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STERLING'S

UNITED STATES

Stamp Circular

FOR 1887.

READ and TREASURE UP the contents! When through, hand to some one who is interested in stamp collecting. It will do you good, and your friend, also, to know that thousands of stamps on documents and letters, from 1845 to 1865, are lying stored away in some musty old garret, that may be worth not only cents, but dollars, and by sending them to the publisher of this little circular you will know their value, and, perhaps, find ready sale for the same.

For description of all varieties of United States Stamps, with their value, I refer you to my various catalogues for 1887. Price, 25 cents each.

April 1st, 1887.

E. B. STERLING,
P. O. Box 294, Trenton, N. J.

TRENTON, N. J.

PRESS OF EDWIN FITZGEORGE, S. W. COR. STATE AND GREENE STREETS.

1887.



 UNITED STATES STAMPS A SPECIALTY. 

STERLING, The **ONLY** Dealer who ever made
UNITED STATES STAMPS A SPECIALTY.

THE FINEST STOCK!

THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT!

AND ALL AT STANDARD PRICES!

I do not aim to undersell any one, as all my stamps are clean, perfect and desirable in every respect, and upon this fact I pride myself, or no sale.

Respectfully,

E. B. STERLING,
Dealer in U. S. Stamps of all Kinds,
P. O. Box 294, Trenton, N. J.



From the TRENTON TIMES, Saturday, April 10th, 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 Re-
ceived--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 35 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 10th 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, &c.

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 services 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 Springfield, Mass., DAILY REPUBLICAN, April 24th, 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 12 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 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 States 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 1,600 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 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 500 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, 35 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 30 distinct specimens of dies and paper of this 1874 issue, while the different sizes of envelopes carry the number up to 99. 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.

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 stamps competes with Sterling's new catalogue, which describes 886 specimen of postal stamps and currency.

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

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

Lowell, Mass., Daily Courier.

New York Graphic, May 1, 1886.

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

Also portions of above article in various other papers.

What the Press and the Public had to say of the Merits of Sterling's Postage Stamp Catalogue for 1886.

It is complete and in the best style and execution.

Claremont, N. H.

L. A. JUDKINS.

It is perfect.—T. C. WATKINS & Co.

New York City.

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

Altoona, Pa.

W. F. FRASER.

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

Cleveland, Ohio.

J. V. PAINTER.

It seems to me to be as perfect as a Catalogue could be.

St. Louis, Mo.

C. H. MEKEEL.

Thank you for your nice Catalogue.—BESSIE G. SCOTT.

Lock Haven, Pa.

The 1886 Catalogue is excellent.—N. COE.

New York City.

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

Brooklyn, N. Y.

GEO. B. MASON.

I am well pleased with it.—THOMAS CUNNINGHAM.

Mohawk, N. Y.

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

Hoboken, N. J.

JOSEPH RECHERT.

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

Salem, Mass.

F. P. RICHARDSON.

It is quite complete.—W. W. RANDALL.

New York City.

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

Lewistown, Me.

F. A. WRIGHT.

I think it is excellent.—O. D. JONES,
Utica, N. Y.

Your new Catalogue is perfection in itself.—CRAIG S. TRINGLE,
Georgetown, N. Y.

I value it very highly, it is so complete.—W. W. NOLEN,
Cambridge, Mass.

It is very neat.—E. B. CORNWELL,
Rubicon, Wis.

From the PHILATELIC WORLD, 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, 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, February, 1886.

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

From the Trenton TRUE AMERICAN, February, 1886.

Mr. E. B. Sterling, the well-known collector of United States Stamps, has just issued a new Catalogue, describing over 750 varieties in a most interesting way.

From the Trenton STATE GAZETTE, 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 price, &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 1-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 *Toronto Philatelic Journal*.

Every collector of United States stamps should have one.

From the *Capital City Philatelist*, 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 750 varieties, and should be in the hands of every collector of U. S. Stamps.

From the *Trenton Times*, January, 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 750 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 750 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 1,600 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 post free. A neat novelty in each pamphlet is the insertion of an excellent photograph of the compiler, surrounded 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 *Trenton "Signal"*, 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 Trenton "SIGNAL," 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 TRENTON TIMES, 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.

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,
Decorah, Iowa. ED. C. BAILEY.

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.

New York City. Yours ~~most~~ respectfully, CHAS. H. LEVY.

Your's is the best descriptive catalogue of U. S. Stamps that I have ever examined. Yours, J. H. BUCHANAN.
Pemberton, N. J.

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,
New York City. HENRY CLOTZ,

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

Washington, D. C.

SAMUEL HODGKINS.

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. Hoping that it may reach fifty or more editions.

W. A. MACCALLA,

Cor. Sec. of Quaker City Philatelic Society, of Phila., Pa.

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

Washington, D. C.

Yours truly,

C. F. ROTHGUNS.

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.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

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,

Page Brook, N. Y.

L. V. LINDSEY.

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.

Lena, Ill.

Yours respectfully,

F. K. RISING.

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

Washington, D. C.

Respectfully,

J. H. HOUSTON.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue is excellently gotten up.

Mt. Gilead, Ohio

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.

Niagara Falls, N. Y.

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 of your catalogues, and you deserve all the credit you may receive for what you have done.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Yours truly,

THOS. P. OWEN.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the fifth edition 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.

Carbondale, Pa.

Very truly yours,

A. F. LAW.

Your priced 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,

Fort Laramie, Wy.

Capt. 7th Infantry.

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 revenues only or of postal issues. The service you have rendered to philatelists,

It far exceeds my expectations. Very respectfully,
 Independence, Iowa. E. M. TRASK.

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.
 Taunton, Mass. Yours respectfully, G. W. PEPPER.

I have thoroughly examined your catalogue and can say that it is
 truly the finest I have ever seen. Yours respectfully,
 Poughkeepsie, N. Y. G. C. TROWBRIDGE.

Yours at hand with catalogues of revenue and U. S. postage stamps.
 They are both a marvel of patience and accuracy, and indispensable to
 any collector who wishes intelligently to gather these curious and inter-
 esting specimens of our war and civil taxes. I only regret I had not
 one long ago. Sincerely your friend, T. A. H. HAY.
 Easton, Pa.

It seems to be as complete as any thing of the kind could well be.
 Staten Island, N. Y. 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.
 Nyack-on-Hudson, N. Y.

I will say that I consider your Revenue Catalogue a most complete
 and valuable reference book for both collectors and dealers. The faith-
 ful 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,
 Portland, Me. F. L. PERRY.

Your catalogue is certainly a most excellent one, in my opinion, al-
 though I am only a beginner in collecting, and perhaps cannot appre-
 ciate all its merits. Yours respectfully,
 Poca, W. Va. 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,
 Deposit, N. Y. 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.
 Constocks, N. Y. 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 busi-
 ness of this country, for the able manner you have catalogued the large
 number of stamps which have been issued.
 Claremont, N. H. S. B. STOFFORD.

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.

Springfield, Mass. Very truly yours, JAS. B. SMITH.

Your catalogue received. Am very much pleased with it.

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

Your catalogue is very handsome, and I am much pleased with it.

New York City. Respectfully, LOUIS COLE.

I received your catalogue some time ago. Am very much pleased with it.

Nashville, Tenn. Very respectfully, B. F. CHEATHAM, JR.

Your catalogue of U. S. stamps at hand. I find it very valuable, being complete and comprehensive.

Rockford, Ill. Yours truly, L. A. WEYBURN.

I think after careful examination of your catalogue of U. S. postage stamps, stamped envelopes, &c., that it is the most perfect of any I have seen. Your Revenue Stamp Catalogue is arranged in excellent style.

Philadelphia, Pa. 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.

Cincinnati, O. Yours respectfully, EDW. J. WILSON.

The catalogues are very fine indeed. Far beyond my expectation.

Marshall, Mich. Yours most respectfully, L. S. MORRISON.

I think your catalogue very complete.

Chelsea, Mass. W. K. WATKINS.

Your catalogue is the best and most complete that I have seen.

Brickport, Maine. ALLAN CHASE.

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

Washington, D. C. HUGH DALLAS.

Your catalogue, both Postage and Revenue, is a regular stamp encyclopedia.

Eric, Pa. WM. F. SUTZE.

Your catalogues received. They are very fine. I had no idea American stamps had advanced so much in value.

New York. PAUL DER WILLIGES.

Please send me your Catalogue of Tin-Foil Tobacco Wrappers. I have all your catalogues but this one and prize them all very highly.
Ann Arbor. WILL J. STANTON.

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.
Chicago, Ill. T. J. MITCHELL.

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's invaluable to collectors who desire to collect all the different varieties, U. S. envelopes especially. I heartily recommend it to every true philatelist.
Chicago, Ill. E. W. VOUTE.

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

Your Catalogue is something *extra*, and, in a word, *perfect*.
Trumansburg, N. Y. LINCOLN RAPPELVE.

Your Postage Stamp Catalogue I think is superb.
Knoxville, Tenn. 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.
Lynchburg, Va. R. J. SNEAD.

Catalogue received. It is the best I have seen. It is indispensable to the collector of U. S. stamps.
St. Louis, Mo. O. DORMITZER.

I consider your new Catalogue just perfect.
Friendship, N. Y. HENRY L. DWIGG.

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.
Ottawa, Ill. SAM'L 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.
North Leonister. LEWIS T. WHELENY.

Your catalogue is very nice and aids greatly in distinguishing issues.
Rochester, N. Y. THERESE MAYER.

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 *nicely*.

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.
Marsells, Ill.

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.
Somerville, Mass. JOHN A. WHITNEY.

I find it one of the very best and plainest I have seen, especially the envelopes. CHAS. E. OSBORN.
Phila., Pa.

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.
Hartland, Wash. Ter.

I consider it the best catalogue of U. S. Stamps I have examined.
Bismark, Dak. T. W. MAGILL.

It is very handsome besides a very interesting and instructive book.
Whitby, Canada. G. W. DARTNELL, JR.

I am very much pleased with the catalogue. It is just perfect.
Smithport, Pa. F. L. STODDART.

Think it the best I have seen. GEORGE ODELL.
Needham, Mass.

I consider your catalogue perfect. W. G. LAURENT.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

I find it very complete. HENRY P. SAGE.
New Haven.

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.
Buffalo, N. Y.

Your postage and revenue catalogues were duly received. I prize them very highly. The pages devoted to the State issues in the revenue catalogue containing information of considerable value.
Portsmouth, N. H. W. P. YOUNG.

I received a copy of your catalogue 5th edition. 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.

Baltimore.

JOHN A. THALHEIMER.

Your catalogue has been received and am well pleased with it.
Seven Mile, Ohio.

W. W. WALTER.

After a careful examination I find your Catalogues 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.

Flag, Ohio.

Respectfully,

J. C. MILLER.

I have not yet had time to carefully inspect your catalogues, 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.

Etna, Pa.

N. SPANG.

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

VERNON A. ALLEN.

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

Lexington, Mass.

J. N. MORSE.

I think it is well worth the price.

Mansfield, Ct.

EDWARD T. WEED.

Our society has tendered you a unanimous vote of thanks for your catalogue.

New Milford Conn.

MAURICE U. LEVY.

Sec'y New Milford Phil. Soc.

On behalf of the men of the R. I. Phil. 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.

Providence, R. I.

E. B. HANES, President R. I. P. S.

Your Catalogue of U. S. Revenue Stamps came duly to hand. It may interest you to know that I have used your catalogues as my standards 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.

Hartford, Conn.

Yours very truly,

A. K. McCORRELL.

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 LACHISSE.

San Francisco, Cal.

Yours are ahead of all in every respect.

Lewiston, Me.

F. A. WRIGHT.

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.

Hartford, Ct.

FRED. F. BENNETT.

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 \$100. 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 cent. | Blue..... | 8 | 10 |
| " | 3 " | red..... | | 01 |
| 1856. | 5 " | brown..... | 2 | 50 |
| 1855. | 10 " | green..... | | 25 |
| 1851. | 12 " | black..... | 1 | 00 |
| 1860. | 24 " | lilac..... | 10 | 00 |
| 1857. | 1 " | blue..... | | 05 |
| " | 3 " | red..... | | 01 |
| " | 5 " | brown..... | 1 | 00 |
| " | 10 " | green..... | | 15 |
| " | 12 " | black..... | | 50 |
| 1860. | 24 " | lilac..... | | 50 |
| " | 30 " | orange..... | | 50 |
| " | 90 " | blue..... | 2 | 00 |
| 1861. | 1 " | blue*..... | | 02 |
| 1863. | 2 " | black..... | | 02 |
| 1861. | 3 " | red..... | | 01 |
| " | 3 " | scarlet..... | 10 | 00 |
| " | 5 " | yellow..... | 2 | 50 |
| " | 5 " | brown..... | | 15 |
| " | 5 " | red brown..... | | 25 |
| " | 10 " | green*..... | | 05 |
| " | 12 " | black..... | | 15 |
| 1866. | 15 " | "..... | | 25 |
| 1861. | 24 " | lilac..... | | 20 |
| " | 30 " | orange..... | | 50 |
| " | 90 " | blue..... | 1 | 50 |

| | | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| 1868. | 1 cent. | Blue..... | \$ 05 |
| " | 2 " | black..... | 02 |
| " | 3 " | red..... | 01 |
| " | 5 " | brown..... | 25 |
| " | 5 " | red brown..... | 50 |
| " | 10 " | green*..... | 20 |
| " | 12 " | black..... | 25 |
| " | 15 " | "..... | 25 |
| " | 24 " | lilac..... | 1 00 |
| " | 30 " | orange..... | 1 00 |
| " | 90 " | blue..... | 2 50 |
| " | 3 " | grilled rose..... | 5 00 |
| 1869. | 1 " | buff..... | 10 |
| " | 2 " | brown*..... | 05 |
| " | 3 " | blue..... | 01 |
| " | 6 " | "..... | 25 |
| " | 10 " | orange..... | 25 |
| " | 12 " | green..... | 25 |
| " | 15 " | brown*..... | 50 |
| " | 24 " | green and purple*..... | 1 50 |
| " | 30 " | red and blue*..... | 1 50 |
| " | 90 " | blue and carmine..... | 3 50 |

The above of 1868 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 cent. | Chocolate..... | \$ 05 |
| 1883. | 5 " | brown..... | 01 |
| 1870. | 6 " | carmine..... | 10 |
| 1871. | 7 " | vermillion..... | 25 |
| 1870. | 12 " | purple..... | 10 |
| " | 24 " | violet..... | 50 |
| " | 90 " | carmine..... | 10 |

* Varieties as high as 25. † Different designs.

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 or original letters or envelopes are worth more than when detached.

UNITED STATES ENVELOPES, UNUSED, OCTOBER 1st, 1886. "U. S." Watermark.

| NO. | VALUE. | COLOR. | PAPER. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A | 1 cent. | Blue..... | White..... | | | 5 | | 5 | | | | | | | 5 | | |
| B | 1 " | " | Amber..... | | | 5 | | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| C | 1 " | " | Plain Manilla..... | | | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | | | | | | 5 | |
| D | 1 " | " | Third Amber..... | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| E | 2 " | Brown..... | White..... | 10 | 10 | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | | |
| F | 2 " | " | Amber..... | | 10 | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 25 | 10 | | | | |
| G | 2 " | " | Oriental Buff..... | | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 10 | 15 | | | | |
| H | 2 " | " | Blue..... | | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 10 | 15 | | | | |
| I | 2 " | " | Plain Manilla..... | | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 10 | 10 | 10 | | | 5 | |
| J | 2 " | " | Third Amber..... | | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | | 10 | 10 | 10 | | | | |
| K | 4 " | Green..... | White..... | | | | | | 10 | | | | 25 | | | | |
| L | 4 " | " | Amber..... | | | | | | 10 | | | | 25 | | | | |
| M | 4 " | " | Plain Manilla..... | | | | | | 15 | | 15 | 15 | 15 | | | | |
| N | 4 " | " | Third Amber..... | | | | | | 15 | | 15 | 15 | 15 | | | | |
| O | 5 " | Chocolate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Brown | White..... | | | | | | 10 | 10 | | | | | | | |
| P | 5 " | " | Amber..... | | | | | | 10 | 10 | | | | | | | |
| Total number of varieties | | | | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 68 |

 Price for the set of 68 varieties,
\$5.00, net cash.

The Standard 1887 Packets of United States Adhesive Postage and Envelope Stamps.

NET CASH.

APRIL 1st, 1887.

Put up and for sale by E. B. STERLING, collector of and dealer in United States Stamps of all kinds, P. O. Box 294, Trenton, N. J., U. S. A.

| No. | Varieties. | Description. | Price. |
|------|------------|---|----------|
| 101. | 10. | Genuine Locals, including Allen's, Boyd's, Hussey's, Douglass, Empire City, &c. used and unused..... | to \$ 25 |
| 102. | 25. | Various issues, adhesive, Postage 1833 to 1883, 1c. to 90c., used..... | " 50 |
| 103. | 10. | Telegraph and Express Companies' Franks, including Western Union, American Rapid, &c., used and unused. | " 50 |
| 104. | 10. | Interior Department, complete set, unused, scarce, 1c. to 90c..... | " 2 00 |
| 105. | 10. | War Department, set, used and scarce, except 7c..... | " 50 |
| 106. | 11. | " " complete set, unused, fine and rare..... | " 1 00 |
| 107. | 1. | " " Envelopes, 1875, Plimpton Series, fine large margins, on blue, amber, cream and manilla paper, both used and unused..... | " 15 |
| 108. | 3. | Post Office Department Envelopes, fine, large margins, complete set of the 1873 Reay issue, 2c., 3c. and 6c., canary paper, unused..... | " 50 |
| 109. | 2. | Postal Service Envelopes, fine, large margins on blue and white paper, unused and used..... | " 10 |
| 110. | 10. | Old Issue Envelopes, fine, large margins, 1855 to 1870, on white, buff and cream, used..... | " 30 |
| 111. | 25. | Plimpton Series of Envelopes, 1871-83, on white, amber, cream, blue, orange, fawn and manilla, used..... | " 50 |
| 112. | 25. | Envelopes, various issues and kinds of paper, used and unused, 1855 to date, a very cheap and desirable packet. | " 1 00 |
| 113. | 3. | 6c., 1861, buff envelope, fine and rare, 6c., 1866, buff and white envelope..... | " 75 |
| 114. | 1. | Complete set of October die, envelope, white, amber, fawn, blue, unused and fine..... | " 50 |
| 115. | 1. | Same as above, used..... | " 10 |
| 116. | 6. | Complete set, November die, envelope, 2c. and 1c., in white, amber, fawn and blue, unused and fine..... | " 50 |
| 117. | 1. | Set, November die, 2c., white, amber, fawn and blue, used and fine..... | " 10 |
| 118. | 8. | Set, Brown's die, May and June impressions, 2c., in white, amber, fawn and blue, unused, rare and fine..... | " 1 50 |
| 119. | 1. | Set, red, retouched November die, in 2c., white, amber and fawn, blue, fine and unused..... | " 50 |
| 120. | 1. | Set July, 1881, dies entire, unused envelopes in white, amber, fawn and blue, rare..... | " 25 |
| 121. | 5. | 3c. and 2 link, entire, unused, envelopes, June recuts, white, amber, fawn and blue, very rare..... | " 1 50 |
| 122. | 25. | Unused Departments—Agriculture, Interior, Navy, Post Office, State, Treasury and War—a rare and fine lot..... | " 6 00 |
| 123. | 68. | Unused 1861 U. S. wmk. envelopes, 1c., 2c., 1c. and 5c., complete set, all sizes and colors of paper, a splendid line and very cheap..... | " 5 00 |

THE STANDARD 1887 PACKETS OF

Rare and Obsolete U. S. Revenues.

NET CASH.

APRIL 1st, 1887.

These Packets contain really good, fine and rare Stamps that cannot be bought for double their value from our retail price lists—have been greatly in demand, and large numbers have been sold during the past year. I am constantly adding large quantities U. S. Revenues to my stock, hence can always give bargains in this line, and improved the variety of the Stamps contained in these packets, so that collectors will find a splendid assortment to start their Revenue Collections at a small outlay.

| No. | Varieties. | Description | Price. |
|------|------------|---|--------|
| 124. | 10 | Document Stamp, 1st series, unperf., 1c. to \$1.50..... | 2 00 |
| 125. | 5 | " " " " " " part perf., 2c. to 70c..... | 1 50 |
| 126. | 25 | " " " " " " perf., 1c. to 5c..... | 1 00 |
| 127. | 10 | " " " " " " 2d series, 1c. to 5c..... | 1 00 |
| 128. | 5 | " " " " " " 3d series, 1c. to 5c..... | 75 |
| 129. | 1 | " " " " " " 4th and 5th series, including 2c. Rouletted..... | 1 00 |
| 130. | 10 | Proprietary " " " " " " 1st, 2d and 3d series, 1c. to 10c..... | 50 |
| 131. | 5 | Match " " " " " " on plain old paper..... | 1 00 |
| 132. | 15 | " " " " " " on silk thread paper..... | 1 00 |
| 133. | 5 | " " " " " " on pink paper..... | 50 |
| 135. | 5 | Medicine " " " " " " on plain old paper..... | 1 50 |
| 136. | 15 | " " " " " " on silk thread paper..... | 1 00 |
| 137. | 5 | " " " " " " on pink paper..... | 2 00 |
| 138. | 10 | " " " " " " on watermark paper..... | 50 |
| 139. | 5 | Playing card " " " " " " old, silk, pink and watermark paper..... | 1 00 |
| 140. | 10 | California and Nevada revenue..... | 2 00 |
| 141. | 15 | Shoe, collar and other license stamps..... | 50 |
| 142. | 20 | Entire stamped checks, in red, black, orange, etc..... | 1 00 |
| 143. | 25 | Cut " " " " " " various issues, rare..... | 50 |
| 144. | 5 | Rare Proofs, Document Stamps..... | 1 00 |
| 145. | 5 | " " " " Match Stamps..... | 2 00 |
| 146. | 5 | " " " " Medicine Stamps..... | 2 00 |
| 147. | 5 | " " " " Proprietary Stamps..... | 2 00 |
| 148. | 3 | " " " " 5c., \$1 and \$5 Proprietary Stamps..... | 5 00 |
| 149. | 25 | " " " " Match, Medicine, Document, Card and Proprietary Stamps..... | 10 00 |

These Stamps are in the finest order, and I pride myself upon sending out such Stamps as will be an ornament to any Collection.

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*Member of the New Jersey Historical Society, Trustee of the American Philatelic Association
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