THE

Curiosity Seeker.

Vol. 1.

Smithtown Branch, N. Y., Dec. 1877.

No. 1.

THE CURIOSITY SEEKER.

Published Monthly BY

JAS. E. HANDSHAW,

Devoted to Coins, Stamps, &c.,

TERMS:

15 cents per year.

Advertisements, 5 cents, per line of seven words.

Address everything to

JAS. E. HANDSHAW,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y,

Any one ordering any of our goods to the amount of 50 cents at one time will be entitled to this paper one year.

This notice marked signifies your subscription has expired. Please renew.

Stamp Collecting.

While postage stamps are being collected or when they are put into albums, they are examined and studied. The map is consulted to find the country issuing them. The

History is opened to find whose portraits are figured on them. The Cyclopedia is brought out to get some idea of their value. Some learned friend is questioned to find the meaning of the peculiar inscriptions or legends. And little by little, this research goes on until the collector often find himself, in a manner, getting hints of almost everything of interest going on in the world. If Russia and Turkey are quarreling over Montenegro he can discuss the troubles. He found it out when examining the Montenegro stamps in his album. When a young boy it placed on the throne of Spain, the collector's attention is called to that country. Stamps show him the many changes in that unfortunate country, and Don Carlos and Isabella, and the proud and haughty nation, which unveiled a new continent, pass before him like a panorama.

The Centennial is spoken of, our young collector takes out his album, and sees Franklin with his kite, Washington at Yorkton, Perry on Lake Erie, Jefferson and Jackson behind the cotton bales

THE CURIOSITY SEEKER.

at New Orleans, Lousiana, Scott on the plains of Mexico, and Lincoln with his emancipation proclamation.—St. Nicholes.

Stamp Packets.

No. 1. contains 20 varieties of Match and Medicine stamps, price 12 cents.

No. 2 contains 15 varieties of U. S. Official and Revenue stamps, price 10 cts.

No. 3. contains 15 varieties of U. S. Postage stamps, (some old issues.) price 6 ets.

No. 4. contains 25 varieties of Foreign and U. S. Postage stamps, price 10 cts.

Indian Arrow Heads, 5 ets, each.

Old U. S. Postage Stamps.

Used.

** 1847, 5e., brown, each 15c

" 1851, 1c., blue,

.. 3e., red 1

· 1861, 1c., blue,

" 3c., red,

First issue of U, S. Postal Cards, 1 cent each.

Envelope stamps of 1857, 3 cents each.

Carrier Stamps of 1846, 10 cents each.

Address all orders to

Jas. E. Handshaw,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

Coins for Sale.

This month we have the following Coins for sale, they will be sold to the highest bidder without seserve as follows:

Bids will be received until Jan 1st, at which time the highest bidder for any coin or number of coins will be notified and upon receipt of the amount bid and postage they will be forwarded to him or them.

Order by the number.

No.

- English half penny, 1806, poor.
- 2. Ein Kreuzer, German, 1816, fair, copper.
 - 3. Canada cent, 1859, very good.
- Millions for Defence, 1837, poor.
- One Hall Penny Bank Token, Bank of Upper Canada, 1850, good.
- 6. U. S. copper cent, 1818, fair, Scarce.
 - 7. U. S. cent, 1820, fair.

THE CURIOSITY SEEKER.

U. S. cent, 1842, small date, good.

9. U. S. cent, 1848, good.

10. U. S. cent, 1851, good.

11. U. S. cent, 1853, good.

12. U. S. half cent, 1807, poor, scarce.

Address all orders to

Jas. E. Handshaw,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

A numismatic discovery almost unparalleled in extent has been made near Verona. Two large amphoræ have been found cortaining no less than two quintals, or about 600 English pounds weight, of coins of the Emperor Gallienus and his successors within the hundred years following his reign. The number of coins is estimated at between 50,000 and 55, 000. Of those of the Emperor Probus, there are more than 4.000. The majority are of bronze, but there are some of silver and others of bronze silvered (scherate.) They are all in the finest state of preservation, and, with the exception of those of Gallerus, which are a little worn, they are so fresh from the mint as to make it evident they were never put into circula-

The discovery has been considered of sufficient importance for the minister of public instruction to dispatch Sig. Pigorim specially to Verona to report upon it. All the finest examples are to be placed in the museum of Verona, and the re mainder either exchanged in sets with other museums or sold, as may be decided upon.

Nob Printing.



Bill-heads, Letter-heads,
Envelopes, Circulars,
Cards, Labels &c.,
Neatly printed at low rates
Send Stamp for an Estimate on
any Job, to

Jas. E. Handshaw,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y,

In answering Advertisements in this paper, please mention this Paper.

100

Nice Envelopes with your Card printed on corner, postpaid for 50 cents.

Address this Office.

ANTED, Send Stamp for price lists of Old Coins, Mound Relics, Minerals, Fossils, Cariosities &c., R. W. Mercer, Cincinnati, Ohio,

OHE PACK OF GARDS (Ten styles) with your name neatly printed in Gilt. Sent for 10 ets.

Address this Office.

27 Amat air papers, sent for ten cents, Address this Office,

SCROLL CARDS.

(Blank.) Only 25 ets, per, 100. Send to this Office.

Advertise.

FOR SALE.

A set of six new Engraving Tools, they cost \$2.50. I will send them by express for only 1.50 cash.

Address this Office.



\$10 \(\) \$25 a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, Picture & Chromo Cards. 100 samples worth \$4. sent postpaid for 75 cts. Illustrated catalogue free. J. H. Bufford's Sons, Boston. [Estab'd 1830.

The Curiosity Seeker,

Is a small Montaly devoted to the interest of Collectors of Coins, Stamps &c. Send 15 cents for it one year. Specimen free, send for it. Address

> Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

X "ad" when marked.

THE

Curiosity Seeker.

Vol. 1.

Smithtown Branch, N. Y., Jan. 1878.

No. 2.

CURIOSITY SEEKER.

Will be published as often as practicable and sent post paid to all who will send a 3c stamp for postage.

Advertisements, 5 cents, per line of seven words.

Address everything to

JAS. E. HANDSHAW.

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

This notice marked signifies your subscription has expired. Please renew.

Editors finding this notice marked will please exchange.

All who have sent 15 ets for this paper will receive 1 doz neat visiting cards free, if they will send us their name.

Home Life a Hundred Years Ago.

One hundred years ago not a pound of coal or cubic foot of illuminating gas had been burned in the country. No iron stoves were used and no contrivances for economiz-

ing heat were employed until Dr. Franklin invented the ironed-framed fire-place, which still bears his name. All the cooking and warming in the town and country were done by the aid of fire kindled upon the hearth or in the brick oven. Pine knots or tallow candles furnished the light for the long Winter nights, and sanded floors supplied the place of rugs or carpets. The water used for household purposes was drawn from deep wells by the creaking "sweep." No form of pump was used in this country, so far as we can learn, until after the commencement of of the present century. There were no friction matches in those early days, by the aid of which a fire could be speedly kindled; and if the "fire went out" upon the hearth over night, and the timber was damp, so that the spark would not catch, the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so to barrow a brand from a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warm, nuless some one of the family was ill; in all the rest the temperature was at zero during many nights in Winter. The men and women of a hundred years ago undressed and went to their beds in a temperature colder than our modern barns, and they never complained.

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No. 4. contains 25 varieties of Foreign and U. S. Postage stamps. price 10 ets.

Indian Arrow Heads, 5 ets, each,

Old U. S. Postage Stamps.

					Sett.
11	1817.	5e.,	brown,	each	15c
**	1851.	le	blue,		:3
11		3e.,	red		1
17%	1861,	1c.,	blue,		2
		3c.,	red,		1

First issue of U. S. Postal Cards. Carrier Stamps of 1846, 10 cents each.

Address all orders to

Jas. E. Handshaw,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

Whenever you get in a passion, sit down in a cool place for five minutes

One test of a great mind is its instantaneous availability in an emergency The boy who can drop a paper bag of eggs on the sidewalk and pass on without changing his gait, interupting his whistle or looking at what he has dropped, has a future pefore him.

Match Stamps.

Each.

A. Beecher & Sons, 1c. orange, 12c Byam, Carleton & Co. 1 black, 2 Clark Match Co. I lake. Gates Wm. 1 black. Gorman, Thos. & Bro. 1 green, 5 Thomas Loehr, Joseph 2 1 blue, Rocher, Wm. Swift & Courtney, 1 2 Zaiss, F. & Co. 1 black.

One dozen salt water shells sent post-paid for 6 ets.

> Address all orders to Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

A French lady recently found a one thousand-franc note in an old chignon, and now a great many people are rubbing their heads to see what they can find,

Notes.

We have received 6 numbers of the "St. Louis Philatelist," it is one of the best stamp papers we have ever had the pleasure of reading.

The "Curiosity Hunter" "Curiosity Cabinet" and "Michagan Philatelist," are also excellent papers, devoted to Coin and Stamp collecting.

We would be pleased to exchange our little sheet with all the above.

In our next number we shall publish a list of medicine stamps,

The days of the week derived their names from the gods worshiped by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors. On the first day of the week they worshiped the Sun, hence this day was called Sun's day or Sunday. The second was the Moon's day or Monday Then they had a god called Tuesco, or Twi. and for him they named the third day Tuesday. Wednesday was for a famous warrior Woden whom after death, they worshiped as a god, hence Woden's day or Wednesday. Thursday was so called for Thor, the god of thunder. Fri. day for Friga, the mother of all the gods, and Saturday was Saturn's day.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Stamps!

10 Varieties of Match, 10 ets, 10 varieties of Medicine, 15 ets. price-lists, for stamp. Address,

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

Insert above ad, when marked, for 10 varieties of Match Stamps.

Job Printing.



Bill-heads, Letter-heads, Envelopes, Circulars, Cards, Lables &c.,

Neatly printed at low rates

Send Stamp for an Estimate on any Job, to

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

In answering Advertisements in this paper, please mention this Paper.

100

Nice Envelopes with your Card printed on corner, postpaid for 50 cents.

Address this Office.

ANTED, Send Stamp for price lists of Old Coins, Mound Relics, Minerals, Fossils, Curiosities &c., R. W. Mercer, Cincineati, Oldo.

BME PACK OF CARDS (Tenstyles) with your name neatly printed in Gilt. Sent for 10 cts.

Agents Wanted, Outfit 3 cts.

Address this Office.

2.) A nation process, sent for tencents, Address this Office,

SCROLL CARDS.

(Blank.) Only 25 cts, per, 100. Send to this Office.

Advertise,

NOTICE. We will mail the Evening Lamp four months to all persons sending us their name and address, and if at the end of the specified time they think it is worth the small sum of five cts, they can remit, Otherwise not. Address

The Evening Lamp, New Bloomfield, Perry Co, Pa.

FOR SALE.

A set of six new Engraving Tools, they cost \$2.50. I will send them by express for only 1.50 cash.

Address this Office.

\$10 = \$25 a day sure made by Agents sell up our Chromo Cards. 100 samples worth \$4. sent po traid for 75 cts. Illustrated catalogue free. J. H. Burrond's Sons, Boston. [Estab'd 1830.

The Curiosity Seeker,

Is a small paper devoted to the interest of Collectors of Coins Stamps &c. Sent free to all for 3c,

Address,

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THE

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Vol. 1.

Smithtown Branch, N. Y., Mar. 1878.

No. 3.

THE CURIOSITY SEEKER.

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Terms, 10 cents per year. Single copy 3 cents.

Advertisements, 5 cents, per line of seven words.

Address everything to

JAS. E. HANDSHAW,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

This dotice marked signifies your suscription has expired. Please renew.

Feditors finding this notice marked will please exchange.

Postage Stamps.

As soon as they emerge from the hydraulic press, postage stamps are gummed. The paste is made from clear starch, or rather its dextrin, which is acted upon chemically and then boiled, forming a clear, smooth, slightly sweet mixture.

Each sheet of stamps is taken seperately, and placed back upon a flat board, and its edges covered with a light metal frame Then the paste is smeared on with a large whitewash brush, and the sheet is laid between two wire racks and placed on a pile with others to dry. Great cure is taken in the manufacture of this paste, which is perfectly harmless. This gratifying fact has been conclusively proved by an analysis recently made by an emment chemist. After the gumming, another pressing in the hydraulic press follows. Then more counting, in fact, stamps are counted no less than thirteen times during their processes of manufacture. The sheets are then cut in half, each portion containing 100 stamps, this being done by girls with ordinary hand shears.

Next follows the perforation, which is performed by machinery, the perforations are first made in a perpendicular line, and then afterwards in a horizontal line. Another pressing follows—this time to get rid of the raised edges on the back of the stamps made by the dies, and this ends the manufacturing.

A separate apartment is devoted to the packing and sending off of the stamps to the different post-offices. It will be seen by this account that any absurd rumors conserning the poisonous, or nuclean, properties of the postage stamps, are utterly without foundation.

each.

Medicine Stamps.

Wright's Pills, 1c green,

e	ach.
Allen, Mrs. S. A. 4e black,	10e
Ayer, J. C. & Co. 1	8
4 blue,	ã
Brown's Troches, 2 green,	4
Brown's Vermitage, 1 black.	5
Brandreth's Pills, 1	2
Clark, R. C. & C.S. 4	12
Crittendon, Chas. N. 1	3
Curtis & Brown, 2 ···	75
Dalley's Horse Salve, 2 green,	20
· Pain Extractor, 1 black,	-1
Davis, Perry & Son, 1 blue,	2
Fowle, Seth W. & Son, 4 black	. 6
Halls Hair Renewer, 4	10
Hall & Ruckel, 1 green.	3
Henry, John F. 1 black.	4
· 2 blue.	.)
Herrick's Pills, 1 red.	2
1 black.	8
Husband, J. T. 2 red.	-1
Jayne, Dr. D. & Son, 1 blue.	5
· 4 black,	10
Littlefield, Alvah I	.5
McMunn's Opium, 1 green,	4
Pierce, R. V. 1	-5
· 2 black,	1
Radway's Relief. 2	4
Rose, J. B. & Co. 2	1
Schenek's Pills, 1 green,	2
Scovill, A. L. & Co. 1 black,	ŏ
Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient, 4 r'e	
Vogeler, A. & Co. 1 black,	3
Winslow's Mrs. Syrup, 2 black	, ō

				1	sed.
**	1847. 5e		brown.	each	15e
	1851. 1c		blue,		3
**	Be		red		1
10.70	1861, Ic		blue,		2
**	3e	. ,	red.		1
First	issue of	U	. S. Pos	tal Ca	rds,
[used	l] le each	١,			
Boyd	s Express	s.	1c green	i. mit	ised,
	each.				

Old U. S. Postage Stamps.

Indian Arrow Heads, 5 ets, each.

Carrier Stamps of 1846, 10 cents

One dozen salt water shells seat post-paid for 6 ets.

Address all orders to

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

One of the most interesting studies, is the collecting of different objects in Natural History, Philately, Numismatics, Geology &c.

Each collector has his hobbie, whether it be Stamps or Coins, Minerals or Shells. These are pleasent occupations, besides being in every way beneficial to the Stu-

THE CURIOSITY SEEKER.

dent. We advise all boys and girls to form a collection of some thing, if nothing better than a few leaves.

Notes.

Naturalist and Fancier, is a large 8 page paper, published by Chas. W. Gunn. Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Michigan Philatelist, is very good for Jan.

The Philatelist News, is a new stamp paper from Cleveland, Ohio. It is very neat.

We would like to exchange with all papers devoted to Stamps. Coins &c. We do not care to exchange with others.

We call attention to our low prices for Match. Medicine, and other Stamps. Our stamps are all genuine and in good condition. Give us a trial.

All who want Visiting Cards or any other printing, send to us, we can give satisfaction. See our ads.

₩e can farnish dealers with printed Stamp Envelopes for 35cts per 100, post paid.

Advertisements.

Stamps!

10 Varieties of Match, 10 ets, 10 varieties of Medicine. 15 ets, price-lists, for stamp. Address,

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

Insert above ad. When marked. for 10 varieties of Match Stamps,

Job Printing.



Bill-heads, Letter-heads,
Envelopes, Circulars,
Cards, Labels &c.,
Neatly printed at low rates
Send Stamp for an Estimate on
any Job., to

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

In answering Advertisements in this paper, please mention this Paper.

100

Nice Envelopes with your Card printed on corner, postpaid for 50 cents.

Address this Office.

50 ets per 100 allowed for match and medicine stamps. Agents wanted to sell my approval stamps. Commission 25 per et. W. B. Taylor, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

ONE PACK OF CARDS (Ten styles) with your name neatly printed in Gilt. Sent post-paid for 10 ets.

Address this Office

SCROLL CARDS.

(Blank.) Only 25 ets. per, 100. Send to this Office.

WANTED!

Any one sending me 15 match or medicine stamps, in good order, will receive 12 neat visiting eards. Send to this Office. \$10 EACH paid for rare match and medicine stamps. And from \$1, to \$5, apiece for rare Tobacco and Cigar stamps. From \$1, to \$25, each for rare Confederate and other Local stamps on original envelope, by Wm. P. Brown,

145 Nassau Street, New York, Send stamp for Price-List of U. S. Coins and other Curiosities.

25 Amateur papers post-paid for 15 cts.

Send to this Onice.

\$10 = \$25 a day sure made by Agents selling our Chromos. Crayons, Pictures A Chromo Cards. 100 samples worth \$4, sent postpaid for 75 ets. Illustratid a alogue free. J. H. Bufford's Sons, Boston. [Estab'd 1830.

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Vol. 1.

Smithtown Branch, N. Y., May. 1878.

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Address everything to

AS. E. HANDSHAW,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

This notice marked signifies your subscription has expired. Please renew.

Editors finding this notice marked will please exchange.

Any of our readers who find any interesting items relative to coins, stamps, &c. will do us a favor by sending it to us for publication.

Rates of Postage in 1827.

The following rates of postage in 1827 will be interesting, in comparison with the rates of the present day. One single letter carried any distance not exceeding 30 miles 6 cents; over 30 and not over 80. 10 cents; over 80 and not over 150, 12, 1-2 cents; over 150 and not over 400, 18, 3-4 cents; over 400 25 cents. Double letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper. double those rates. Triple letters. or those composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates. Packets, or letters composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more articles, and weighing ounce avoirdapois, quadruple those rates. and in that proportion for all greater weight. Ship letters, not carried by mail. 6 cents. Each newspaper, carried over 100 miles 1 cent; over 200 miles, 1, 1-2 cents, Bur, if carried to any place within the State where printed, whatever be the distance, the rate is only 1 cent. Magazines and pamphlets are rated by the sheet and carried not over 50 miles, 1 cent; over 100, 2 cents. Every four folio pages, eight quarto pages and sixteen octavo or lesser pages, are to be considered a sheet : also surplus pages beyond even fours, etc.

Medicine Stamps.

v.a	di
Allen, Mrs. S. A. 4e black,	u
Aver. J. C. & Co. 1	3
· 4 blue,	
Brown's Tyoches, 2 green.	1
Brown's Vermifuge, 1 black.	
Brown's Jamacia Ginger, 2 ·	.1
Brown, Dr. C. F. 1 blue,	
Brandreth's Pills, 1	
	12
Crittendon, Class. N. 1 ···	2
	75
	20
" Pain Extractor, 1 black,	4
Davis, Percy & Son, 1 blue.	2
Fowle, Seth W. & Son, 4 black,	6
	10
Hall & Ruckel, 1 green,	3
Henry, John F. 1 black,	1
· 2 blue.	
Herrick's Pills, 1 red.	2
· 1 black,	8
Husband, T. J. 2 red,	
Jayne, Dr. D. & Son, 1 blue,	5
	10
Kennedy's Discovery, 6 black,	
Lowe's Preparations, 1	1
Littlefield, Alvah 1	i
McMunn's Opium, 1 green,	1
Pierce, R. V. 1 ··	
· 2 black,	4
Radway's Relief, 2	4
Rose, J. B. & Co. 2	1
Ransom, D. Son & Co. 1 blue.	5

Ring's Ambrosia, 4 black.	8
Schenck's Pills, 1 green,	2
Scovill, A. L. & Co. 1 black.	ä
Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient, 4 r'd	4
Vogeler, A. & Co. 1 black,	:3
Winslow's Mrs. Syrup, 2 black,	5
Wright's Pills, 1e green,	

First issue of U. S. Postal Cards, [used] 1c each.

Boyd's Express, le green, mused, 8 ets, each.

Carrier Stamps of 1846, 10 cents each.

Canada, 2c Regesteration stamps, 3cts each.

A Stamp Album, to hold over 1500 stamps, sent post-paid for 25 ets.

Indian Arrow Heads, 5 ets, each.

One dozen salt water shells sent post-paid for 6 ets.

Address all orders to

Jas. E. Handshaw,

Smithtown Branch, N. Y.,

An Accurate Printer.

Stephen A. Haviland, printer, died recently in N. Y. He was an apprentice to Wm. E. Dean, who is now in the ninety-ninth year of

his age, and went to learn the trade first at the age of twelve years. corner of New and Wall streets, in 1823. He was perhaps the most correct printer or compositor of the age. He has been known to up a form of twelve pages (1200 cms in a page] in Greek, Latin and Euglish, without making a single mistake in the twelve pages. He at one time set up the whole of a concordance for the Bible, in diamond type, without a mistake. He was in the employ of the Methodist Book Concern at the time of his death. and had been in its employ for the last thirty years, during twenty-five of which he was "revise" proofreader. He was sixty-six years of age .- N. Y. Herald.

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We call attention to our low prices for Match, Medicine, and other Stamps. Our stamps are all genuine and in good condition. Give us a trial.

All who want Visiting Cards or any other printing, send to us, we can give satisfaction. See our ads.

We can furnish dealers with printed Stamp Envelopes for Szets per 100, post paid.

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Neatly printed at low rates
Send Stamp for an Estimate on
any Joh, 19

Jas. E. Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N. Y.

In answering Advertisements in this paper, please mention this Paper.



OR SALE or EXCHANGE. Mound & Indian Relies, Old Coins, Confederate Money & Bonds, State Histories & Surveys, Minerals & Curiosities. Price list of either sent on re-

ciept of green stamp.

Mercer's Natural History Store. Cincinnati. Ohio.

OME PACK OF CARDS (Ten styles) with your name neatly printed in Gilt. Sent post-paid for 10 ets.

Address this Office

Foreign Postal Cards.

I have a very large stock of Postal Cards of all Nations, and can sell them very cheap. Complete descriptive catalogue for 3 one cent stamps. Address, J. S., Reese, Box 1434. Akron, Ohio.

Subscription price per year, 75 cts to the monthly review.

L'ETOILE D'ITALIE,

Devoted to politics, industries, novelties etc. Published instead of

L'AMI DU COLLECTIONNEUR.

Published in the interests of collectors of stamps, curiosites etc.

Address, Rue Marforio, 106, Rome. Italy.

Anuteur papers post-paid

Send to this Office.

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Is a small paper devoted to the interest of Collectors of Coins. Stamps &c. Sent 3 months for 3 Address.

Jas. E Handshaw, Smithtown Branch, N.Y. X ad, when marked,

The Standard.

"The Standard" is published at the low rate of 10 ets. per annum, post free, and contains Stories, Sketches, Philateie News, Spicy Editorials and Witty Sayings, also a Grand Word Hunt, for which valuable prizes will be given. Circulation 2000. Ad rates, 5 cts. a line. Sample copy free. Address, Standard Pub. Co., Toronto, Can.

The Coin Journal. Only 10 cts. a year.

Specimen copy free. 130 E King St., Lancaster, Pa.

Foreign Stamps.

Sent on approvel to responsible parties only. Send 3c stamp. Send to this Office.