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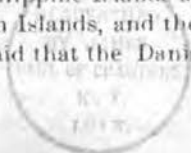
Issued in the Interest of Common-sense Philately and the
Co-operative Collectors Company.

ROOM 16, 302 E. GENESEE ST., SYRACUSE, N. Y., U. S. A.

Stamps of the United States.

Last month I advanced some ideas on collecting in general. In this number I begin a series of articles designed to show young collectors what and how to collect to good advantage; that is, with simplicity of method followed by pleasing results. Our country is entitled to consideration first, so I make it the subject of this initial article on stamps by countries. Our stamps portray many men and illustrate some events identified with our national history and a representative collection should be in the possession of every American boy and girl.

The United States originated with the thirteen colonies established from 1607 to 1733 along the Atlantic coast. These were claimed by Great Britain, but they banded together to resist the demands made by the British government (including a tax levied upon documents by requiring the use of paper bearing a revenue stamp), drafted the "Declaration of Independence" (1776) and ratified (1781) the "Articles of Confederation" adopted in 1777 by the Continental Congress. At the close of the Revolutionary War the present Constitution went into operation (March 4, 1789) and George Washington became President. The boundaries were extended until they reached Canada, Mexico and the Pacific Ocean and apparently could go no further; later, however, Alaska was added by purchase. Since 1898 we have acquired control of Cuba and Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands and the neighboring island of Guam, the Hawaiian Islands, and the island of Tutuila in the Samoan group. It is said that the Danish West Indies may soon



be purchased; the annexation of Canada is also considered a possibility, but in my opinion that event is highly improbable.

The invention of the postage stamp is generally ascribed to Sir Rowland Hill of England, who advocated the system of prepayment of postage by means of stamps in 1837, this plan being adopted by the British government in 1840. The invention of the stamp has been accredited also to James Chalmers and to various other Englishmen. THE SUNDAY HERALD of this city printed on March 22 an editorial naming Henry Watterman (recently deceased) as the inventor, saying that he was postmaster at Millbury, Mass., in 1839, and issued the first stamps at that time with the sanction of the national government. However, Scott's catalogue gives 1847 as the date of the Millbury stamp, and others appeared in this country two years earlier (1840 in England), so the "Herald" evidently is not correct. Mr. Hill may be considered the inventor of stamps, or at least the originator of their use, since the weight of evidence seems to be in his favor.

The U. S. stamps of 1845 and 1846 were of the class known as "provisionals," being issued by the postmasters at a number of cities before the government established a general issue. There are also the so-called "semi-official" and "private" or "local" issues. I advise collectors to give no attention to these until they have a good knowledge of the general issues; many of them are practically unobtainable and they have been extensively reprinted, counterfeited and imitated. The first effort should be to procure the principal varieties in the general issues from 1847 to date, at least those not too scarce to be obtained at a moderate expense.

In our next number will appear what I consider a complete list of real varieties, all that are necessary to illustrate the regular issues from 1847 to 1902, ignoring all the minor differences that puzzle young collectors and are of small consequence to anyone but the dealer who wants to sell the stamps to the boy with the big printed album.

Willis R. Perry.



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A Word to the Wise.

Some people wish us success and invite our patronage, but do not offer to help us. Now, we are doing business on a co-operative plan; we are asking dealers, collectors, publishers and others to purchase our capital stock and thus augment our working capital, and in return for this service we give sundry desirable privileges, patronize members whenever practicable and promise a division of profits. We can take stamps in exchange for capital stock now, therefore it is easy to procure something that will be worth having when our business becomes well established. You can't afford to ignore this company at a saving of only a dollar; and if you do, of course you need not expect any favors that can be directed to those who are helping us.

WATCH for the ad's of THE GOULD CO., 5001 Washington Ave., Chicago, in the next number. A postal will bring a copy as soon as issued.

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* Display ads., 50c per $\frac{1}{4}$ -page, 85c per $\frac{1}{2}$ -page, \$1.50 per page.
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Good stamps accepted in payment for advertising.

Subscription free to members and regular customers. Copies sent to others for stamps to cover postage.

\$1 IN CASH will buy a fifth-share in this company, which will entitle the holder to membership in the corporation and all benefits that go with same, together with a copy of our Directory of Foreign Collectors which sells for 25c. A dollar's worth of good stamps gets the stock without the book. A free advertisement ($\frac{1}{4}$ -page) allowed in either case.

DON'T use shabby stationery when you can get a supply from a professional print-shop (established 1893) in exchange for anything of value in the stamp line.

WHAT CAN YOU OFFER in cash or trade for the following? \$25 mortgage, guaranteed imperforate, good margins, gum, uncanceled, cat. \$25; Gates match stamp, 1c, silk paper, cat. \$4; 1851, 1c blue, type 3, cat. \$10; 1857, 1c blue, type 1, cat. \$7.50; type 2, cat. \$1; 2nd issue rev., 20c, inverted medallion (damaged but will be repaired if sold), cat. \$25.

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NINETEEN
HUNDRED
THREE

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