

HOW TO COLLECT



STAMPS

AND



COINS.

HOW TO COLLECT
STAMPS AND COINS.

A Book Which Should be in the Hands
of Every Stamp and Coin Collector.

HANDSOMELY ILLUSTRATED.

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HOW TO Collect Stamps and Coins.

PART I.

HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS.

We all have our hobbies—if they are good ones, the riding of them will afford us infinite pleasure and satisfaction; if bad, they are sure to bring us into trouble in the end.

The collecting of various objects, rare, quaint or curious, is certainly one of the most harmless of hobbies in which either boy or man can indulge. Collecting stamps or coins teaches us history; geography gives us ideas about art, inculcates in us habits of order, and generally can only lead to good results.

There are more collectors of stamps than of coins ten to one—probably even in greater proportion—yet stamp collecting is comparatively new, while the grouping of coins is known to have been followed over two thousand years ago.

There is less to learn in stamp collecting than in coins, but, on the other hand, it costs far less to get a good collection of stamps together. We therefore recommend boys with slim purses, who have no particular love for history, to devote themselves to stamps and leave coins severely alone.

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HOW TO BEGIN.

The first thing to do in stamp collecting is to make up your mind what kind of a collection you intend to form.

Shall it be postage or shall it be revenue? Will you devote yourself to the stamps of one particular class or country and try to perfect yourself in that particular line, or will you take anything that comes along and endeavor to make as good a showing as possible in all departments?

For beginners the latter course is undoubtedly the best, but if the love for stamps grows and the collection becomes



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very large it is better to then choose a specialty and confine oneself principally to that.

Having determined what to collect, next comes the question how to keep it.

There are several ways of keeping a stamp collection.

One is to get a number of large envelopes and label them with the names of different countries, putting into each such stamps as come under the heading.

No one but a very crazy collector would think of adopting this plan.

Another way is to take sheets of thick paper and rule them off into squares, affixing stamps to them in proper order as to country and date of issue.

This plan is usually adopted by those who gather very large collections, too large for an ordinary album. It is the only plan feasible for a collection of revenue stamps, for there are no good albums published for stamps of that class, but for an ordinary, general collection of postage stamps the album is unquestionably the best place to keep them.

But, again, this advice only refers to large collections.

A small collection scattered over the pages of a big album looks absurd. Here and there a stamp, buried amid a wilderness of cuts and white paper, nothing more.

To boys beginning a collection of stamps, this is our advice:

Buy an album, but at first keep it only for reference. Take

a good, clean blank-book, not too large, and write the names of the different countries of the world at the heads of the pages, leaving as many pages to each country as your album indicates is likely to be required.

Of course you don't want to leave *all* the space devoted to each country in the album.

You might as well use the album itself as do that.

Every country has its rare issues, which beginners cannot hope to get. Leave, therefore, in your blank book about half the album space and you will be sure to have ample room.



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When your collection begins to outgrow the blank book, then the time has come to transfer it to an album, which can be readily done.

HOW TO PASTE STAMPS IN AN ALBUM.

One of the most common blunders made by beginners in stamp collecting is to paste the specimens down flat in their album, whatever its form may be.

This should never be done. We can't speak too strongly about it.

No matter what the size of your collection may be, there will always be certain stamps which you will want either to take out altogether or transfer to some other place.

Arrange your stamp collection so that you can remove any specimen at pleasure.

This is easily done by using *stamp pasters* which can be cheaply procured from any dealer. These pasters can be attached to the top of the stamp and fastened to the book or sheet in such a way that they can be instantly removed without injury to the stamp.

In this way you can not only change the position of your stamps at any time, but if you want to sell out they are of more value to the dealer, who will not go to the trouble of removing common stamps which have been pasted into a book.

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The arrangement of a stamp collection, no matter how kept, should be either geographical, beginning with our own country, or alphabetical, according to the various countries of the globe.

In Scott's catalogue, the standard authority on stamps the world over, the latter plan is adopted.

In some respects it is the best, but it has its disadvantages, for the reason that many small states and kingdoms have issued stamps which do not now exist as independent governments, and to find stamps belonging to these it is necessary to know their names.



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Taken altogether, a geographical arrangement is to be preferred, and is the easiest comprehended, but there are many reasons which can be urged in favor of the other plan.

The arrangement of every collection should be orderly as to values and dates. Always begin a country with the lowest value of the earliest issue, and follow in order up to the highest value of that issue, adding next the lowest value of the succeeding issue, and so on.

But in whatever fashion you arrange your stamps, be sure to keep both the stamps and the paper to which they are fastened neat and clean. A mussy stamp collection is a sure indication of a lazy, slovenly collector, and of course no one wants to own up to such a character when exhibiting his stamp collection to his friends.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF STAMPS.

Let us now consider the stamps of the world in something like detail. To take even a hasty view of all stamps would require the writing of a ponderous volume, so it becomes necessary to be brief.

There are four principal divisions of a stamp collection.

1. Adhesive postage stamps.
2. Envelope Stamps.
3. Local Stamps.
4. Revenue Stamps.

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These divisions apply particularly to the United States, and generally to all countries.

Postage stamps are the most generally collected, and are the most numerous.

Their use dates back to the year 1840.

ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

The oldest postage stamp is English. It is black and bears the queen's head. Its value is one penny. Strangely enough it is common, and may be easily and cheaply obtained. It



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should be in the collection of every beginner in the stamp field. Three cents will buy a specimen.

One variety of this stamp is quite rare, however. It has the letters V R in the upper corners; the common kind has simply a small ornament in place of the letters.

The oldest United States stamps are the issues of 1847. There are two of these, the 5 cent brown, head of Franklin, value, used, \$1.25; and the 10 cent black, head of Washington, value, used, \$1.25.

A strong endeavor should be made to obtain both of these, in order that the collection of the stamps of our own country may be begun in proper shape.

The originator of postage stamps is said to have been an English nobleman, Sir Rowland Hill.

Let us examine into the different kinds of adhesive postage stamps.

Our stamp illustrations, we may say, in passing, are simply intended to show striking types, of which no particular description will be attempted.

Each illustration is numbered, and the key to the numbers will be found at the end of the first part of this book.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

There have been many different issues of postage stamps in the United States since the first, in 1847.

Each succeeding administration finds it necessary to

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"tinker" with the stamps. Just as we get used to green stamps they are abolished and red ones take their place, then away go the red, and brown ones come in. It makes work for somebody, and probably that is the real reason why these constant changes are brought about.

Stamps bearing values of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents have been issued by the government of the United States.

For the most part they bear portraits of individuals who have been prominent in American history with the value attached.



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Thus on the 1847 issues we find heads of Washington and Franklin; on the issues of 1851-56 portraits of Washington, Franklin and Jefferson, and so on through the different series portraits of other prominent characters appear, such as Jackson, Lincoln, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, Commodore Perry, Stanton, Taylor, Garfield, etc., forming quite a national portrait gallery, taken as a whole, which is all the more interesting since our coinage exhibits no portraits of individuals as it should.

Besides portrait stamps we have others issued during the year 1869.

This issue is the most marked of the different series of United States stamps. The following is a detailed description of it with prices attached for used specimens.

As a rule, chance unused stamps, no matter what their kind or country, command a higher price than used specimens, smeared with the cancelling ink.

Yet this is not always true. There are collectors of both kinds, and some stamps, especially in the higher values, are rarer used than unused.

1869 ISSUE.

- 1 Cent, buff, head of Franklin; value, 10 cents.
- 2 Cent, brown, horseman riding; value, 2 cents.
- 3 Cent, blue, locomotive and cars; value, 1 cent.

- 6 Cent, blue, head of Washington; value, 20 cents.
 10 Cent, yellow, eagle; value, 20 cents.
 15 Cent, blue and brown, picture of the landing of Columbus, picture unframed; value, \$1.50.
 15 Cent, blue and brown, picture of the landing of Columbus, picture framed; value, 30 cents.
 24 Cent, green and black, Declaration of Independence; value, \$1.50.
 30 Cent, blue and carmine, eagles; value, \$1.00.
 90 Cent, black and carmine, head of Lincoln, value \$5.



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This issue is the most notable, because it is the most striking of the different series of United States postage stamps.

In 1870 return was made to the portraits again, and they are still in use.

Scott's catalogue notices 95 varieties of regular United States government adhesive postage stamps down to 1888. Since then another set has been issued which carries the varieties above one hundred.

There are of course many other styles of stamps used for postage, each of which will be noticed in its proper place.

CONFEDERATE STAMPS.

During the brief existence of the so-called Confederate States of America, many stamps were issued which of course belong, in a certain sense, to the series of the stamps of the United States.

A portion of these were issued by the Confederate Government, others by the post masters of various cities and towns throughout the South.

Provisional and general issues we may style these two classes.

When the war broke out the South suddenly found itself without postage stamps, and various expedients were resorted to that the want might be supplied.

Some of the post masters surcharged the regular United States stamps with the letters C. S. of A. (Confederate States of America), the letters being placed in the corners;

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but others went further and concocted stamps of their own while waiting for the new government to issue a supply.

These are the "local" or provisional stamps of the Confederate States of America; with scarce an exception, they are very rare.

The towns and cities which issued these provisional stamps are as follows:

Athens, Ga.; Baton Rouge, La.; Charleston, S. C.; Columbia S. C.; Danville, Va.; Fayetteville, Ga.; Fredericksburg, Va.; Goliad, Texas; Greenville, Ala.; Kingston, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Lenoir, N. C.; Livingston, Ala.;



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Lynchburg, Va.; Macon, Ga.; Madison, Fla.; Marion, Va.; Memphis, Tenn.; Mobile, Ala.; Nashville, Tenn.; New Orleans, La.; Petersburg, Va.; Pleasant Shade, Va.; Raleigh, N. C.; Rheatown, Tenn.; Ringgold, Ga.; Salem, N. C.; Spartanburg, S. C.; Statesville, N. C.; Tellico Plains, Tenn.; The Plains, Va.; Tuscumbia, Ala.; and Uniontown, Va.

Many of these issues are already so rare that it would be difficult to fix their values. The following brief mention will, however, convey some idea of how choice these stamps really are:

Mobile issued two stamps, the 2-cent black and the 5-cent blue. The former is worth from \$30 to \$35; the latter, unused, \$8.

Raleigh, N. C., issued two stamped envelopes, both bearing the black 5-cent stamp, one being on white paper, the other on buff. Either of these stamps are worth \$35.

Spartanburg, Va., issued two stamps, one black, and the other black and blue. Originally of the value of 5 cents each, either is now worth \$25.

The rarest of these provisional stamps of the Confederate States, however, is the famous New Orleans local; but one specimen is known, upon which the value is placed at \$500.

Now care must be had to study Scott's catalogue carefully if one does not want to be deceived in the matter of these rare stamps.

Some time ago we said a few words on these Confederate

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locals in the *GOLDEN WEEKLY*, and immediately a reader writes that he has a New Orleans local, and wants to know where he can get \$500 for it.

If he had stopped to post himself he would have known that it would be hard work to get \$5 for his stamp, instead of \$500, because it did not happen to be the particular New Orleans local that was rare.

There were five local stamps issued by the New Orleans post-office. A 2 cent blue, a 2 cent red, a 5 cent brown and a 5 cent red on blue. It is the latter, the 5 cent red on blue



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which commands the enormous premium mentioned. \$1,50 will buy either of the others.

Don't fancy you have a fortune simply because you happen to have a New Orleans stamp. Post yourself and be sure.

The regular stamp issues of the Confederate government are not rare as a rule.

They were badly engraved and wretchedly printed, and bore portraits of Washington, Jackson, Madison, John C. Calhoun and Jeff Davis.

These stamps should be found in all collections, as they represent one of the most important periods in our country's history. There is but little hope of a beginner obtaining the rarities, for these choice stamps have long ago passed into the hands of collectors and dealers who fully appreciate their worth.

In arranging a collection of Confederate stamps put the provisional issues first, as these preceded the general issue. They should be placed in the album alphabetically, according to States and towns.

CANADIAN STAMPS.

Next in order come the stamps of our northern neighbors, the Canadians.

American collectors should give more attention to American stamps than to those of foreign countries.

The Canadian series is fairly large and interesting, having passed through many changes.

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The issues classified under this head are those of Canada proper, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edwards Island and British Columbia.

These stamps first appeared in 1851, the first specimen being for Canada proper. It had the picture of a beaver beneath a crown which divides the letters V—R (Victoria Regina). The legend is "Canada Postage. Three Pence."

Others had portraits of Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert, and the famous discoverer, Sebastian Cabot.



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In 1869 the present series, bearing the profile portrait of the Queen on all values, was adopted.

New Brunswick stamps are the most interesting of the Canadian series. The Queen's portrait, a train of cars; a steamship and the portrait of the Prince of Wales, mark the issue of 1860. The earliest, or 1851 issue has a fancy design set corner-wise in the stamp. The rarest New Brunswick stamp is the 5 cent brown, of 1860, bearing the portrait of the postmaster, Mr. Cornell.

The story is that the regular stamps gave out and the postmaster made this one himself. Be this as it may, he was removed from office for permitting his portrait to appear on this stamp, which now commands a high price.

Newfoundland has one of the most artistic series of stamps in existence. There are forty-two altogether. Upon them is found the codfish, the seal, the Newfoundland dog, etc. One is triangular and has the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, and the shamrock of Ireland.

Stamps similar to this were also issued for the Cape of Good Hope.

Prince Edwards Island stamps have the Queen's portrait on all varieties. They are all common at present, and in time certain early issues will no doubt become rare.

British Columbia and Vancouver's Island present a series of thirteen stamps, ranging in value from 2 1-2 pence to \$1. They bear the Queen's head, and in one instance a large V beneath a crown.

STAMPS OF MEXICO.

The stamps of Mexico are particularly worthy of the attention of collectors on account of the strong bearing they have upon the numerous political changes which that country has undergone.

Postage stamps first appeared in Mexico in 1856. The earliest issues bear the portrait of Hidalgo, the priest who did so much to deliver his countrymen from the tyrannical yoke of Spain.

The next issue was in 1864. It has the arms of Mexico, an eagle perched upon a cactus in the act of killing a snake.



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Following these came the issues of the short-lived empire of Maximilian. Since these an exceedingly large and varied series has appeared, which contain many rarities.

To even notice the rare issues of various countries would carry us far beyond our limits.

There is but one way to get posted in stamps, and that is by carefully studying catalogues. Even the study of the stamps themselves will give no idea of what is rare and what is common. In all series there are many stamps worth from 25 cents to \$1. It is in gathering such as these that the profit lies. Scarce now, they are sure to become rare in the future. Great rarities are only for rich collectors. This is a fact which one will do well not to forget.

CENTRAL AMERICAN STAMPS.

Everything relating to Central America, that country of volcanoes, ancient ruins and perpetual revolutions, is interesting, and the stamps are no exception to the rule.

Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica are the five republics into which this portion of our continent is politically divided.

Each have their stamps, new issues and old; many are exceedingly beautiful, and a few rare.

Guatemala offers us upon her stamps a picture of a very beautiful bird, common in that country, the quetzal, the

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blazing sun, portraits of the Goddess of Liberty—who certainly never had a permanent dwelling place in Guatemala—the Dictator Barrios and other notable designs.

The stamps of San Salvador picture the noted volcano, Izalco; those of Honduras a pyramid, with various surcharges (words or letters printed over the design after its issue), commemorating revolutionary changes.

Nicaragua shows us volcanoes, and Costa Rica does the same on her stamps.

Artistically, the stamps of Central America are very beau-



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tiful. They are not the production of native talent, however, being for the most part executed in France.

WEST INDIAN STAMPS.

All the prominent West Indian Islands have their stamps. Some are of odd shapes and curiously surcharged, and many are rare.

Here is a list of the stamp issuing islands, which will give the collector a hint as to the amount of work which lies before him if he desires to properly fill this department of his album.

Antigua, Bahamas, Barbadoes, Bermuda, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Hayti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserat, Nevis, Porto Rico, San Domingo, Santa Lucia, St. Christopher, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad, Turk's Island and the Virgin Isles.

There is no prettier line for making a good display in an album than a fairly complete collection of West Indian stamps.

SOUTH AMERICAN STAMPS.

The stamps of South America complete the American division of our entertaining subject.

Of course these are very numerous. The United States of Colombia, Venezuela, the three Guianas, Brazil, Uruguay,

the Argentine Republic, Chili, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, all furnish their different issues, forming a series not to be surpassed.

Among them are many rarities and many specimens of striking and unique design.

Noted men, the sun and constellations of stars, various birds, animals and plants all appear upon these stamps.

In beauty and variety they far surpass those of the United States series, and, in fact, compare favorably with any other group of stamps in existence.



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A stamp collection without a liberal representation from South America would simply be no collection at all.

STAMPS OF EUROPE.

When we come to Europe we have reached the continent most prolific in stamp issues.

The use of postage stamps began in time to let in all the little German states, since wiped out of existence, politically, by the formation of the Empire.

German stamps, therefore, are a host in themselves. And the same is true of Italy.

Russia offers stamps of artistic workmanship.

Norway and Sweden and Denmark furnish numerous and striking varieties.

Holland and Belgium are not noted for stamps either handsome or rare, but France and Spain have both kinds.

Beside these, we have interesting lines from Switzerland, Portugal, Turkey and other lands.

The British series numbers some 226 varieties. There is little that is striking in their appearance, if we except the recent "Jubilee issue," in bright colors, but some of them are very rare.

As the stamps of Europe must ever form the bulk of any album which comes anywhere near completeness, it ought to be the first work of the collector to study them thoroughly, posting himself on rarities, varieties and values. To do

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this work thoroughly, means success—to neglect it will make confusion and failure sure.

STAMPS OF ASIA.

In the stamps of Asia we have another broad field, and an exceedingly varied one.

Here we encounter strange alphabets and symbols, to us unknown, upon the stamps.

Almost every one of the native states which are subject to the British empire in India have their separate stamps,



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many of which are very difficult to obtain, as well as of the most peculiar and striking designs.

Persia, Siam, Burmah, Cambodia, China, Japan, Borneo, the Phillipines, etc., all have postage stamps, so it will be seen at a glance what an important feature in the album Asiatic stamps form.

They are the most highly prized by collectors of the various stamp issues of the world.

AFRICAN STAMPS.

It will hardly be expected that Africa could furnish a large line of specimens for the stamp album, nor is such the case.

In the north, Tunis came out with stamps in 1888, leaving Morocco and Tripoli still to be heard from.

Madagascar, the big island off the east coast, Mozambique, Angola, Portuguese Guinea, and other large divisions, have stamps of recent issue, while in the south, Natal and the Cape Colony have used them since somewhere near the date of their first appearance.

The African series, though limited in number, is highly interesting, and must not be neglected. As we mentioned above, some of the old issues of the Cape Colony are in the shape of a pyramid. They are the oddest stamps ever made, and every collector should be sure to have at least one. Forty or fifty cents will buy a good specimen.

STAMPS OF OCEANICA.

Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, the Fiji, Sandwich and other South Sea islands, offer a large and varied selection of stamps which no collector can afford to despise.

The most notable among this interesting class must ever be the set recently issued by New South Wales, commemorating the centennial of the settlement of the colony, each having different devices of local interest with the suggestive words: "One hundred years."

On one of these stamps we have a portrait of Captain



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Cook, the discoverer, others have portraits of Queen Victoria and Gladstone. One has a very correct representation of that typical Australian bird, the emu, another the kangaroo, the representative beast of the colony, another still a view of the city of Sidney, and so on.

Stamps like these possess some interest beyond that which show only liresome eagles, queens' heads, or even the head of our immortal Washington, which, be the veneration for it what it may, has certainly been done to death on our stamps.

One of the stamp designs of the Sandwich Islands, which runs through several values, gives us a very striking view of the country, with its volcanoes and the harbor of Honolulu.

STAMPS OF ISOLATED ISLANDS.

Beside the stamps of Oceanica, there are issues of various isolated islands, like Iceland, the Azores, St. Helena, etc.

Some of these are very rare and valuable.

Under this head come the much-talked-of stamps of Mauritius and Bourbon, the Reunion Isles.

We have now given a brief sketch of the possibilities of a collection of adhesive postage stamps. At a glance any one can see that they are large. Let us next glance at the other departments of the field.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Envelope stamps tell their own story in their name.

To save the trouble of pasting the stamps on the envelopes the government, in some instances, has issued envelopes with stamps printed on them.

The collection of these stamped envelopes has become quite popular of late.

Some collectors retain the entire envelope, others cut off the stamp and save only that with a square piece of the envelope adhering to it.



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Certainly the cutting of envelopes cannot be recommended. No matter what we call it, the endeavor should always be to keep it as nearly in its original condition as we possibly can.

The stamped envelopes of the United States already number over a thousand varieties. To preserve these entire, a special blank book will be needed unless they are kept in packages or pasted on sheets.

The first issue of stamped envelopes was that of 1853-5. It consisted of some eighteen varieties.

England and other countries have their stamped envelopes, too.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

Official stamps are such as are used exclusively by the various officials and departments of governments.

They form an interesting series full of rarities. The beginner will do well to let them alone.

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS.—NEWSPAPER STAMPS.
UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

These represent the various business methods of our post office department. The newspaper stamps were used only for large quantities of newspapers direct from the publishers. The unpaid letter stamps and special deliveries everybody knows.

U. S. LOCAL STAMPS.

The series of United States Local stamps is, taken all in all, the most remarkable in philatelic science.

Philatelic means relating to stamp collecting. Those who don't know that ought to post themselves at once.

Nothing like the U. S. Local series either for rarity or variety exists in any other country.

It bears the same relation to the regular stamp issues that tokens of individuals do to government coins.

The U. S. Locals may be divided into two classes. First,



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the provisional issues of the government post-offices; second, issues of express and despatch companies, which in their day and place made the safe and rapid delivery of letters an important feature of their business.

The post-offices issuing stamps of the first series were those of Baltimore, Brattleboro, Millbury, Vt., New Haven, Ct., New York, Providence, R. I., and St. Louis.

These issues were all made before the adoption of regular postage stamps by the government. New York city issued the first, in the year 1842.

Some of these post office locals were very simple in design; as for instance the Baltimore stamp, which bears nothing but the postmaster's name and value, thus: JAMES M BUCHANAN, 5 CENTS, or the New Haven, which reads: Post OFFICE, NEW HAVEN, CT., 5 PAID, E. H. MITCHELL, P. M., the postmaster's name being simply written in with a pen. The Providence stamp (see our first illustration) is of similar design, as is also the Brattleboro, but those issued at New York and Millbury, Vt., bore the head of Washington, and the St. Louis set had the arms of Missouri, supported by two bears.

These stamps are the rarest of the rare. The Baltimore, Brattleboro, New Haven, and St. Louis have sold as high as \$500 a piece.

The second class of local stamps used in the United States,

those of the express and dispatch companies, are not, as a rule, so rare as those issued by the post offices, although many varieties command a high price, and a large number of them can readily be disposed of at prices ranging from \$5 to \$10.

The use of local stamps began in 1842, and was continued, to a greater or less degree, down to quite a recent period, when the government finally put a stop to this interference in its postal business, as it unquestionably had the right to do.



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Other countries have had their local stamps as well as ours. Among them may be named Bolivia, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Cuba, San Domingo, Honduras, Guatemala, Macao, China, Mexico and the Philippine Islands.

Beside this, numerous governments have permitted the use of revenue stamps for postage, which, if a complete collection of local or provisional stamps was aimed at, it would be necessary to include among the rest.

REVENUE STAMPS.

Comparatively few persons collect the stamps which governments have from time to time ordered placed on various articles for the purpose of collecting the revenue tax.

Yet there are many persons who earnestly seek for them; some collecting them in connection with postage stamps, others making a specialty of this field and gathering nothing else.

It would seem that revenue stamps had a perfect right to demand admittance into all regular collections.

What is postage but one of the revenues of the country?

Why collectors should confine themselves to this one particular branch of revenue stamps used to pay the tax on letter transportation, rejecting all others, positively I could never understand.

The use of revenue stamps began over 200 years ago,

and has been continued by most of the nations of the civilized world ever since.

Thus in forming a collection of revenue stamps, we have a wide range of date and real rarity; yet the rarest revenue stamps have never commanded the high prices of U. S. local postage stamps, and probably never will.

Originally documentary revenue stamps—*i. e.*, stamps used on documents, like wills, mortgages, deeds, and the like, were printed directly on the paper. Such a stamp was the one issued by England under the famous Stamp Act which brought about the Revolutionary War.

Stamped paper with the Stamp Act impress on it is very, very rare. A specimen would readily bring \$100.

After the war our government took to stamping paper, and shortly after the beginning of the present century a series of revenue stamps were in use.

Again during the late war almost everything of importance had to pay an internal tax, and the stamps then used form a long and interesting series of themselves.

Thus we have stamps for pills and stamps for plasters, stamps for salves and stamps for bitters and many other articles.

This series may be classed under two grand heads, Documentary stamps and Proprietary stamps, with three subdivisions of the latter series, Match, Medicine and Playing Card stamps.

Many of these comparatively recent revenues are excessively rare and are held at high prices, but purchasers are few.

Neither local nor revenue stamps can be recommended to beginners.

The former on account of the high prices they command, and the latter because of the difficulty in disposing of them to advantage in case it becomes necessary to sell.

HOW TO GET STAMPS.

The cheapest way to get stamps is to beg for them. The most satisfactory way to buy of some regular stamp dealer whose reputation for honesty is not too badly smudged.

In former days it was quite the custom among collectors to go around among mercantile houses and beg the stamps which came on their foreign letters, but now it is pretty hard work to get stamps in that way except through the influence of friends, for many houses sell their foreign stamps to dealers for good hard cash.

Stamps bought of dealers are the only ones which can be got in quantity sufficient to make a collection; all other

sources of collecting the dealers have monopolized themselves.

Trading duplicates with other collectors is also a good plan.

HOW TO SELL STAMPS.

There are three ways of disposing of a stamp collection; selling outright to a dealer, selling at private sale to a collector, or several collectors, or selling at public auction.

If you sell to a dealer you may be sure of one thing, he will not give you what you paid for your stamps, but you will get your cash right then and there—unless you sell on trust, which would be very foolish—and that will be the end of all bother.

You cannot expect the dealer to give you what your stamps cost you. If he did that, where would his means of making a living come in?

All stamps do not increase in value. The larger portion of your collection must always be common stuff which has not advanced a cent in price since you bought it. If your percentage of rare stamps is large, perhaps the advance on those will overbalance the loss on the common ones, perhaps not, it is hard to say; but even if it does not, remember you have had your fun, and fun costs something, every time.

If your collection is small, sell it to your brother collector if you can, to a dealer if you must; but if it is large and valuable, an auction is the best way.

Stamp auctions are held in New York at irregular intervals all through the year. They are good places to buy as well as sell.

If your stamps are rare they will bring all they are worth at auction; if common, no power can force them above their level, and it is of no use to try.

Collectors who attempt to get up an auction sale for themselves always lose money.

The best way is to place your collection in the hands of some honest dealer and let him manage the business for you. He knows the buyers and can reach them—you can't.

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS.

Beware of cheap rarities. They are always counterfeit unless some very satisfactory certification comes with them. There are a great many counterfeit stamps floating about, and in addition a great many fabrications—that is stamps which never really had any existence, but were made expressly to deceive young collectors.

Nothing but time, experience, and the careful studying of

your catalogues will enable you to avoid these stumbling blocks.

Stamp counterfeiting is not, however, as common now as it was in former years.

RARE STAMPS.

Do not strive after rare stamps unless you have plenty of money behind you.

It will only lead you into all sorts of pitfalls.

Of course, if a genuine rarity comes your way you will not throw it over your shoulder; but as a rule stick to the common ones, try and make your collection grow. Later, when you get more money you can slip the rarities in.

-----:0:-----

Key to the Stamp Pictures:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 5 Cent Providence, Local. | 27. 5 Cent, Italy. |
| 2. 1 " City Dispatch. | 28. 2 Kreuzer, Austria. |
| 3. 2 " Mobile, Confederate. | 29. 3 Parri, Roumania. |
| 4. 5 " New Orleans, Local. | 30. 1 Para, Servia. |
| 5. 5 " Canada. | 31. 5 Cent, Bulgaria. |
| 6. 4 " Mexico. | 32. 1 Lepton, Greece. |
| 7. 100 " " | 33. Persia. |
| 8. 4 Reals, Gautemala. | 34. 2 Annas, British India. |
| 9. 1-2 Real, San Salvador. | 35. Afghanistan. |
| 10. 10 Cent, Nicaragua. | 36. 1 Penny, Ceylon. |
| 11. 1-2 Real, Cuba. | 37. Siam. |
| 12. 1 Cent, Hayti. | 38. 1 Caudarin, Shanghai. |
| 13. 5 Cent, Porto Rico. | 39. 5 " , China. |
| 14. 10 Reis, Brazil. | 40. 1 Sen, Japan. |
| 15. 1 Cent, Chili. | 41. 6 Pence, New Zealand. |
| 16. 1 Cent, Pern. | 42. 2 Shillings, Queenland. |
| 17. 1 Kopeck, Russia. | 43. 2 Pence, West Australia. |
| 18. 3 Ore, Sweden. | 44. 3 " , Cape of Good Hope. |
| 19. 5 " Denmark. | 45. 5 Cents, Liberia. |
| 20. 10 Pfennige, German Empire. | 46. 10 Reis, Mozambique. |
| 21. 5 Cent, Holland. | 47. 1-2 Penny, Gold Coast. |
| 22. 6 Pence, England. | 48. 4 Shillings, Iceland. |
| 23. 1 Cent, France. | 49. 1 Cent, Hawaiian Islands. |
| 24. Spain. | 50. 3 Pence, Fiji Islands. |
| 25. 5 Reis, Portugal. | 51. 6 Pence, St. Helena. |
| 26. 50 Cent, Switzerland. | 52. 1 Penny, Newfoundland. |

[END OF PART I]

PART II.

HOW TO COLLECT COINS.

The collecting of old coins embraces a much wider field than the collecting of stamps, and is to be considered in a very different way.

A stamp collection has a relation to the history of the different countries of the world in a certain sense, it is true;



ANCIENT COIN OF SICILY.

but coins are often the only historical records which we have of nations and forms of government which have long since passed away, and which would have been buried in oblivion but for the coins which bear the names of kings, alphabets long since forgotten, and records of events relating to the countries whose money they once were.

Therefore it will be seen at a glance how important a place coin collecting—the science of numismatics it is termed—occupies. Stamps can never hope to become of such importance, although they already fill a similar place.

COIN COLLECTING VERY OLD.

The grouping of specimens of the money of different nations is as old as the making of coins.

In the excavations made in Greece, Italy and other countries whose history extends back to ancient times, coins have been unearthed as bright and new as the day they left their respective mints.

Large quantities have been found together, each coin being different, thus showing conclusively that they once

formed the collection of some numismatist, who in the day of trouble buried them for safety, little dreaming that centuries would elapse before they were again to be exposed to the light of day.

On the other hand, great finds of coins have been made which were all alike, thus telling a different story.

For instance: Some years ago, an antiquarian took it in his head to dig into a little hillock, which stood on the outskirts of a certain German town.

To his amazement he found that the base of the hillock



ANCIENT ROMAN COIN, B. C. 400.

was entirely composed of Roman coins, all from the mint of one particular emperor, and all, except the outer layers, new and uncirculated.

History was studied, and it was learned that during the time that the Romans possessed this part of Europe, a military station had existed near the spot.

There was but one conclusion to draw, that these coins had been brought from Rome to pay off the troops. For reasons unknown they had been dumped in that particular place, and there for centuries remained.

Almost all the ancient coins which we possess have been dug out of the ground or fished out of rivers which have been dredged.

It will be thus seen that coins record history in a way that stamps can never hope to do.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF COINS.

There are four grand divisions to a perfect coin collection — if such a thing exists.

First.—Ancient Coins. This division embraces all specimens of metal or other substances, which served as money, issued from the earliest period down to the year 400 A. D.

Second.—Mediæval Coins. This series takes in all coins issued after 400 A. D. down to about the year 1550.

In grouping the coins of some countries, collectors extend the period of their mediæval coins later than others. The year 1650 should be the extreme limit in all countries except Russia, where it is usually carried down to about the year 1700, for not until that period did Russia begin to emerge from the darkness of the middle ages.

Third.—Modern coins. This division embraces all coins struck after 1550, and brings us down to the present times.

Fourth.—Tokens. Tokens are coins issued by private individuals, to serve in times of war or commercial trouble. The series embraces all pieces of stamped metal or other



COIN OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR NERVA, A. D., 97.

substances which have had a money value for any purpose—such as tickets of admission to entertainments, gamblers' checks, advertising cards on metal, rubber, etc.; tickets of admission to the Communion-table, for passage by boat, stage or railroad, and so on.

Medals form a class by themselves, as they are not money in any sense of the word, being issued to commemorate noted individuals, political or other events. The collection of medals is rarely followed to any extent by regular collectors of coins, and is to be considered as a field entirely distinct.

ANCIENT COINS.

Ancient coins are divided into several classes, as follows:

Greek Coins.—Coins were first issued in Lydia, now part of Asiatic Turkey, or on the island of Aegina, off the coast of Greece—it is uncertain which.

The date of issue is also wholly uncertain, and is variously placed by numismatists at from 500 to 800, B. C.

About the year 700 B. C. is the probable date of the oldest coin, for in 400 B. C. coins were in general use, and it is safe to assume that they had been known more than one hundred years.

The ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians and Jews were accustomed to transact all business by means of stamped ingots, or rings of metal, marked with the weight. These nations have no coins.

The Chinese coinage is not believed to date much further back than the time of Christ.

All very ancient coins come under the general head of Greek, although they were made and used by many nations outside of Greece.

In fact, Greece was never a nation, properly speaking.

The term Greek covers all the independent governments



BYZANTINE COINS.

existing not only in Greece itself, but in Asia Minor, Sicily, Southern Italy and other parts of the ancient world.

Kings, potentates, republics, and cities in all these places had their coins, which, in a collection, come under the general head of Greek.

There is something very singular about these Greek coins. Not only are they the oldest, but they are likewise the most skillfully executed in an artistic sense.

Take for example the ancient coin of Sicily, which we illustrate. No finer specimen of the die-sinker's art exists today, and yet this coin was struck over 2,000 years ago.

There are six different kinds of metals in which these Greek coins are struck. Gold, electrum (a mixture of gold and silver), silver, copper, bronze, and potin (a mixture of silver and copper.)

Greek gold is all rare and very valuable.

Coins in electrum are all very ancient and costly, and entirely beyond the reach of the ordinary collector.

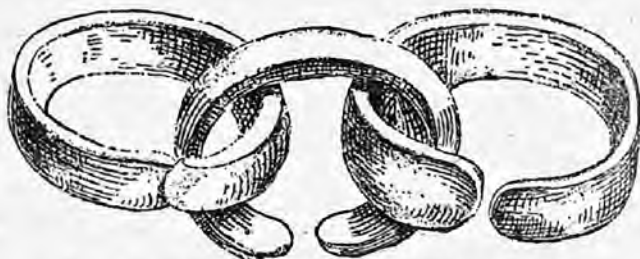
A Greek collection will consist principally of silver and bronze coins.

Copper was but little used and potin only in a few instances, principally by the inhabitants of the city of Alexandria in Egypt, which can only in a certain sense be said to come under the Greek head.

The silver coins of the Greeks are the most beautiful series in existence, and also the most interesting.

They represent the gods and the goddesses of the ancient

people who made them, chronicle important political changes, furnish us with the names of cities and towns which have long since been swept out of existence, as well as pictures of animals and birds, portraits of kings and princes, representations of farming and domestic utensils, and, in a word, form a sort of metallic picture gallery which has furnished to the world a good deal of the information it possesses regarding the domestic and political history of those truly wonderful people, who in their day controlled the destinies of the civilized world.



IRISH RING MONEY AT LEAST 2,000 YEARS OLD.

Greek silver coins can be bought at prices ranging from three dollars to many hundreds.

They cannot be recommended to beginners on account of their rarity and high cost.

Greek bronze coins are very plentiful and can easily be obtained at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1. Every collection should have a few, but they are hard to understand, and only the earnest student should take them up to any extent.

Ancient Roman coins must next be considered.

This series divides itself naturally into two classes, Coins of the Roman Republic, and coins of the Roman Empire.

The coins of the republic are of two classes, small silver pieces, struck by the different families of Rome, and the large bronze coins, called *Aes*, some of which are square and weigh as much as a pound.

These are rare coins again, and only for the advanced collector. Beginners had better let them alone.

The coins of the Roman Empire are the most numerous of all ancient coins. They occur principally in bronze and gold, although there are some in silver.

In point of age they cover the period between the year 14, B. C., and about 400, A. D.

Usually they bear the emperor's head on the obverse—

that is, the principal face of the coin—with some allegorical or historic design and inscription on the other side.

As the inscriptions on the Roman coins are usually in Latin and easily read, they are much easier to study and locate than the Greek. They should be arranged according to emperors in the order of their respective reigns.

Dates did not appear on coins as we now have them until about 1480, so it is impossible to arrange ancient coins in that way.

Roman bronze coins can be purchased at all prices, from 10 cents up, according to rarity and condition.



TWO EARLY IRISH COINS.

Understand once and for all, that age does not make a coin valuable. Some of the oldest coins are the most common, and hence can be bought for a very low price.

Every collection should have a few Roman coins, but small collectors should be content with a few specimens, as they can never hope to make anything like a good showing without a large outlay of cash.

Egyptian Coins.—After B. C. 350, a series of coins were struck by the Ptolemies, a line of Greek sovereigns in Egypt. Some collectors class these with the Greeks.

Bactrian Coins.—Modern Afghanistan was once called Bactria. A very curious series of coins were struck there between the years B. C. 300 and A. D. 100. For the greater part these coins are copper, and cheap.

Parthian Coins.—The Parthians were an ancient people, and occupied a portion of Turkey in Asia. There is a small series of these coins dating a little before and after the time of Christ.

Persian Coins.—There are a few coins in existence of the Ancient Persians, mostly of gold and very rare.

Gaulish Coins.—The Gauls were the ancestors of the French. They issued rude coins about the time of Christ. Series small and uninteresting to the general collector.

British Coins.—While the Gauls were making coins in France, our English ancestors were making a few in England. They are all of rude workmanship, and too rare to be of interest to an amateur.

At this time and earlier, the bronze rings which we illustrate were in use as money in Ireland.



ENGLISH GOLD NOBLE.—1327-1377.

Beside these grand divisions of the ancient series there are many subdivisions which would take pages to explain.

No beginner should attempt to make a specialty of ancient coins unless he loves history, can read Greek, and has plenty of money to spend.

MEDIEVAL COINS.

In the coins of the middle ages we have a subject so broad that it is difficult to know how to condense it into a few words.

Let us try to classify it under separate heads.

BYZANTINE COINS.

The Roman Empire was finally overturned in Italy about 400, A. D.

At that time the seat of the Roman government was permanently transferred to Constantinople, and a new empire, called the Byzantine, was formed, which embraced all of European Turkey and part of Asia Minor, all of Greece and part of Egypt and Northern Africa.

Gradually it dwindled smaller and smaller, until at last,

Just before Columbus discovered America, along came the Turks and wiped it off the map of the world.

Now these Byzantines struck quantities of coins. There is a long series of them in all metals.

They are neither ancient nor mediæval, but betwixt and between.

The copper ones are cheap and can be easily obtained.

MEROVINGIAN COINS.

Next in a mediæval cabinet came Merovingian coins.

These embrace the issues of the early Kings of France,



BERMUDA SHILLING.

and by some are made to include early Spanish and Italian money as well.

All rare and valuable, and not to be thought of by beginners. The writer has been collecting coins for 28 years and never saw a single specimen of this series, although many hundred varieties come under the general head of Merovingian coins.

CAROLVINGIAN COINS.

Here is where the Mediæval series really begins in most private cabinets.

Carolingian coins are those struck by the Emperor Charlemagne and his descendants.

They embrace issues of the French, German, Dutch and Italian cities.

They are almost all silver or billon (a mixture of silver and copper), and of very rude workmanship. In size they vary from that of our old three cent silver piece to that of a quarter dollar. Their period is the 9th and 10th centuries.

Though for the most part rare, a specimen can be got for about 50 cents. Beyond one or two it would not be worth while for the beginner to go.

GERMAN AND ITALIAN MEDIEVAL COINS.

The coins of Germany and Italy, struck during the Middle Ages, are very numerous, and are of all shapes, sizes and metals. By far the greater part, however, are of silver and billon, and the workmanship is, as a rule, very rude.

They can be had for all prices, according to their rarity and preservation. A few of each country are all that an ordinary collector needs.

FRENCH AND SPANISH MEDIEVAL COINS.

The mediæval money of France and Spain consists principally of small silver pieces about dime size called *deniers*.



CAROLINA CENT.

They were more often issued by bishops and noblemen than by kings. Practically each town and village had its own money, and, it need scarcely be said, that endless confusion was the result.

ENGLISH, IRISH AND SCOTCH MEDIEVAL COINS.

As everybody knows, or ought to know, the line of English sovereigns is the longest of any nation at present existing. Of course this means a correspondingly long and interesting series of coins.

English mediæval money begins with the Saxon kings, and extends down to the time of Oliver Cromwell.

It embraces large varieties of coins in gold and silver. Copper creeps in just at the end, during the reign of James I, after 1602.

English mediæval coins are the most interesting of the entire series, and are of all prices and degrees of rarity.

Some of the oldest are the cheapest. Every collector should try to get silver pennies of Henry III. and Edward I. They can be bought for about 25 cents for an ordinary specimen. One or two of Queen Elizabeth's coins should also be sought for. They are easily and cheaply obtained.

We picture a very beautiful English mediæval coin, the gold *Noble*. It represents the king—Edward First—in an ancient ship. It was struck between the years 1327 and 1377.

On the page opposite this cut we show two Irish mediæval coins. A is the coin of some native Irish king, an O'Grady, O'Flannigan, or O'Rourke, it is hard to tell which, for these early Irish sovereigns were dreadful bad spellers and their coins are very much mixed up.

B is a Dublin penny struck about 1350 under the reign of Edward First.



PINE TREE SHILLING.

Irish mediæval money is pretty much all scarce, and with the exception of certain specimens commands a high price.

Scotch mediæval money stands on about the same footing as the Irish. It is mostly rare and valuable, but there is a greater variety, including many interesting silver coins, and some really beautiful specimens in gold.

SCANDINAVIAN MEDIEVAL COINS.

The mediæval coins of the north of Europe, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland and the Baltic provinces, which come under the general head of Scandinavian—Polish coins excepted, perhaps—form a large and entertaining series for those who are posted in the history of the old sea kings and pirates who ruled that region during the Middle Ages. A few specimens must suffice the amateur, however, for they are, as a rule, rare.

ITALIAN MEDIEVAL COINS.

A single specimen of each kind of mediæval money issued in Italy would fill a large cabinet by itself. It is a beautiful series. Specimens can be obtained for all prices, according to preservation and rarity. Every collector wants some, and should not fail to get them.

The mediæval money of Austria, Bohemia, Switzerland,

Hungary and other smaller divisions of the map of Europe in those days, all have interest in their way.

Russia offers only a few specimens of barbaric workmanship, and all very hard to understand.

ARABIC MEDIÆVAL COINS.

From the time of Mohammed—about 650 A. D., down to 1450, various Arabic kings possessed large parts of North Africa, including Egypt, all of Asia Minor, Sicily, and Spain.

These kings struck enormous quantities of coins in gold, silver and copper, but notwithstanding its size, the Arabic is one of the most uninteresting of all the differing series of



HIGLEY CENTS.

mediæval money, because few can read the Arabic language, and the Mohammedan law prohibited kings from putting any device upon their coins. Hence they bear only religious mottoes which would not interest us even if we could read them. Two or three specimens is all the amateur wants of these coins. These Arabic Caliphs, as they were styled, also made some coins of glass.

CRUSADERS COINS.

You have all heard of the great crusaders of the Middle Ages, when every nation in Europe united in sending vast armies to the Holy Land, to try to wrest the tomb of Christ from the possession of the infidel Turk.

Many of these crusading generals seized various eastern counties, cities and islands in the Mediterranean and made themselves kings. Then they struck coins, which form a small and exceedingly interesting series. They are not for the amateur, however, being all very rare.

We have given a larger view of the mediæval series than is usual in general works on coins, because it is really the most interesting group of coins existing.

The small money of the Middle Ages can be cheaply collected outside of certain divisions. A line of several hun-

dred pieces could be obtained very easily, no specimen costing more than 25 cents. These are really historic coins, and if the collector will only study up on their history, exceedingly interesting to exhibit to his friends.

MODERN COINS.

We now come to the division of our subject, which is of the greatest interest to the beginner, for the bulk of any collection, unless a specialty is chosen, must ever consist of modern coins.



CONTINENTAL DOLLAR.—Obv.

Let us begin with the coins of America, describing them somewhat at length, following with a brief review of the coins of the other nations of the world.

And here at the start let us lay down one rule which our readers will do well to follow.

American collectors should collect American coins. To hope to obtain anything like a complete collection of the coins of any European country is quite impossible. Devote yourself principally to the coins of your country, being content with typical specimens of the money of other nations.

By following this rule your collection will increase in value as time goes on, for American coins are always in good demand in America, while foreign coins of the commoner types are not.

THE EARLIEST AMERICAN COINS.

The first coins struck in America were made in the city of Mexico, about the year 1520.

They were of silver and copper, and strangely enough are not very rare. A few dollars will bring good specimens in either metal, while hundreds will not purchase some American coins of later date.

The first English-American coin struck was the Summer Island Shilling, issued for use in the Bermuda Islands. It has an ancient ship on one side and a hog on the other. This coin was struck after 1616 and before 1624, but as no record of it exists and it bears no date nothing further can be said. There are three varieties: the shilling, the sixpence and one still smaller. The metal is copper. Properly speaking they are tokens, not coins. About \$100 would buy a specimen now. Over \$500 would once have been re-



CONTINENTAL DOLLAR.—REV.

fused, but recent finds have decreased their value. We give a picture of this interesting coin.

Next we have the famous pine tree money, struck in Massachusetts in 1652 and later. These coins are silver, and of the denomination of shillings, sixpences and threepences. They have a pine tree on one side and the date on the other. All are rare but not exceedingly so. We picture a Pine Tree Shilling on the second page following the Bermuda coin.

Between these two pictures will be found a copper coin, bearing an elephant on one side and the legend: GOD PRESERVE CAROLINA AND THE LORD'S PROPRIETORS, 1694, on the other.

This is the Carolina halfpenny and tells its own story. Value \$80.

Another just like it, except that the legend asks God to preserve New England instead of Carolina, exists. It is valued at about the same price.

Opposite the Pine Tree shilling will be found the Holey cent. It has a deer on one side with three crowned hammers on the other. Its legends read: I AM GOOD COPPER. VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE.

This coin is worth about \$100. There are several varie-

ties, all of which were made at Granby, Ct., by a gentleman named Higley. They were struck from native copper, and have ever occupied a prominent place among early American coins.

The illustration following the Higley cent occupies two pages. It is the famous Continental dollar, made by Benjamin Franklin, just after the Declaration of Independence. The picture tells the story.

A specimen of this dollar—it is silver—sold recently at auction for \$130, so you will readily see how rare it is.



DOUBLE EAGLE OF 1849.

There are a few other of these very early American coins, all rare and valuable, after which follow what are termed

COLONIAL COINS.

Colonial coins are the money issued by these United States of ours after the first Fourth of July, and before our government began the issue of regular money.

New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia had coins of their own, some issued before, some after the Revolutionary War.

COINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

There is only one colonial coin of New Hampshire. It is copper, has a pine tree on one side, and a harp on the other. Value, about \$10.

COINS OF VERMONT.

Vermont has a small series of coins. Some have heads in imitation of that of George III. on one side, with a figure imitating Britannia on the other. Others have a view of the sun rising over the green mountains. For the most part Vermont coins are common enough to be bought for a few cents; some, however, are rare.

COINS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Massachusetts has two colonial coins, a cent and a half-cent. On one side is an Indian, on the other an eagle. They are only scarce. These coins occur in two dates—1787 and 1788, the latter being the hardest to obtain.



1804 DOLLAR.—Obv.

COINS OF CONNECTICUT.

The Colonial Series of Connecticut is in imitation of the English half-penny of the period, and consists of badly executed coppers of innumerable varieties. With the excep-



1804 DOLLAR.—Rev.

tion of a few all these are very common. At one time they were in general circulation all over the Atlantic coast.

COINS OF NEW YORK.

New York issued a small series of colonial copper coins, very similar in appearance to those of Connecticut, all rare, and one gold coin with an eagle on one side, and a view of the sun rising in the highlands of the Hudson on the other. This coin, known as the Brasher Dubloon, sold for \$415 at a recent coin auction. Its intrinsic value is something like \$10.



QUARTER DOLLAR OF 1796.

COINS OF NEW JERSEY.

The New Jersey colonial coins are all of copper and offer as large a number of varieties as the Connecticut series.

On one side is a horse's head above a plow, on the other a shield. There are differences of date and die which makes the series interesting to collect. Though most of them are common, a few are exceedingly rare.

On all these coins the names of the colonies are found. New Hampshire and Massachusetts spelled them right out.

Vermont has VERMONT AUCTORI, VERMONTS, VERMON, and VERMONTENSUM. Connecticut put it CONNEC AUCTORI and AUCTORI CONNEC. New York, NOVA EBORAC and NEW EBORACENSIS. New Jersey, NOVA CAESARIA. These curious names are apt to puzzle beginners.

No large collection of the early coins of our country is possible for a beginner. All desirable specimens command high prices, nothing but very common and badly damaged examples come cheap.

UNITED STATES COINS.

We are down to date now, and must speak of our own United States coins.

The series may be divided into gold, silver, copper and pattern coins.

As there is a great similarity running through our American coinage, we shall attempt no general description, and, indeed, it would be quite impossible to confine even a very

40 HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS AND COINS.

brief description within reasonable limits. What we do propose, however, is to give a list of rare dates in all denominations of our regular money, with the prices at which well preserved specimens can be sold to any dealer in the land. Let us begin with the

GOLD COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The gold coins of the United States consist of the dollar, the \$2 1-2 piece, or Quarter Eagle, the \$3 piece, the \$5, or Half Eagle, \$10, or Eagle, and \$20, or Double Eagle. Beside these we have a series of private gold coins issued in North



1793 CENT.

Carolina, Utah, Colorado, Oregon and California, ranging in intrinsic value from \$1 to \$50.

TABLE OF RARITY, U. S. GOLD.

| DOLLARS. | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1863, | \$5 00 | 1867, | \$2 00 |
| 1864, | 2.75 | 1869, | 2 00 |
| 1865, | 5.00 | 1872, | 2.00 |
| 1866, | 2.00 | 1875, | 5.00 |
| QUARTER EAGLES. | | | |
| 1796, (no stars) | \$6.00 | 1806, | \$7.00 |
| 1796, (with stars) | 8.00 | 1821, | 7.00 |
| 1797, | 8.00 | 1824, | 4.00 |
| 1798, | 5 00 | 1826, | 10.00 |
| | 1842, | | \$4.00 |
| THREE DOLLAR PIECES. | | | |
| 1854, | \$5.00 | 1875, | \$8.00 |
| 1874, | 5.00 | 1876, | 7.00 |
| HALF EAGLES. | | | |
| 1795, (large eagle) | \$13 00 | 1815, | \$50 00 |
| 1796, | 9.00 | 1822, | 25.00 |
| 1797, (large eagle) | 12 00 | 1824, | 15.00 |
| 1797, | 14.00 | 1828, | 15.00 |
| 1798, | 12.00 | 1829, | 15.00 |

No half eagles of 1829 command any premiums unless strictly uncirculated.

EAGLES.

There are no positively rare eagles. Four only command anything above a small premium, unless in extraordinarily fine condition. Here is the list:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 1796, | \$13.00 | 1798, (four stars on | |
| 1797, (small eagle) | 15.00 | right) | \$15.00 |
| 1798, (six stars on right) | | | 15.00 |

DOUBLE EAGLES.

The coinage of double eagles began in the year 1849, a



1799 AND 1808 CENTS.

larger gold coin than the eagle being demanded by the people of California.

We illustrate the first double eagle. Only one specimen was struck, and the United States Mint at Philadelphia holds on to that.

Of course the value of such a coin cannot be estimated. In most coin premium lists the 1849 double eagle is quoted at \$,1000, It is safe to infer that dealers will never be called upon to buy.

No other double eagle can be sold to a dealer for a premium, although earlier dates are generally sold to collectors for an advance of from 10 to 50 per cent.

The private gold coins of the United States generally bear such legends as enable them to be readily placed. They are nearly all rare. Among them are included the quarter and half dollar gold pieces, which once circulated in California.

TABLES OF RARITY. U. S. SILVER.

The United States silver series consists of the Three Cent Piece, Half Dime, Dime, Quarter Dollar, Half Dollar, Dollar and Trade Dollar.

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THREE CENT PIECES.

| | | | |
|------|--------|------|---------|
| 1863 | \$.35 | 1868 | \$.30 |
| 1864 | .50 | 1869 | .25 |
| 1865 | .25 | 1870 | .15 |
| 1866 | .25 | 1871 | .15 |
| 1867 | .25 | 1872 | .15 |
| | .1873 | | \$.40. |



MEXICAN DOLLAR.

Three cent pieces were first coined in 1851.

HALF DIMES.

| | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|--------|
| 1794, | \$ 1.00 | 1803, | \$1.00 |
| 1795, | .25 | 1805, | 1.25 |
| 1796, | 1.25 | 1846, | .75 |
| 1797, | 1.00 | 1864, | .25 |
| 1800, | .50 | 1865, | .10 |
| 1801, | 1.00 | 1866, | .10 |
| 1802, | 25.00 | 1867, | .10 |

There are but few collectors who care to complete the series of half dimes.

DIMES.

| | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1796, | \$1 00 | 1804, | \$2 50 |
| 1797, | 1.25 | 1805, | .50 |
| 1798, | 1.00 | 1807, | .50 |
| 1800, | 1.50 | 1809, | .25 |
| 1801, | 1.00 | 1811, | .25 |
| 1802, | 1.25 | 1822, | .50 |
| 1803, | 1.00 | 1846, | .50 |

There are no very rare dimes.

QUARTER DOLLARS.

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| 1796, | \$1.00 | 1823, | \$15.00 |
| 1804, | 1.00 | 1824, | 1.00 |
| 1815, | .75 | 1827, | 50.00 |
| | 1853, (no arrows or rays) \$2.00 | | |

It is impossible to get a complete series of dates of quarter

dollars, for there have been many years which saw none issued. We illustrate the quarter dollar of 1796.

There are only about five specimens of the 1827 quarter dollar known. One sold some two years ago at auction realized \$210. Another sold on Feb 28, 1888, brought only \$88. Another still, sold June 26, 1890, went for \$171.

In the case of a rare coin like this everything depends upon the amount of competition there is ex-



DOLLAR OF PERU.

cited. It is impossible to fix a definite value for these rare coins.

HALF DOLLARS.

| | | | |
|-------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 1794, | \$ 2.00 | 1836, (milled edge), | \$ 1.00 |
| 1796, | 20.00 | 1838, ("O" between | |
| 1797, | 20.00 | date and bust), | 10.00 |
| 1801, | 2.00 | 1852, | 2.00 |
| 1802, | 2.00 | 1853, (without arrow | |
| 1815, | 2.00 | heads at date), | 15.00 |

The half dollars of 1736 and 1797 are the great rarities of the series. Prices usually commanded at auction are all the way from \$50 to \$80 for ordinary specimens. One of 1796 sold June 26, 1890, proof, brought \$251. Another sold the same day, not quite so fine, brought \$130, while one of 1797 went for \$140. This is the difference in which fine or merely fair rare coins are held in the estimation of our American collectors.

The half dollar of 1853, without arrowheads on either side of the date, and without rays surrounding the eagle on the reverse, for which the buying price of \$15 is quoted, must not be confounded with the other issue of the same year, having both arrowheads and rays, which is worth no more than its face.

The same caution is necessary with the 1836. The

44 HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS AND COINS.

"milled edge" variety is rare, the "lettered edge" very common. This milled edge is the same edge that is found upon all our modern silver coins. Previous to 1840 it was customary to stamp the denomination on the edge of the coin. Half dollars of the year 1836 thus marked are not rare.

The half dollars of 1838 with the letter "O" between the date and the bust, were struck at the U. S. Branch Mint in



RUSSIAN COINS.

New Orleans, and are much sought for by collectors of American silver coins.

DOLLARS.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| 1794, | \$20 00 | 1839, (with stars) | \$12.00 |
| 1798, (large eagle) | 2.00 | 1851, | 20.00 |
| 1804, | 250.00 | 1852, | 20.00 |
| 1836. | 4.00 | 1854, | 3.00 |
| 1838, (with stars) | 20.00 | 1858, | 15.00 |

As will be seen by reference to the table the rarest of all the dollars is the issue of the year 1804, of which we give an illustration of both sides.

There is something very mysterious about this 1804 dollar. The record of the mint place the number coined at 19,570, yet no specimen is known to exist whose origin in the year 1804 can be proved.

There are, perhaps, a dozen dollars bearing this much-sought-for date. These, it is now pretty generally believed, are all reproductions from the original dies, struck at two different times, one set in 1821, the other in 1858.

There is much reason for this belief, yet many collectors refuse to credit it, and a specimen of the 1804 dollar sold for the enormous sum of \$1,000 at an auction sale held about two years ago; another sold June 26th, 1890, brought

\$570. This last was one of the oldest specimens known—that is, it has been longest before the public. The decrease in price is owing to the lack of faith numismatists now feel in the genuineness of any dollar of 1804.

TABLES OF RARITY, U. S. COPPER.

The United States copper series consists of half-cents, cents, and two-cent pieces.

| HALF CENTS. | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1793, | \$.75 | 1833, | \$.02 |
| 1794, | .20 | 1834, | .02 |
| 1795, | .10 | 1835, | .02 |
| 1796, | 5.00 | 1836, | 5.00 |
| 1797, | .10 | 1840, | 2.00 |
| 1800, | .05 | 1841, | 2.00 |
| 1802, | .50 | 1842, | 5.00 |
| 1803, | .03 | 1843, | 5.00 |
| 1804, | .02 | 1844, | 2.50 |
| 1805, | .02 | 1845, | 2.50 |
| 1806, | .02 | 1846, | 2.50 |
| 1807, | .02 | 1847, | 5.00 |
| 1808, | .02 | 1848, | 5.00 |
| 1809, | .02 | 1849, (small date) | 3.50 |
| 1810, | .10 | 1849, (large date) | .05 |
| 1811, | .25 | 1850, | .05 |
| 1825, | .02 | 1851, | .01 |
| 1826, | .02 | 1852, | 2.00 |
| 1828, | .02 | 1853, | .02 |
| 1829, | .02 | 1854, | .05 |
| 1831, | 2.00 | 1855, | .03 |
| 1832, | .02 | 1856, | .02 |
| | | 1857, .02 | |

Very few persons remember the little half cents which in former years so freely circulated in our midst. In general appearance they followed the cent types closely, and many of the dates are now very rare. The coinage of the half cents began the same year as the cents, 1793, and continued until 1857, when they were finally abandoned. Half cents never were in use to any extent in New York City, but in other places, particularly Philadelphia, they remained in active circulation down to quite a recent time.

| CENTS. | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1793 (chain), | \$3.00 | 1803, | \$.03 |
| 1793 (wreath), | 1.50 | 1804, | 2.50 |
| 1793 (liberty cap), | 2.50 | 1805, | .10 |
| 1794, | .25 | 1806, | .15 |
| 1795, | .10 | 1807, | .10 |

44 HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS AND COINS.

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| 1794, | .20 | 1834, | .02 |
| 1795, | .10 | 1835, | .02 |
| 1796, | 5.00 | 1836, | 5.00 |
| 1797, | .10 | 1840, | 2.00 |
| 1800, | .05 | 1841, | 2.00 |
| 1802, | .50 | 1842, | 5.00 |
| 1803, | .03 | 1843, | 5.00 |
| 1804, | .02 | 1844, | 2.50 |
| 1805, | .02 | 1845, | 2.50 |
| 1806, | .02 | 1846, | 2.50 |
| 1807, | .02 | 1847, | 5.00 |
| 1808, | .02 | 1848, | 5.00 |
| 1809, | .02 | 1849, (small date) | 3.50 |
| 1810, | .10 | 1849, (large date) | .05 |
| 1811, | .25 | 1850, | .05 |
| 1825, | .02 | 1851, | .01 |
| 1826, | .02 | 1852, | 2.00 |
| 1828, | .02 | 1853, | .02 |
| 1829, | .02 | 1854, | .05 |
| 1831, | 2.00 | 1855, | .03 |
| 1832, | .02 | 1856, | .02 |
| | | 1857, .02 | |

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CENTS.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1793 (chain), | \$3.00 | 1803, | \$.03 |
| 1793 (wreath), | 1.50 | 1804, | 2.50 |
| 1793 (liberty cap), | 2.50 | 1805, | .10 |
| 1794, | .25 | 1806, | .15 |
| 1795, | .10 | 1807, | .10 |

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| | | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------|------|
| 1796 (liberty cap), | .25 | 1808, | .05 |
| 1796 (draped bust), | .25 | 1809, | .50 |
| 1797, | .15 | 1810, | .03 |
| 1798, | .05 | 1811, | .25 |
| 1799. | 5.00 | 1812, | .05 |
| 1800, | .10 | 1813, | .10 |
| 1801. | .05 | 1814, | .05 |
| 1802. | .03 | 1856 (winkle), | 1 50 |

The cents of the United States may emphatically be termed the favorite series of American collectors. Cents are thus popular coins, and the value of fine specimens is ever on the increase. The prices quoted in the table are for coins in fairly good preservation. Really fine specimens of the dates quoted at cents will readily bring dollars, some a great many dollars, as we shall show.



THREE BROTHERS CROWN OF SAXONY.

specimen a large sum could readily be obtained.

If a complete collection of cents is aimed at, it will not do to collect simply one cent of each year.

The cent is a coin so extensively used that one pair of dies would not do the work of making cents enough to go around, and there is scarcely a year when many dies were not employed.

Now it is quite impossible to make two dies alike. Small points of difference will creep in, making distinct varieties of the coins struck during a given year.

The collection of these die varieties of the cents of the United States is very extensively followed, and collectors who have not posted themselves in the matter will be surprised to learn how great is the number of the die differences of the cent. Thus there are 12 of the cents 1793, 54 of 1794, and so on all through the series.

To complete a collection of the cents of the United States all these die differences must be sought for and arranged. There is a book which will aid the collector in this difficult task. "The Cents of the United States," by Francis Wor-

ester Doughty, published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 12 East Twenty-third street, New York.

We illustrate three of the earlier cents.

After 1857, the issue of large copper cents was abandoned. For a few years after nickel cents were coined, and in 1864 the present small bronze cent was adopted. The varieties of die of these bronze cents have never been described the book to which we refer going no further than the last of the large cents reissued in 1857.

One word more before we leave this subject.

There never was an 1815 cent.

Do not forget this and save yourself from being swindled by unprincipled persons who try to sell you a cent of 1813 or 1845 altered to 1815

Beware also of counterfeit cents of 1799 and 1804, many of which exist. 1799 has been very largely imitated. No cent

of this year should be admitted into the collection without the guarantee of some respectable dealer to back it up.

TWO CENT PIECES.

| | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1872, | \$0.25 | 1873. | \$0.50 |
| 1877, | | \$0.25. | |

Of the three and five cent pieces in nickel there are but few varieties. The 1877 three cent piece is worth 25 cents, and the nickel five cent piece the same sum. No others are rare.

The nickel five cent piece of 1883 without the word CENTS on the reverse, about which so much nonsense has been written, is not even scarce and commands no premium. There were millions coined, and though promptly withdrawn from circulation on account of this strange blunder on the part of the mint authorities, they still exist in quantities sufficient to forever prevent them from becoming rare.

Before leaving the American coinage let us glance at a few of the prices paid at the great Parmelee sale, held at



AUGSBURG CROWN.

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New York, June 25, 26 and 27, 1890. This was the finest collection of American coins ever gathered.

The total amount realized was \$23,000.

Cent, 1793, peculiar variety, \$167. Nine other cents of the same year, all in very good condition, \$70; \$80; \$79; \$52; \$80; \$80; \$75; \$85; \$20; \$25.

Dollar, 1794, \$225. Cent, 1795, uncirculated, \$90. Half Dollars, 1796, \$251; \$130. Dime, 1796, \$127.50. Half Dollar, 1797, \$140. Dime, 1797, \$60. Dime, 1798, \$85. Cents, 1799, \$57; \$65. Cent, 1800, \$23. Dime, 1801, \$87.50. Cent, 1801, \$34. Half Dime, 1802, \$205. Dime, 1803, \$80. Dollar, 1804, \$570. Cents, 1804, \$49; \$21. Cent, 1806, \$26. Quarter Dollar, 1807, \$30. Cent, 1807, \$26. Cent, 1808, \$19.75. Cent, 1809, \$56. Cents, 1811, \$21; \$28. Cent, 1812, \$16. Cents, 1813, \$10. \$12. Half Eagle, 1815, \$235. Half Eagle, 1822, \$900. Dime, 1822, \$36. Quarter Dollar, 1823, \$132. Half Dollar, 1838, rare variety, \$60. Cent, 1842, \$30.

Now it will be observed that many of these high priced pieces are of dates not even mentioned in our list.

These specimens were all of the finest possible preservation, and in that condition all excessively rare and valuable, while as ordinarily found many of them would be worth no more than their face.

If you want to make money collecting coins, you can only do it by buying fine specimens and great rarities. Common coins and poorly preserved ones do not advance in price.

CANADIAN COINS.

The Canadian series consists of coins in gold, silver and copper, issued for Newfoundland, Prince Edwards Island, Magdalen I-land, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada proper. There are a few tokens extant issued by France for circulation in Canada while that country was still in her possession, but no regular coins.

The greater part of the Canadian series partakes more of the nature of private tokens than a regular coinage. These coins were the issues of the various banks, merchants, manufacturers, and others. No regular coinage for Canada was attempted until a few years ago. With the exception of the French pieces mentioned, none of these Canadian tokens date back of the present century. Among them is a large series which do not bear the name of any Canadian town or province, but simply circulated in the country, being made in England for that purpose.

Many of these Canadian tokens are of the highest rarity and very valuable. A handsome selection of the common varieties can be had for a few cents each.

MEXICAN COINS.

The Mexican coinage is principally of silver, and dates back to the year 1520. It is a very interesting series, filled with rarities.

First come the coins of the Spanish rulers of the country, distinguishable from the regular Spanish coins only by the mint marks, as a rule, although sometimes the name of some Mexican town or province appears.

A mint-mark is the private mark put upon a coin by the mint at which it was issued. For instance M with a small o above it on a Spanish coin indicates that it was struck for Mexico, and in the mint at the City of Mexico. Za indicates the Zacatecas mint. Ga the mint at Guadalaxara, and so on.

The Spanish kings, upon their accession to the throne, were accustomed to issue what are termed Proclamation coins. The king was supposed in this way to be proclaimed in each city in the realm. The legends on these coins read: "Proclaimed in the City of Mexico.

Proclaimed in Vera Cruz, etc." These pieces were also used as money, but as they were issued only during one year—that of the accession—and in comparatively limited quantities, they are nearly all scarce at least, and are much sought for by collectors of the coins of all the Spanish American States.

Beside the silver there is a large series of the copper coins of Mexico. Some were for the whole country, others only for use in particular towns and cities. Still further we find tokens in great variety, issued by manufacturers, traders, plantation owners and others.

In addition to all these are coins struck by various revolutionists, who flourished for a few weeks, months or years as the case may be.

Taken altogether there is no series of coins more interesting than those of our Mexican neighbors, but so large is the number of varieties that collectors find it a very expensive business to collect Mexican coins,



COPPER TWOPENCE, 1797.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COINS.

All that we have said about the Mexican money may be repeated under this head. Spanish issues, proclamation pieces, revolutionary coins and local issues all exist among the coins of Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The series is, however, more limited and not so full of rarities. It would be foolish to collect Mexican money without including Central American as well. The oldest Central American coins are those of Nicaragua, dating back to the 17th century. These are rude pieces of silver cut from Spanish dollars and stamped N. R.

WEST INDIAN COINS.

The coinage of the West India Islands is much more limited than the stamps.

There are coins existing for the islands of Haiti, San Domingo, St. Croix, St. Jan, St. Thomas, Windward Islands, Guadeloupe, Les Saintes, Martinique, St. Martin, Cuba, Porto Rico, Crab Island, St. Bartholomew, Curacao, St. Eustacius, Antigua, Bahama, Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Kitts, Santa Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad and Tortola.

For most of these islands there are, however, only a few tradesmen's tokens or counter stamps.

A counterstamp is any mark placed upon a coin to change its value or place of circulation.

For instance, many of the Cayenne Sous are found with "Nevis," "St. Lucie," "T. B.," and other things stamped upon them. These marks indicate that they will be received in certain islands. Nevis and St. Lucie are plain enough, but where there are only letters it is hard to locate. T. B. means Tobago, but there are other counter stamps, the significance of which are very obscure.

Lately England has issued some pennies and half pennies for the island of Jamaica. Haiti and St. Domingo have regular money, and the same is true of St. Thomas, but with a few exceptions most of the money of the West Indies sprang from private sources. Much of it is exceedingly rare.

SOUTH AMERICAN COINS.

All the South American States have issued coins except Patagonia, and even that has one struck abroad.

Thus we have in this series the coins of New Grenada (U.S. of Colombia) Venezuela, British Guiana, French Guiana, Dutch Guiana, Spanish Guiana, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentine Confederation, Patagonia, Chili, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

All these countries, except Brazil and Patagonia, were once under Spanish rule, and to them may be applied the remarks made under the head of Mexican coins.

The Spanish South American series consists principally of the gold and silver coins of Spain struck in the mints of these countries, proclamation pieces and coins issued since the countries set up as republics on their own account.

Many of the coins are of large size and striking designs, and not a few are rare.

The copper coins of South America are not numerous, though each of the Spanish speaking countries have issued a few.

There are a few Dutch pieces for Dutch Guiana, a few English and French for the two Guianas owed by those countries, but with these exceptions and the Brazilian money, all South American coins follow the Spanish type, and have their legends in that language.

Brazil was a Portuguese colony before it became an empire. The colonial coins



SPANISH PILLAR DOLLAR.

of Brazil are therefore Portuguese.

Somewhere about 1820, the Portuguese government got into trouble, and the emperor went over to Brazil and started business there. Empires are not fashionable on this side of the water, however, and the Brazilian empire has just been overturned.

Unlike the other South American states, the Brazilian money is mostly of copper. The coins are very large and clumsy, and are of 5—10 20—37 1-2—40—75—80 reis value. There is also a small silver series. Brazil has just issued a new line of coins for the republic. It is very beautiful, showing the constellation of the Southern Cross.

By all means get as many South American coins as you can. They are very desirable stock to hold and make a fine appearance in the cabinet.

MODERN COINS OF EUROPE.

As may naturally be supposed, the modern coins of Europe far exceed in numbers the coins of all other countries—we had nearly said all others combined, and possibly we might have said it and not been far astray.

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They exist in all ordinary metals, and even in glass and leather. A complete collection of all kinds laid side by side would reach for miles, no doubt, could such a thing be had. Let us briefly glance at this great group. It is all we can do.

MODERN COINS OF RUSSIA.

Russian coins are styled Rubels and Kopecks. They are of gold, platinum, silver and copper. As a rule they are large, clumsy pieces, rudely executed. The Russian double-headed eagle and St. George killing the dragon are the only devices which appear on the Russian copper coins. The gold, platinum and silver pieces bear the portraits of the reigning Czar in a few instances, but as a rule the eagle only appears. Russian coins are but little sought for in America. The bulk of the series is unobtainable here.

MODERN COINS OF SWEDEN, NORWAY AND DENMARK.

The modern coins of the Scandinavian countries are very numerous in gold, silver and copper.

Sweden offers among other things a series of copper dalers, fiat money, like our greenbacks—government tokens if you please. These were struck in 1715-16-17-18 during the wars of Charles XII, also big copper coins, some square and weighing as much as three or four pounds. Copper was for a long time Sweden's only currency.

There are no modern coins in copper struck for Norway exclusively and but few in silver.

Denmark has a large line in all metals but copper. Daniel's copper coins are of limited number. Denmark issued many coins in billon (copper worked with silver) and a few in brass.

MODERN COINS OF POLAND.

Poland, as every one knows, was wiped off the map of Europe a hundred years ago. There are many Polish coins, however, and some very beautiful. The copper line is quite extensive, but all are more or less rare with the exception of a few coins issued during the last Polish revolt, in 1830. The present Russian coins bearing the mint-mark B. M. were made in Warsaw, and belong among Polish coins.

MODERN COINS OF GERMANY.

The modern German series is the largest of all. It numbers many thousands in gold, silver, billon, copper, brass, lead and even iron. There is simply no end to German coins.

So enormous is the series that even Germans themselves do not pretend to fully understand it. No general

work on the coins of Germany was ever written, to our knowledge; but there are innumerable small works relating to the coins of particular towns and cities, duchies, electorates, principalities and kingdoms of which the present German Empire is composed.

Notable among German coins is the long and beautiful series of silver coins of dollar size, called thalers (dollars) or crowns.



CROWN OF ITALY.

These coins begin away back in 1480, and upon them are found the earliest dates appearing on coins. The series embraces every kingdom and city of any importance in Germany, and extends down to the time of the Franco-Prussian war.

The billon and copper issues of Germany are enormous; a collection of these coins numbering

MODERN COINS OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.

thousands can be gathered at low cost. They form an excellent field for study, and are the very thing for beginners with small means.

The modern coins of the Low Countries, Holland, Belgium, Utrecht, Groningen, West Frisia and a dozen or two smaller states which come under this head, are like the German money, very numerous. All ordinary metals are represented, and all kinds of devices appear upon them. Prominent among this series is a line of historic tokens called jetons, bearing dates in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries which number thousands of specimens alone.

These Dutch jetons are among the most curious coins in the world. They were really political cartoons in metal, and refer for the most part to the difficulties which existed between the Netherlands and Spain extending over the best part of 200 years.

ENGLISH, IRISH AND SCOTCH MODERN COINS.

The modern series of England, Ireland and Scotland is small, considering the importance of the countries which it represents.

England issued the larger part, in gold, silver, billon, copper, lead, tin, wood and leather. The copper coins of

England are of very limited number, but there is a large line of tokens to be hereafter described.

English coins are not generally handsome. The reigning monarch's head and arms is the ruling device.

Irish coins of this period are confined to a few copper pieces and a fair share of tokens. There are a few in silver among the latter class.

Scotland has no modern coins outside of a few insignificant coppers, struck during the reign of Charles II. Some of the English coins of James I., Anne and William and Mary bear the thistle, the mark of the Edinburgh mint. There are also Scotch tokens.



DOLLAR OF TUNIS.

the king's head and titles on one side with the legend French Republic on the other. French political notions were at that time pretty badly mixed.

French copper is a monotonous series, offering but few types. It is, however, cheap, and all new collectors should take it up. The study of the mint-marks is a necessity, otherwise but a few varieties can be had.

The modern coins of Spain offer a series of great length and interest, but too full of rarities to come within the reach of the amateur.

Coins are principally silver and gold in this series. Copper is very limited, and all but a few types hard to get.

Portugal gives us a series very much like the Spanish, but smaller. The only Portuguese coins of modern times easily obtained are the copper pieces of 5—10—20 Reis value. Big, clumsy cartwheels with neither beauty nor rarity to recommend them. Portuguese gold and silver is not easy to get.

MODERN COINS OF ITALY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA AND TURKEY.

The coins of the South of Europe are far less numerous than those of the northern nations.

MODERN COINS OF FRANCE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The modern coins of France are not an interesting series, having, for the most part, neither artistic beauty nor rarity. The great political changes in 1792—1810 furnish the most interesting part of the series. One oddity is a line struck in 1792, bearing

Italy furnishes the greater number, as politically that country was long divided into many independent governments. Italian coins are quaint and curious, and offer many rarities in gold, silver, billon, copper, and brass.

The coins of the popes alone offer a series of tremendous length, while the merest description of those of Sicily would make quite a little book.

Each city of any importance in Italy has its coins. All this is now changed, however, and one coinage serves for the whole country.

Copper coins of modern Italy belong mostly to the Papal states and Sicily. Each of the other states offer a few, but silver and gold were much more generally used.

Italian copper coins, outside of about a hundred pieces, are not within the reach of the amateur. For some reason they have always been scarce.

Switzerland is a small country, and her coins form a comparatively small series. Silver and billon are the metals in

which the coins usually occur. Gold was but little used, and there are scarcely a dozen types of the copper coins. Billon money is more plentiful.

Switzerland is divided politically into many cantons, or counties, each having its own government and money in former years. This makes numerous differences in the coins.

Then there are coins for Appenzell, the canton, and coins for Croy, the abbey, coins for Geneva, the city, and Geneva, the canton, and so on through a lengthy list.

The only peculiar series among the Swiss coins is the *Schutzen Thalers*, or shooting dollars. The Swiss are great marksmen. At certain times it was the custom to hold shooting festivals in the different cities, to commemorate which dollars were struck that afterward entered into general circulation as coins. A complete line of these *schutzen thalers* makes a very pretty showing in the cabinet.

Austria offers a most monotonous series of modern coins. The copper kreutzers are neither of numerous types nor interesting, because of the absurd custom in vogue of maintaining the use of old dies.



DOLLAR OF COCHIN CHINA.

Would you believe it? Austria is coining to this day dollars bearing the date 1780, and up to very recently all the one and half krentzer pieces bore the date 1816, although coined year after year.

Hungary and the Danube provinces give us a small line of copper for our cabinet. Bohemian modern coins are distinguishable from the Austrian only by their mint-marks.

The coins of modern Greece are few in number and of slight interest. Fifteen or twenty pieces would be a large line of the copper money of this country, whose copper coinage, 2,500 years ago, furnished small change to the whole civilized world.

Turkish coins are mostly billon. They are indecipherable to every one except the few who can read the Turkish language. Neither rare nor interesting, a few types are all that are needed.

MODERN COINS OF ASIA.

The modern coins of Asia form one of the prettiest lines in the general list of the world's money, because of their curious shapes, barbarous lettering and the odd devices which many of them bear. Gold is scarce, silver not by any means common, and coins in copper, lead and brass abound.

Siberia gives us huge copper coins with Russian inscriptions, very scarce, and struck a hundred years ago. Siberia now uses the current Russian coins.

Georgia has a series of coins, curious on account of the singular language displayed upon them.

Palestine has no modern coins. The Jews had a few coins in ancient times, but Turkish money goes in Jerusalem now.

Arabia has no modern coins.

Persia has coins bearing the blazing sun and a lion with Persian inscriptions on the reverse. Hard to get, but striking.

Afghanistan has no modern coins.

India furnishes the bulk of the Asiatic coins in which interest lies. Nearly all the native states of that great peninsula issued coins at one time or another. These bear in addition to the native inscription, which are in half a dozen different languages, represented by as many alphabets, figures of fishes, birds, beasts, astronomical devices and other odd and striking designs.

The British East India Co.'s money also forms an extensive series. Annas, Pies, Fanams, Rupees and Pagodas are the different names. There are also coins for the Portuguese, French, Dutch and Swedish colonies in India, full of historic interest and of striking appearance. At present there is but one coinage for India, and the British government takes care of that.

Ceylon coins usually represent the elephant, and form a striking series.

Sumatra, Borneo, the Malay peninsula and the Island of Hong Kong, off the Chinese coast, have coins made under English auspices, easily located, and good to collect.

Java has an enormous line of copper coins, mostly of small size. Some Javeneze coins are simply oblong lumps of copper, stamped with the value.

The Philippine Islands have coins of the Spanish type. The copper pieces are few in types and scarce.

Siam has coins bearing three huge umbrellas on one side and an elephant within the blazing sun on the other. Gold, silver, copper and lead are the metals.

Burma gives us coins with a peacock upon them, the tail spread.

Cambodia has coins with the king's head and French inscriptions. See illustration for a native Cambodian coin.

Cochin China has coins with hideous dragons and square holes through the center—see illustration.

China has only brass money, although this great country is soon to have a regular coinage, it is said. Everybody knows the Chinese "cash," so we need not describe them. They are uninteresting, because their inscriptions cannot be read by any one but a Chinaman. Some of these coins are of odd shapes, like razors, keys and other designs quite meaningless to us.

Japan has a few ancient coins in gold and silver, oblong and square. Also a fine modern coinage in all three metals, bearing the dragon and blazing sun.

MODERN COINS OF AFRICA.

Northern Africa has coins so much like the Turkish that none but a student can tell to what particular countries they belong. This remark includes Egypt, Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers. We illustrate a dollar of Tunis which will serve as a type of the whole.

Morocco has a bronze coinage bearing a large star on



DOLLAR OF CAMBODIA.

one side, and dates following the Hegira on the other. These dates read 1287, 1288, etc. Many young beginners, getting hold of a Morocco coin, fancy they have a prize. The Hegira is the Mohammedan system of dating, and begins about the year 630 A. D. The coins marked 1288, etc., are all of recent years.

From the west coast of Africa we have coins struck by the English, Portuguese and Danish governments. The English are for the Sierra Leone colony principally, and have a lion on them. We illustrate a dollar of this type. Portuguese Afri-



DOLLAR OF SIERRA LEONE.

They are gold and very rare. A long line of tradesmen's tokens for Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania exist.

The Hawaiian Islands have a small line of coins in silver and copper.

Greenland has two coins struck by the Danish Government. We illustrate the dollar.

Iceland has one coin. It is copper and very small.

CONFEDERATE COINS.

So far as is known, the Southern Confederacy struck but one coin, a half dollar, which we illustrate. Records show that several of these half dollars were issued, but only one has come down to us. Its value may be placed at \$500.

PATTERN COINS.

Almost all nations have from time to time struck pattern coins, or mint trial pieces. The line of U. S. patterns is particularly long and interesting. Many of these patterns are much more beautiful in design than the regular coinage of our country, and it is hard to understand why they should have been rejected.

Pattern coins are all expensive and the beginner should never attempt to collect them.

can coins generally have the word Guinea plainly spelled. A few do not, and can only be located by careful study. The coins of the island of St. Thomas come under this head.

Mozambique also has coins struck under Portuguese auspices.

Beyond a few patterns the South African colonies have no coins.

Australia had a few regular coins struck when the colony was first organized.

TOKENS.

A token is a substitute for money, in whatever form it may appear. From the earliest times tokens have been in use to a greater or less extent. Seldom of the value they profess to be, they are disastrous to the financial conditions of any country and governments have always been forced to suppress them after a short time.

Tokens have been issued by town corporations, public institutions, merchants, manufacturers and small tradesmen. Others again bear only political devices and were issued by speculators, others still though intended only for advertising purposes, entered into circulation at times when money was scarce.

The ancient Romans had tokens. The Europeans during the Middle Ages used tokens a great deal. England in 1650 and thereabouts issued a line numbering some 8,000 specimens. Again during the period of 1789-1814 English tokens were issued in great quantities, indeed formed the bulk of the currency.

This series is very beautiful. They picture trades of all kinds, views of towns, ancient ruins, churches, public buildings and the like. In excellence of workmanship and beauty of design this series of English tokens stands second only to the coinage of the ancient Greeks.

The United States has dealt largely in tokens. Immediately after the revolution the country was flooded with them. This series numbers but few types, many very rare.

Again during the great financial distress between 1834 and 1841 tokens appeared. Many of them were advertising cards which circulated as money, but others bore queer political satires relating to Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, representing them as mules or the turtle (because of its slowness), and the like.

This series, known as "Panic Pieces," is much sought for by American collectors. Many specimens are very valuable. We illustrate two prominent types.

Following these comes a line of tokens of a more strictly advertising character, which went out of use about 1860. There are about 400 of this series, mostly very common, a few very rare.

In the years 1863 and 1864 the United States was flooded with small copper and brass pieces about the size of the present cent. These are called "Copperheads," or "War Tokens." The series numbers about 3,000 and is divided into two classes, political and advertising, the latter being far the larger of the two. The political refer to the war and abolition, such mottoes as: "Army and Navy," "Our Monitor," "Millions for Defense, Not one Cent for Tribute," and

so on. The advertising series embraces an enormous issue of New York city, with a few from New England and Pennsylvania, and a long line from different western towns.

Copperheads have never attained a high value, although many of them are very rare. The time will yet come, however, when they will be properly appreciated by American collectors for what they are—a metallic picture-book of thousands of leaves, illustrating the political and commercial condition of our country, during the most exciting period of its history. Then they will be sought for and their value increased. At present a few cents will purchase almost every specimen of the series that is obtainable at all.

NUMISMATIC BOOKS.

To collect coins intelligently without the aid of books is an impossibility. No one

can come into a thorough understanding of a subject without knowing what others have learned about it before him.

To comprehend your collection of coins you must have coin books, and yet you might search every book store in New York and not find a dozen works relating to numismatics.

What then is the collector to do?

There are thousands

of coin books, but they are generally in the hands of coin people, either collectors or dealers. Every good library has also its share.

If you want coin books you must go to coin dealers for them, or import them through booksellers abroad.

There is no general work telling us how to collect coins of any value, nor can such a book ever be written.—the subject is too vast.

For general information the "Coinages of the World," Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 12 East Twenty-third street, New York, is very good. Dye's "Coin Encyclopedia," sold in most book-stores, gives a good deal of reliable information, mixed with much that is worthless, because it is false.

For early American coins there is but one standard—Crosby, "Early Coins of America." This is a splendid work, as far



DOLLAR OF GREENLAND.

as it goes, but, alas! it is very dear and out of print. "A Guide to British Coins," by W. Stewart Thorburn, is also a splendid little hand-book on the subject, and cheap. It will have to be ordered of some bookseller who can get it in London. There is no other way.

Books exist treating specially of the coins of nearly every country on earth, but editions are always small and they soon get out of print. After that the coin dealer is the proper person to apply to. He alone can tell you how to get coin books.

But there is another and cheaper source of numismatic in-



CONFEDERATE HALF DOLLAR.

formation. It can be had for the asking. We refer to the catalogues of coin auction sales.

Here the collector will find a vast fund of information, and often beautiful illustrations of the rare coins of the world.

Every beginner should get hold of as many coin auction catalogues as possible and study them carefully. There is no better way to get posted.

Usually these catalogues are given away. Occasionally a small charge is made if the catalogue be large or illustrated. Any coin dealer will help you in this.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. publish illustrated catalogues of coins for sale at fixed prices. These are absolutely indispensable. They can be bought for 25 cents, and should be had at the very start, as nothing else fills their place.

Meanwhile watch the book stores, and every now and then you will be able to pick up some coin book cheap.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES.

There are several numismatic societies in America, of which the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York stands at the head. Boston has one, also Philadelphia, and there are a few others beside these.

At the meetings of these societies coins are discussed in all their bearings; for those who can afford it they are excellent things.

NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS.

At present there is but one regular numismatic publication in America, "The American Journal of Numismatics," issued quarterly in Boston. It is conducted solely in the interest of advanced collectors, and quite useless to the amateur in coins.

The "Numismatic Chronicle" in London and the "Revue



HARD TIMES TOKENS.

Belge Numismatique" in Brussels are similar publications. There is also one in Paris and another in Rome. Amateurs have no use for any of these, they had better save their money to buy books and catalogues written in language which they can comprehend.

HOW TO BUY COINS.

There are just two ways to buy coins in any quantity, of regular dealers and at auction. There was once a time when rare United States coins could be taken out of circulation, but that day has long since gone by.

In buying coins do not confine yourself to any one dealer, visit them all from time to time. A complete stock of coins is an impossibility. What one has not you may find with another.

Take a word of advice from an old-time coin buyer: "Keep your temper when trading with coin dealers." Strange, but nevertheless a fact, that they are almost always peculiar men.

Buying coins at auction is an excellent plan. Usually cheaper prices prevail than with dealers. Fix your limit, and never exceed it under any circumstances. Let some reliable dealer attend to your orders. Visit the auction room before the sale, and personally inspect the coins,

unless you wish to be disappointed, but never attempt to buy yourself, unless you wish to pay double price.

HOW TO SELL COINS.

Large collections of coins can only be sold by auction, unless you can induce some private person to take them off your hands.

As a rule, coins sold by auction do not bring a profit to the collector above his investment. But—we said the same thing [about stamps—he must remember that “those who dance must pay the piper.” He has had his fun with the coins.



HARD TIMES TOKENS.

Small collections should be sold to dealers outright. There is but little “trading” done in coins—nothing like as much as in stamps.

Profitable private sales can often be made of rare coins, but seldom of common types.

HOW TO ARRANGE A COIN COLLECTION.

Coins are best arranged as follows:

Begin with Ancient Greeks, arrange alphabetically, according to city, and chronologically according to period. Follow with Ancient Roman, arranged according to emperors in the order of their reigns.

Mediæval coins should be arranged alphabetically according to towns and countries, and chronologically according to reigns of the issuing sovereigns.

An American cabinet of modern coins we would arrange thus: 1. Colonial and early American pieces of the U. S.; 2, the U. S. government series, by order of denomination, beginning with dollars, and by date; 3. U. S. Patterns; 4, U. S. tokens, divided into four series, viz.: Colonial (by date); Panic pieces (by date); “Store Cards,” 1840–1860, (alphabetically); Copperheads, subdivided, politicals first

and cards arranged alphabetically following. Medals, if you have any, after all.

Canada next, then Mexico, Central America, the West India Islands, following with U. S. of Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentine Confederation, Patagonia, Chili, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador.

Next comes Europe, thus: Russia, Finland, Norway and Sweden, Baltic provinces, Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, Poland, Germany (arrange different local issues alphabetically), Netherlands, Rhine principalities, Belgium, England (tokens following regular coins), Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Italy (different local issues alphabetically), Danube provinces, Greece, Turkey.

Asiatic coins may be arranged in any way that seems best. African coins follow the same rule, but those of the northern part of the continent come first.

Coins of isolated islands come last of all.

Keep your coins in order.

Study your pieces and find out what they are.

Do not clean copper coins under any circumstances. Cleaned coins are not wanted by collectors.

Wash the dirt off silver coins, but never polish.

Keep proofs and uncirculated coins in soft paper; the air will tarnish them. Of course your fingers will do the same, therefore handle fine coins only by the rim.

Never try to clean a proof. Have a cabinet, if possible, and do not divide it into compartments. Lay the coins side by side in the drawers, putting thin strips, if you wish, to separate the rows.

There is lots of fun in coin collecting, and often profit. It is the best known way to study history and to acquire patience and perseverance.

There are plenty of coin collectors, but few numismatists.

It is one thing to collect coins, another to understand them.

If you get tired of your collection sell it.

The true numismatist never tires of his coins.



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