

1896

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# The Curiosity Reporter.

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Vol. I.

Elkader, Ia., March, 1887.

No. I.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

We, the editors and publisher of The Curiosity Reporter, take pleasure in presenting to the curiosity collecting public the first number of our paper. Its object is to advance the interests of collectors. The subjects of geology, mineralogy, philately and others of interest to collectors, besides short and serial stories, will in turn be presented. The public must not think, because we are small, that we are frauds or good for nothing, for, as every one well knows, "most things have small beginnings". Hoping to hear from you soon,

We remain, Yours Truly,

The Editors and Publisher.

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For The Reporter.

## COLLECTIONS.

A large number of collections are being begun at all times. Some are started because the collector finds a real study and interest in the articles collected, others because the articles are pretty, but the greater part are commenced on account of the spirit of rivalry existing between the persons, or perhaps some schoolmate, we will say, has bragged over his collection of stamps, tags, minerals or whatever curiosities he may have, and the other wanted to get even with him. Some of the collections so started are continued and the collector finds that it is more than mere play but with the larger part the fever, as it is called, is soon over and the collections are either sold, exchanged for something else or it is dropped and the collection is put away some place where the owner will hardly ever see it again. Such persons should keep on collecting the curiosities in which they are interested and they will find out that ere long it will prove a nice and teaching subject.

This page will hereafter contain the continued story for which we offer two prizes (see page 4.) both worth competing for. Subscribe for the paper and get the whole story.

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## Mineralogy and Geology.

Conducted by "Old Fossil," Box 8, Elkader, Iowa.

The Mineralogist's standard.—Dana's Mineralogy.

The Geologist's standard.—Dana's Geology.

### NOTES.

The word feldspar is from the German, meaning "spar of the field." Magnetite or Loadstone is the only mineral that has a magnetic attraction.

Trilobites were the most abundant in the Silurian and Devonian rocks, and disappeared in the Carboniferous.

Menaccanite, or titanite iron ore, has lately been discovered in Kansas.

Here is a short poem which every true collector of "rocks" should learn. For is not what we study as mineralogy, geology, etc., a work of God? Anyone who has studied it knows that it must be thus, and that the curious shaped fossils, the valuable gems, and the useful minerals were not laid down by "chance." The more I study, the more I think there is a God.

The works of God are fair for naught  
Unless our eyes, in seeing,  
See hidden in thing the thought  
That animates its being.

### CHAT WITH COLLECTORS.

Collectors, when you are answering an exchange, be *prompt*; and, by the way, subscribe for the Curiosity Reporter and you can have a whole word exchange each month.

If you have any specimens you are in doubt about the identity, just send a full description, with locality, to "Old Fossil" and if he don't know what it is, he will have it put in this column for other collectors to scratch their heads on.

When you get a large specimen, *keep it*. It is of more value than a dozen small ones.

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## STAMPS.

The number of adhesive stamps now issued in Great Britain amounts to two billion a year—four tons weight a day.

France issued and used unpaid letter stamps in 1859, being the first country to use them; Italy, Bavaria and Turkey followed in 1863. In all, ten countries issued and used them before the United States, which was not until 1879.

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# THE CURIOSITY REPORTER.

Published monthly at

ELKADER, CLAYTON CO., IOWA,

By WM. REINECKE.

Subscription price: 15 cents per year.

Advertising rate: 15 cents per inch.

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Vol. I. Elkader, Ia., March, 1887.

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## Brief Notes.

*The Stamp* of Denver, Col., is one of the best printed papers we have received.

*The Philatelic Herald* of Portland, Maine, is the largest and cheapest paper we have received. Send 3 cents for a sample copy, or *only* 15 cents for a years subscription and you will be more than satisfied.

Owing to the large correspondence on Mineralogy we have been obliged to crowd our Stamp Department. We will do better the next issue.

The first page of this paper will hereafter contain a continued prize story. See page 4.

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## EXCHANGES.

I have 250 varieties tobacco tags, many rare, which I will sell for cash. Write price offered Wm. Reinecke, Elkader, Iowa.

I have some porcupine-quills and other curiosities, which I will sell, or exchange for minerals, fossils or other curiosities. H. L. Griffith; Elkader, Iowa.

Wanted—Books on Geology and Mineralogy, also on island of Papua or Australia. Will give in ex. minerals. The receipt to transfer leaves, etc. on paper for specimens worth 15 cents. F. R. Stearns, Elkader, Iowa.

Reasonable prices paid for coins. Send impression on paper and price wanted to Wm. Reinecke, Elkader, Iowa.

Sample Copy

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**100 Foreign Stamps,**  
Many varieties for a 4c stamp.  
Agents wanted to sell appro-  
val sheets.

**A. E. Ashfield, Box 233, Rye, N. Y.**

Philatelic papers, insert this advertisement  
and notice two months, and send bill.

### WANTED.

Correspondence with collectors  
wishing to buy, sell or exchange  
minerals, fossils, Indian relics and  
curiosities. I also have a num-  
ber of carnelians and agates,  
which I will sell or exchange.

**H. L. GRIFFITH, ELKADER, IA.**

### F. R. Stearns

desires to present the following  
**Bargains to Collectors.**

- Favosites, var. of fresh-water coral, fi-  
nest in the market, 1x1, 6c; 2x2, 15c;  
1½x1½, 10c.
- Calcite formation, 1x1, 6c.
- Carnelian, 1x1, 6c; 1½x1½, 12c.
- Agates, 1x1, 6c; 1½x1½, 12c.
- 12 assorted colors of small carnelians and  
agates, 15c.
- Petrified ferns from Canada, 1x1, 10c;  
1½x1½, 25c.
- 10 var. small cards of specimens, 25c.
- Large cards, 10 cents each; 4 for 25c.
- A package of 100 gummed numbers, as-  
sorted sizes, for labelling specimens,  
sent FREE with every 25cent order.

LISTS WITH EVERY ORDER.

**F. R. Stearns, - - Elkader, Iowa.**

# The Curiosity Reporter

A Monthly Journal devoted to  
Minerals, Stamps, Curiosities, etc.

*Wm. Reinecke, - - - - Elkader, Ia.*

## Grand Prize Stories!

The publisher of this paper hereby offers 25 cents in cash and 2 inches of advertising one insertion, for the 1st best story on curiosities and also 1 inch advertising once and 1 year's subscription to this paper for the 2nd best. Stories must contain at least 600 but not more than 900 words and to be sent before April 5th.

**Wm. Reinecke, Elkader, Iowa.**

# The Curiosity Reporter.

Vol. I.

Elkader, Ia., April, 1887.

No. II.

For The Reporter.

Grand Prize Story.

## CURIOSITIES.

This term comes from the Latin "curiosus" meaning, 1st, quality of being curious, 2nd, disposition to inquire, inquisitiveness, 3rd, that which is curious. Taking these in their order, in the first we see that all persons have in them the quality or ability of seeing things out of the common everyday round of life. In the second place, the seeing of these leads us to a disposition to find out all we can about those things which strike our fancy, and in carrying out our researches, we ask innumerable questions, that is we are curious and prying. Curiosity denotes a feeling and inquisitiveness; a habit. We are curious when we desire to learn something new, we are inquisitive when we set ourselves to gain it by inquiry and research. Prying implies inquisitiveness when carried to an extreme, and is more commonly used in a bad sense, as indicating a desire to penetrate into the secrets of others. 3rd. Those immediate objects which strike our fancy and lead us to make examinations are generally called curiosities and knowledge gained by evidences of the senses which we acquire through our investigations of these strange things is called perception and even having read about them before, we may still be incredulous till brought face to face with them.

Aside from the abnormal developments of human and animal nature, as fat, armless, legless, hairless, and skeleton people, bearded women, elastic skin men, dwarfs, giants, two headed animals, albinos and many other monstrosities, usually seen in circuses, shows and museums, we see curious things every day. We may travel to foreign countries and see the different races, their manners and customs, these are all strange to our eyes, nor do we have to travel to foreign countries for in our country, made up of representatives from all other countries, we may study their peculiarities at our very doors almost; suppose we take a walk, at our feet are pebbles, grasses, mosses, by our sides, trees, shrubs, rocks, etc., step up to a tree and cut off a small twig look at the bud on the end, see how it is carefully protected from winter's frost. But at the first indications of summer's heat the bud swells bursts, and lo! a green shoot, which is to be the future branch, is started on its way to maturity.

To be continued.

## Mineralogy and Geology.

Conducted by "Old Fossil."

The Mineralogist's standard.—Dana's Mineralogy.

The Geologist's standard.—Dana's Geology.

### RECENT DISCOVERIES.

**SILVER:** A vein of silver has been discovered in a rocky ridge in Glenridge, Bloomfield twp., Essex County, N. J. A load of the ore has been assayed and found to contain \$20 worth of silver.

**MANGANESE:** A deposit of manganese, 19 feet thick, has been discovered near Roanoke, Va.

**COAL:** Coal has recently been discovered in several counties in Kansas.

**HEMATITE:** A bed of red hematite, 16 feet thick, is reported to have been found near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It is quite valuable on account of the metallic iron found in it; on analysis yielding 16½ per cent.

### NOTES.

The latest theory in regard to the formation of the drift is proposed by Ignatius Donnelly, in his book entitled "Ragnarok," in which he endeavors to show that it was produced by a comet striking the earth. Whether or not Mr. Donnelly is correct in his theory he certainly makes some very strong points against the ice theory. We now have five theories, viz.:

The action of great waves and floods of water.

The action of icebergs.

The action of glaciers.

The action of a continental ice-sheet.

By coming in contact with a comet

Grindstones are made from a compact, even-grained sandstone.

The first number of "The Young Geologist" reaches us from L. J. Rivers, Oskaloosa, Iowa. It is just the paper for Amateur geologists.

Minerals, fossils, etc sent to "Old Fossil," 521 West Douglas Ave., Wichita, Kans., (The future great coal state) will be reviewed in this department. Specimens sent to be identified, must (if to be returned) contain full amount of return postage.

Send 25cts. to the SOUTHERN PINES NOVELTY CO. and receive by return mail, a very valuable box of

### SOUTHERN CURIOSITIES.

The box contains an Open Cotton Boll, Sweet Gum Balls, China Tree Seed, Gold, Copper and Iron Ores, Mica, Asbestos, Garnet; Crystal Quartz and many other minerals. Terms to agents — \$1.50 @doz. Address all orders or inquiries to Southern Pines Novelty Co., Southern Pines, Moore Co., N. C.

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Matter intended for our next issue must reach us not later than May 10.

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Vol. I.

Elkader, Ia., April, 1887.

No. II.

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## Brief Notes.

F. R. Stearns, well known among collectors, has left Elkader, Iowa, for Wichita, Kansas. His address is 521 West Douglas Street.

We have received the *Excelsior*, *Mohawk Standard*, *Philatelic Magazine*, *Agent's Flag*, *Useful Instructor* and *Collector's Review*.

We received only one story to enter for the prizes we offered last month. The story was written by Chas. D. Mason, Easton, Pa., and received the first prize. The first page contains the beginning.

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## EXCHANGES.

I have 250 varieties tobacco tags, many rare, which I will sell for cash. Write price offered Wm. Reinecke, Elkader, Iowa.

Fossils from the Devonian and Tertiary ages wanted. F. R. Stearns, 521 West Douglas Ave., Wichita, Kans.

I have a set of rubber stamps comprising the numbers 1 to 10, inclusive, dollar sign, period, pad & ink which I will sell or ex. for minerals, fossils or Indian relics. H. L. Griffith, Elkader, Ia.

Reasonable prices paid for coins. Send impression on paper and price wanted to Wm. Reinecke, Elkader, Iowa.

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# STAMPS.

## NOTES ON U. S. ENVELOPES.

From THE PILATELIC MAGAZINE, LaGrange, Ill.

The first 1c. envelopes and wrappers were not issued until late in 1857, the first 2c. in the middle of 1863.

Nine- and twelve cent envelopes were issued in 1866, but for what use we cannot say. They are very scarce.

The letter-sheet issued last October was not the first, as is generally supposed. A 3c. letter-sheet was issued in August, 1861, and suppressed in April, 1864. It was printed in rose on blue.

Envelopes in two colors were issued in 1861 and suppressed in 1865-66. This issue is also made notable by the four new values introduced—12, 20, 24, 40c.—the great number of shapes and sizes found in it.

We have met with several of the 1885 postal cards printed in brown, light brown, dark brown, and yellow brown, of the last we have seen but two copies. There is also to be found two colors of paper, light and dark.

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**A. E. Ashfield, Box 233, Rye, N. Y.**

Philatelic papers, insert this advertisement  
and notice two months, and send bill.

### The :- Eclipse.

To introduce the ECLIPSE, an 8 page  
monthly devoted to serials, short stories,  
philately, natural history, etc., we will  
send it one year for only 25c.

**SAMPLE COPY FREE.**

Eclipse Publishing Co.,  
6216 Station St., East End,  
PITTSBURG, PA.

 WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT MONTH. 