

Brawford 419(3)

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A 3-CENT STAMP MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ORDER.

No. 1	contains	100 varieties of used and unused foreign stamps,	\$1 00
" 2	"	75 varieties of used and unused foreign stamps,	50
" 3	"	50 varieties of used stamps including Switzerland, &c.,	25
" 4	"	35 varieties of used stamps including Spain, &c.,	20
" 5	"	25 varieties of used stamps including Victoria, &c.,	15
" 6	"	15 varieties of used stamps including Austria, &c.,	10
" 7	"	350 mixed European stamps,	50
" 8	"	150 mixed European stamps,	25
" 9	"	50 mixed European stamps,	10
" 10	"	1 stamp each of over 25 different countries,	35
" 11	"	1 stamp each of over 15 different countries,	15
" 12	"	35 varieties of unused foreign stamps,	50
" 13	"	20 varieties of unused stamps including Servia, &c.,	25
" 14	"	15 varieties of unused stamps including Sandwich Islands, &c.,	20
" 15	"	10 varieties of unused stamps including Egypt, &c.,	15
" 16	"	8 varieties of unused stamps including Brunswick, &c.,	10
" 17	"	10 varieties U. S. stamps including 5 and 10 post-office, red and blue, 90 cent stamps, &c., &c.,	1 00
" 18	"	10 varieties of unused stamps including Brazil, Confederate States, Italy, Lubeck, &c.,	20
" 19	"	12 varieties of used stamps including Cape of Good Hope, Chili, Egypt, Russia, &c.,	25
" 20	"	12 varieties of unused stamps including Brazil, Malta, Newfoundland, Alsace, Lorraine, Confederate States, &c.,	25

All stamps warranted genuine.

Large Descriptive Catalogue, containing four pages of illustrations, and full description of 2,500 Government Stamps, a Money Table, and list of dealers, &c., 15 cents.

For list of foreign and U. S. coins, send list of wants and a three cent stamp for return postage, and we will price those which we can supply, and return it.

We wish to purchase 50,000 revenue and proprietary stamps; for prices send samples and stamp for return postage.

Address, STAMP & COIN COMPANY,
P. O. Box 1089, ROCKFORD, ILL.



DESCRIPTIVE



Price Catalogue,

—OF—

GOVERNMENT

Postage Stamps

FOR SALE BY

A. MARTIN,

STAMP AND COIN CO.,

Box 1089,

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS.

FOURTH EDITION.

Price 15 Cents.



PREFACE.

Another year has passed away since the publication of our third edition, and the undiminished enthusiasm of stamp collectors requires from us our Fourth Edition, which we can only hope will meet from our patrons a welcome equal to its predecessor. In the short period of four months an edition of two thousand copies has been completely exhausted, and for several months we have had none to meet the demand.

We do not rely merely upon our knowledge of stamps in the compilation of our Catalogue, but have employed the best talent in the country, who favor us not only with a summary of all the best European Catalogues, but with many additions and corrections of date, the result of careful comparison of the best collections in America.

The only criticism worth mentioning on our last edition was the omission of Post Cards, which we are convinced was an error, as they have been proved to be of practical utility, and will in all probability be introduced into our own country at the next session of Congress. Unlike postage stamps they should be kept entire in a drawer, or box for envelopes, with the larger ones in a portfolio. Any attempt to paste them into an album destroys them, and prevents the examination of the inscription on the reverse.

Within a year past a great change has taken place in the method of collecting stamps in the United States, especially in the large cities, for collectors upon whom we have been accustomed to rely for the purchase of our high priced stamps at from \$2. upward, and those who wanted every variety of color, perforation and watermark, have almost entirely given up collecting, and those who keep only unused stamps and uncut envelopes are becoming very few in number, while the boys and girls who collect for amusement only and want the cheap stamps ranging from one to ten cents each, and once in a while one a little more expensive are as plenty and take as much delight in it as ever.

We consider the present lull in the market for high priced stamps and fanciful varieties of impression as a very proper reaction from what has been called the European school, which attempted to turn what is much more suitable for a pastime into a science. All the adjectives in the English and French languages including the technical terms of the present day, are found entirely inadequate to describe the varieties of shade of color and quality of paper used in their manufacture, and the number of perforations are all carefully counted. If such collectors merely indulged their own whims in a private way no one could object, but when page after page of prominent European journals are occupied with such nonsense, and collectors are given to understand that they ought to have from a dozen to a hundred varieties of each stamp or else their collections are incomplete, and when the matter is sifted it is found that these enthusiasts care nothing about the science, except that by palming off these undiscovered varieties at fictitious prices their pockets are filled with shining guineas, we must congratulate American collectors that the few who have followed their advice have nearly all given it up as a thankless pursuit.

The demand for Revenue stamps appears to be unabated, and we consider those issued by the different governments nearly as interesting as their postage stamps, but it is much better to keep the two collections separate.

There never were many collectors of Local or Despatch stamps in the U. S., they are more prized in Europe, where collectors often give from £1 to £5 apiece for the rarer ones, but very few even in this country can tell the genuine unless they get them from letters themselves, and across the water it must be much more difficult. We have seen packets of locals which were obtained by our customers from the most reliable European dealers, not as bonafide stamps but as reprints mostly from the original dies, which contained only the cheapest imitations, they might as well have sent to Taylor himself, who offers "150 U. S. Local or Express stamps including all the rarer varieties, all warranted genuine," for 75 cents.

As an entertaining and instructive amusement few will attempt to deny the utility of stamp collecting. By far the greater majority of collectors are young people. A school of boys and girls are suddenly taken with the stamp fever, and for a while books and slates become of secondary consequence. Sometimes the teachers consider it detracting to their progress in knowledge and they are requested to give up their collections. We think however, that the benefits of collecting are sometimes underrated. Children learn from pictures quicker than in any other way. What a scholar learns from books is nearly all that in which he takes but little interest, and requires a stretch of memory to retain, and unless put into practical use is soon entirely lost. When a boy commences to collect, all his knowledge of modern History and Geography is brought into requisition, and he becomes acquainted with all progressive nations, their rulers, national emblems, currency, and relative advance in art.

The date of nearly every important change in a government is now recorded in its stamps. The greatest event of modern times in our own country deprived us of a beautiful set of ten years standing. Our present administration brought in that unique series in which historical events are portrayed in the compass of a square inch, but from their inconvenient form were soon superseded by another with portraits of those who have been our most honored representatives, and probably every succeeding administration will be chronicled by its appropriate issue.

DIRECTIONS.

All stamps sold from this Catalogue are guaranteed genuine.

All orders should be plainly written out and footed up in separate columns for the used and unused, giving the date, color and value of each stamp, with the sender's name and Post Office address each time.

Do not send money for those stamps priced in Italic figures, but send list of wants, and we will check off those in stock at the time. All letters of enquiry or orders under twenty five cents, must contain stamp for reply. In referring to any previous letter, always state the exact date if possible, as all our correspondence is filed away by the date of the letters.

In sending money through the mail have the amount in as few pieces as possible, if change is required, do not send pennies, but unused U. S. postage stamps of low values.

All sums of three dollars and upwards, should be sent either by P. O. Order, or in Registered letter. We cannot become responsible for money sent otherwise. All letters containing over five dollars worth of stamps for sale or exchange should be sent registered or prepaid by express, we will do the same in return.

To those who are starting collections we would specially recommend our packets, which have proved a decided success, and have now been thoroughly revised and improved. They are more quickly forwarded as a general rule than other orders, for being made up previously they are all ready to send off, while in a press of business orders from Catalogue are sometimes delayed.

In reading this Catalogue, collectors will please observe the following instructions:

The different nationalities are in alphabetical order: the Italic letters describe the stamps beneath; whenever they have watermarks they are also given with the abbreviation (wmk). The figure after the color at the commencement of the dotted line represents the number of marked differences of shade or type, and those stamps which come both perforated and unperforated have a colon (:) at the end of the dotted line. Wherever the date of a stamp is given, it holds good for all below it until a new date occurs.

The prices in the first column give the market value of unused, those in the last column of used stamps. Of those priced in Roman figures only we have enough to offer them for sale, of those priced in Italics we have a part, and are continually obtaining others, which we will sell at these prices as far as we can supply them. When there are several varieties of color, perforation or watermark, our price is for the common one, for the others and for entire envelopes we sometimes charge an advance. The reason some stamps are dearer used than unused, is because they are more difficult to obtain in that way.

We are continually purchasing large quantities of stamps, and hope that those who have any good stamps to sell, either in collections or otherwise will give us a chance to purchase; those we specially want are marked with a star, (*) for which we will pay in cash one half, and allow in exchange three fifths our list prices for limited quantities in good condition. We do not charge our list prices for any torn, clipped, greasy or badly defaced stamps; envelope stamps are cut square, and our offer only extends to the same quality.

We are also dealing largely in Revenue stamps of all kinds, both American and Foreign, and in original Locals of the U. S., including the Despatch stamps issued by private parties in the East, and the envelope stamps of the various Express companies of California and the Territories.

We have been greatly annoyed during the past year, by many of our country customers sending us fraudulent imitations of many of the rarer stamps, such as Bolivia, Swiss Cantonal, Pacific Steam Nav. Co., and of many of the rarer Confederate and Northern locals, some of them being very nearly like the originals and postmarked, most of which were obtained either directly or indirectly from those dealers we have honored with a star, and desiring us to remit at once half our list price in cash, and the letter being of so much importance of course the stamp for reply is omitted and we have the privilege of returning the stamps with an unwelcome letter at our own expense. We have a collection of over 1500 types of forged stamps which we keep for reference, and in connection with an order for stamps we are always willing to express our opinion on suspicious stamps gratuitously. The best way for parties in the country who have no facility for comparison, to avoid forgeries, is to purchase their stamps only from parties of known reliability.



