



# STAMP COLLECTING.

K

THE MOST FASCINATING PURSUIT  
IN THE WORLD.

*Its Object,*

*Its Benefits,*

*Its Pleasures.*

---

## How to Collect

FROM THE BEGINNING, UP.

---

Copyrighted 1891, by Alvah Davison.



To that friend of Philately,  
MR. H. EDMUND DEATS.

This pamphlet is respectfully dedicated, by  
THE AUTHOR.

# STAMP COLLECTING

AND

## HOW TO COLLECT.



From India

MY DEAR READER, Have you ever had an opportunity to make a collection of postage stamps? No! Then you have missed *the* most fascinating pursuit in which a boy ever engaged. You say you have friends who are collectors, but you never tried it yourself. Ah, yes, you probably never had a chance to look into the subject, but

now that you have a little spare time, we will talk it over and then you will know all about it.

The postage stamp at a first glance seems to be a very insignificant thing, but in these days that little one-inch piece of paper is as powerful in its sphere as the greatest king on earth.

The postage stamp when properly attached to a letter, will carry it safely to the uttermost ends of the globe. The swiftest steamboats, the fastest railroads, the most enduring animals are engaged to carry it. The most perfect safeguards that human ingenuity can devise are thrown about it, and life itself will be sacrificed in order to protect the missives bearing that little stamp.

To that friend of Philately,  
MR. H. EDMUND DEATS,

This pamphlet is respectfully dedicated, by  
THE AUTHOR.

# STAMP COLLECTING

— AND —

## HOW TO COLLECT.



From India.

MY DEAR READER:

Have you ever had an opportunity to make a collection of postage stamps? No! Then you have missed *the* most fascinating pursuit in which a boy ever engaged. You say you have friends who are collectors, but you never tried it yourself? Ah, yes, you probably never had a chance to look into the subject, but

now that you have a little spare time, we will talk it over and then you will know all about it.

The postage stamp at a first glance seems to be a very insignificant thing, but in these days that little one inch piece of paper is as powerful in its sphere as the greatest king on earth.

The postage stamp when properly attached to a letter, will carry it safely to the uttermost ends of the globe. The swiftest steamboats, the fastest railroads, the most enduring animals are engaged to carry it. The most perfect safeguards that human ingenuity can devise are thrown about it, and life itself will be sacrificed in order to protect the missives bearing that little stamp.

To send a letter to China through any other medium than by a stamp would cost many, many dollars, but by attaching this little piece of paper it will go anywhere for a few cents, while the power of governments will be lent it for protection. Isn't it a wonderful little thing when we look at it right?



Where is the boy who would not like to travel over the whole earth, gathering and keeping from each country, something which belonged to each place? Few of us can travel thus, but at a small expense we can collect the stamps from every clime, each bearing its own distinctive picture or wording, and forming when together, an exhibition pleasing to the eye, instructive to the mind, and descriptive of the far away lands of which we delight to read.



From Persia.

A collection of postage stamps differs in an essential point from any other collection. Were you to collect minerals, coins, butterflies or anything else, it would require large space in which to keep them, but your stamps are all mounted in one book, and a few moments is all that is necessary to find any country.

## AS AN INSTRUCTOR.

A collection of postage stamps will impart more knowledge to a boy in one week than he will get from his school books in many months, and do you ask why?

Because his collection is his toy, and all the knowledge he can gain from it is taken as a

pleasure, whereas his books are considered a task.

He will learn all he can regarding his stamps because he is *interested* in them, and it is a pleasure to learn, and learning obtained in this manner is permanent.

Do you ask what can be learned from postage stamps? More than I could tell you in hours.

Nearly every new issue of postage stamps, put out is issued for some reason. A new king on the throne; a revolution in progress; a centennial of some great event; a jubilee. Of such events the collector learns through his stamps. This is history.

All civilized countries issue postage stamps, and the collector becomes familiar with the location of each place, its principal cities, its climate, area, and many other points regarding each country. This is geography.

The styles of engraving, printing, kind of paper, how perforated, coats of arms, flags, names of the rulers and great men on the stamps, kinds of money used, postal arrangements between the different countries, this is general knowledge, in which the stamp collector will find that he far excels his elders.

On the stamps of Egypt we find the ancient pyramids, on Turkey the star and crescent, China and Japan with their hieroglyphics, while England and her vast possessions portray the face of their honored queen.

On the United States stamps are seen the portraits of her great men from Washington to Grant; on Spain we gaze at her baby king. The designs in fact are so numerous as to present a panorama of notable facts, faces and events in the world's history.



## AS A PASTIME.

The collecting of postage stamps, while being one of the most elevating and instructive pursuits, is still one which seems to eclipse everything else in the pleasure gained from it, and its immense growth



From Africa.

is the best proof of this assertion.

Postage stamps were first used about fifty years ago, and since that time the number of collectors has increased, until now they are numbered by the hundreds of thousands, there being in our country alone from fifty to one hundred thousand.

The pursuit is so fascinating that thousands have continued it from their boyhood days down through the prime of life, and they are more interested now than ever.

When a boy starts a stamp collection, he finds the pleasure so great, that he prefers it to all other pastimes, and thousands could testify to the absorbing interest it creates.

## AS AN INVESTMENT.

All things that give pleasure require the expending of a little money, and in most cases this money once spent is gone forever, but in stamp collecting it is different.

The stamps which you buy now and from which you get so much pleasure, five years hence will probably be worth double their present value. This is because new stamps are issued and the old ones are always getting scarcer.

The set of stamps issued by the United States in 1870 could at that time be





bought for 25 cents, while the set is now worth nearly \$40. Thousands of other stamps increase in the same way.

Many boys have formed collections and years after have sold them for much more than they cost.

When a boy begins collecting, he will often hunt up from old letters valuable stamps which he can either sell or trade for a large number of others. His friends will obtain stamps for him, and when he gets duplicates he can trade them off for others, or by acting as agent for a stamp dealer he can earn enough money to pay for forming a fine collection.

Stamp collecting opens many ways in which a boy can earn money. It makes him brighter and gives him a knowledge of business methods which is of great value to him.



From Japan.

As an investment stamp collecting gives better returns than many a bank. The few pennies paid here and there for stamps are not missed, but in a short time the collection is worth many dollars, and it can be sold at any time.

Again, the many stamps which a collector gets for nothing, and those which he obtains by trading, these amount to more in value than those which he buys. Once having started, it is surprising how fast a collection will grow both in number and value.



## People Who are Stamp Collectors.

Many think that all stamp collectors are young boys, but this is a great mistake, as thousands of middle aged and old men

## AS A PASTIME.

The collecting of postage stamps, while being one of the most elevating and instructive pursuits, is still one which seems to eclipse everything else in the pleasure gained from it, and its immense growth



From Africa.

is the best proof of this assertion.

Postage stamps were first used about fifty years ago, and since that time the number of collectors has increased, until now they are numbered by the hundreds of thousands, there being in our country alone from fifty to one hundred thousand.

The pursuit is so fascinating that thousands have continued it from their boyhood days down through the prime of life, and they are more interested now than ever.

When a boy starts a stamp collection, he finds the pleasure so great, that he prefers it to all other pastimes, and thousands could testify to the absorbing interest it creates.

## AS AN INVESTMENT.

All things that give pleasure require the expending of a little money, and in most cases this money once spent is gone forever, but in stamp collecting it is different.

The stamps which you buy now and from which you get so much pleasure, five years hence will probably be worth double their present value. This is because new stamps are issued and the old ones are always getting scarcer.

The set of stamps issued by the United States in 1870 could at that time be



bought for 25 cents, while the set is now worth nearly \$40. Thousands of other stamps increase in the same way.

Many boys have formed collections and years after have sold them for much more than they cost.

When a boy begins collecting, he will often hunt up from old letters valuable stamps which he can either sell or trade for a large number of others. His friends will obtain stamps for him, and when he gets duplicates he can trade them off for others, or by acting as agent for a stamp dealer he can earn enough money to pay for forming a fine collection.

Stamp collecting opens many ways in which a boy can earn money. It makes him brighter and gives him a knowledge of business methods which is of great value to him.



From Japan.

Again, the many stamps which a collector gets for nothing, and those which he obtains by trading, these amount to more in value than those which he buys. Once having started, it is surprising how fast a collection will grow both in number and value.

As an investment stamp collecting gives better returns than many a bank. The few pennies paid here and there for stamps are not missed, but in a short time the collection is worth many dollars, and it can be sold at any time.



## People Who are Stamp Collectors.

Many think that all stamp collectors are young boys, but this is a great mistake, as thousands of middle aged and old men

are interested in the pursuit and have valuable collections.

Among my own acquaintances I could name a dozen lawyers, while bankers, merchants, bookkeepers, and in fact every branch of mercantile life is represented, these men finding stamp collecting a pleasing change for their tired brains.

In England more than one member of the nobility possesses a collection, the Duke of Edinburgh being honorary president of THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY of London,



H. E. DEATS.



HENRY CLOTZ.

collecting and no profession is more noted for intellectual ability than this.

The American Philatelic Association — a national society — has as its president Mr. John K. Tiffany, a lawyer of St. Louis.

In fact it is only the better class of people who take to stamp collecting, there being so much of historical interest about it that those who follow the pursuit are ones interested in learning.

Lawyers especially seem to take to stamp

## HOW TO BEGIN A COLLECTION.

Now having seen what stamp collecting really is, let us see how you would begin a collection.

The first thing you need is a postage stamp catalogue, as this describes every postage stamp that has been issued and if you have any stamp you are in doubt about, the catalogue will quickly enlighten you, as it shows pictures of all stamps.

The price of the catalogue is only twenty-five cents, and it can be had from the address on back of this pamphlet.

---

### THE STAMP ALBUM.

The next thing is a postage stamp album, and these are made in all sizes and styles, to suit from the smallest to the largest collection.



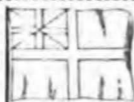
From Turkey.

An album holding about 2,000 stamps can be bought for fifteen cents, and from this sum they go to 25 cts., 50 cts., 75 cts. Albums at these prices are good for beginners, but they only have a certain number of spaces and do not include all stamps issued.

An album which has printed spaces for every stamp ever issued, can be bought for \$1.50, or the same album with beautiful cloth and gold covers costs \$2.50.

Any of these albums we will forward on receipt of the price.

These albums have the name of the country, the date of issue, the value, and even a picture of the stamp in the spaces, so it is the easiest thing in the world to place each stamp in its right place.



## SWEDEN.

Limited monarchy in northwestern Europe.  
Population, 4,690,000. Area, 173,974 square miles.  
First stamp issued in 1855.



## MOUNTING STAMPS.

Before you place any stamps in the album, all the paper should be removed from the backs of the stamps. To do this, put them in a cup of water and in a short time the paper will come off, after which allow the stamps to dry.

The stamps are placed in the album by using a small narrow strip of gummed paper about this size :



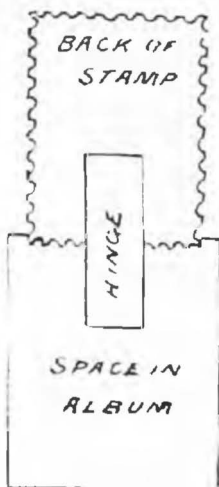
This is called a "hinge," one-half of the strip being pasted to the upper part of the stamp (back) and the other half to the album as per illustration given on the following page of this pamphlet. The stamps are mounted in this way so they can be turned up to see the back, and if you desire to place a better specimen in the space, you can do so without hurting the one already in, as you only have to tear the hinge in removing the stamps.

The hinges are furnished by all stamp dealers, at only ten cents per thousand. Don't put badly torn stamps in your album, as they hurt the looks of the whole page. Put in only perfect specimens and those with the lightest cancellation. If you put a poor specimen in at first, put a better one in as soon as you can obtain one.

In mounting stamps, put them squarely in the centre of the spaces, as only in this way do they look well.

When your collection is well mounted, even though it be small in numbers, your friends will take great interest in looking it over, and you should show it to visitors as it often leads to them obtaining stamps for you.

## WHERE TO OBTAIN STAMPS.



If you are in a city where foreign steamers arrive, by calling at the offices you can learn when the ships are due, and then by calling again and asking in a respectful manner for the stamps from their letters, you will often get a number.

If you know of any merchant or any one else in your town who gets foreign letters, ask for the stamps—nothing is obtained without asking.

If you have parents, grandparents, relatives or friends who have any old letters stowed away, hunt them up and obtain the

stamps. Often very valuable stamps are found in this way which can be exchanged for many others or sold. If you find a stamp which is valuable or which you do not find mentioned in the catalogue of stamps, it is always best to leave it on the envelope until you write your dealer about it and ascertain its value.

There are millions of old stamps stowed away in Sandwich Islands trunks and boxes, and these the collectors should bring to light, as they are worth money.



## BUYING STAMPS.

If you cannot obtain stamps in any of the ways mentioned above, you can purchase



them at a small outlay, all dealers selling them in a variety of ways.



At the beginning of a collection it is well to purchase some cheap packets of stamps, as from these you will generally obtain some duplicates which are good for trading.

Two kinds of packets are sold, one being "assorted," containing several stamps of one kind, and the other being "all different." If you want packets with duplicates you should order the assorted kind.

Packets are sold from five cents up, and a variety of them are offered by all dealers.

If you desire to buy stamps singly, you can order the ones you want from the dealer's list.

In buying single stamps an excellent method is to select them from "approval sheets." These are sheets of stamps with the prices attached, sent out by the dealers, and you take from them the stamps you want, returning the balance with the cash for those removed from the sheet.

In buying in this way you have an opportunity to see the stamps, and if you do not like some of the specimens you need not take them. On these approval sheets the dealers allow from one-quarter to one-third reduction on the price of the stamps, and by getting your friends to buy from your sheets the percentage of reduction is your profit. So if you sell one dollar's worth and the dealer allows you one-third off, you make a profit of 33 cents for your trouble. By selling stamps



From Australia.

in this way you can make enough money to buy a large number for yourself.

## TRADING STAMPS.

Every collector accumulates a number of duplicate stamps, and these he should trade with the other collectors for stamps not in his collection. The basis for trading should always be the catalogue prices of the stamps; thus if you have a stamp priced at four cents you should not trade it for one worth only two cents, but you should get stamps to the same value for it.

For trading it is best to have a small book which can be carried in the coat pocket, in which your duplicates should be attached with hinges. In this way you can readily show them, while the book will keep them clean and in good condition.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

If there are no collectors in your neighborhood or town, show this pamphlet to your friends or have them write to the address on the back for a copy. They will like the pursuit and will want to start a collection at once—all boys do, and once you have started, you will see more pleasure in it than any pastime you ever heard of. You will want to be trading all the time, while stamp after stamp will be added to your growing collection. Now one from Asia, then from Australia, another from South America, and right after it one from India, while Africa, Central America, Oceanica, ave from the uttermost ends of the earth the specimens roll in to please the fancies of the ardent collectors, while they,

*Pleased, delighted, enraptured,  
Gather them in.*

*And spread the glad tidings  
Philately is King!*

