It is justly entitled to rank as "the standard," and must prove invaluable to every collector.

Yours, etc., HENRY CALVIN.

The fourth edition of your Revenue Catalogue is at hand, and may well cause wonder at its completeness and scope. Revenue stamp collectors and philatelists in general should feel grateful for the boon conferred upon them. It is a work indispensable alike to the novice or advanced student of that interesting branch of philately. Yours truly, H. N. TERRETT.

Revenue Catalogue received, and on examination I am satisfied that it is very carefully and accurately compiled, and will without question be adopted by all revenue collectors as the standard of varieties and values. Your truly, WM. H. ATWOOD.

Your Revenue Stamp Catalogue, fourth edition, at hand. It is the most complete work of the kind I have seen, and should be in the hands of all revenue collectors. Yours respectfully, W. V. NICHOLSON.

Your fourth edition Revenue Stamp Catalogue was received, and I cannot find words to express my good wishes for the labor you must have put out on the compiling of the same, and I believe that no revenue collector can afford to be without it, if it was for only the list of "oddities" that it contains, saying nothing for the other valuable information contained in the same work. Or, perhaps, still better, for the extensive list of State revenues, not that it would serve me, for the reason I have never given them much thought. In fact, you may feel proud of your labor in giving such a Catalogue to collectors. Respectfully yours, ALFRED DAWSON.

I am surprised at the extent of the work, and the labor you have given thereto. To those who are especially interested in revenue stamps, the work will be of great value. You have every reason to be proud of the result of the vast amount of time and labor you have given to the preparation of this Catalogue. Yours very truly, ROSS C. SCOTT.

The Revenue Price List is indispensable to every collector of revenues. It is surely the most complete in every particular of any list I have seen, and it is a source of surprise and admiration to me to think of the immense amount of work involved in its compilation. No collector can intelligently collect revenues without it. Yours truly, D. H. EATON.

They are extremely satisfactory, particularly the parts referring to "pairs," "double perforations," etc. Yours truly, HOWARD C. LEVIE.

Your Revenue Catalogue received to-day. It is exhaustive and of *Sterling* worth. Respectfully, WILL. H. PHILLIPS.

I received your Revenue Catalogue, fourth edition, to-day, and must say it is the most complete and best arranged one I ever saw, there being so many U. S. stamps never before heard of by me.

Respectfully, H. C. KENDALL.

Your Catalogue of Revenues at hand. I congratulate you on your success in issuing a work requiring such labor and skill.

Yours truly, ISAAH BAKER, JR.

Your favor of the 22d instant is at hand; also the two Catalogues published by you, for which latter please accept our thanks. In looking them over we found them to be accurate in description and reliable in prices, and think they are equal to any standard work now in use and well to be recommended to all dealers in or collectors of U. S. revenue and postage stamps. We hardly think a better compilation could be found either here or on the other side.

Yours very truly, KREBS BROTHERS.

Your fourth edition Revenue Catalogue received. It is complete in every particular, and the typography and paper unexcelled. In my opinion it out-
rivals anything of its kind ever published. It was a pleasant surprise to me.

Respectfully, E. B. CORNWELL.

Your new Revenue Catalogue has already been accepted as the general standard for all exchanges in its specialty. I hear many encomiums from all sides as to its merits.

Yours sincerely,

CAPT. CHAS. A. COOLIDGE, U. S. A.

I think that this Catalogue is a great improvement on the last, and that no revenue collector can get along without it.

Respectfully yours, W. S. ALDRICH.

Your Revenue Catalogue received yesterday. It is by far the neatest and most comprehensive list I have ever seen.

Yours most respectfully, H. E. DEATS.

I think your Revenue Catalogue is superior in variety and accuracy to any similar Catalogue published.

Yours truly, W. V. B. KIP.

Your Revenue Stamp Catalogue received. I would not part with it at any price.

Yours respectfully, CHAS. J. SCHAEFER.

Your Catalogue is a pleasure to look over. It is neat and complete in every way.

Very sincerely, Mrs. G. L. P. HORNER.

Mr. Jos. Rechert, a particular friend of mine, handed me your Revenue Catalogue of 1886, which I find to be an excellent guide for collectors.

Yours very respectfully, CHAS. MUECKLER.

I enclose twenty-five cents for the Catalogue, which I think admirably arranged and it will prove of great use to me. Your collection must be very fine to have enabled you so accurately to describe each variety without the aid of some previous work on the subject, and the whole thing comes fully up to the usual high standard of your publications.

Yours truly, T. SEMMES.

I have received the last edition of your Revenue Stamp Catalogue and think it is the most complete and comprehensive of any I have yet seen.

Yours truly, C. A. BENTLEY.

Many thanks for the Revenue Catalogue. It's a daisy.

Your truly, C. H. MEKEEL.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, and for completeness of detail and arrangement, it is simply perfect.

Respectfully, GEO. W. TRIPP.

It certainly reflects great credit upon yourself as its compiler, as it is the most complete and comprehensive Catalogue of U. S. Revenues that has yet been published. We predict for it an immense sale, as every collector of U. S. revenues wants a copy.

Respectfully yours, W. G. PARRISH.

It is very good, but I think it might be improved by having an index to the different issues.

Yours truly, EDWIN T. POLLOCK.

Am in receipt of your latest edition Catalogue of Revenue Stamps of the United States. It seems to be all that could be desired, and is the only one approaching completeness I have seen.

Dr. GEO. W. MASSAMORE.

Revenue Catalogue at hand O. K. It is the best Revenue Catalogue out. No collector of revenues should be without it.

Yours truly, JAMES C. JAY.

Fourth edition Revenue Catalogue at hand. Have examined it, and must say it is the most complete of any I ever saw. Am well pleased with it.

Yours truly, C. L. STAKE.

Your Catalogue received. It is indispensable to revenue collectors. I don't think I could do without it.

Yours truly, J. M. GRAY, JR.

Received the Revenue Catalogue to-day. It is the finest and most complete Catalogue ever issued. Please accept my congratulations on its fine appearance.

Yours, EDW. J. STEBBINS.

Your Revenue Catalogue just received. Its qualities cannot be too highly praised. It would be cheap at four times the price.

Yours truly, T. W. GILBERT & BRO.

I looked your Catalogue through very carefully and find it certainly one of the best publications on philately, but without doubt the best List of U. S. Revenue Stamps published up to date.

Yours very truly,
MAX ISENSTEIN.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, and it is the only perfect one I have ever seen.

Very respectfully, CRAIG S. TINGLE.

I have used your Revenue Stamp Catalogues for a long time, and consider them good, but your fourth edition is very much ahead of the others.

J. W. BRIGGS.

Your fourth edition of Revenue Stamp Catalogue, in my opinion, will always remain the standard guide for collectors.

Yours truly, H. W. MCKOON.

Your Revenue Catalogue is a beauty, and reflects great credit on you. It is a pity there are not a few more such men as yourself in the stamp business.

Truly, C. E. SWOPE.

I do say, without any hesitation, that your fourth edition of Revenue Catalogue is the best of the kind extant, and in every way the most complete that I have ever seen, and should be in the hands of every collector who wishes to make a complete collection, and trust your efforts to please may be handsomely rewarded by a large sale of your most perfect Catalogue.

Very respectfully, J. A. SHINDEL.

The Catalogue is the best extant.

Very truly, R. S. HATCHER.

The Revenue Catalogue is standard in every respect. It contains a perfect mine of valuable information, of which no philatelist need now be ignorant.

Respectfully yours, F. R. GILLETT.

I derived much assistance from it, and heartily recommend it to all interested in the history of revenue stamps, as a most reliable source of information on the subject.

Respectfully, F. T. REAMER.

Your fourth edition U. S. Revenue Catalogue reached me in due time. As to my opinion—I have but one, and that is, you deserve the greatest credit in publishing such a useful and well compiled list, and you certainly deserve the support of all stamp collectors. Yours respectfully,

E. F. GAMBS.

I received your Catalogue yesterday. It is by far the most complete and careful Catalogue of U. S. revenues ever edited, and reflects great credit upon its editor. Yours,

SAM. HUMES.

It is very complete.

Yours truly, E. S. ENGEL.

The Revenue Catalogue duly received. It is, in my opinion, absolutely perfect, and amply repays for the delay in getting it.

Yours very truly, WM. D. ACKER.

It is the finest thing we have seen, and we congratulate you.

Yours, B. R. SLEE.

I have not, of course, had time to look it over as yet, but expect it will, as did all your other editions, more than come up to the claims.

Yours most truly, E. F. MPEKE.

Your Catalogue is as complete as it can be made.

Yours cordially, J. ADENAW.

Your Catalogue was received yesterday. It was much more than I expected to receive; would not take ten times the price for it if I could not get another.

Yours, ERASTUS CORNELL.

Enclosed I send you fifty cents for your fifth Revenue Stamp Catalogue. It is simply fine, never can be beaten. Yours,

FRANK P. ADAMS.

I received a copy of your Revenue Catalogue the other day, and feel I am well paid for waiting. I should not want to part with it, if another could not be obtained, for ten times the cost. There are many marked improvements since your last. Respectfully yours,

LEWIS T. WHITNEY.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, and is very satisfactory.

Respectfully, P. H. HILL.

I was delighted one day last week to get a copy of your Catalogue, and, like your others, it is the most complete in the world, and must have tried your patience greatly.

Very truly, JNO. P. ANSHUTZ.

The new Revenue Catalogue just received. It far exceeds my expectations.
Very truly, H. E. DEATS.

Please accept my thanks for sending your Revenue Catalogue so promptly. After looking it over carefully I must say it is an invaluable book of reference on the revenue subject and worthy of the highest commendation.
Yours truly, JOHN M. SHERIDAN.

Your Revenue Catalogue, fifth edition, received a few days ago, with thanks. I can only repeat what others have said, it is the most complete one I have seen and should be in the hands of all lovers of revenue stamps.
Yours respectfully, W. V. NICHOLSON.

MY DEAR FELLOW:—I duly received your fifth edition, 1888, U. S. Revenue Stamp Priced Catalogue. I know not how to do you justice; that is, I am not capable of expressing language in strong enough terms to convey the idea I should like to regarding my views of it. It is simply perfection, and next to my Bible and Prayer Book and Dictionary, your Revenue Catalogue and the Adhesives follow. I keep them always near at hand, and refer to them repeatedly. I am delighted with them and you deserve tons of credit. I should not part with them for any amount if I knew they could not be duplicated. I regret, however, that you have omitted a list of tin foils, and the Graphic Co.'s wrappers on paper. I don't believe any one would take exceptions to your publishing descriptions of them in connection with all the rest you have mentioned in the Catalogue. With these exceptions, I consider your Revenue and Adhesive Catalogues simply perfections, and no one exists who could have gone deeper into describing and detailing the stamps and the arrangement too. I am delighted and only hope your next edition of Revenues will contain the missing links; besides, I believe it would create an interest and give birth to lots of new collectors for foils and Graphics. Most of the revenue collectors are graduated coin collectors, and I could cite many who started in that way, simply from being coin collectors and associating the two as government money values.

Yours in haste, J. N. T. LEVICK.

I have not found time to do more than glance over the Catalogue, but I can see it must have taken a great deal of time and patience to compile it, and all philately must feel under obligations to you. I trust there will be a large enough sale to give you a good profit.
Yours in the faith,

F. P. RICHARDSON.

The fifth edition, '88, Revenue Catalogue to hand. It is more than you claim it to be. It certainly is indispensable to revenue collectors and I predict a large sale for it.
Truly yours, H. B. SEAGRAVE.

CATALOGUES.

What the Philatelic Societies Have to Say of Our Standard Catalogues.

I have inspected the Catalogue thoroughly, and the arrangement of the U. S. Adhesives and Telegraphs and Envelopes is the best I have ever seen.

Very truly yours, WILLIAM A. WARNER,
Secretary National Philatelic Society, New York City.

Your Catalogue for 1887 duly received, for which please accept my sincere thanks. I find it perfection, excelling all others both in completeness and mode of arrangement.

Yours truly, H. E. PRATT,
Sec'y and Treas. of Hartford, Ct., Philatelic Society.

Your Catalogue is fine. It is the most complete I have ever seen.

Yours, HARRY A. AXTELL,
President Bloomington, Ill., Philatelic Society.

Many thanks for the sixth edition of your valuable Catalogue of U. S. Stamps and Envelopes. Among the new features we note the Reference List of Private Locals by Dr. Mitchell. This really indispensable work upon the stamps of our country should be in the hands of every collector.

FRANK E. SOULE,
Sec'y and Treas. New Milford, Ct., Philatelic Society.

Just received your sixth edition Postage Catalogue, for which many thanks. The description of official locals is the best I have seen, as is also the description of the various dies of the envelope stamps. No collector that makes a specialty of U. S. stamps can afford to be without it.

Yours truly, EUGENE DILL,
Secretary St. Louis, Mo., Philatelic Society.

I find the arrangement of your Postage Catalogue excellent in every respect and covering all demands of both the beginner and the advanced collector.

JOSEPH RECHERT,
President Nat. Philatelic Society, New York City.

Duplicate copy of sixth edition of your U. S. Catalogue came duly to hand, for which you have my sincere thanks. It is invaluable as a book of reference to the collector of United States Government and local stamps, and will no doubt tend to attract the attention of all who possess a copy to the many varieties of shade, etc., which may be found in our own stamps as well as those of other countries. The second copy you sent was bound, at Mr. Bradt's suggestion, and we have presented it to the Chicago Society, by whom it is highly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

C. R. GADSDEN,

Secretary Chicago Ill., Philatelic Society.

I have been requested to present to you the thanks of the Quaker City Philatelic Society, for the fifth edition of your Catalogue—the best of the kind that we have had the pleasure of seeing. Hope that it may reach fifty or more editions.

W. A. MACCALLA,

Cor. Sec'y Quaker City Philatelic Society, Phila., Pa.

Our Society has tendered you a unanimous vote of thanks for your Catalogue.

MAURICE U. LEVY,

Secretary New Milford Philatelic Society, Conn.

On behalf of the members of the R. I. Philatelic Society, I thank you for a new edition so soon. It is a sign of prosperity which I am pleased to see. I am very glad you have put in the Confederates as a legitimate part of a U. S. collection; in fact, the most interesting part.

E. B. HANES,

President R. I. P. S., Providence, R. I.

From the *Quaker City Philatelist*, June, 1886.

The Q. C. P. S. has received many favors from Mr. Sterling, and thinks seriously of having its votes of thanks printed in quantity.

From the *International Philatelic American*, April, 1887.

Mr. Schumann moved that Mr. E. B. Sterling, Trenton, N. J., be elected honorary member of the Staten Island Philatelic Society, in consideration of his eminent services to the U. S. Philately. This motion was unanimously carried.

From the *American Journal of Philately*, New York, May, 1888.

Extract from the report of the meeting of the National Philatelic Society, April 18th, 1888:

Mr. Sterling donated his fifth U. S. Revenue Catalogues, and some rare stamps to the Society's Revenue Collection. On motion, Mr. Sterling was thanked for his donation.

CHICAGO CONVENTION.

Notes and Notices from the Press in Regard to Mr. Sterling's
Display of Stamps.

From the *Morning News*, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 9, 1887.

RARE STAMPS A HOBBY.

A BIG PHILATELIC CONVENTION.

*Collectors Who Pride Themselves on Their Valuable Bits of Paper—Prices
Ranging from Two Cents to Four Thousand Five Hundred
Dollars—A Unique Display.*

The American Philatelic Association opened its second annual Convention at the Tremont House, yesterday morning. The philatelists belonging to the Association number about two hundred and eighty, and hail from nearly every State and Territory in the Union. Some thirty-five put in an appearance at the Convention, and they represented nearly all the learned professions, with a strong dash of insurance men thrown in. President J. K. Tiffany, a well-known lawyer of St. Louis, was there in the interests of Missouri philately, while Secretary S. B. Bradt saw that Chicago had a show.

Most of the Delegates to the Convention are young men, some of them under the age of whiskers. Their faces are cut from the patterns of professional people, and their skins are tanned in the lawyer's or doctor's office or at the clerk's desk. President J. K. Tiffany is a smooth-faced brown-mustached, lawyer-like gentleman, and a good talker. Secretary Bradt is tall and slender and bites a stripling black mustache. E. B. Sterling, besides having the finest collection of United States document stamps in the country, has an aggregation of blue-black beard that is as rare as some of his stamps. It has pre-empted all the territory between his shirt collar and cheek bones and throws a shadow of transparent pallor over the upper portion of his face. The peculiar craze that makes the Convention possible is not stamped in colors on the Delegates' faces or even sunk in their features by dies. They look like other reasonable people who would not give face value for the one and two-penny Mauritius stamps that hundreds of wealthy stamp collectors are running around to give \$4,000 for.

A rare stamp, to a philatelist, is like the winner of a Derby to a horse-man, a new star to an astronomer, or a ten-dollar bill to a reporter.

Mr. Sterling brought a portion of his collection of Government document stamps to the Convention and exhibited them to the Delegates. Mr. Sterling was formerly a bank teller, but he abandoned his business, with all its possibilities and Canada only a few hundred miles away, to buy and sell stamps. Of every new issue he buys large quantities, and sells them to collectors. Mr. Sterling is the gentleman who discovered a counterfeit beer stamp a year or two ago for which the Government gave him \$2,000. That counterfeit has a place in his collection.

The Delegates spent a good portion of their time looking over the collections of members of the Association and worrying over specimens they did not possess and could not buy.

From the *Times*, Chicago, Ill., August 9, 1887.

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E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., presented a full collection of United States Government document stamps, from the first proof to the finished article, which was admitted to be the finest collection extant.

From the *Tribune*, Chicago, Ill., August 9, 1887.

MR. STERLING'S COLLECTION OF REVENUE STAMPS.

At the close of the meeting of stamp collectors yesterday Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., exhibited his collection of internal revenue stamps of the United States, being the only complete collection in existence. It begins with the first ones issued during the war, and contains samples of all the denominations, shades and colors since that time. To use a vulgar expression, revenue stamp collecting is Mr. Sterling's "long suit," and he values this single exhibit at \$5,000. He discovered some time ago a counterfeit beer stamp in use in New York, and received a reward of \$2,000 from the Government for tracing it back to its author, Valentine Loewer, of that city.

From the *Inter-Ocean*, Chicago, Ill., August 9, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., shuffled out a full hand of pasteboards, upon which were pasted the original proofs of the Carpenter collection of Government document stamps. The members seemed to find these pictures very interesting, and other collections were also shown. Mr. Sterling is the man who discovered the Valentine Loewer beer stamp forgery in New York a year ago, and was paid \$2,000 reward for it. The Convention continues to-day.

(Also published in the *Herald*, Chicago, Ill., August 9, 1887.)

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., August 10, 1887.

STAMP COLLECTING ENTHUSIASTS.

The Philatelic Association of America met in annual session Monday, in Chicago. About thirty Delegates were present, and John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis, presided. The main object of the meeting was to make a general agreement among the members for the purchase and general exchange of stamps, postage and revenue, among those associated with the organization. The major portion of the day was occupied in selecting committees for routine business and the presentation of the President's address. The latter paper was an elaborate epitome of the history of the postage stamp from its creation. E. B. Sterling, of this city, presented a full collection of United States Government document stamps, from the first proof to the finished article, which was admitted to be the finest collection extant.

From the *Daily State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., August 10, 1887.

A FINE COLLECTION.

The Philatelic Association of America is in annual session in Chicago. A dispatch says that E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, presents a full collection of United States Government document stamps, from the first proof to the finished articles, which is admitted to be the finest collection extant.

From the *Daily True American*, Trenton, N. J., August 10, 1887.

MR. STERLING'S COLLECTION.

At the annual session of the Philatelic Association of America, in Chicago, yesterday, says a dispatch, "E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., presented a full collection of United States Government document stamps, from the first proof to the finished article; which was admitted to be the finest collection extant."

From the *Inter-Ocean*, Chicago, Ill., August 11, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., makes a business of collecting United States postage and internal revenue stamps. He exhibited a collection of the latter during the Convention, which were said to number six thousand, and which he values at \$5,000. He has five varieties, different colors, of the \$5,000 revenue stamps, which he values at \$100 each. The stamp was abolished in 1882, and now there are no duplicates to his set. He has two shades or tints of the \$500 stamps which are worth \$50 each. He has proofs and designs of stamps without end, one set in eleven colors, just as submitted by the engraver, Carpenter, to the Government. There is also a \$20 probate of will stamp, which are said to exist in ten collections

only, and which are worth \$50 each. Mr. Sterling has the first, second and third issues of the internal revenue stamps complete, including fourteen varieties of stamps where the medalions are upside down. The shifting of the medalions makes the fourteen worth \$100. Besides the internal revenue stamps, there are about six thousand proprietary stamps used by manufacturers of matches, playing cards, etc., to pay the tax placed on these articles during the war. One of these proprietary stamps is the Richardson match stamp, three cents, long and black. Mr. Sterling says that he has the only one in existence, and that it is worth \$100.

Several months ago, Mr. Sterling, in looking over some beer stamps received from New York, noticed one very peculiar and rough, and on close examination found it to be a counterfeit. He went on to New York and informed the secret service officers. They went to work, and found that one brewery had been using the counterfeit stamp for six months, right under the nose of the very clever revenue officers.

From the *Globe-Democrat*, St. Louis, Mo., August 13, 1887.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS.

The American Philatelic Association concluded the labors of its second annual Convention yesterday afternoon. For three days parlors A and H, of the Tremont House, have been in use by the thirty-five Delegates to the Convention, and by as many more who take an interest in stamp collecting. The personnel of the Convention was not that of mere boys, for while there were some present who are still in their teens, there were present middle-aged and old men, who are interested in the pleasant and instructive hobby of the collection and assortment of stamps of all nations of the earth.

The stamp collector takes up the little square of red or yellow paper, and from the characters on it reads the ideas and history of the Governments of nations far away. The hobby carried on to its full extent is costly, perhaps, but it is certainly instructive, and the young stamp collectors delight in a knowledge of the countries of which they read.

There were only a few Delegates present in Chicago, but it is estimated by them that in the United States there are ten journals devoted to the interests of the philatelist; that there are twelve dealers whose sole trade is in postage stamps of the various varieties; that there are thirty local philatelic societies; that there are about six thousand permanent collectors of stamps and about 300,000 small collectors at work most of the time, who begin the work and then drop off again. This is a large constituency, and the Delegates recognized their duties to them.

The first thing they did yesterday was to have their pictures taken in a group. Then they returned to the hotel and adopted their reconstructed Constitution and passed resolutions. The first of these gave James Chalmers credit as the inventor of the adhesive stamp; the second was a vote of

thanks to the Chicago Society and the officers and committees. Then they adjourned to discuss stamps, their kinds, values and collections.

How many varieties of Postage stamps exist is a huge conundrum to even the collector. More and more varieties turn up each day. Some differ in the tints of paper, some in the tints of ink, some are perforated and some are unperforated; some have double perforates, some are gummed and some un-gummed, some are water-marked and griled, and so they go on. In the United States W. C. Van Derlip, of Boston, has a huge collection, and it is supposed to be the largest.

Mr. E. B. Sterling of Trenton, N. J., makes a business of collecting United States postage and internal revenue stamps. He exhibited a collection of the latter during the Convention, which were said to number six thousand, and which he values at \$5,000. He has five varieties, different colors, of the \$5,000 revenue stamps, which he values at \$100 each. The stamp was abolished in 1882, and now there are no duplicates to his set. He has two shades or tints of the \$500 stamps which are worth \$50 each. He has proofs and designs of stamps without end, one set in eleven different colors just as submitted by the engraver, Carpenter, to the government. There is also a \$20 probate of will stamp which are said to exist in ten collections only, and which are worth \$50 each. Mr. Sterling has the first, second and third issues of internal revenue stamps complete, including fourteen varieties of stamps where the medalions are up-side down. The shifting of the medalions makes the fourteen worth \$100. Besides the internal revenue stamps, there are about six thousand proprietary stamps used by manufacturers of matches, playing cards, etc., to pay the tax placed on these articles during the war. One of these proprietary stamps is the Richardson match stamp, three-cent, long and black. Mr. Sterling says that he has the only one in existence, and that it is worth \$100.

The most costly, or the rarest, stamp in the world, is said to be the one-penny red and two-penny blue of Mauritius. Only two of each kind are said to be in existence, and one of the Rothschilds is said to have paid \$4,300 for one set.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton N. J., August 16, 1887.

PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

MR. STERLING'S COLLECTION IN THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has just returned from Chicago where he attended the meeting of the American Philatelic Association. The association was in session three days and there were thirty-five delegates present. Besides these, two hundred and sixty-two from all parts of the country, were represented by proxy. They had a delightful time at the Tremont House and were tendered a banquet by the Chicago Philatelic Society, which was a very *recherche* affair.

Mr. Sterling's collection of U. S. postage and internal revenue stamps, which he exhibited to the convention, amounted in number to six thousand, and he values them at \$5,000. He has five varieties, different colors, of the \$5,000 revenue stamps which he values at \$100 each. The stamp was abolished in 1882, and now there are no duplicates to his set. He has two shades of tints of the \$500 stamps which are worth \$50 each. There is also a \$20 probate of will stamp which is worth \$50. There are only ten collections which contain this stamp. Mr. Sterling has the first, second and third issues of internal revenue stamps complete, including fourteen varieties of stamps where the medallions are up-side down. The shifting of the medallions makes the fourteen worth \$100. Mr. Sterling also has a Richardson match stamp—three cents—which he claims is the only one in existence and is worth \$100.

The Chicago *Inter-Ocean* speaks very highly of Mr. Sterling's collection. Mr. S. is now fitting up two rooms in Scott's building for a repository.

From the *Philatelic Century*, Chicago, Ill., September, 1887.

One of the pleasant features of the Convention was the exhibition by several of the members of their collections. Mr. Sterling had the celebrated Carpenter proofs of the document stamps, which included five varieties of the \$5,000 stamp. He also showed his collection of the regular issues of document stamps, which was full of interest to revenue collectors. The collection was worth going miles to see.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., September, 1887.

CONVENTION NOTES.

Mr. Sterling's display of revenue stamps and proofs was a marvel of beauty and a revelation to most of those who gazed upon them. No wonder so many collectors are taking up this branch of stamp collecting.

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Perhaps the most distinguished appearing member present at the Convention was the genial Mr. Fred B. Perry, of Hyde Park, Ill., and there were those, too, who awarded the palm in this respect to Mr. Sterling. At any rate the two are a good pair to draw to.

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Philatelists have no grounds for complaint about the treatment they received from the Chicago press. All the papers gave very good notices, the *Inter-Ocean* and *Daily News* giving much of their space to the Convention. The former, on August 10, had a well prepared editorial of nearly a column on the subject, and the latter, on the same date, giving a column article illustrated with cuts of stamps and a sketch representing Mr. Sterling exhibiting

his revenue stamps, The *News* article was copied in the *Detroit Evening Journal*. The *Tribune's* reports were the poorest and most meagre.

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We then loafed around until nine o'clock and the whole gang went to meet *Blue-Beard*, but he delayed the train three hours and a half so that he could get in after dark and we missed seeing him until Monday morning.

* * * * *

On the Sunday night preceeding the Convention, most of the members then in attendance, went to meet Mr. Sterling at the time he should have arrived. But the train was nearly three hours late, so the crowd thinned out considerably before the arrival. There were, however, half a dozen or more in waiting when the train pulled in at midnight.

From the *Western Philatelist*, September, 1887.

THE BANQUET TO THE A. P. A.

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At the left sat Mr. Sterling, better known to the Chicago press as *Blue-Beard*; it was the general inpression that Mr. Sterling had parted with a portion of his beard in order to do justice to the banquet. Next to Mr. Sterling sat Mr. H. B. Myers, the gentlemanly treasurer of the Chicago Society.

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Next followed a toast to the American Philatelic Association, which Mr. Sterling responded to.

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Toast now followed toast in rapid succession. "Our Quaker City Friends," Mr. Sterling.

I am perfectly charmed with your new Revenue Catalogue. So many stamps are mentioned that I have, but never knew whether they were valuable or not, as in the other Catalogues they were not noted. I expect to have great enjoyment in studying it out; each new one is more wonderful, and I am full of gratitude at your sacrifice of time and labor. It is certainly very noble—making us ignorant ones partakers of your knowledge and research. I thank you very much for my share.

Your friend, A. L. FINE.

The fifth edition of your Revenue Catalogue received. I consider it the best and most complete Catalogue of U. S. Revenues that I have yet seen. It is worth many times the small price asked for it.

Yours respectfully, R. C. FAGAN.

After a hasty examination of your Revenue Catalogues I like them much better than any others that I have seen.

Yours truly,
R. T. KINGSBURY.

THE \$7,000 COLLECTION.

Press Notices Concerning the Sale of the Carpenter Proof Collection, &c., to Mr. H. E. Deats.

From the *True American*, Trenton, N. J., January 22, 1888.

IMPORTANT SALE OF STAMPS.

E. B. Sterling, the Philatelist, has just disposed of his celebrated collection of proof revenue stamps, known as the Carpenter and Goodall collections; also his American silver, paper currency and other curios, for the sum of \$7,000, to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., a wealthy young collector, who is well posted as to the value of this rare collection of stamps, etc. This is the largest private sale ever made in the United States in that line, and Mr. Sterling has other collections still left to dispose off.

From the *Sunday Advertiser*, Trenton, N. J., January 22, 1888.

A FORTUNE IN POSTAGE STAMPS.

E. B. Sterling, the Philatelist, of this city, has just sold for \$7,000 the celebrated Carpenter and Goodall collection of fine proof United States postage and revenue stamps, together with his collection of silver dollars, paper currency and some other curios, to H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J. The purchaser is a wealthy young collector, and is a member of the Philatelic Association, of which Mr. Sterling is Trustee. This is the largest private sale of stamps ever made in the United States, and Mr. Sterling has reason to be proud of his success, this one collection being the finest of its kind in the world. Notwithstanding the size of this sale, Mr. Sterling still retains a collection worth \$15,000.

From the *Daily Emporium*, Trenton, N. J., January 23, 1888.

A UNIQUE STAMP COLLECTION JUST SOLD.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, has sold his rare collection of Revenue proof stamps, known to the stamp collecting world as the "Carpenter and Goodall" collections, also his paper currency, Confederate bonds, battle flags,

silver dollars and other curiosities for the sum of \$7,000, to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J. Mr. Deats is a young collector of the rare and curios, and with wealth at his command will soon take the front rank among collectors in this country. The sale is a large and important one, and will excite the stamp collecting public for some time to come.

From the *Trenton Times*, Trenton, N. J., January 23, 1888.

LARGE SALE OF STAMPS.

E. B. Sterling, the well-known stamp collector, has just consummated the largest deal of postage and revenue stamps ever made in this country. Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, has purchased the collection from him, with its paper currency, coins, medals and other specimens, for the sum of \$7,000. Mr. Sterling has been engaged for years in completing this rare collection. He is at present holding sales of rare stamps monthly, in New York city, and will realize at least \$5,000 during the Winter from these sales.

From the *Daily State Gazette*, Trenton, N. J., January 23, 1888.

LARGE SALE OF RARE STAMPS.

One of the largest sales ever made in the stamp line has just been effected by Mr. E. B. Sterling, of this city, who sold on Saturday to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, his collection of revenue proofs, known as the Carpenter and Goodall Collection, the finest in the world, for \$7,000, including his collection of paper currency, silver and copper coins and curios. Mr. Deats is a young collector of note and much wealth and knows how to appreciate his possessions. This acquisition to his collection will place him at the front of collectors in this country.

From the *Press*, Philadelphia, Pa., January 25, 1888.

SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR OLD STAMPS.

FLEMINGTON, Jan. 24 [SPECIAL].—H. E. Deats, a well-known philatelist of this city, has just secured the most valuable collection of stamps in this country. He purchased them of E. B. Sterling, of Trenton. The price paid was \$7,000—the largest sum ever known to have been paid in the United States.

From the *Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., January 25, 1888.

SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR OLD STAMPS.

H. E. Deats, a well-known philatelist of Flemington, N. J., has just secured the most valuable collection of stamps in this country. He purchased them of E. B. Sterling, of Trenton. The price paid was \$7,000—the largest sum ever known to have been paid in the United States.

From the *Hunterdon Republican*, Flemington, N. J., January 25, 1888.

LARGE SALE OF STAMPS.

A Trenton dispatch to yesterday's *New York World* says: "One of the largest sales of United States stamps ever effected between private collectors has just taken place here, H. E. Deats, a wealthy young philatelist of Flemington, paying \$7,000 in cash for the collection of proof revenue stamps held by E. B. Sterling, of this city. Mr. Sterling is one of the largest collectors in the country. A number of curios in paper currency, etc., also go to Mr. Deats."

From the *Unionist Gazette*, Flemington, N. J., January 26, 1888.

H. E. Deats, a wealthy young philatelist of Flemington, recently purchased of E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, a collection of proof revenue stamps, including a number of curios in paper currency, for which he paid \$7,000 cash. This is said to be the largest sale of United States stamps ever effected between private collectors.

From the *Democrat Advertiser*, Flemington, N. J., January 27, 1888.

Mr. H. E. Deats, son of the late Hiram Deats of this place, we learn has just made one of the largest purchases of United States stamps ever made in that line, paying therefor \$7,000. The collection is known as the Carpenter and Goodall's, the finest in the world, and was secured by Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, one of the largest collectors in the country. With this collection goes paper currency, silver and copper coins and curios. This acquisition to his already large and diverse collection will advance Mr. Deats well to the front of the collectors in this country.

From the *Springfield Republican*, Mass., February 19, 1888.

E. B. Sterling has sold his famous collection of postage and revenue proofs to H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J. This sale included the Carpenter and Goodall collections which Mr. Sterling has owned for some time. The price received is \$7,000.

From the *Youth's Ledger*, New York City, February, 1888.

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About January 20th Mr. E. B. Sterling sold his entire collection of proof postage and revenue stamps, silver and copper coins, paper currency, curios and stamp literature, to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., for \$7,000; or, \$5,000 for the proofs and \$2,000 for the others. Mr. Sterling will immediately start another collection. This is the largest sale of stamps to an American collector that has taken place for a long while. And, by the way, did you know that Sterling's collection now being sold at auction will net him about \$5,000.

From the *Philatelist*, Philadelphia, Pa., February, 1888.

PROOFS AND ESSAYS.

Some time since, I had the pleasure of inspecting the beautiful collection of United States proofs and essays possessed by Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J. The collection consists of proofs of U. S. of all issues, match, medicine and essays. The proof adhesives are printed in all colors, some on India paper, others on cardboard; those on India paper were mostly printed on a large square of paper and then mounted four and six on large sheets of cardboard and made a very pretty showing; we believe that this part of the collection is almost complete. The proof envelopes are very handsome and are printed in various colors. Among these is a stamp that was made on a Bessemer steel, the original having been laid on an iron slab and then the red hot steel struck on it quickly and thus getting the die; it is a very unique affair and is highly prized by Mr. S.

The match and medicines proofs are printed in blue, with large margins, and then mounted on cardboard; they are truly beautiful and a delightful feast for any philatelist to behold.

The essays are numerous and of many curious and unique designs. Among them are stamps bearing the head of an Indian warrior instead of the worthy Father of His Country, also some with Columbus' profile instead of those we are used to seeing every day. The essays and proofs are printed in colors of all hues, even to the deepest black and purple of the royal hue. They are printed on all kinds of paper, even to the gold beater's skin, safety and sensitized paper. A volume could be written of this beautiful and strange collection, which is unequalled in this or any other country.

(Since the above was written, this collection, together with some coins, etc., has been sold to Mr. H. E. Deats, Flemington, N. J., for \$7,000.)

From the *Curiosity World*, Lake Village, N. H., February 15, 1888.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J., has sold his collection of rare stamps, paper currency, Confederate bonds, battle flags, coins, etc., to Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J. The consideration was \$7,000.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., February, 1888.

E. B. Sterling, the well-known stamp collector, has just consummated the largest deal of postage and revenue stamps ever made in this country. Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, has purchased the collection from him, with its paper currency, coins, medals and other specimens, for the sum of \$7,000. Mr. Sterling has been engaged for years in completing this rare collection. He is at present holding sales of rare stamps monthly, in New York City, and will realize at least \$5,000 during the winter from these sales.

From the *Stamp*, Denver, Col., March, 1888.

Mr. Sterling has recently sold his collection of proof postage and revenue stamps, silver and copper coins, paper currency, etc., for \$7,000, to H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J.

From the *Mohawk Standard*, Delta, N. Y., March, 1888.

E. B. Sterling has sold to H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., his fine collection of paper currency, coins, medals and other specimens, for \$7,000—the largest private sale as yet consummated.

From the *Mohawk Standard*, Delta, N. Y., April, 1888.

FLEMINGTON, N. J., March 5, 1888.

SMITH & KLOCK:

Dear Sirs—In the March number of the *Standard*, just received, I notice under the heading, "News Nuggets," a note to the effect that Mr. Sterling has sold his collection of paper currency, etc., to me. Now this is not quite correct. The principal part of the purchase was Mr. Sterling's fine collection of U. S. proof stamps, document, proprietary and postage, which I consider the finest in existence. These were valued at \$5,000. The balance was for a collection of 4,000 varieties of paper currency, about \$600 worth of coins, and a lot of prehistoric stone and bone implements, South Sea Island curios, etc. Will you kindly correct the item in the next number, and greatly oblige.

Yours very respectfully, H. E. DEATS.

From the *Collector's Review*, Denver, Col., May, 1888.

Mr. E. B. Sterling has disposed of his large collection; and who dare say he is not a philatelist.

Catalogue came duly to hand and must say it is the finest work on U. S. Revenues that I ever saw. It should be in the hands of every collector, whether of U. S. revenues or not. It has proved to be worth many times the small price asked for it and you should be proud of your work. In plain English, it is a "Dandy."

I remain very truly,

ARTHUR B. HUBBARD.

I am very much pleased with the new Revenue Catalogue which this time came to hand. Very truly yours, JOHN H. McCORMICK.

AUCTION SALES.

Press Accounts of the Auction Sales of the Sterling Collection of United States Stamps.

From the *Stamp Collector's Figaro*, Chicago, Ill., November, 1887.

THE STERLING COLLECTION OF U. S. STAMPS.

This excellent collection is to be sold at auction in December. It must be with about the same feeling as that which is manifested at the departure, by death, of some cherished pet, that Mr. E. B. Sterling sees the collection, which he gathered with such care and patient endeavors, depart for the auction rooms, there to be shattered and distributed to every part of the United States. His collection was particularly interesting, consisting, as it did, of the stamps of the U. S. only, and so many minute varieties which he had of each.

From the *Daily Republican*, Springfield, Mass., December 24, 1887.

The private collection of E. B. Sterling, for more than a dozen years a well-known dealer in United States postage and revenue stamps, is offered for sale, by auction, this winter. It is catalogued by Ed. Frossard and sold by George A. Leavitt & Co., 787 and 789 Broadway, New York. The first part, comprising the adhesive postage stamps, cut and entire envelopes, including oddities, was sold on the 20th, and attracted a good attendance of buyers. Some of the rarities sold as follows: Eleven New York five-cent adhesives of 1845 brought from \$2.20 to \$3.20 apiece, a Brattleboro post-mark, with date June 16, 1846, and the figure 5 in red, (not the "Brattleboro stamp" engraved by Thomas Chubbuck of this city,) brought \$50; a New Haven local, red impression and black signature, sold for \$13; several Providence locals went for \$2.70 to \$4.50 each, and a sheet of twelve gummed at \$36.60. The St. Louis, five-cent, die C, brought \$36, and the ten-cent, die C, which brought \$41 in the Cunningham sale, was knocked off at \$29. The rare twenty-four-cent adhesive of the 1851 issue, unperforated, brought \$22 and \$21 for two lots, each an unsevered pair, and the thirty-cent of the same issue and the same condition went for \$30. A full set of the 1869 adhesives, grilled and unused, brought \$11, and the thirty-cent with inverted shield,

bought by Mr. Sterling for \$35 at the Sanford sale, was again sold for the same sum. Several telegraph stamps, Merchants' line, City and suburban and postal, brought from \$3 to \$5.10 apiece. There were no great rarities in Confederate locals. A Petersburg five-cent red, used, on entire envelope, brought \$4.50. Two four-cent, cut envelopes, of the 1860 issue, on buff, brought \$8 and \$8.50 respectively. None of the 1853 entire envelopes yield more than \$5.25, which was bid for Homer one-and-a-half. A "star" watermark, 1879, three-cent, on white, die 6, No. 5, went for \$10.50. The Kellogg die, two-cent, red on blue, brought \$6.25, and the same on a wrapper, \$5.50. On the whole the prices, except for some unique specimens, were low.

From the *Youth's Ledger*, New York City, December, 1887.

Mr. E. B. Sterling intends to devote a good part of his time to his brokerage business, and at the same time have a man to see that his stamp business does not suffer. He will dispose of his private collection of U. S. stamps at auction this month, through Geo. A. Leavitt & Co. Mr. Sterling has about \$15,000 invested in stamps, and he probably thinks that a little of it could be used to advantage elsewhere. All desiring a Catalogue of his sale, should address him at Trenton, N. J.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., December, 1887.

No little surprise has been created by the announcement that Mr. E. B. Sterling had decided to sell his famous collection at auction. Some of the rarities have already been disposed of at private sale, but some fine things remain. His postage and envelope collection will be sold at auction on Tuesday, December 20th, beginning at 7 P. M., by Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., 787 Broadway, under the auspices of Mr. Ed. Frossard. Among the lots to be sold will be a pair of St. Louis five and ten-cent; a very fine lot of New York, 1843-45; many rarities, such as are described in Mr. Tiffany's book, and no end of oddities, blocks and pairs. The thirty-cent, 1869, with reversed shield, will also be offered. This stamp is, I think, a unique specimen and its history may be of interest. It was found by a young man named Bryant, in a collection he purchased for fifty cents, some years ago; he sold it to Mr. Henry Collin, then of Nassau street, for \$35.00, in the spring of 1885. From him it went to the Sanford collection for a consideration, rumor has it, of \$50; when the latter collection was sold in April, 1886, Mr. Sterling secured it for \$35. Mr. Sterling's revenue stamps will probably be sold in January. They include, among other rarities, a \$500 revenue of the second issue. This stamp, of which but 505 were made, is excessively rare, and I know of but two others in the hands of philatelists; one of these was sold for \$97.50 in Mr. Casey's fourth sale, on May 4th, 1886, and the other is in the possession of Mr. R. R. Bogert, of this city.

From the *Philatelic Gazette*, Altoona, Pa., January, 1888.

AUCTION SALES.

Part I. of Mr. Sterling's splendid collection was sold at auction on the 20th ult. It consisted entirely of U. S. postage, revenues, locals, envelope stamps and entire envelopes. Some of the prices received were as follows, all being used, unless otherwise stated: New York, 1845, five-cent, on white, unused, \$3.20; ditto, used, \$2.40; Brattleboro, on original letter, \$50; New Haven, five-cent red, black sig., \$13; St. Louis, five-cent, die C, \$36; ten-cent, die C., \$29; U. S. City Despatch, three-cent, \$3.50; 1845, ten-cent, unused, \$3.50; 1851, unsevered pair, five-cent, \$6; unsevered pair, twenty-four-cent, unused, \$22; ditto, used, \$21; unsevered pair, thirty-cent, unused, \$30; 1857, set, unused, \$5.60; three-cent, sheet of one hundred, unused, three cents each; five-cent, dark brown, projections on four sides, unused, \$3.80; 1861, five-cent, orange brown, \$5.05; five-cent, yellow, \$2.75; 1867, three-cent, grill covering stamp, unused, \$8; another, used, \$2.50; 1869, grilled set, unused, \$10; fifteen-cent, with diamond, grilled, \$1.15; thirty-cent, inverted shield, \$35; set, unused, Interior, \$1; War, \$77; Treasury, \$3.85; Post Office, \$1.80; Nashville, five-cent, brown, \$2.30; New Orleans, five-cent, brown, \$60, Petersburg, five-cent, red, \$4.50; envelope stamps, cut square, 1860, four-cent, \$8.50; 1875, two-cent, rose on fawn, \$3; three-cent, on amber, \$2.40.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., January, 1888.

The remainder of the Sterling collection, consisting of document stamps, complete, one-cent to \$500; match, medicine and playing card stamps, the latter being complete, State revenues, license stamps, albinos and entire envelopes, will be sold by Messrs. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., January 26th and 27th. In addition to the regular document stamps, there are many blocks, double perforations and other oddities, such as are described in Sterling's Catalogue.

* * * * *

On the evening of December 20th, Part I. of the Sterling collection of U. S. postage and revenue stamps was sold at Leavitt's auction rooms. The attendance was very large, over fifty persons being present. The bidding was rather slow, although spirited at times, the sale being concluded at 10:45 P. M. Following are a few of the prices obtained: Lot No. 9, letter sheet, stamped Brattleboro, Vt., Jan. 16, and the figure 5 in red, went to "O. K.," for \$50; a photograph of a sheet of Brattleboro stamps, \$5; New Haven, five-cent, red impression, black signature, \$13; the entire sheet of Providence was secured by a person who imagined he had purchased it for \$3.15, and on being re-sold, was bought by Mr. G. B. Calman, for \$36, who also captured the St. Louis, five-cent, die C, for \$36, and the St. Louis, ten-cent, die C, for \$29. The unused strip of four ten-cent, 1847, brought \$7.80.

Mr. Sterling paid \$22 for one and \$21 for another pair of twenty-four-cent, 1851, unperforate; also \$30 for the unsevered pair of thirty-cent of the same issue. The five-cent, orange brown, 1861, sold for \$5.05; the three-cent, 1867, with grill covering stamp, \$8; a set, unused, of the 1869, grilled issue, was sold for \$10. Then Mr. Thorne bought the 1869, thirty-cent, reversed shield, for \$35. The high value State Department sold as follows, \$5, \$8.50; \$10, \$9; \$20, \$12; a Merchants' Tel. Line, black on red, sold for \$5.10; of cut U. S. envelopes, the 1860, four-cent, die 1, on buff, brought \$8, and the die 2, \$8.50. Entire envelopes, H. one-and-a-half, used, \$5.25; three-cent, 1879, size 5, die C, printed address, \$10.50; two-cent Kellogg, die in red, size 2, on blue, \$6.25; ditto, wrapper, \$5.50. The U. S. envelopes used as an advertising medium, sold at an average of fifty cents each, 1870, two-cent wrapper, with S. Allan Taylor's advertisement, bringing \$1.60. Total for 589 lots, \$1,105.84.

From the *American Philatelist*, Phila., Pa., (Journal of A. P. A.) Jan. 10, 1888.

Part I. of Mr. Sterling's collection was sold on December 20th, from 7:30 to 10:45 P. M., at Leavitt's auction rooms, in the presence of the most representative philatelic gathering that has assembled here since the Convention last year. Over fifty persons were present, including Messrs. C. H. Mekeel, of St. Louis, (whom, greatly to his disgust, the auctioneer persisted in calling Mackeel); Holton, of Boston; Henry Collin, H. L. Calman, G. B. Calman, Bogert, Terrett, Sterling, Thorne and Wuesthoff. The 589 lots comprised postage stamps and stamped envelopes, departments, locals, telegraphs, Confederate, express and a few revenues. The most remarkable sale of the evening was Lot 9, half of an old blue letter sheet, post-marked "Brattleboro, Vt., Jan. 16," and the figure 5 in red, which sold to "O. K.," for \$50. Why this high price was paid I cannot say; perhaps it was the patriotic poetry written on the letter sheet which gave it value. The sheet of Providence was knocked down to an individual who imagined he had paid \$3.15 for it. On its being re-sold, Mr. G. Calman secured it at \$36.60. The latter gentleman also purchased the five-cent, die C, St. Louis, for \$36, and the ten-cent, die C, of the same, for \$29. Photograph of a sheet of Brattleboro was started at ten cents and knocked down for \$5. A New Haven red reprint, signed in black, brought \$13. U. S. mail, prepaid, one cent, black on yellow, \$5. A strip of four, unused, ten-cent, 1847 issue, sold for \$7.80. Mr. Sterling paid \$22 for the first unsevered pair of the thirty-four-cent, 1851; \$21 for the second, and \$30 for the unsevered pair of the thirty-cent, same issue. An 1861, five-cent, orange brown, sold for \$5.05; the three-cent, 1867, grilled all over, unused, for \$8, and a set of 1869, grilled, unused, for \$10. Mr. Thorne, after some lively bidding, secured the unique thirty-cent, 1869, inverted shield, for \$35. The \$5, unused, State, brought \$7.50; the \$10 brought \$9, and the \$20, \$12. A Merchants' Telegraph Line, black on red stamp, sold for \$5.10. In cut envelopes, an unused, four-cent, die 1, on buff, 1860, was knocked down for \$8, and the same, die 2, for \$8.50. In entire

envelopes, a used, three-cent, 1857, die 2 C, note (H 1½), brought \$15.25; pair of three-cent, on white and buff, extra letter used (H. 67, 68), \$6.20; three-cent, die C., on white, size 5, printed address, \$10.50; 1884, Kellogg die, in red, on blue, size 2, \$6.25; same, on wrapper, \$5.50. The advertising medium envelopes sold for from fifty to fifty-five cents each, except S. Allen Taylor's unique, two-cent Reay wrapper, which was knocked down for \$1.60. The proceeds for Part I. were \$1,104.

Part II. of Sterling's collection will be sold at Leavitt's on January 26th and 27th, at 7 P. M. each evening. 1,107 lots will be offered, containing a few U. S. postage stamps, large number of oddities in U. S. envelopes entire, an almost complete set of rare State revenues, documents complete from one-cent to \$500, proprietary and a remarkably fine collection of medicine stamps. Besides the regular documents there are numerous blocks of un-perforated and part perforated specimens, double perforations and inverted medallions. Part III., containing match, playing card and other stamps, will be sold about February 15th, 1888.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., February, 1888.

On January 13th, the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., held their thirty-second sale at Bang's rooms, 732 Broadway. The contest of the evening was over the Brattleboro, the finest specimen of this rare stamp in existence. The sale of this was postponed till after Lot 295. It was started for \$190 and ran up at \$5 a time to \$220 when Mr. Sterling put in a bid for \$225 and then Mr. Bogert stepped in and secured it for \$226.

From the *Youth's Ledger*, New York City, February, 1888.

The second sale of the Sterling collection of U. S. stamps and envelopes, consisting chiefly of revenues, took place on January 26th and 27th last, of which a full report will be in the March issue. Part III. of the Sterling collection will probably be sold between February 10th and 20th. •

From the *American Philatelist*, Phila., Pa., (Journal of A. P. A.,) Feb. 10, 1888.

Part II. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's rooms, on January 26th and 27th, from 7 till 9:20 each evening. Lots 1 to 581 comprised the first night's sale and Lots 582 to 1107 the second. As the sale consisted almost entirely of revenue stamps, the attendance was not very large. About twenty persons were on hand each evening, including Messrs. Bogert, Calman, Rechert, Sterling, Burger, Wells, Levick, Wuesthoff, Holman, Charles Gregory, Adenaw and Terrett. Some stamps sold low, while on the other hand stamps brought over their catalogue price. Something seemed to have struck the entire U. S. two-cent envelopes of the October, November and Kellogg dies, as lots of them containing about twenty pieces sold for, from twelve to fifteen cents apiece, while a set of 68 entire envelopes, September,

1887, sold for twelve cents each, or \$8.16 the set. Mr. Sterling had a standing bid of forty cents on all the oddities in entire envelopes and they were sold for, from forty to ninety cents each, till the albinos were reached; as nobody seemed to want them, they were bunched and knocked down for forty cents each. An 1857 one-cent wrapper, with gum on wrong end went for \$3.75, and a five-cent blue, 1875, envelope, without watermark, fetched \$3.10. There was a little bidding on the State revenues; most of them were secured by the Scott Co., or by Mr. Gregory. The first issue documents, with double perforations, did not sell well, bringing from one and a half to six cents each up to the five-cent values, when the remainder were bunched and knocked down for three cents each. Those of the second and third issues, however, sold better, bringing from ten to forty cents each, those which had been perforated, with a sewing machine, going for seventy-five cents apiece. Below are some of the prices obtained, with the buyers of the rarest stamps:

California State revenue, \$45, purple, at..... \$6 10

DOCUMENT STAMPS—FIRST ISSUE.

\$200 00 unperforate, fine.....	9 30
200 00 partly perforate.....	8 00
06 proprietary, perforate, original gum, unused.....	10 25
20 00 probate of will, orange, Mr. Holman.....	20 25
20 00 probate of will, color chemically changed to brown.....	13 50
200 00 perforate, original gum, unused, Mr. Adenaw.....	20 00
200 00 perforate, used.....	11 25

SECOND ISSUE—VIOLET PAPER.

200 00 fine.....	10 00
500 00 very fine, Rev. Mr. Holman.....	57 50
20 00 same, pink paper.....	6 00

PROPRIETARY—SECOND SERIES.

1 00 green.....	7 00
5 00 green, unused, very fine, original gum.....	13 50

INVERTED MEDALIONS.

01 second series, document.....	5 50
02 " " " ".....	3 75
10 " " " unused.....	7 00
25 " " " ".....	4 25
50 " " " ".....	5 00
1 00 " " " ".....	6 00
5 00 " " " fine, Mr. Adenaw.....	10 25
02 third series, document.....	2 50
05 " " " ".....	5 00
01 second series, proprietary.....	4 50
Collection of 267 license stamps.....	18 69

MATCH STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

D. S. Barnes, 4c., vermilion, perforations only at top.....	\$5 50
X. Bazin, 2c., blue, Scott Co.....	10 50
Bennet, Pieters & Co., 6c.....	7 75
P. H. Drake & Co., 2c., black, original gum.....	10 50
Fleming Bros., 1c., black, liver pill, damaged.....	9 75
J. T. Husband, 2c., violet, very fine, Mr. Wells.....	18 00
D. Jayne & Son, 1c., blue, perforated.....	5 00
D. Jayne & Son, 4c., green, perforated.....	5 50
J. B. Kelly & Co., 4c., black, uncut, Scott Co.....	12 00
J. Lippman & Bro., 4c., blue, original gum.....	8 25
T. W. Mardsen, 2c., blue, damaged, Mr. Burger.....	12 25
Mercado & Seully, 2c., black.....	9 00
J. Swaim, 8c., uncut.....	7 00
U. S. Prop. Med. Co., 6c., black, Scott Co.....	10 50

SILK PAPER.

J. Lippman & Bro., 4c., blue.....	5 20
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PINK PAPER.

Brown's Jamaica Ginger.....	5 25
Dr. C. C. Moore, 2c., black, original gum.....	5 80

WATERMARK PAPER.

Seabury & Johnson, 1c., lake, original gum, Mr. Terrett.....	15 00
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Total for 1,107 lots, about.....\$1,374 00

Part III. of the Sterling collection will be sold at Leavitt's, on February 16, at 7 P. M. The catalogue comprises 595 lots of match, playing card, medicine and document and State revenue stamps, with a few postage stamps and entire envelopes. The match and playing card stamps are the remainder of his collection and include among match stamps, Brown & Durling, one-cent black; W. E. Doolittle, one-cent blue; T. Gorman & Bro., one-cent black; Jock & Wilder, one-cent red; J. J. Macklin & Co., one-cent black. The playing cards are complete and include the Chas. Goodall, five-cent black. There are also some good postage stamps, including a St. Louis ten-cent die A, unused and a \$20 State department. Among the documents are a six-cent proprietary, first issue, three specimens of the \$20 Probate of Will, \$200, second issue, etc. Part IV., containing duplicates of the former parts, will be sold early in March.

From the *Republican*, Springfield, Mass., February 19, 1888.

AUCTION SALES.

Mr. Sterling's second sale included but few United States postage stamps and oddities. A five-cent Garfield envelope, fawn paper, brought \$3.10, and a duplicate, \$2.60; two Canada five-cent envelopes on paper, watermarked

"P. O. D. U. S.," brought \$2 and \$2.10, and many oddities went for from twenty cents to \$3 apiece. The bulk of the sale was in revenue stamps. A California \$45 purple went for \$6.10, which was the highest price brought by any of the State revenues. Of the first series of unperforated document stamps, the four-cent playing card went for \$2.40, the \$1.30 for \$2.10, the \$1.90 for \$2.60, the \$3.50 for \$2.70, the \$5 probate of will for \$2.30, the \$15 dark blue for \$2.10, the \$20 conveyance, orange, for \$2.60, the \$25 red for \$2.50, the \$50 yellow for \$2 and the \$200 for \$9.30. Of the part perforate series, the \$200 brought \$8, and of the perforate, six-cent proprietary unused, with original gum, \$10.25; the \$20 probate of will, light orange, \$20.50; the same, orange brown, \$15.50; the \$200 dark green and red, unused, with original gum; \$20; the \$200 yellow, green and red, \$11.25. The second series, violet paper, had two rarities, the \$200, which sold for \$10, and the \$500, which brought \$57.50. The pink paper series had three high priced specimens, the \$20, which went for \$6, the \$25 at \$3.05, and the \$50 at \$4.60. Of the proprietary, second series, the \$1 brought \$7, and the \$5 brought \$13.50. The set of ten inverted medalions of the second and third series document stamps sold as follows: One-cent, for \$5.50; two-cent, for \$3.75; ten-cent, for \$7; twenty-five-cent, for \$4.25; fifty-cent, for \$5; \$1, for \$6; \$5, for \$10.25. Third series: two-cent, for \$2.50; five-cent, for \$5. One-cent, second series proprietary, \$4.50. Some medicine stamps, on old paper, sold as follows: D. S. Barnes, one-cent, vermilion, for \$3.10; four-cent, vermilion, for \$5.50; N. Bazin, two-cent, blue, for \$10.50; Bennett, Pieters & Co., six-cent, for \$7.75; Brandreth pills, one-cent, perforate, for \$3.20; P. H. Drake & Co., two-cent, black, for \$10.50; Fleming Bros., one-cent, black, for \$9.75; J. F. Henry & Co., four-cent, bistre, for \$4.50; T. J. Husband, two-cent, violet, for \$18; D. Jayne & Son, one-cent, blue, perforate, for \$5; four-cent, green, perforate, for \$5.50; J. B. Kelly & Co., four-cent, black, for \$12; George W. Laird, three-cent, black, perforate, for \$4.50; Jacob Lippiman & Bro., four-cent, blue, for \$8.25; T. W. Marsden, two-cent, blue, for \$12.25; Mercado & Scully, two-cent, black, for \$9; James Swaim, eight-cent, for \$7; United States Proprietary Medicine Company, six-cent, black, for \$10.50. On pink paper: Brown's Jamaica Ginger, for \$5.25; Dr. C. C. Moore, two-cent, black, for \$5.80; and several others, from \$2 to \$3 each. On watermarked paper: Seabury & Johnson, one-cent, lake, for \$15.

From the *Republican*, Springfield, Mass., February 24, 1888.

MR. STERLING'S PART III. SALE.

The third auction sale of E. B. Sterling's interesting winter series was held at New York last Thursday and was quite as successful as the others. The net proceeds were about \$900, which is very good considering that the collection was almost wholly made up of United States revenue stamps, which comparatively few collect. The list contained an entire series of match and playing card stamp, with selections of State revenue, document,

medicine and United States postage stamps. Some of the varieties sold as follows: Match Stamps, Old Paper—Brown & Durling, one-cent, black, \$20; Byam, Carleton & Co., one-cent, black, unperforate, \$8.25; one-cent black or buff wrapper, \$3.60; Chicago Match Co., one-cent, black, \$5; P. T. Ives, eight-cent, blue, \$4.40; one-cent, blue, \$5; T. Gorman & Bro., one-cent, black, \$5.50; Jock & Wilder, one-cent, red, only three known, \$26; John J. Macklin & Co., one-cent, black, \$20; Pierce Match Company, one-cent, green, \$18; Wise & Co., one-cent, black, \$6; Zisemann Griesheim & Co., one-cent, green, \$8.50. Silk Paper—D. Burhans & Co., one-cent, black, \$10.25; Greenleaf & Co., five-cent, orange, \$5.25; New York Match Company, five-cent, blue, \$6.50; Wilmington Parlor Match Company, one-cent, black, \$4. All the Pink Paper series went cheap. Watermarked Paper—B. Bendel & Co., one-cent, brown, only two known, \$10. Playing Card Stamps, Old Paper—Charles Goodall, five-cent, black, only two known, \$3.90. The State revenues all sold low. The high value document stamps went for good prices as follows: First series, unperforate, \$200 conveyance, \$8.25; perforate, six-cent, proprietary, \$10.75; \$20 orange-brown probate of will, 13.75; same, orange, \$12.50; duplicate, \$11; \$200, not perfect, \$6.50. Second series, violet paper, \$200, for \$15.20; pink paper, \$25 for \$3.50; \$50 for \$4.10. Few of the medicine stamps deserve notice; of the old paper series, Kelly's "Old Cabin" Bitters, four-cent black, brought \$10.50. A few United States postage stamps were offered. A die A, St. Louis ten-cent, brought \$21; a three-cent rose of 1867, grill covering the entire stamp, went for \$8.20; a three-cent scarlet for \$4.20; a \$20 department of State, unused, for \$13; a "K corners" 1853 stamped envelope entire, for only \$2; a twenty-four-cent lilac 1860, unperforate, for \$6.25; a five-cent blue border newspaper stamp of 1865, for \$3.25.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, Ill., March, 1888.

NEW YORK NOTES.

Part II. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's Galleries on January 26th and 27th, from 7 till 9:20 each evening. Lots 1 to 581 composed the first night's sale and Lots 582 to 1,107 the second. As the catalogue consisted almost entirely of revenue stamps, the attendance was not very large. About twenty persons were present each evening. Some stamps sold low, while others went for more than their catalogue price. Something seemed to have struck the entire U. S. two-cent stamped envelopes of the October, November, and Kellogg dies, as lots of them, containing about twenty pieces, sold for from twelve to fifteen cents each, while a set of sixty-eight entire envelopes, September, 1887, sold for twelve cents each, or \$8.16 the set. Mr. Sterling had a standing bid of forty cents each on all the oddities in entire envelopes, and they were sold for from forty to ninety cents each, till the albinos were reached; as nobody seemed to want them they were bunched and knocked down for forty cents each. There was little

bidding on the State revenues; most of them were secured by the Scott Co., or by Mr. Gregory, at prices varying from six cents to \$6.10 each. The first issue documents, with double perforations, did not sell well; they brought from one-and-a-half to six cents each, up to the five-cent values. The remainder were bunched and knocked down for three cents each. Those of the second and third issues, however, sold better, bringing from ten to forty cents each; those which had been perforated with a sewing machine going for seventy-five cents apiece. Below are some of the prices realized, with the names of purchasers of the great rarities:

ODDITIES IN ENTIRE ENVELOPES.

Canada stamped impression on buff envelope, Knife C.....	\$2 00
Same, Knife D.....	2 10
1857, 1c., wrapper, gum on wrong end.....	3 75
1875, 5c., Taylor, on blue paper, size $4\frac{1}{2}$, no watermark.....	3 10
California State revenue, \$45, purple, at.....	6 10

DOCUMENT STAMPS—FIRST ISSUE.

\$200 00 unperforate.....	9 30
200 00 partly perforate.....	8 00
06 proprietary, perforate, original gum.....	10 25
20 00 probate of will, orange.....	20 25
20 00 probate of will, color chemically changed to brown.....	13 50
200 00 perforate, original gum, unused, Mr. Adenaw.....	20 00
200 00 perforate, used.....	11 25

DOCUMENT STAMPS—SECOND ISSUE.

20 00 pink paper.....	6 00
200 00 violet paper, fine.....	10 00
500 00 violet paper, very fine, Rev. Mr. Holman.....	57 50

PROPRIETARY—SECOND ISSUE.

1 00 green.....	7 00
5 00 green, unused, very fine, original gum.....	13 50

INVERTED MEDALIONS.

01 second series, document.....	5 50
02 " " " ".....	3 75
10 " " " unused.....	7 00
25 " " " ".....	4 25
50 " " " unused.....	5 00
1 00 " " " ".....	6 00
5 00 " " " Mr. Adenaw.....	10 25
02 third series.....	2 50
05 " " " ".....	5 00
01 second series, proprietary.....	4 50
Collection of 267 license stamps.....	18 69

MEDICINE STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

D. S. Barnes, 4c., vermilion, perforations only at top.....	\$5 50
X. Bazin, 2c., blue, Scott Co.....	10 50
Bennet, Pieters & Co., 6c.....	7 75
P. H. Drake & Co., 2c., black, original gum.....	10 50
Fleming Bros., 2c., black, liver pill, damaged.....	9 75
J. T. Husband, 2c., violet, very fine, Mr. Wells.....	18 00
D. Jayne & Son, 1c., blue, perforated.....	5 00
D. Jayne & Son, 4c., green, perforated.....	5 50
J. B. Kelly & Co., 4c., black, uncut, Scott Co.....	12 00
J. Lippman & Bro., 4c., blue, original gum.....	8 25
T. W. Mardsen, 2c., blue, damaged, Mr. Burger.....	12 25
Mercado & Scully, 2c., black.....	9 00
J. Swain, 3c., uncut.....	7 00
U. S. Prop. Med. Co., 6c., black, Scott Co.....	10 50

SILK PAPER.

J. Lippman & Bro., 4c., blue.....	5 20
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PINK PAPER.

Brown's Jamaica Ginger.....	5 25
Dr. C. C. Moore, 2c., black, original gum.....	5 80

WATERMARK PAPER.

Seabury & Johnson, 1c., lake, original gum, Mr. Terrett.....	15 00
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Total for 1,107 lots, about.....\$1,374 00

Part III. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's rooms on February 16th, at 7 P. M. 525 lots were offered and the sale was over by 9:45 P. M. About thirty persons were present. Mr. Sterling, for some reason, was absent, his bids being executed by the auctioneer. The bidding was lively most of the time, and very good prices were realized throughout. Below are all prices of five dollars and over obtained, with the names of the buyers of the great rarities:

MATCH STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

Brown & Durling, 1c., black, very fine, Scott Co.....	\$20 25
Byam, Carlton & Co., 1c., black on white, two heads to left.....	8 25
Chicago Match Co., 1c., black.....	5 00
W. E. Doolittle, 1c., blue.....	5 00
T. Gorman & Bro., 1c., black, mended.....	5 50
Jock & Wilder, 1c., red, fine, Mr. Burger.....	26 00
J. J. Macklin & Co., 1c., black, Scott Co.....	20 00
Pierce Match Co., 1c., green, Scott Co.....	18 00
Wise & Co., 1c., black.....	6 00
Zizeman, Griesheim & Co., 1c., green.....	8 00

MATCH STAMPS—SILK PAPER.

D. Burnhams & Co., 1c., black, Scott Co.....	\$10 25
Greenleaf & Co., 5c., orange.....	5 25
New York Match Co., 5c., blue, torn in two.....	6 00

WATERMARK PAPER.

B. Bendel & Co., 1c., brown, Scott Co.....	10 00
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MEDICINE STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters, 4c., black, uncut, Scott Co.....	10 50
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DOCUMENT STAMPS—FIRST ISSUE.

\$200 00 unperforated.....	8 25
06 proprietary, unused, original gum, Rev. Mr. Alman.....	10 75
20 00 orange brown, probate of will.....	13 75
20 00 orange, probate of will.....	12 50
20 00 orange, probate of will.....	11 00
200 00 small punch hole.....	6 50

SECOND ISSUE—VIOLET PAPER.

20 00 fine.....	5 10
200 00 fine, Rev. Mr. Alman.....	15 50

POSTAGE STAMPS.

St. Louis, 10c., die A, unused, but slightly torn, Mr. Wuesthoff.....	21 00
1860, 24c., lilac, unperforated, unused.....	6 25
1867, 3c., rose, grilled all over, unused.....	6 20
State Department, \$20, unused.....	13 00

Total for 595 lots..... \$884 71

Part IV. of the Sterling collection, including such stamps as a ten-cent St. Louis, four copies of the \$20 probate of will, etc., together with a collection of foreign stamps, the property of Nathaniel Payne, Esq., of Worcester, Mass., will be sold at Leavitt's, under the auspices of Mr. Ed. Frossard, about the last of March.

From the *Philatelic Journal of America*, St. Louis, Mo., March, 1888.

AUCTION SALE.

Part III. of the Sterling collection, consisting of revenues, including entire series of match and playing card stamps, also collections of medicine, document, State revenue, and also a few more match stamps, and a few U. S. and Departments, was sold at auction on the evening of February 16th, at the auction rooms of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., 887 Broadway, New York city. Among those present were Mr. R. Wuesthoff, Mr. Ed. Frossard, R. R. Bogert, Henry L. Calman, Jos. Rechert, A. Oakley Hobby, Wm. H. Lightstone, of

Evansville, Ind., Chas. Gregory, Rev. W. H. Holman, J. N. T. Levick, Rev. Samuel Alman, and a number of others. Mr. Sterling could not attend in person, as his presence was required at the Dinner of the Trenton Board of Trade, which took place that same evening, and especially as he was one of the Dinner Committee. Some of the prices obtained were up to the average, while again some were below. The following are a few of the best prices realized:

MATCH STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

Brown & Durling, one-cent, black (bought at Scott's sale for \$30), sold to Scott for \$20.50; W. E. Doolittle, one-cent, blue, brought \$5; Wm. Gates, six-cent, black, with original gum, went for \$5.50; Jock & Wilder, one-cent, red, (only three said to be known,) sold to Burger for \$26; John J. Macklin & Co., one-cent, black, was disposed of to Scott for \$20; Wise & Co., one-cent, black, went for \$6; Ziseman, Griesheim & Co., one-cent, green, sold for \$8.50 to Scott.

SILK PAPER.

D. Burhans & Co., one-cent, black, sold to Scott for \$10.25; Greenleaf & Co., five-cent, orange, also sold to Scott, for \$5.25; New York Match Co., five-cent, slightly damaged, sold to Mr. Gregory, for \$6.50; Wilmington Parlor Match Co., one-cent, black, original gum, sold for \$4 to Scott.

PINK PAPER.

The prices for specimens on pink paper ranged from twelve and a half cents to sixty cents apiece.

WATERMARKED PAPER.

B. Bendel & Co., one-cent, brown (only two said to be known), sold for \$10 to Scott; Jas. L. Clark, one-cent, green, rouletted, sold for \$2.60; P. T. Ives, one-cent, blue, rouletted, sold for \$2.60; Wm. Roeber, one-cent, blue, rouletted, sold for \$2.50.

PLAYING CARD STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

A. Dougherty, two-cent, orange, \$1.25; Chas. Goodall, five-cent, black, (only two said to be known,) sold for \$3.90 to Burger. The others brought from ten cents to \$1.25, according to rarity.

U. S. POSTAGE, ETC.

St. Louis, ten-cent, die A, unused, (Mr. Sterling is said to have valued this rarity at over \$60,) sold to Mr. Wuesthoff for \$21; 1867, three-cent, rose, grill covering entire stamp, unused, sold to Mr. Bogert for \$8.20; 1867, three-cent, scarlet, used, sold for \$4.20; Department of State, \$20, unused, sold for \$13; a New York, 1845, five-cent black, sold for \$2.50; an unperforated, unused specimen of the twenty-four-cent lilac, 1860 issue, U. S., sold for \$6.25.

STATE REVENUE STAMPS.

State revenue stamps brought on the average from ten cents to one dollar, according to rarity.

DOCUMENT REVENUES—FIRST SERIES.

Unperforated—\$15 mortgage, sold for \$2.60; a \$200 sold for \$8.25, to Scott. Perforated—six-cent, proprietary, unused, original gum, sold for \$10.75 to Rev. Mr. Alman; \$20, orange brown, probate of will, sold for \$13.75 to Mr. Alman; another orange shade went for \$12.50; still another sold for \$11 to Mr. Massamore; \$200, small hole punched in it, sold for \$6.50.

SECOND SERIES—VIOLET PAPER.

\$20, sold for \$5.10; \$25, sold for \$4; \$50, sold for \$7.20; \$200, sold for \$15.50, to Rev. Mr. Alman; one-cent, inverted medalion, sold for \$4.10.

PINK PAPER.—\$25, sold for \$3.50; \$50, sold for \$4.10.

MEDICINE REVENUES—OLD PAPER.

J. F. Henry, two-cent, violet, sold for \$2.75; Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters, four-cent, black, uncut, sold to Scott for \$10.50; Fetridge & Co., two-cent, vermilion, sold for \$2.50.

Part IV. of the Sterling collection will be sold sometime during the end of March or the beginning of April. Among the rarities will be several \$20 probate of will document revenues.

From the *American Philatelist*, (Journal of A. P. A.,) Phila, Pa., March 10, 1888.

Part III. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's rooms on February 16th, at 7 P. M. 595 lots were sold, and the sale was over by 9:45 P. M. About thirty persons were present, including Messrs. Frossard, Bogert, Reclert, Lightstone, (on his way to Buenos Ayres, from Evansville, Ind.,) H. L. Calman, (who purchased nearly all the rarities,) Levick, Adenaw, Burger, Wells, Alman, (who, it seems, sold only a few of his duplicates at Casey's last sale.) C. Gregory and Wuesthoff. Mr. Sterling, for some reason, was absent, his bids being executed by the auctioneer. The bidding was lively most of the time, and very good prices were realized throughout. Below are all prices of five dollars and over obtained, with the buyers of the great rarities:

MATCH STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

Brown & Durling one-cent, black, very fine, Scott Co.....	\$20 25
Byam, Carlton & Co., one-cent, black on white, two heads to left.....	8 25
Chicago Match Co., one-cent, black.....	5 00
W. E. Doolittle, one-cent, blue.....	5 00
T. Gorman & Bro., one-cent, black, mended.....	5 50
Jock & Wilder, one-cent, red, fine, Mr. Burger.....	26 00
J. J. Macklin & Co., one-cent, black, Scott Co.....	20 00
Pierce Match Co., one-cent, green, Scott Co.....	18 00
Wise & Co., one-cent, black.....	6 00
Ziseman, Greisheim & Co., one-cent, green.....	8 00

SAME—SILK PAPER.

D. Burhans & Co., one-cent, black, Scott Co.....	\$10 25
Greenleaf & Co., five-cent, orange.....	5 25
New York Match Co., five-cent, blue, torn in two.....	6 00

SAME—WATERMARK PAPER.

B. Bendel & Co., one-cent, brown, Scott Co.....	10 00
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MEDICINE STAMPS—OLD PAPER.

Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters, four-cent, black, uncut, Scott Co.....	10 50
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DOCUMENT STAMPS—FIRST ISSUE.

\$200 00 unperforated.....	8 25
06 proprietary, unused, original gum, Rev. Mr. Alman.....	10 75
20 00 orange brown, probate of will, Rev. Mr. Alman.....	13 75
20 00 orange, probate of will.....	12 50
Another.....	11 00
200 00 small punch hole.....	6 50

SAME—SECOND ISSUE—VIOLET PAPER.

20 00 fine.....	5 10
200 00 fine, Rev. Mr. Alman.....	15 50

POSTAGE STAMPS.

St. Louis, ten-cent, die A, unused but slightly torn, Mr. Wuesthoff...	21 00
1860, twenty-four-cent, lilac, unperforated, unused.....	6 25
1867, three-cent, rose, grilled all over, unused.....	8 20
State Department, \$20, unused.....	13 00
Total for 595 lots.....	384 71

Part IV. of the Sterling collection, including such stamps as a ten-cent St. Louis, four copies of the \$20 probate of will, etc., together with a collection of foreign stamps, the property of Nathaniel Payne, Esq., of Worcester, Mass., will be sold at Leavitt's, under the auspices of Mr. Ed. Frossard, about the last of March.

From the *Badger State Philatelist*, Delavan, Wis., March, 1888.

Part III. of the Sterling collection was sold at auction at the auction rooms of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., 787 Broadway, New York, on the 16th inst. The collection comprised many rare stamps, principally match and medicine, though a few postage and department stamps were included. Most of the stamps sold well and good prices were obtained.

From the *Youth's Ledger*, New York City, March, 1888.

Part III. of the Sterling collection, consisting of revenue stamps, including entire series of match and playing card, selections of State revenue, document, medicine and match stamps; also a few U. S. and Departments, was sold at auction on February 16th, at Leavitt's auction room, 787 Broadway. Among those present were Ed. Frossard, R. Wuesthoff, A. Oakley Hobby, H. L. Calman, J. N. T. Levick, R. R. Bogert, Jos. Rechert, C. A. Burger, Rev. W. H. Holman, Chas. Gregory and Rev. Samue Alman. Mr. Sterling was absent, he having to attend the Dinner of the Trenton Board of Trade, held that evening, of which he was one of the Dinner Committee. Many rare and desirable stamps were disposed of, the following being a few: Match Stamps, Old Paper—Brown & Durling, one-cent, black, (bought at the Scott sale for \$30,) sold for \$20.50 to Scott; Chicago Match Co., one-cent, black, \$5; W. E. Doolittle, one-cent, blue, \$5; Wm. Gates, six-cent, black, original gum, \$5.50; Jock & Wilder, one-cent, red, (only three known, valued at \$50,) sold to Mr. Burger for \$26; John J. Macklin & Co., one-cent, black, \$20, sold to Scott; Wise & Co., one-cent, black, sold for \$6 to Mr. Hart; Ziseman, Griesheim & Co., one-cent, green, sold for \$8.50 to Scott. Silk Paper—D. Burhans & Co., one-cent, black, sold for \$10.50 to Scott; Greenleaf & Co., five-cent, orange, sold for \$5.25 to Scott; New York Match Co., five-cent, blue, \$6.50, to Mr. Gregory; Wilmington Parlor Match Co., one-cent, black, with original gum, \$4, to Scott. Watermarked Paper—B. Bendel & Co., one-cent, brown, only two said to be known, sold for \$10 to Scott. Playing Card Stamps, Old Paper—A. Dougherty, two-cent, orange, \$1.25; Chas. Goodall, five-cent, black; of which but two are said to be known, sold to Mr. Burger for \$3.90. United States Postage, etc.—St. Louis, ten-cent, die A, unused, very fine, small tear, (valued by Mr. Sterling at over \$60,) sold to Mr. Wuesthoff, for \$21; 1867, three-cent, rose, grill covering entire stamp, unused, sold for \$8.20 to Mr. Bogert; three-cent scarlet, used, sold for \$4.20 to Rev. W. H. Holman; State Department, \$20, unused, \$13. State revenues brought on the average from ten cents to one dollar; nothing of special rarity was offered among them. Document Revenue, First Series—\$200, unperforated, sold for \$8.25 to Scott; six-cent, proprietary, perforated, unused and with original gum, sold for \$10.75 to Mr. Alman; \$20, orange brown, probate of will, perforated, brought \$13.75 from the same buyer; another orange specimen, sold for \$12.50; still another sold to Mr. Massamore, for \$11. (Sterling has about four more of these, which will most likely be in his next sale). Second Series, Violet Paper—\$20, sold for \$5.10; \$50, sold for \$7.20; \$200, sold to Rev. Mr. Alman for \$15.50; one-cent, inverted medalion, sold for \$4.10, to Mr. Gregory. Second Series, Pink Paper—\$25, sold for \$3.50; \$50, for \$4.10. Medicine Stamps, Old Paper—Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters, four-cent, black, uncut, \$10.50. Match Stamps, Old Paper—P. T. Ives, eight-cent, blue, original gum, \$4.40. U. S.—New York, 1845, five-cent, black, \$2.50; 1860, twenty-four-cent lilac, unperforated, unused, \$6.25; newspaper stamp, 1865, five-cent, blue, with border, unused, \$3.25.

From the *Philatelic Journal of America*, March, 1888.

Part IV. of the Sterling collection will be sold sometime during the end of March or the beginning of April. Among the rarities will be several \$20 probate of will document revenues.

From the *Republican*, Springfield, Mass., March 31st, 1888.

* * * * *

Mr. Sterling's Part IV. sale, Thursday evening, came too late to be reported in this article.

From the *Stamp Collector's Figaro*, Chicago, April, 1888.

NEW YORK AUCTION SALE—THE STERLING COLLECTION.

Part III. of the Sterling collection, consisting of revenue stamps, including entire series of match and playing card stamps, also selections of medicine, match, document, State revenue and U. S. postage stamps, was sold at auction, on the evening of February 16th, at the auction rooms of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., 787 Broadway, New York City. Among those in attendance were R. Wuesthoff, Ed. Frossard, R. R. Bogert, Henry Calman, Jos. Rechert, J. Oakley Hobby, Wm. H. Lightstone, of Evansville, Ind., J. N. F. Levick, Rev. Samuel Alman, Rev. Wm. H. Holman, Chas. Gregory, and a number of others.

Mr. Sterling was unable to attend in person as his presence was required at the Trenton Board of Trade Anniversary Dinner and on which he was a member of the Dinner Committee. Some of the stamps brought fair prices and some went cheap. The following are a few of the best prices realized:

MATCH REVENUES.

Old Paper—Brown & Durling, one-cent, black, purchased at the Scott sale for \$30, sold for \$20.50; W. E. Doolittle, one-cent, blue, brought \$5; Wm. Gates, six-cent, black, with original gum, went for \$5.50; Jock & Wilder, one-cent, red, (only three said to be known,) sold to Mr. Burger for \$26; John J. Macklin & Co., one-cent, black, was disposed of for \$20; Wise & Co., one-cent, black, went for \$6; Ziseman, Griesheim & Co., one-cent, green, sold for \$8.50; Silk Paper—D. Burhans & Co., one-cent, black, sold for \$10.25; Greenleaf & Co., five-cent, orange, also sold for \$5.25; New York Match Co., five-cent, blue, slightly damaged, sold for \$6.50; Wilmington Parlor Match Co., one-cent, black, original gum, sold for \$4. Pink Paper—The prices for specimens on pink paper ranged from twelve and a half to sixty cents apiece. Watermarked Paper—B. Bendel & Co., one-cent, brown, (only two said to be known,) sold for \$10; Jas. L. Clark, one-cent, green, rouletted, sold for \$2.60; P. T. Ives, one-cent, blue, rouletted, sold for \$2.60; Wm. Roeber, one-cent, blue, rouletted, sold for \$2.50.

PLAYING CARD REVENUES.

Old Paper—A. Dougherty, two-cent, orange, \$1.25; Chas. Goodall, five-cent, black, (only two said to be known,) sold for \$3.90 to Burger. The others on silk, pink and watermarked paper, etc., brought from ten cents to \$1.25, according to rarity.

U. S. POSTAGE, ETC.

St. Louis, ten-cent, die A, unused, (valued by Mr. Sterling at over \$60.) sold to Mr. Wuesthoff for \$21; 1867, three-cent, rose, grill covering entire stamp, unused, sold for \$8.20; 1867, three-cent, scarlet, used, sold for \$4.20; Department of State, \$20, unused, sold for \$13; a New York, 1845, five-cent, black, sold for \$2.50; an unperforated, unused specimen of the twenty-four-cent, lilac, 1860 issue, U. S., sold for \$6.25.

STATE REVENUES.

These brought on the average from ten cents to one dollar, according to rarity.

DOCUMENT REVENUES.

First Series, Unperforated—\$15, mortgage, sold for \$2.60; \$200, sold for \$8.25. Perforated—Six-cent, proprietary, unused and with original gum, sold to Rev. Mr. Alman, for \$10.75; a \$20, orange brown, probate of will, sold to Mr. Alman, for \$13.75; another brought \$12.50; a \$200, with a small hole, sold for \$6.50. Second Series, Violet Paper—\$20, sold for \$5.10; \$25, sold for \$4; \$50, sold for \$7.20; \$200, sold for \$15.50 to Rev. Mr. Alman; one-cent, inverted medalion, sold for \$4.10. Pink Paper—\$25, sold for \$3.50; \$50, sold for \$4.10.

MEDICINE REVENUES.

Old Paper—J. F. Henry, two-cent, violet, sold for \$2.75; Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters, four-cent, black, uncut, sold for \$10.50; Pettridge & Co., two-cent, vermilion, sold for \$2.50.

Part IV. of the Sterling collection will be sold some time during the end of March or beginning of April.

From the *American Philatelist*, (Journal of A. P. A.,) Phila., Pa., April, 1888.

Part IV. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's, on March 29th, from 7 to 10:15 P. M. About thirty persons were present, including Messrs. Adenaw, Alman, Bogert, Burger, Collin, Corwin, Frossard, Muecke, Rechert, Sterling and Wuesthoff. The lots sold consisted of U. S. entire and cut envelopes, postage, document, match, medicine, and playing card stamps, in 502 lots, the property of Mr. Sterling, together with the Paine collection of postage stamps in 120 lots. Except in the document stamps, very good prices were obtained throughout. There was nothing rare offered in match, medicine and foreign stamps. Below are some of the prices obtained:

U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS.

N. Y., 1843, 3c., blue, on blue glazed paper, cracked and used.....	\$3 50
St. Louis, die B, 10c., slightly damaged, used, Mr. C. A. Burger.....	17 00
1869, 90c., unused and grilled.....	5 00
Navy, 90c., used, printed double at left.....	5 75
State, \$2, unused.....	2 65

U. S. ENTIRE ENVELOPES.

2c., die D, wrapper, unused.....	7 00
5c., Garfield, blue, No. 3, "Star," unused.....	2 50
5c., Garfield, fawn, No. 7, unused.....	2 50

U. S. CUT ENVELOPES.

1860, 4c., on buff, unused.....	4 75
1861, 3c., pink on orange, unused.....	3 00
1870, 10c., black on white, unused.....	3 40
1870, 90c., on amber, unused.....	2 65
1870, 90c., on cream, unused.....	3 10
1879, 2c., on white, die D, used.....	5 00
War, 1875, 10c., on white, unused.....	3 55

U. S. DOCUMENT STAMPS.

\$20, probate of will, perforated, Mr. Hencken.....	13 25
Another, Mr. Bogert	11 25
Another, Mr. Sterling	11 00
Another, Mr. Sterling	10 00
(The above four stamps showed each a line of stitches.)	
Second series, \$25, patched.....	3 25

PLAYING CARD STAMP.

C. Goodall, 5c., black, old paper.....	5 60
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ALBUMS.

Large 4to, Morocco, Mr. Sterling's private album.....	9 00
Square, 8vo., Morocco, pages removed.....	01

Total for 626 lots..... \$816 69

Part V. of the Sterling collection is in preparation for sale early in May next.

From the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago, May, 1888.

Part IV. of the Sterling collection was sold at Leavitt's, on March 29th, from 7 to 10:15 P. M. About thirty persons were present, including Messrs. Adenaw, Alman, Bogert, Burger, Collin, Corwin, Frossard, Muecke, Rechert, Sterling and Wuesthoff. The lots sold consisted of U. S. entire and cut envelopes, postage, document, match, medicine and playing card stamps, in

502 lots, the property of Mr. Sterling, together with the Paine collection of postage stamps in 120 lots. Except in the document stamps, very good prices were obtained throughout. There was nothing new offered in match, medicine and foreign stamps. Below are some of the prices obtained:

U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS.	
N. Y., 1843, 3c., blue, on glazed paper, cracked and used.....	\$3 50
St. Louis, die B, 10c., slightly damaged, used; Mr. C. A. Burger.....	17 00
1869, 90c., unused and grilled.....	5 00
Navy, 90c., used, printed double at left.....	5 75
State, \$2, unused.....	2 65
U. S. ENTIRE ENVELOPES.	
2c., die D, wrapper, unused.....	7 00
5c., Garfield, blue, No. 3, "Star," unused.....	2 50
5c., Garfield, fawn, No. 7, unused.....	2 50
U. S. CUT ENVELOPES.	
1860, 4c., on buff, unused.....	4 75
1861, 3c., pink, on orange, unused.....	3 00
1870, 10c., black, on white, unused.....	3 40
1870, 90c., on amber, unused.....	2 65
1870, 90c., on cream, unused.....	3 10
1879, 2c., on white, die D, used.....	5 00
War, 1875, 10c., on white, unused.....	3 55
U. S. DOCUMENT STAMPS.	
\$20, probate of will, perforated, Mr. Hencken.....	13 25
“ “ “ “ “ Mr. Bogert.....	11 25
“ “ “ “ “ Mr. Sterling.....	11 00
“ “ “ “ “ Mr. Sterling.....	10 00
(The above four stamps showed each a line of stitches.)	
Second series, \$25, patched.....	3 25
PLAYING CARD STAMP.	
C. Goodall, 5c., black, old paper.....	5 60
ALBUMS.	
Large, 4to, Morocco, Mr. Sterling's private album.....	9 00
Square, 8vo., Morocco, pages removed.....	01
Total for 626 lots.....	\$816 69

From the *Republican*, Springfield, Mass., April 28, 1888.

Pittsfield actually has a stamp magazine. W. F. Jillison, the publisher, is a young man with lots of courage to tackle the venture, and turns out a handsome looking magazine, inside and out. His second number contains the familiar portrait of E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J.

Copy of your fifth edition Revenue Catalogue received to-day. I have not had an opportunity to look it through thoroughly, but a hasty examination satisfies me that it is the best work of its kind ever published and well deserves to be what you claim for it, "The Standard."

Yours truly, HENRY F. KING.

Your Revenue Catalogue received, which is excellent, and ought to find universal praise. There may be some different views in regard to prices; in regard to arrangement, however, there can be no dissenting made, as its clearness, correctness and minute description, must satisfy all demands. I wish the same could be said of catalogues dealing with foreign stamps and published in this country, which so far, have not been raised much above the level of regular price lists.

Yours truly, JOS. RECHERT.

The more I use your gummed paper the more I like it.

Respectfully yours, S. D. REED.

From the *Eastern Philatelist*, Fitchburg, Mass., May, 1888.

Sterling's Fifth Edition Revenue Catalogue is a fine work of 168 pages, listing over 4,000 varieties of U. S. Revenues. Every philatelist, whether a collector of revenues or not, should obtain one.

To our Stamp Friends and Others.

THIS PAMPHLET contains one hundred* and ninety press notices and three hundred and fifty individual testimonials from all sections of the country and is the outgrowth of the high estimation with which the stamp collecting public testify to our good works in aiding collectors, both amateur and advanced, in determining the values to be placed upon their collections, and the true guide for their various arrangement. Our work has been that of a long, hard-earned victory, for from the start we had much to contend with. Without capital, but full of pluck and determination, we were bound to succeed, and what we have accomplished is best known by the high appreciation of collectors, as shown by the testimonials presented.


Thankful for past favors, I am now ready to offer inducements to all desiring to buy stamps, coins and curios.

Respectfully,


E. B. STERLING,
132 E. State St., Trenton, N. J.

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COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY

E. B. STERLING,

Member of the New Jersey Historical Society, Trustee of the American Philatelic Association, Member of the National Philatelic Society of New York, Quaker City Philatelic Society of Philadelphia, American Numismatic and Archæological Society of New York, and other Associations.

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