



Bibliotheca Lundensiana

PHILATELIC SECTION

Total. 143.

---

Stepping Stones  
to  
Stamp Collecting

By Julian Trevelyan Baber



*Press of*  
**THE COLLECTORS' JOURNAL**

# Stepping Stones

to

# Stamp Collecting

“A Handbook for Collectors”

By Julian Trevelyan Baber

K

*Copyright 1911, by M. Garnette Watkins*

*All rights reserved*

M. Garnette Watkins, Publisher

C H I C A G O



The Dowager Empress of China no longer reigns in The Temple of Heaven. She died a couple of years ago. The illustration shows the Temple, the holiest place in the Chinese Empire. The stamp was issued to commemorate the First Year of the Boy Emperor, Hsuan Tung. One of the most noted stamp collectors, General Chas. A. Coolidge, of Detroit, Mich., is said to have taken a valuable vase from the Temple when the allied armies stormed the city of Peking. General Coolidge led the U. S. forces.

## STEPPING STONES TO STAMP COLLECTING.

JULIAN TREVELYAN BABER.

### Introductory.

**T**O the public in general, philately is a mysterious word, and yet it is used very frequently. Philately (pronounced fi-lat-e-li) is a derivative from the Greek words "philos" and "atella," the former meaning "fond of," while the latter signifies "immunity from tax." Atella was doubtless the best word in the language of the Greeks that conveyed the idea of franking. When a stamp is affixed to a letter, the letter is "franked," and will be delivered to the addressee without extra charge. By joining the Greek words, we have a word that means "fond of franks, or postage stamps." It is said that the word philately, which is merely a scientific name for postage stamp collecting, was originated in 1865 by a Parisian collector, Monsieur Herpin.

Our explanation is doubtless known to

the studious stamp collector, but to those who are uninitiated in the mysteries of philately, the above remarks will probably prove interesting.

Following the advice of collectors of experience, the writer started his collection several years ago, and up to this time he has had little cause to regret the acceptance of their suggestions. Many learn from experience, and experience is a good teacher, but when beneficial instruction can be easily secured, no apparent reason for starting a collection in error can be named.

Oftentimes collectors tell of when they first started to collect, and how they ruined many rare specimens by pasting them in blank books with glue. Such experiences are costly object lessons.

In this article, we shall endeavor to explain how an inexpensive collection may be formed, and offer such suggestions as will be of benefit to the beginner.



Some collectors suggest that a collector should begin by collecting the highest value stamps first. They say the low values are easiest of procurance. The illustration pictures a \$500 stamp from the Straits Settlements. This stamp is for Revenue use, although it is available for postage purposes if necessary.





The Pan-American Congress which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1909, caused the government of Brazil to issue the stamp illustrated, which pictures six patriots of the Western Hemisphere. George Washington is shown in the center. "The Father of His Country" is surrounded by O'Higgins, San Martín, José Bonifácio, Hidalgo and Bolívar.

## STEPPING STONES TO STAMP COLLECTING.

### I.

#### THE APPROVAL SHEET.

The practice of purchasing stamps from approval sheets has become very popular in recent years. We would urge very strongly that the beginner exercise great care in his selection of specimens. Do not buy a badly torn stamp, or one that is poorly centered and cancelled so as to prevent immediate identity. Overlook such a specimen and run the risk of securing a better copy later. Perfection copies are in demand, and if your collection is composed of such it will be valued the more highly, not only by yourself, but also by your collecting friends. The beginner will do well to let the approval sheet escape his notice for a while, at least. It will be to his advantage to procure several variety packets, and therefrom form the nucleus of his collection. When buying packets, duplicates will

inevitably accumulate as the number of varieties in a collection increases. To dispose of their duplicates, many owners resort to trade and exchange practices, which in almost every instance are remunerative.

Many of the readers who scan these lines are not stamp collectors. They would perhaps like to be but are somewhat hesitant about making a start. To these we would say that as a recreative pastime, stamp collecting has no equal, and as an educational agent its advantages are innumerable. We quote the following from a well-known writer: "The value in collecting is great;—it is an instructor in both history and geography; a relaxation for the mind; a companion for an idle hour; an investment that grows more valuable each day; an admirable teacher of carefulness and patience; and the creator of a brotherhood that is only bounded by the ends of the earth."

# PLATE 1



AUSTRIA



ABYSSINIA



ANTIGUA



BAHAMAS



BENADIR



BELGIUM



BULGARIA



BRITISH GUIANA



CANADA

## II.

### WHAT TO COLLECT.

This subject has bothered the minds of more than one, and yet to arrive at a decision is by no means difficult. The collection of animal and portrait stamps is very interesting as well as instructive. A menagerie is easily obtainable, and when secured is a novel collection of animals (philatelic). Stamps depicting scenes and events of historical import are very desirable. Exposition issues, and those issued for other commemorative purposes, can be secured almost as readily as the ordinary stamp.

## III.

### HOW TO START.

“What is the best way to start a collection?” is a question often asked, and is one which we are pleased to answer. Visit your book store and purchase a 19th Cen-

# PLATE 2



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE



CUBA.



CEYLON.



CHINA



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC



DENMARK



EGYPT.



ECUADOR.



FINLAND.

tury International Album and a Scott's Standard Catalog. If they cannot be secured in your city, you can order them from any of the leading dealers. Their advertisements appear in the stamp journals of the day, and you should experience little difficulty in ascertaining to whom to send your order. When you get your album and catalog, study both carefully. In the first pages of the catalog will be found quite a number of invaluable hints. Acquaint yourself with the terms and expressions and your way will be easier as you progress.

Write to a number of prominent dealers, asking for their price-lists, and when you get them scrutinize them carefully. For the same goods the prices of some dealers are considerably higher than others, and it will be to your advantage to patronize the man who sells the "same goods for less money, and more goods for the same money."

# PLATE 3



FRANCE



GREAT BRITAIN



GUATEMALA



GERMANY



HAYTI



HUNGARY



HONDURAS



HAWAII



ICELAND



You have supplied yourself with an album and catalog, so the next step will be to provide space-fillers—the stamp and the hinge. Send for a 1,000 variety packet and 2,000 hinges (mounts). You will need every hinge bought, and it is a good idea to keep a few always on hand. Ask your relatives and friends to look through their correspondence and give you the stamps that appear on their old letters. In this manner you can secure many obsolete issues; and perhaps unearth a rarity. Who knows?

You next inquire what the collection will cost. The figures below will give you an idea, approximately:

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 19th Century International Album,    |        |
| Cloth Bound . . . . .                | \$2.50 |
| Scott's Standard Catalog . . . . .   | .75    |
| 1,000 Variety Packet . . . . .       | 1.95   |
| 2,000 Good Peelable Hinges . . . . . | .30    |

This amount will get you started into the

PLATE 4



INDIA



ITALY



JAPAN



LABUAN



LIBERIA.



MALTA



MEXICO



NEW BRUNSWICK



NETHERLANDS

mysteries of philately. Purchase your stamps judiciously. That is, unless you can afford to buy with a lavish hand.

#### IV.

#### **PACKETS.**

Packets, ranging in price from 5 cents upward, can be purchased from any reliable dealer. The 1,000 variety packets are becoming great sellers in the stamp market and are being extensively advertised in the philatelic press. For a collection, these packets are excellent starters, and those who contemplate collecting will do well to provide themselves with one. They can be bought for from \$1.75 to \$3.00, but we have seen them priced as low as \$1.50. One well-known firm in Iowa is selling a packet of 1,000 varieties, which catalogues over \$30.00, for \$1.95, and at this figure it is a genuine bargain.

Packets containing 1,500, 2,000 and 3,000 varieties are made up, but they are slow

sellers and few dealers care to prepare them. Much more pleasure will be derived in forming your collection by adding to it piece by piece, than to purchase the collection outright.



Many curious things are pictured on stamps. The illustration shows us the Melocactus Communis, or Turk's Head, on a stamp which comes from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Do you know where the Turks and Caicos Islands are? Look them up in your geography.

## V.

### MINOR VARIETIES.

There are very many minor varieties in the stamps of different countries, and it would be futile for the beginner to attempt to acquaint himself with them. In the various philatelic publications, and in your catalog you will find mention of different watermarks, perforations, and kinds of paper. Your album will perhaps have spaces for these varieties, but you should treat them with disregard and let your object be to secure as many stamps of different design as possible. Try to obtain a stamp from every stamp-issuing country, and incidentally if you come across more than one of this kind, do not hesitate to add it to your collection. Variety should be the object of every amateur, and if this is constantly borne in mind, the more rapidly will the collection increase in the number of stamps.

# PLATE 5



NEWFOUNDLAND



NEW SOUTH WALES



NORWAY



NICARAGUA



NEW ZEALAND



PANAMA



PARAGUAY



PERSIA

## VI.

### CLASSIFICATION.

To classify the first packet will be a source of worry, no doubt, and in order that this may be overcome to some extent we reprint a table which should make the task more easy:

Bayern—Bavaria; Belgique—Belgium; Chiffre-taxe—French due stamp; Communicationes—Spain; Copenja—Serbia; Danmark—Denmark; Deutsche Reiche—Germany; Escuelas—Venezuela, Empire Ottoman—Turkey; Filipinas—Philippine Islands; Franco Bollo—Italy; Helvetia—Switzerland; Island—Iceland; Kphth—Crete; Sverige—Sweden; K. Wurttemberg—Württemberg; Kais Konigl Post—Austria; Mapa—Russia; Magyar Kir Posta—Hungary; Nederland—Holland; Norge—Norway; Oesterr—Austria; Para and Piaste appear on both Egypt and Turkish stamps.

# PLATE 6



PHILIPPINE IS



PERU



PORTO RICO



PORTUGAL



RUSSIA



ROUMANIA



SALVADOR



SAN MARINO



SIAM



## VII.

### THE ALBUM.

The selection of the album should be given more than secondary consideration. There are many makes now being sold, and each has distinctive advantages, but to begin with we would suggest the 19th Century International, bound in cloth. It is a well made book and is very popular among the younger class of collectors. Some writers have suggested that the beginner first use an Imperial album. It is used by many, but the International is much larger and will be found of more practical service.

Both are known as printed albums, having spaces for the stamps, with illustrations showing where the different postal issues should be mounted.

Do not by any means buy a loose-leaf or binder album until you have passed the experimental stage in collecting. The binder is intended for advanced collectors and specialists.

## VIII.

### THE HINGE.

The use of a good hinge is especially to be desired, and at the start the beginner should see that he is supplied with none other than the best. Every dealer, it seems, has a different brand for sale. Some are good, and some are absolutely worthless (except to tear your stamp and mutilate your album). A transparent peelable hinge, coated with tasteless gum, is the hinge to buy. They cost a few cents more than the mucilage sticker, but when the collector takes into consideration the risk of spoiling his album and its contents, he will not object to paying the extra cents for the hinge that peels, while this hinge adheres very strongly, it can be removed with comparative ease, with no danger of tearing either stamp or album page. They are die-cut and sell for from ten to twenty cents a thousand. The manufacture of the peel-

able hinge is confined mainly to Great Britain. The English product is preferred by many, but there are several American brands that are just as good.

## IX.

### MOUNTING.

It should be the desire of every collector to keep his album clean and neat, in every respect. Nothing is more disgusting than to open an album and therein observe the stamps carelessly mounted, and finger marks in evidence on the pages.

The manner in which your stamps are mounted will determine the neatness of the page in your album. A good method is to moisten half the hinge and place that part against the stamp. Wait a few seconds to allow the gum to dry. Bend over the projecting portion of the hinge, and when you have selected the space which the stamp should occupy, again moisten the hinge, and with care and precision place the stamp in

# PLATE 7



SPAIN



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



SOUTH AUSTRALIA



TASMANIA



TRANSVAAL



TRINIDAD



TURKEY



TUNIS

that space. See that it is well centered, and then with your finger-nail crease the top of the hinge so that the stamp will be immovable, and will not "wobble," so to speak. A page of stamps, or portion thereof, thus mounted, will present a neat and attractive appearance.

## X.

### STANDARD CATALOG.

In the United States, the catalog published yearly by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., and known familiarly as Scott's Catalog, is the standard. The value of a stamp is based to a certain extent, upon its catalog price. It must not be inferred, however, that the catalog price is equivalent to the real worth of the stamp. It is merely an estimate. The catalog is one of the necessary essentials of stamp collecting, and the beginner cannot afford to be without it. To all classes of collectors it is of incalculable value. It is thoroughly revised and cor-

PLATE 8



URUGUAY



VENEZUELA



VENEZUELA



VICTORIA



W. AUSTRALIA



WURTEMBERG



ZANZIBAR



ZAMBESIA



ZULULAND

rected, is cloth bound, and contains about 900 pages. The catalog proper is a descriptive list of all postage stamps ever issued by any government in the world, giving their date of issue, color, and value, with illustrations of all types.

Illustrations of United States stamps will not be found, as the government will not permit the reproduction of its postal issues, in this country. This law holds good, it seems, only within the boundaries of the United States, for in Canada, Great Britain and other foreign countries, our stamps are reproduced at will, in the leading philatelic catalogues and periodicals.

In the arrangement of his United States stamps, an English catalog will prove helpful to the beginner, as a representation of every stamp that has been issued by our government appears therein. The catalogs of Stanley Gibbons, and Whitfield, King & Co., are quite popular with American philatelists.

## XI.

### PHILATELIC PERIODICALS.

A stamp paper will prove beneficial as your knowledge of philately increases. Quite a large number of monthly magazines devoted to stamp collecting, and three weeklies, are now being published in this country. We would recommend the beginner to send to the various publications for specimen copies, and then choose those which he thinks will prove the most beneficial to him.

## XII.

### SOCIETIES.

Philately in America is organized to a great extent, and in society work its advantages are best displayed. In the United States the major stamp society, the American Philatelic Society, has a membership of over 2,000.

Other societies, such as the Metropolitan Philatelic Association and the Southern



Philatelic Association, cater to the young collector.

These societies are an aid to all classes of collectors and the beginner should strive to perfect himself in Philatelic knowledge so as to derive the utmost benefit of a membership in them.

## 1 0 0 0 V A R I E T I E S

—of—

ALL different postage stamps only. ALL stamps in good condition, free from paper, NO revenues or cut squares included.

**CATALOG VALUE NEARLY \$30.00**

Absolutely the best made today and we guarantee entire satisfaction or will promptly refund money. It is the famous PACKET NO. 14.

**PRICE ONLY \$1.95 POSTPAID**

---

*Julian Trevelyan Baber, writer of this handbook, recommends this packet to all stamp collectors*

---

B. J. Pulfer, M. D., of Aurora, Ill., says in his latest letter: "Send another of your "1,000 VARIETY" packets (which makes the 5th). The best yet."

Testimonial booklet and PRICE LIST FREE to all who ask for them. DO SO.

**H. S. POWELL STAMP CO.**

Box 140, - - - Storm Lake, Iowa, U. S. A.

## **T H E B E S T**

Stepping Stone to Stamp Collecting  
is a

Good Weekly Stamp Paper.

## **T H E F I N E S T**

Illustrated Weekly Stamp Paper  
is the

# **PHILADELPHIA STAMP NEWS**

Every Saturday

Subscription price is 50c per year. Twenty-six  
weeks, 25c; ten weeks, 10c.

P. M. MANN, Publisher

1708 N. 18th St., - - - Philadelphia, Pa.

The

## **Unique Stamp Club**

**700 East 40th St., Chicago**

offers young collectors the  
opportunity to build up their  
stamp collections, at very low  
cost, by co-operative methods

**Send For Free Booklet**

The Wise Collector  
reads  
The  
**Collectors' Journal**

An Illustrated Monthly Philatelic Magazine  
*Different from the Rest.*

*Handsomely Printed*  
*Lavishly Illustrated*  
*The Best Writers*

*SUBSCRIPTION 50c PER YEAR*

**THREE MONTHS' TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION**

**10 Cents**

**TO ALL WHO MENTION THIS HANDBOOK**

**H. L. LINDQUIST, Editor**

**700 E. 40th Street, Chicago**

