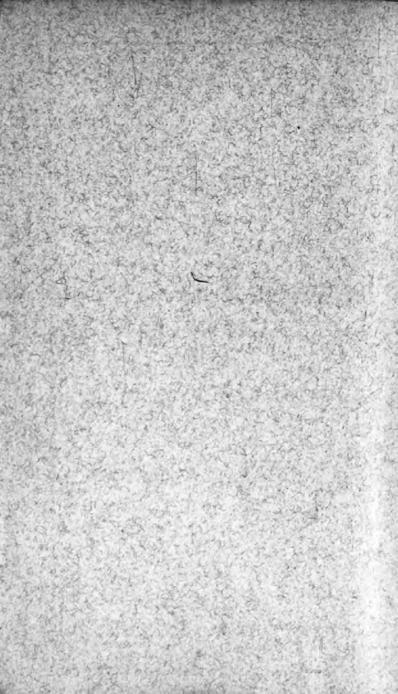
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1882



THE

Stamp Collector's Companion.

PRICE 15 CENTS.

CINCINNATI, O. COLLING & MILLS.





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tamp Collector's Companion.



PREFACE.

We naturally undertook this work with some fear and doubt as to its auccess. But the encouragement from all dealers and Philatelists in general has been so great that we have carried out our idea as well as the shortness of time allotted for its compiling would allow.

Our object in placing this book before the public was to publish a philatelic pamphlet which should be interesting to the Dealer and advanced Philatelist, a friend to the mediocre Collector, but an invaluable Companion to the beginner. How far we have succeeded we leave to the decision of the public.

We hope, before long, to follow this work with another, of which this shall be but the forerunner. We will place the sale of the book in reliable hands, and hope to meet with success.

Thanking the public and Dealers in especial for the kind assistance already rendered us, we remain

Respectfully Yours,

COLLINS & MILLS,

The Publishers.

PREFACE.

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THE

Stamp Collector's Companion.

COLLINS & MILLS,

CINCINNATI, O.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.

By The Rev. R. B. EARER.

[Written for the Stamp News.]

These notes are intended principally for young Collectors; so I hope my more experienced readers will not be disappointed with what will be, to them, a twice-told tale. The beginner, however, needs instructions on many points, besides what he can find in the handbooks and catalogues; and this he can only find by wading through the pages of the various stamp magazines. I write, therefore, on the hypothesis of my readers being beginners, who want to know a little of everything connected with stamp collecting. First, then, in the beginner's estimation, comes

THE ALBUM.

My own opinion with regard to this is that it does not particularly matter what sort of an album the beginner has, so long as the stamps are properly mounted in it, and not gummed down, or cut out. I am not an advocate for a costly blank album for the neophyte, as he is tolerably cortain to spoil his album before he has placed more than a few hundred stamps in it, owing to his want of experience; and besides, with a blank album, he would be apt to find his task too difficult. The first album, therefore, had better be something after the style of the "Imperial" or the "Universal;" from either of which experience would be gained,

before venturing on a more elaborate and costly volume. When I began, I had an "Oppen" given to me; and, as my collection grew, I transferred it from one edition to another of "Oppen," until it became too large for any such book; and I bought some blank volumes from Moens, which have lasted for my adhesives until quite lately. The things which ought to be attended to in buying an album are, that the spaces for stamps are on one side of the PAGE ONLY; that there are spaces for both perforated and unperforated sets; that the paper is as thick and strong as possible; and that there are plenty of guards through the book, so that when it is full it will shut properly, without the unsightly bulging so often seen. I should also strongly advise the Collector not to become the slave of his album; I mean that he should not too scrupulously follow the catalogue which may be contained in the book; otherwise he may reject many precious stamps, which he will, later on, not be able to procure again. This brings me to the next point, namely,

THE HANDBOOK.

If the Collector can read French, I would advise Moens' "PRICE CATALOGUE" as being the best of all; it contains almost everything, and in it will be found watermarks, perforations, &c., all duly chronicled. But, if French is not forthcoming, then Pemberton's "HANDBOOK" will be found very useful; it has numbers of illustrations, and, though not going deeply into all the varieties of perforation, &c., it contains quite as much as the beginner will be able to digest. I have heard Gray's Catalogue well spoken of, but I have never seen it.

By means of the handbook, whichever be chosen, the Collector will be able to see what stamps are left out of his album-catalogue. As a matter of fact I have never seen any album which did not omit a great many stamps, especially when there has been a variety of perforations in the stamps of any country. I should advise that the stamps omitted from the album-catalogue be mounted, when the Collector gets them, on sheets pasted to the guards of the

book, so that when, at last, the blank album stage is reached, the stamps will be at hand.

OBTAINING SPECIMENS.

For beginners, I should advise a good non-duplicate packet to be bought from some responsible dealer, as the quickest and cheapest way of getting a fair start. Some of the dealers sell these packets very cheaply, and the stamps would cost very much more to buy separately. But it is always best to buy of none but well-established dealers, who have a character to lose; as I am sorry to say that some of the sheets sent on approval by the the little petty boydealers are often masses of rubbish. I have seen sheets, all "warranted genuine," which did not contain one single genuine stamp; and the beginner is, of course, quite at the mercy of the swindlers, owing to his want of knowledge and experience. I shall have more to say about forgeries in my next article; but, meanwhile, I would repeat my advice as to buying of none but well-known men. I used to obtain a great many stamps by bothering my friends, until, at last, I fancy some of them considered me a nuisance; and, when any friend was going abroad, I used invariably to commission him to bring me a set of stamps from every different country to which he went.

MOUNTING ADHESIVES.

These should always be mounted with an hinge, so that the stamp can be lifted at any time to show the watermark, &c. I described and illustrated the best method of doing this in an article in the "Bazaar" newspaper some months ago, and the said article has been reprinted by several of the stamp journals since. It would be too long to describe the whole process fully here, but I may say that the top edge of the stamp should be gummed to the edge of a piece of thinnish paper a little smaller than the stamp; then, when it is dry, the paper is folded back behind the stamp, to form a hinge, a little dot of gum is put on the back of the hinge, and then the hinge is fastened by it in the album.

When it is fixed firmly in the book, the stamp can be lifted, and the date, watermark, perforations, and any other notes, can be written on the paper under the stamp; so that, by lifting the stamp, all the details concerning it can be read at any time. The stamps can, when thus mounted, be very easily removed from the book; for, at the worst, only the paper back or hinge will tear, and another can be made in a few moments. When the stamps are stuck down into the book in the old style, the paper and watermark can not be examined, and the collection is robbed of half its value; besides which, when a stamp so stuck down has to be removed, there is great danger of destroying it altogether. My stamps were all so stuck down in my first album; and thus, when I transferred them, a good percentage of them were utterly ruined. For mounting my stamps I have always used gum arabic, choosing the clear white sort, and making a little at a time with cold water. If a few lumps be put into a small wide-mouthed bottle, with enough water to cover them, the gum will be ready for use in a few hours. I prefer this to any of the mucilages which have acid added to them to keep them from going mouldy, as I find the acid very often discolors the stamps. However, the less gum is used the better; at least this is my experience, after twenty years of stamp collecting.

ENVELOPES AND POST CARDS.

These should, in my opinion, not be put with the adhesives at all. The albums, as a rule, only give spaces for cut specimens, and it is simple barbarity to cut them. A book with plain, very strong leaves, will serve to contain them, and I think that, though many plans have been suggested, the hinge plan is the easiest and simplest for mounting these as well as the adhesives; though two quite small hinges, one near each end of the top edge of the envelope or post card, will be found sufficient to hold it safely and securely. For those who prefer a more claborate plan, I would recommend that described and illustrated in the "Bazaar" newspaper, and in the "Philatelic Record," some tew months ago. I

got the idea from the "Record," and the "Record" got it from Mr. Freeman, an American Collector, who has mounted all his envelopes and post cards on this plan. To show how envelopes deteriorated in value by being cut, I may mention that, the other day a friend handed me four envelope stamps cut round closely, the same stamps cut square, with a small margin round them, and the same stamps entire. For the four which were cut close he asked one shilling each; for the four which were cut with a little margin, he asked five shillings each; and for the four which were entire, he asked FIFTEEN POUNDS each. Thus the seissors had made all the difference between four shillings and sixty pounds! Therefore, I would most decidedly recommend that envelopes and post cards should NEVER be cut; for, even if the Collector has no book for the reception of them in their entire state, they can always be kept in cigar boxes, or similar receptacles, until the book is ready for them. I have no cut onvelopes in my collection at all, so I am only recommending what I practice myself.

REMOVING PAPER FROM THE BACKS OF STAMPS.

Most stamps which come in a used state into the hands of the Collector have paper on their backs, and this, of course, must be removed before mounting them in the album. When I have a number of stamps to do, I generally get a large shallow dish, fill it with cold water, and float the stamps on the water, face upwards, being careful to keep the faces dry. When they have been on the water about five minutes, the backing can be generally easily removed by using a penknife to separate one corner, and gently pulling them apart. I always place the stamps on a sheet of clean blotting-paper for a moment, immediately I take them out of the water, so that the faces may not get wet during the operation; and, when the back is off, I lay them all, face downwards, upon another sheet of blotting-paper, until they are dry. The reason for all this care is because so many stamps are now printed in aniline or other soluble colors; and careless handling whilst wet will utterly destroy

stamps so printed. If the Collector has any doubt about this, I should recommend him to get one of the current Russian stamps, or the Interinsular carmine Bahamas, 1d. Then, if he will lay the stamp face downwards in the water for a few minutes, and afterwards rub the face of it with his finger, he will find that he can efface the larger portion of the design altogether. Thus, the face of the stamp should never be wetted at all; or, if it becomes wet, it must not be rubbed whilst in that condition. If there is any superfluity of gum on the back of the stamp, it can easily be scraped off with a penknife whilst the stamp is wet; but I should advise that only enough be removed to show the watermark, as, occasionally, the color of the gum is almost the only criterion by which to distinguish original stamps from reprints; as, for instance, the first set for Portugal, in which the originals have yellowish-brown gum, and the reprints quite white or clear gum.

REMOVING STAMPS WHICH HAVE BEEN STUCK DOWN IN AN OLD ALBUM.

When the stamps which have been stuck fast down in an old album are required to be removed into another, there is often great difficulty in getting them out without damage. I think, in such a case, the best plan is not to mind spoiling the album; as it is better to spoil that than the stamps. In such a case I always take a clean flat brush, and, dipping it in clean cold water, I brush the back of the page, and leave it for a few minutes. Then, if the stamps still stick, I repeat the operation, and generally find that, after a few minutes more, when the water has had time to sink into the paper, the stamps will come out without much trouble. They can then be treated as I recommended for those which had had their backs removed, and thoroughly dried before being put into the new album; of course mounting them on binges. As the stamps dry they often curl up very much. Those which are not embossed can be flattened by being put under a large book or some such weight, for a few hours; but a very light weight must be used for embossed ones, or

the relief may be destroyed. The old album, when empty, can be utilized as a receptucle for forgeries; as I should certainly recommend Collectors to keep all the forgeries; they come in useful afterwards, when there is a doubt; for they can be used as standards of comparison.

FORGERIES.

In a work such as this, I think that a few facts about forgeries will not be amiss, and I shall endeavor to point out a few points which must be observed before you can distinguish, with any accuracy, a well-executed forgery. Any Collector can learn with but little study, how to decide whether any suspicious looking stamps which he possesses are genuine or not. In many cases, however, a duplicate will be required for a comparison.

The rough imitations, simply produced by printing in the correct colors, from cuts, are worthy of no attention. I shall explain about such as are remarkable for the skill and shrewdness displayed by the forger.

Many forgeries are discovered from the perforation, as forgers often use but one machine for all their perforating, and all their stamps will be found perforated the same number of times. But, as all stamps of different countries, or even of the same countries, are not perforated the same number of times, these imitations can be detected, because of the wrong number of perforations. I have known of some stamps perforated only seven times, while others range even as high as fifteen. I learn from R. B. Earec, that the usual gauge employed in counterfeiting, perforates thirteen.

A Collector who has a doubtful stamp should be careful not to remove any of the gum, for in the case of the old stamps, the genuineness can often be settled by the gum alone. In the originals the gum will be found darkened in color, this change made by nature, the forger finds difficult to imitate.

Collectors who hitherto have given no notice to watermark, should learn what it is, and what it should be in every stamp, for here is where the forgers mostly fail. I clip from an article by the Rev. R. B. Earée, the nearest approach to success: "Lately I have come across one or two other forged water-marks, done by a different process. In these latter, as far as I can make out by examination of specimens, the form of the water-mark, has been engraved, and then used on the stamp, with great pressure, in an embossng press, without ink. The stamp has then been ironed out flat; but the pressure used with the die has made the paper transparent where the forged water-mark was embossed; the result being a capital imitation. I have, at present only seen these forged water-marks on some of the Tuscany stamps, and also on the 2 rigsbank skilling, first issue, of Denmark; but no doubt others will exist, even if they do not do so already. Therefore my readers must be careful not only to see that their stamps which ought to have a water-mark really do possess one, but also that it be the proper water-mark, as to size, shape, etc."

In a poor and carelessly executed forgery, one look at the cancellation is sufficient; but of late forgers have even given their attention to copying the cancellation mark. As the cancellation mark of all countries can not be learned, we can not hope to detect all stamps in this way. Always give your attention to the paper on which your stamp is printed. If your doubtful specimen will stand all the tests just mentioned, you are justified in claiming that it is good, provided that the design is correctly executed.

In conclusion I will state a few of the tricks which a skillful forger will employ to put his stamps in the hands of dealers and collectors. I have in my possession several specimens of the forged 10-cent Prince Edward's Island stamp, resembling and intended as one of the issue. The author of these bought up a large quantity of the genuine sets, and placing his among them, sold quite a large quantity. Many of our leading dealers were fooled upon this stamp, and a space was even allotted in our albums.

Another cute method is to send a forgery to the inexperienced editors of philatelic papers, and have the stamp chronicled as a new issue. Of course this establishes a sale for the forgery, if it be a good one. Dishonest dealers will adopt every mode of swindling their customers. "I heard of a well-known dealer, who was selling Brazil issue with small Roman figure, having forged perforations, in as much as the perforated are worth ten times as much as the unperforated." If you undertake the study of forgeries, I am sure you will find it an interesting branch of our hobby.

* Have a few specimens for sale.

(Collected for the Companion by C. Collins.)

THE POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

At last the monograph of British stamps has appeared, a volume of which was certainly needed, and which must inevitably have made its appearance sooner or later. No philatelical work has been executed in better style than, and none has involved more pains taking research and enquiry, taking us back, as it does, for a period of over three hundred years. Few, if any writers, could have been better suited to this work than Frederick A. Philbrick and Wm. A. S. Westoby. The former gentleman has been President of the Philatelic Society, London, since the resignation of Sir Daniel Cooper, and is one of the first authorities on matters philatelic, while Mr. Westoby is well known as a most energetic member of the society of which his colleage is president.

Undoubtedly the most complete and interesting portion of this work is that devoted to the essays of Great Britain. It is only Mr. Philbrick who could have chronicled such a complete list, seeing he possesses the best collection in existence. A collection brought together by Dr. John Edward Gray, founder of Gray's catalogue, about that time when stamp collecting was a real mania, and when estalogues were disposed of as quick as they could be printed.

The mere fact of Messrs. Sampson, Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington (publishers of the European edition of "Harper's Magazine"), being entrusted with its publication, gives the work a far more universal proclamation than is accorded to others of a like nature. At present the existence of our philatelic literature is confined to certain bounds, beyond which is the general public, entirely ignorant of what is going on amongst us. "The Postago and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain," has this important advantage over others, and will, no doubt, be found in the hands of many non-collectors. Indeed it is written in such an attractive style, that a perusal of it must form a pleasant digression to the reader of current literature, and no better introduction to our science could be wished.

Premising with the primeval attempts to establish a postage system and the 'penny post," the volume under review goes on to describe the Ad., Id., IAI. and 2d.—substantial line engraved, the first three red, the Id. blue—manufactured by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and proceeds to the first stamp prepared by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., which was the 4d. issued in July, 1855. Most of you will be aware that about two years ago the contract for the production of penny stamps was given to Messrs. De La Rue. Since the institution of the postage system in 1840, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had manufactured this stamp, and it is only lately that their costly system of steel engraving gave way to the lithographing process now adopted.

This, however, was only the case with these low value stamps which I have mentioned, and as De La Rue, are now sole manufacturers of our stamps, it may be well to record here chronologically all the values which have emanated from their ateliers. The first then was the 4d. in July, 1855, then follows the 6d., 1s., 9d., 3d., 10d., 2s., 5s., 2½d., 8d., 10d., £!, 1d., ½d., 1½d, 2d., and last, the 5d., which made its appearance as late as March, 1881. The only defective point is the meagre list of the registration envelopes, which came into operation, on the first of January, 1875.

Space precludes me entering into any description of the Telegraph Stamps, which occupy no small portion of the work. The impending assimilation of postage and inland revenue stamps with telegraph will tend to make this portion more appreciated than it would otherwise have been; for since their withdrawal, collectors will be desirous of possessing and knowing something about these.

In thanking the authors for securing from oblivion the many important facts connected with the subject, and for their untiring patience in grouping it so tastefully together, we earnestly hope they will long remain in the ranks they now adorn, and still continue to instruct us with what must be to them a "labor of love." The Philatelic Society. London, also deserve credit for their influential aid to this and similar undertakings.

T. MARTIN WEARS.
Rosemount, Downfield, near Dundee, Scotland.

STAMP COLLECTING.

Stamp collecting is very instructive, And of learning is very productive. The joys it affords are many and great; So, now, start collecting! why longer wait?

But how to begin, some do not know. On this subject, light we endeavor to throw: First, take from a letter a three-cent green; Or, if you prefer it, take one which is clean.

A twenty-five-cent album at first will suffice; In appearance is neat, and its make-up is nice. Insert your stamps carefully and study them well, Until their value and kind you can tell.

In a short time your interest will grow; Then select a large dealer whose prices are low. At first, it is best from his packets to buy, Then, sheets on approval, or sets you should try.

Subscribe to a paper; or better, to two; Read them carefully through and through. Philately is the name to adopt for your science; It sounds very well, and sets the world at defiance.

Having teken these hints and studied thus far, There is a zeal in the work which will carry you higher; There is an interest which lurks in the nature of mystery; Besides, it teaches you geography and history.

NOTES.

Stamp collecting began as soon as there were enough varieties to collect,

If you are not a Stamp Collector, become one at once. You can not know how interesting it is until you are fairly started.

Stamp collecting is the most useful, instructive and entertaining hobby of the day.

Everybody, man, woman and child, should have some occupation to amuse their leisure moments. Nothing is more pleasant than stamp collecting.

What use in sighing, what gain in reflecting, When you might be engaged in stamp collecting?

Philately is not a waste of time and a frivolous occupation; there are great men and students engaged in it. Princes, generals, doctors and lawyers can be mentioned.

The first stamp was issued by Great Britain in 1840, the first philatelic hand-book in the U.S. arose in 1863, and the first paper in 1864.

If you are an idle Collector, bestir yourself and become a true Philatelist.

It may be well to remember that the old U.S. stamps are growing rarer day by day.

We can give German Collectors who reside here the addresses of several excellent German stamp papers.

We have heard it rumored that Sir Rowland Hill is the inventor of the postage stamp.

It is stated, probably upon supposition, that the United States contains between 140,000 and 180,000, and Great Britain between 120,000 and 140,000 Collectors.

The surcharge "too late" on the 1d. green South Australian stamp does not constitute a variety.

The functions of an ideal English philatelic journal:—
"a correct description of all new issues, dry articles and catalogues of stamps, a column for communication among Collectors and reports of the doings of philatelic societies." That might do well over there, but here we need more spice, variety and originality.

America can boast of but few philatelic writers. We have capable men, but they are not so disposed.

Many collect unused stamps only. The collecting of both will be found much more interesting.

Japan has 4,377 post-offices and 42,290 miles of mail routes.

Benjamin Franklin was our first Postmaster-General.

The rates of postage on a single letter in England, since 1840, have been reduced from twenty-four to two cents.

The effigy of Queen Victoria adorns, by actual count, nine hundred and six postage stamps,

The postal card, now one of our greatest conveniences, was first used by Austria in 1869.

Spain leads with 220 adhesive stamps, the United States somes next with 179.

The first two-cent stamp in the United States was used on July 1, 1863.

Only one ninety-cent stamp was sold in Brooklyn during the year 1880.

John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis, Mo., keeps a complete collection of philatelic literature. This pamphlet will afford him one more choice specimen.

Great Britain, France and Germany have cheaper postage than we on domestic letters.

The stamps of Nicaragua will form a study for any lover of art.

An exhibition of postage stamps was held in Vienna a short time ago, and a neat sum was realized. There is now some talk of an exhibition in London. What can tend to more largely advertise our study?

The Rev. R. B. Earée, England's greatest philatelic writer, has been a Stamp Collector since 1862.

It is said that one of the English dealers has a stock of stamps worth forty thousand dollars.

The first stamps of British Guiana are considered among the rarest known.

The late Honduras postal cards were executed for that government by the publisher of the "Collector's Library Table."

America can boast of no philatelic writers. Why will not Chute, Trifet, Coster, etc., write for some of America's leading journals?

SLIGHT VARIATIONS.

"Variety is the spice of life." With this assurance there should be no doubt in our minds about collecting varieties of the same stamp. "Half the interest is in the search," and you will find the study of slight varieties one of the most interesting branches of Philately. A Collector who obtains and notes a few slight varieties, will always examine these stamps with deeper attention, whenever he may be disposed to examine his collection, and refresh his mind by the study of the many treasures which his album possesses. I will mention a few of the varieties which you may meet with at any time, and should be rendy to distinguish.

The 1847 issue of the United States exists, printed on white and on blueish tinted paper, the variation is very

slight and generally not classed. I have seen the 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12 cent of the 1861 issue, both perforated and unperforated. There are two varieties of the 5 cent 1861 issue, both of which Scott has spaced in his latest album. One is a dark brown, the other a very light, bordering almost upon yellow. The latter one is quite rare.

There are two sets of Alsace and Lorraine, the one with the reversed back-ground is considered the rarer. Antigua ld. exists in many shades, at least three of which can be distinctly classed. The 8 and 16 cent of the new issue of Argentine exist, both perforated and unperforated. The 1863 issue of Austria can be found, some with large perforations, others with noticeably smaller. The Azores stamps exist surcharged, in all kinds of type over Portugal stamps, done by young printers; these varieties should not be noted. Bahamas, the ld. is seen printed in carmine and vermilion, both of which are exceedingly rich; the carmine is the rarer. Have seen the 6d. Barbadocs, printed in orange and yellow, perhaps taded. The 1867 issue of Bavaria, are common, both perforated and unperforated. The unperforated are characterized by a silken thread running down the backs.

I possess specimens of the 1844 issue of Brazil, perforated; these are somewhat rarer than the unperforated. The 1866 issue exists, rouletted, as well as perforated. The 3 cent rose, 1870 issue of Canada is not commonly catalogued, although quite common, and forming a distinct variety from the red. I have the 6d. 1857 issue of Ceylon, on blue paper. Blue and greenish specimens of the 10 cent Confederate are noticeable. Have seen the 10 para, 1879, Egypt, in mauve and purple. Many of the 1854 issue of France exist, unperforated. The 6d. Grenada, exists in two very pretty and distinct shades—i. e. rose and orange. gr. 1872 issue of Germany is common, in reddish orange and yellowish orange. The 1841 issue of Great Britain can be found perforated and unperforated, both on white and greenish-blue paper. There are two shades of brown noticeable in the 1 lept., 1863, Greece.

The majority of Hamburg stamps can be found unperforated, somewhat rarer than the perforated. Others also exist, rouletted. Luxemburg, the 1 cent is found in brown and yellow. Natal, the 1871 issue is found surcharged in various ways. The 5 cent blue, 1866, Newfoundland, is found perforated, rouletted and unperforated. A very queer peculiarity is noticeable in the 5 para 1872 issue of Egypt, found with the centre inverted. The Nicaragua stamps are seen perforated and rouletted, without any change in price. Four hundred and fifteen varieties of Persian stamps have already been noted by variety collectors. The 1866 issue of Portugal is found unperforated. A well marked variety exists in the 5 bani, 1871 issue of Roumania, namely, red and rose. Have seen the 1d. St. Helena, unperforated.

The 5 cent Switzerland is often priced by dealers in the two shades of light and dark brown. I have mentioned but a few of the many common varieties. I am sure that after a small trial you will find it daily increasing in interest, and in a short time will be able to give a decided answer to the oft-repeated question, "Shall we collect slight variations?"

GLEANINGS.

The following sound sentiments were expressed by G. H. F. Gale, in the Philatelic Times:

Postcard collecting is rapidly gaining in popularity, and as the difficulty of mounting them has been overcome, those who study this branch of philately are daily increasing in number. We advise our readers to confine their attention to one class, either adhesives, post-cards, or envelopes and newsbands, and not to attempt too many things at once. A complete collection in either one is of considerable more interest than an incomplete collection of all kinds, and taking into consideration the many varieties there are already of each class, we may safely assert that a complete

collection will take as much time and expense as the majority of our readers can afford to devote to it.

We have often heard young collectors say "that they don't see how stamp dealers can sell unused stamps so long after they are obsolete. Perhaps this may enlighten them:

THE BRUNSWICK REMAINDERS.

When the stamps of the German Confederation replaced those of Brunswick, on Jan. 1, 1868, all the remainders were sold to Mr. Luther, a German stamp dealer. Mr. Luther's address recently became known to us, and we wrote him, asking for the exact number of stamps he then purchased. Mr. L. kindly replied, saying that as it had been some years ago, the exact number had escaped his memory, but "there were not more than two millions and not less than 1,500,000; about two-thirds of which were 1, and 3 sgr., the balance being 4-4 white \(\frac{1}{3} \) (56) and 2 sgr., the smallest number being the 4-4 brown." According to this, most of the Brunswick stamps will not become scarce for some time.—S. C. Review.

ONE OF THE PIONEERS.

From Dr. Halley we learn some interesting reminiscences of Dr. Blackie as a stamp collector. He began his collecting more than twenty-five years ago, when a student at Bonn. As the custom was, he rambled on foot through Germany and Switzerland, adding to his collection such stamps as could be obtained. It will be seen from this that Dr. Blackie was one of the first stamp collectors, and his ardor was never dimmed while he lived. During a severe illness in May, 1880, the great fire in Nashville occurred, and it became necessary to remove him from his house, but before going he had the sheets containing his stamps wrapped in a sheet and taken with him. Thereafter they were left in his room until his death, no one being allowed to disturb them. Two days before his death he talked philately with Dr. Halley for four or five hours. His collection

is very valuable, many stamps having been sent him by masonic friends in various parts of the world.

Dr. Blackie was suddenly prostrated nine weeks before his death, from overwork and other causes, and was pronounced to have acute hepatitis. Though seriously ill, hopes were entertained for his recovery up to a short time before his death, when it became evident that he was sinking rapidly. At 47 years of age he passed away, in the midst of a busy life of usefulness, and Nashville mourned the loss of one its most gifted citizens, and friends all over the world were saddened at his early death.—The Philatelic Monthly.

We clip the following from one of the numerous articles written by the Rev. R. B. Earée:

"Inventions submitted to me for opinion—some of them so elaborate that it would take a man months and years to mount a large collection in the ways described. One way suggested to me was to make channels of paper and then slip the edges of the stamps into the channels; another, was to gum a small tongue of paper to the back of the stamp, cut a slit in the page, and stick the tongue through the slit; another was to gum a long narrow slip to the back of the stamp, double it up several times, in a zig-zag form, and gum the other edge of the slip on the page of the album, so that the stamp could be lifted an inch or so whenever necessary. The simple way of hinging will be found the best in all ways, however."

STAMP COLLECTING AND THE PRESS.

Stamp collecting, when first commenced, was only carried on in England and a few places on the continent, but it soon spread from these limited bounds to America, now it is carried on more or less in nearly every civilized country in the World. As soon as it became known that there were persons who collected stamps, dealers sprang up in various parts, and a philatelical journal started here and there, which, after appearing for a few years, collapsed, to be replaced by a better or worse one, as the case might be.

Philately has now at the present moment several hundreds of magazines, books, and pamphlets devoted to its cause, some of which, undoubtedly do much more harm than they do good. We not unfrequently find something connected with our international pastime in the public press, and we are pleased to insert the following from The Boston Journal of Commerce:—"The business of stamp collecting is large, extending all over the world, and is aided by many philatelic journals and societies devoted to the same engrossing subject. Your true stamp collector is an enthusiast, such as the average man can not conceive of or understand. He may be a shrewd business man, a trained lawyer, a doctor of rare skill, or a marvelous dealer in stocks, but he counts no day lost which brings him a really rare specimen, procured at whatever loss of time and treasure."—F. S. C. J.

HUMOR OF THE PRESS.

About the beginning of the second empire in France, the following advertisement appeared in the Times:

"For Two Pence. A magnificent portrait of Napoleon III., engraved by Barre, the royal engraver."

Prople sent the amount, and actually received the Emperor's portrait engraved by Barre, in the shape of an unused stamp of 10 centimes. The importer had cent. per cent profit, so it was not a bad speculation.

If your stamp don't stay the first time, stick it on again by gum!

Postmasters have been directed not to deliver scurrilous postal cards. They are also forbidden to read postal cards addressed to other parties. Therefore, when you drop a scurrilous postal card into the post-office you must acquaint the nostmaster and his assistants with the fact, or they will be terribly perplexed.—N. J. P.

LATEST FROM THE EMBRALD I-LE.—The other day an Irishman walked up to a pillar letter-box, dropped in a letter (unstamped), and after it a shilling. He stood for some time knocking, and getting no answer, he cried down the pillar, "Plaze can I get my change?"—

Brown complained of a bad smell about the post-office and asked Jones what it could be. Jones didn't know, but suggested that it might be the dead letters.

Smith, the post-office clerk, says that he is asked at least one hundred times a day, "what is the price of your threecent postage stamps."

The young ladies at the post-office are likely to remain unmarried. They are always sending the males away.

LEXICON.

(Collectors are always stumbling upon words or terms with which they are are unacquainted; the majority of which we think will be found in the following list of words:)

- AUTHENTIC.—When used in reference to a stamp, means that said stamp is all right in every particular; that it was printed upon the original dies by the government of the country in question.
- AMALGAMATED.—A very common term in use by publishers to express junction of their paper with another; or the "collapse" of a much-advertised philatelic book.
- AGENTS WANTED.—This term is used to express that the dealer who displays it wishes some clever chap to apply for sheets which, when sent, will be lost in the mail.
- AUSTRALASIAN.—This adjective is used in reference to the stamps of Australia and all adjoining islands.

- CONTINENTAL.—All the very common stamps of the continent of Europe constitute the continentals often advertised by dealers.
- Essay.—In adopting new stamps, different designs may be submitted to the government before a suitable one is decided upon; the ones not chosen constitute essays.
- FRAUD.—These exist in many guises, both as dealers and collectors. A short acquaintance is always desirable.
- FAC-SIMILE.—When an exact imitation of a rare stamp is made and so advertised, it may be called a fac-simile.

 All the U. S. local stamps are so produced. An average age one is made by using a different design and printing in a different color.
- LITHOGRAPH.—A stamp is lithographed when it is printed from an engraving on stone.
- Monstrosity—Stamps issued from a doubtful source are often so called. Care in handling such should always be observed. The stamps of the many Indian states are commonly thus styled.
- Perforation.—The small indentations around the edges of a stamp constitute its perforations. Those which exist with smooth edges are unperforated; those with ragged are rouletted.
- PHILATELY.—The word in use for distinguishing the study of stamp collecting.
- PHILATELIC WRITER.—A young lad upon whom the conviction that he is an essayist is suddenly forced and who thinks that he ought to edit all the philatelic papers in the world.
- REPRINTS.—When stamps are reproduced by the government for the use of stamp dealers they are styled reprints.
- REMAINDERS.—When a set of stamps are superseded by a new issue, the entire stock of old ones is often sold to stamp dealers for a mere trifle. This accounts for unused stamps which are sold at less than face value, and

concerning which suspicions of counterfeits are often entertained by collectors.

- Specimens.—Stamps are often marked specimen, or cancelled and sold to dealers, thus marked to prevent usage.
- SLIGHT VARIETIES.—Variations in perforation, color, etc., are classed under this head. The collecting of these will be found one of the most interesting branches of philately.
- TETE BECHE.—Is the term applied to two stamps joined together, one of which is printed upside down. Some of the earlier issues of France so exist.
- WATERMARK.—Is a water-colored design woven into the paper of a stamp. When it exists, can always be seen by holding the stamp when wet before a lighted lamp. The Switzerland stamps are good examples.

PHILATELIO PAPERS.

In presenting a list of philatelic papers, of course we mention such as we can recommend. Collectors should not hesitate to support such publications. Many suspend for a lack of support, but all tend greatly towards spreading our study. The following will all be found interesting and to the point:

The Philatelic Record

Has the reputation as the leading journal in the English language. It is published by Stanley, Gibbons & Co., of London, England.

The Philatelic Monthly.

Published by L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, Pa., is the oldest paper in the United States. It is characterized each issue by a fine list of newly issued stamps.

The Stamp World,

Published by Collins & Mills, Cincinnati, Ohio, is one of America's leading journals. The steady improvements in this journal give promise of a brilliant future.

New Jersey Philatelist,

Of Jersey City, N. J., is an influential monthly. This paper is well established, well supported, the contents readable, and the size large.

The Stamp Collector's Review,

Published at Rock Island, Ill., is a large quarterly, and holds the first place in reputation for editorial ability, originality and spiciness. Subscription 25 cents a year.

The Philatelic Times,

But lately started by G. H. F. Gale, of Margate, England, bids fair soon to occupy second place in that country. Never has a more favorable beginning been made by any paper.

Queen City Collector,

Published in this city, is our largest four-page monthly. "Long may it flourish to instruct and amuse us by its originality."

The Stamp Collector's Bureau

Is a large, quarterly journal published in Chicago, Illinois. The publishers are making rapid strides in the right direction, and success lies in their path.

The following journals are also now in existence, all in a different degree of excellence:

The Foreign Stamp Collector's Journal,

(C. H. Nunn) Bury, St. Edmund's, England.

The Stamp News,

(Theo. Buhl) Lambert Road, London, S. W., England.

The Philatelist's Gazette,

(Fred'k E. Tozer) West Brighton, Sussex, England.

The Philatelic Review,

(Nichols, Butler & Co.) Maidenhead, Eugland.

The Baltimore Philatelist.

311 N. Charles street, Baltimore, Md.

The Buckeye Stamp Journal, Akron, Ohio.

Collector's Library Table, New York City.

The Canadian Home Journal, Monthly (Hart & Grant), Sorel, Canada.

STAMP DEALER'S DIRECTORY.

(The following dealers we know to be honest and reliable in their dealings, any of which can furnish you with pricelist, catalogue or equivalent upon application:)

HANDFORD, J. T., Box 1870, New York City, U. S. A.

HARPER, R. L. Jr., 118 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

WANKELMAN & MERCER, 147 Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, U. S. A.

SIMMONS, C. C., Box 150, Chariton, Iowa, U. S. A.

ICENBARGER, F. T., Box 907, Delaware, Ohio, U. S. A.

DURBIN, L. W., Fifth and Library streets, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A.

MILLER, F. L., Box 473, Cincinnati, Ohio, U. S. A.

OTTO & Co., E., Cor. Sherman and Sandford Places, Jersey City, New Jersey, U. S. A.

TAUSIG, HAGEMEYER & Co., 11 Reservoir avenue, Jersey City, N. J., U. S. A.

MERCER, R. W., 147 Central Ave. Cincinnati, O., U. S. A. STANLEY, GIBBONS, & Co., 8 Gower St., London, W. C., England.

HART, HENRY S., Sorel, Canada.

GALE, G. H., Margate, England.

COLLINS, J. M., (Dealer and Collector), Box 1675, Montreal, Canada.

Edwards, Pres & Co., 2823 Calumet avenue, Chicago Ills., U. S. A.

RIDPATH, THOS. & Co., 4 Church st., Liverpool, England.

BOGERT, R. R., (Wholesale), 98 Front st., New York City, U. S. A.

Calman, G. B., (Wholesale), 299 Pearl st., New York City, U.S. A.

GREANY, WM. F., 827 Brannan st., |San Francisco, Cal., U. S. A.

HOLTON, E. A., 8 Summer st., Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

TOWNSEND, CHAS. A., Akron, Ohio, U. S. A.

Collins & Mills, Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S. A.

Collin & Co., Henry, 79 Nassau st., New York City, U. S. A.

GAMBS, E. F., 621 South Fifth st., St. Louis, Mo.

THE MORMON STAMP.

Two years ago we came across an old catalogue of postage stamps, in which we noticed a few lines respecting a stamp supposed to have been issued by Brigham Young. Our curiosity being somewhat stimulated, we wrote to him, asking if such was the case, and if so, offering to buy any he might have by him. We received the following reply:

SALT LAKE CITY, 21 Jany., 1876.

Gentlemen:—President Brigham Young directed me to say to you that "The Stamp Collectors' Book" is in error in stating he issued some five-cent stamps in 1852, and further, he never issued any five-cent postage at any time.

Respectfully,

(Signed,) GEO. REYNOLDS,

Sec. to Pres. Young.

This letter (which we have in our possession now) settles the many controversies with respect to this supposed stamp, and we have arrived at the conclusion that the compilers of the catalogue (Messrs. Bellars & Davies) were imposed upon by some over-zealous friend. For the benefit of our readers we give the full particulars as they appear in the catalogue:

"UTAH.

"MORMON TERRITORY.

1852.

"Head of Brigham Young to left in circle, rude ornamentation on sides. Above 'Utah;' postage below. Form octagonol. 5 cents; dull blue.

"In the year 1852 Brigham Young issued an octagonal gold coin, and soon after a postage stamp of the same shape. No value was expressed on it, but its price was 5 cents. The execution is very rough, the impression apparently being taken from a wood block. It seems to have been cut or punched out by an octagonal die. This stamp was intended for prepaying letters from one part of the Great Salt Lake Valley to another, or to or from the Salt Lake City, the capital. Some letters, however; with these stamps upon them, found their way to the United States, and were immediately repudiated by the postmaster at Washington. They at once fell into disuse, but at the present day a system of posting from one part of the Mormon colony to the other is still employed."

[The above article appeared in the first number of a London journal called "The English Journal of Philately," now defunct, and was sent by T. Martin Wears.—Ed.]

THE LARGEST.

"What is reputed to be the largest and handsomest collection of postage stamps in existence has just been purchased by Edward Wolfer, a dealer of papeterte and postage stamps, of Frankfort-on-Main, for £400. Von Volpi, a leading physician in the Bavarian army in 1866, and now a journalist of Trieste, took ten years to get the collection together. It contains specimens that are among the rarest and handsomest to be found, some of them having a market value with collectors of £3 to £4 each. The total number of stamps in the collection is about 12,000. English and

French Collectors are traveling to Frankfort to examine it. Before he began this collection, Von Volpi had made another which, though not equally fine and extensive with the one now sold, was the best in existence then. It was purchased by the British Museum."

The above is a cutting from the London Journal of 6th December, 1879. The writer is singularly at sea in his facts. To those who are well up in stamp matters it is amusing to find a collection worth £400 described as the "largest and handsomest in existence," and £4 for a single stamp regarded as an extraordinary price. As a matter of fact, such a collection would only be regarded as "pretty good;" but there are dozens such in existence. Sir Daniel Cooper's collection was sold three years ago for THREE THOUSAND POUNDS, and stamps varying from 10 pounds to 100 pounds for a single stamp are frequently paid for rarities by advanced Collectors. The statement as to the purchase by the British Museum is not correct. We learn from a gentleman who has been connected with the British Museum for many years, that the institution never either purchased or possessed any collection of stamps whatever .- Ed. Foreign Stamp Collectors' Journal. [Sent by T. Martin Wears.]

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	48		" 2 cen 36	2.70
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" 2 cen, violet	36		46 8 cen 90	
1 cen, green	21		" 7 сеп 1.26	
" 2 cen, carmine	48	1 17	Liberia, 1881, lc 24	1.75
44 L.Unp.10c, yellow	48	3.50	" 1 2c 48	3.25
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1 d Id	36	2.50	Guatemala, '82, 1 cen., 24	1.75
11 11 11/4d	54	3.75	" 2 cen 48	3.50
44 44 Zd	72	4.75	" 5 cen 1.2u	8.50
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z real	36		Cuba, 1882, 1 c. de p 21	1 60
Natal, 1/4, green	24	1.75	1 2 1 18 18 18	3.00
Grennde, 1/d, violet	24	1.75		2 21
Japan, 5 rill, s'ate	15	1.00	Tobago, 1881, 1/4 30	3.50
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