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THE
STAMP COLLECTOR:

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

“The Philatelic Times and Stamp Mart.”

No. 1.

JUNE, 1896.

Vol. 1.

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Edited by Henry Bagshawe, Miller's Dale, Buxton.

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TO OUR READERS.

—o—

Please find on this page an unused Bulgarian stamp, presented gratis to all regular subscribers.

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NOTICES.

ALL communications for the next issue must reach us by June 20th, or are liable to be held over till the following number.

ARTICLES, Notes, Particulars of New issues, etc., always welcome.

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"For and against" Papers.

GENERALIST OR SPECIALIST?
BY A GENERALIST.

[I]n these days when specialism is become so rife, it is almost a rarity to find a collector, who still PROFFESSES to amass the stamps of the world, without any leaning towards some particular country or group of countries. All the same there must be a fair percentage who still stick to the "all-round" idea, and consider it the most interesting method of collecting stamps.

As I am one of these, a few words respecting my collection, and how I

am making it, may prove interesting and possibly useful, to some who may require some specific aim as an incentive to their exertions, and also to make them feel that there is yet somebody in the same boat as themselves, who, alike them, is not yet gone over to the specialistic camp.

Perhaps, for a commencement, it would be well to draw some slight comparison between the rival factions, incomplete as it needs must be, owing to lack of space.

In every specialist collection there is sure to be some stamp which is unattainable to the person of a

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In every specialist collection there is sure to be some stamp which is unattainable to the person of a

moderate purse, and even should he succeed in filling all his blanks, the consequence would be that, deprived of his aim, his interest has disappeared in that group, and hurrying off his carefully-sought-for specimens to the nearest auction room, he turns his attention to "fresh fields and pastures new." But with the same vigour and interest with which he tackled the first? I think not.

Now to this lamentable feeling, the generalist collector is an entire stranger; for should he, by chance, (which is seldom) complete a country, he has only to turn over a very few pages and he sees countries just as interesting, just as instructive as the last, which still require the maximum of his attention. Another great point is, that he does not collect minute varieties, as does the specialist, to such an extent as to bring weariness to both mind and body in the pursuit after them. Then, again, although nominally a generalist, there is nothing to prevent a collector from devoting occasionally his attention to any country for which he has a special fancy; the others meanwhile being held in abeyance.

Before concluding this article,

which I feel is an unworthy exponent of a failing, I am compelled to confess—but withal, a deserving cause—I would try to impress on my readers the eminent desirability of, (besides carefully studying the stamps themselves) reading and laying to heart, all literature they can obtain connected directly or indirectly with our hobby. It is surprising how every little item interests, quite apart from the oft-told tale of wondrous conquests in geography and history attendant on a course of stamp fever, with which we are regaled in all hand-books to the sticky science. Indeed few would imagine, except they tried it, what interesting reading, and worth remembering too, can be found in the Post Office reports of various countries. Then, again, try and find out why certain values become obsolete, why new ones were created; the exact date, and why certain issues were superseded by fresh ones, and so on,—in short nothing is too minute to interest. Learn how stamps are printed and on what different kinds of paper, and such terms as "tête bêche," "arabesque," "electography," "taille douce," and "granite," "wove," "laid," and "Dickenson" papers will no

longer be meaningless in your ears.

I must now conclude, as I have already occupied too much valuable space; I have one great reason however I wish to mention, which would prove in many instances a powerful factor in weighing the rival advantages of Generalist or Specialist. I refer to the pleasure of showing your collection of the stamps of the world to your admiring friends, who not being philatelists, might possibly fail to be impressed by the fact that before them was a row of Austrian stamps (apparently duplicates to the uninitiated) of which this copy is perf. 9, this 10, this 12½, this 14, and so on to the end of such minutiae, all figuring in the collection of your specializing friend Jones.

F. MOSSLEY.

Chronicle of New Issues.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA CO.—We learn of a new issue from this locality of the now almost monotonous bi-coloured type. Those who have seen them report that the design, though well executed, contains far too much detail for the limited space at command on paper of stamp proportions, thus giving the whole an

ineffective appearance. There are eight values ranging from ½d to 1/- of which all, except the 8d. (which is on buff) are white wove. Perf. 14.

CYPRUS.—Of the new issue, the values received so far are the 1, 6, and 12 piastres, all on white wove, perf. 14. CA. Labuan. From here comes a provisional post-card formed by surcharging LABUAN 4 cents, on the 8 cents green card of British North Borneo.

PERU.—A complete new lot of adhesives and postal stationery are reported from this country, superseding those of the "llama" type lately in use, and which very probably will become rather rare.

SERVIA.—The new 1 para is printed on white wove, in what is styled a somewhat displeasing shade of dull carmine, roughly perf. 13½; altogether a common "get-up."

Editorial.

AS is customary on the birth of a new paper, we rise (so to speak) to make our first bow before the public, and to give them in as few words as are compatible with good manners, our "raison d'être."

Our remarks, however, we trust will be free from that amount of "brag" which usually characterizes such effusions. We make no airy promises about our future, which is, as yet, unassured; we only ask six months subscription, and in return we promise an equal quantity of reading which may, or possibly may not, be worth the modest sixpence we require at your hands. Our own opinion is that six months will be quite long enough to test our popularity, and if at the end of that time the paper is not successful we shall drop it, and no subscriber will be a penny the worse; we, on the contrary, may have gained a little experience we do not possess at present, at a corresponding amount of expense. As, however, we are running to that prolixity we so much wish to avoid, we will say no more but turn at once to our literary programme.

As is announced elsewhere, we incorporate in this journal the unfortunate but well-deserving "Philatelic Times;" in what particulars this periodical erred is not for us to say, but we may remark that we shall ever strive to avoid the same in this journal. We reproduce several features which seem to have

attracted most interest, notably the Stamp Mart, which was evidently highly appreciated by both buyers and vendors, as during the first eight months the entire number of 27 lots advertised by this means were disposed of; and also the *Vade Mecum* conducted by Mr. Paul Marriott, a gentleman who has the best interests of philately at heart. It is in fulfilment of his promise to offer prizes from time to time that we are enabled to present each of our readers with a really good stamp with the first issue of the "Stamp Collector," his opinion being that as all could not hope to gain the prize, it would probably give most satisfaction thus divided. We have also received promises of support from other former contributors, including the late editors.

Several features which have not appeared before are also worthy of a special mention. What may be perhaps, considered chief amongst them is our "London Notes and News," a monthly article written in a light and chatty vein descriptive of the sayings and doings in the great philatelic centre, and sometimes containing some extremely useful "tips," compiled by a well-known collector. We have also

arranged for a series of articles under the general heading of "For and Against" papers, being discussions on topics of general interest. Each one is written by a philatelist who is thoroughly conversant with his subject, and moreover holds the opinions he professes, a very different thing to paid journalism which will lash itself into a frenzy on any subject at so much a line. The first of the series appears in this number, "Generalist or Specialist?" which will be followed by "Specialist or Generalist?" by a writer holding opposite views. This in turn will be superseded by a fresh subject, and so on to the end of the series.

Under the heading of P.P.P. (Pickings from the Philatelic Press) we shall regale our readers with a short review of as much current literature as we have space for.

Auction reports will be mostly conspicuous by their absence. It is our idea that they are of little interest to beginners and medium collectors, who we feel sure do not wish to be informed as to the variations in value of stamps which run into pounds, but wish it to be distinctly understood that we by no means discount this method

of valuation, for there is little doubt that it is the only true one, the price at which any stamp is GENUINELY sold represents the value of that stamp, a further proof, were any needed, of the saying that a thing is worth just what it will fetch in open competition; we therefore omit them, but if any of our readers can give us a satisfactory reason why we should include auction reports we will gladly do so, though it must be borne in mind that it would be most incomplete, as to give anything like a full summary of the world's auctions would require a space a hundred times larger than we are prepared to devote to one subject. "Record" prices will be mentioned amongst general intelligence for the satisfaction of the student of the rise and fall of the science of philately.

The above features comprise our programme for the present, and it is one which we are sure our readers will unite with us in saying is an ample and comprehensive one. It is of course liable to alteration at any time, and we are always open to receive from our readers such suggestions as may appear likely to them to increase the interest of the journal.

The Vade Mecum.

A Column to Contain all knowledge necessary to young collectors.

CONDUCTED BY

PAUL MARRIOTT.

I.—History of Stamps and Stamp Collecting.

AT the commencement of this series, what can be more appropriate than to give a short sketch— incomplete as it necessarily must be,—of the history of stamps from the earliest source to the present day? If a census of the opinions of collectors were taken, it would be surprising how few knew anything of the earlier history of their hobby; some indeed might have grasped the rudiments of present day ideas, but the aforesaid history would be as little known to the average collector, in the proportion to the knowledge, that the average Englishman, not being a philatelist, possesses of the early history of Greece. That is,—nil. Such being the case, I will make no further apologies, but with a claim on originality (a novel thing nowadays), commence.

It will probably be quite well known that the postage stamp was first devised by Rowland Hill in 1837, but for fear everyone should not know it, I state it here; the penny postage system was not however, adopted until three years later, 1840. The first foreign country to adopt them was Switzerland in 1843, shortly followed by the United States, Brazil, and Mauritius (the far famed "Post Office" issue, which recently changed hands for £780 the pair), in 1847; Russia in 1848; France in 1849; Austria, Spain, and Italy in 1850; the Hawaiian Islands in 1851, and Holland in 1852. Thus, it will be seen that after all, a very great period of time has not to be travelled for the first stamp, and that, in this case also, as in most other postal innovations and reforms, our own country can claim the honour of introducing them,—a distinction of no little merit, when digested along with the fact that during 1893-4 the G. P. O. delivered in Great Britain alone 1,811,800,000 letters, besides numberless cards, books, and newspapers. And these numbers, we are informed, keep increasing rapidly.

The origin of the word "stamp"

may be found in the fact that the small squares of paper attached to letters for their prepayment were stamped, and thus it became simply a matter of custom to apply the same term to the then quite novel innovation. These also possessed a "watermark" as a safeguard against forgery, and were sold in sheets, being cut off with scissors as required. The dentations around them to assist division being a later invention.

Where the craze (or mania, or scientific pursuit, or whatever you choose to call it), of collecting first originated is open to both conjecture and controversy. Both England and France claim it, but the two first Magazines, the Stamp "Collectors' Magazine," and "Le Timbre Post," were both issued in the same year, almost in the same month, so no proof is found here of the supremacy of either. Then, again, the Belgians assert their claims Gibbons however, was as soon in the field as Moens. It must then remain doubtful. My own opinion is that none of these countries have any precedent, but that equal shares of honour are due to all. It was in 1856 that collecting was first seriously begun, and in 1862 Mr.

Mount Brown issued the first edition of the only systematic attempt at cataloguing then published. This listed only 1,200 varieties. After passing through four editions, in the last of which particulars were given of 2,400 stamps, Mr. Brown gave up its publication, in fact gave up philately altogether, owing to the pressure of his other legitimate profession. By this decision there is no doubt that we have been losers ever since. These 1,200 varieties are a great contrast to the last Scott, Gibbons or Senf catalogue.

(To be continued.)

LONDON NOTES AND NEWS.

BY PHIL. A. TELIST.

I HEAR on good authority that the government has destroyed the remainders of British Honduras (large surcharge series); they were offered to several dealers, but as there was a misunderstanding with regard to the value of the dollar (Mexican currency) they were refused. I should say the 50c on 1/- will be well-worth buying.

Circulars, Price Lists, etc.,

May be sent out and posted with this Magazine for 7/6 per 1000, 4/- per 500
2/3 per 250, 1/3 per 100.

* * This saves over £1 14s. 0d. in postage if 1,000 are thus sent, and they will be circulated carefully amongst buying collectors.

The Stamp Mart.

Stamps, etc., inserted under this heading FREE.

All goods intending to be included in this list must reach us by the 16th of the month, together with a stamped addressed envelope for their return.

If goods are sold, 15 PER CENT (3/- in the £1) will be deducted for our commission, but no charge will be made if no sale is effected.

All lots not disposed of in three months will be returned to owner, unless otherwise arranged.

1.—Cape, triangular, 6d.	3/6
2.—Chine on 1 fr. France	1/8
Used rare in this condition.	
3.—Gt. Britain, 4½d. Govt. Parcels	1/6
4.— Do. 2d. blue, no lines....	1/-
5.— Do. 8d. orange	1/6
6.— Do. 10d. red brown	1/6
7.— Do. 10s. grey, wmk. cross	17/6
8.— Do. 6d. grey green, L.R.	1/-
9.—Labuan 1c., 1893	1d.
10.—Alsace and Lorraine 10c. brown	6d.
11.—Austria 1867, 50c. flesh	1/-
12.—Argentine 1892, 1 peso, carmine	1/6
13.—Canada, 3d. rose, imperf....	1/6
14.—British Columbia, 3d.	2/-
15.—Ceylon, 1d. blue, imperf.	1/-
16.— Do. 2d. green	2/-
17.— Do. 6d. claret	6/-
18.— Do. 1s. violet	10/-
19.—Chili 1852, 1c. yellow	1/9
20.— Do. 20c. green	1/9
21.— Do. 1 peso	1/6
22.—Dominica, 1d. lilac, CA	1/3
23.—Grenada, 8d. bistre	6/6
24.— Do. 2½d. on 8d., unused	1/6

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COLLECTORS. I give stamps, &c. in exchange for books, curios, &c.—Wilorca, office of this paper, Miller's Dale, Buxton.

GRATIS. 25 different stamps, United States (Columbus), Argentine, Portugal, &c., free to all sending stamps for Approval Sheets.—John Davis, 124, Douglas Street, Deptford.

GRATIS. ½d. Malta and 25 other good stamps to applicants for cheap sheets.—Yorkshire Stamp Co., Low St., Keighley. Foreign correspondence and papers desired.

SIX SARDINIAN STAMPS Gratis to all sending stamp for approval sheets. I make this offer simply to introduce my goods.—Stapleton, 133, Sloane Street, London.

ADVERTISE in this paper. A trial advertisement solicited.



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BY R. HOLLICK, REVISED BY T. H. THOMPSON.

BRING A PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE

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PRICE, 10d. POST FREE.

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4.— Do. 2d. blue, no lines	1 -
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6.— Do. 10d. red brown	1 6
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17.— Do. 6d. claret	6 -
18.— Do. 1s. violet	10 -
19.—Chili 1852, 1c. yellow	1 9
20.— Do. 20c. green	1 9
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