

The Alabama Collector.

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Stamp Collecting in the Forties.

BY "TRAMP."

Believing that there are a great many young collectors who would like to know something of how stamp collecting was conducted in the early days of Philately, I reproduce the following from an old German publication.

The post officials of England, which country is noted for low postage rates, sell small square pieces of paper on which the head of the Queen is printed. These are pasted on the letters to make them free, and in this simple manner postage is paid. To prevent the use of the stamp a second time, the official marks a cross in ink upon the surface of it.

The small heads of the Queen look very neat and the people of England show their curiosity by collecting them. Scarcely had postage stamps come into use, when two post officials made a bet as to which of them could, in a given time, collect sufficient used stamps to cover the walls of a common room.

People all over the country began to imitate them, even ladies and children made wagers upon it. A father promised his son ten thousand pounds sterling as soon as he would bring him used stamps to the amount of half that sum; a large task as it would require 1,200,000 pieces to make up that sum.

Another case, which for aught we know, is still pending, is the following: A young couple without means wishing to marry, a very rich uncle promised the young lady an ample outfit if she would bring him a certain number of used stamps. The number was very large but the young couple searched with great zeal for the stamps which would bring them such a gift.

Some merchants in England have got the mania for searching for "queen's heads." They paste them on the walls of their offices and some of the large offices are completely covered with these stamps.

The late Mr. John T. Raymond was an indefatigable collector of coins. His collection is very valuable, and will soon be sold at auction in New York.

It is reported that a quarry of the famous "giallo antico," or yellow marble, used so much by the ancient Romans, has been discovered near St. Cenevieve, Mo.

Petrified lobsters, clams, turtles and the like, are found in great abundance in the Santa Catalina mountains, in Arizona, at a height of nearly 10,000 feet above the level of the sea.

There are in Paris, 180 wholesale dealers in stamps. A single wholesale dealer in the southern part of France, imported in 1886, 3,000,000 of foreign postage stamps.

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