



MAY.

NO. 1.

# THE PHILATELIC GUARDIAN.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE AND STUDY OF PHILATELY.

L. M. THAYER, Publisher, Newburgh, N. Y.

## What Benefit do you Derive by Stamp Collecting?

By "Stampist."

This question is often asked the collector by some uninterested friend, who does not see anything in them, except as they appear neatly arranged in our albums. Most all collectors know that what they gain by their stamps is something that they will never forget, and therefore all true philatelists try and study as much about them as possible. The first thing that we learn by stamp collecting, is the geography of that country to which the stamp belongs. Let us first look at the Guatemalian stamps. The elegant engravings on these stamps show us that Guatemala is a mountainous country inhabited by Indians, and that it has a tropical climate, as the parrot is always found in the tropics, and we might go through the stamps of all the countries and find equally as much if time and space would allow it. A teacher may ask his class: "What countries are subject to Iceland?" and out of a school of say fifty scholars, not one would know. But, ah, there happens to be a stamp collector among those scholars, who immediately cries out: "Denmark and the Danish West Indies." How does he know? Why, by the stamps of those countries, which are of the same design and made by the same government. Every collector is supposed to take at least one stamp paper, which is also a great benefit to him. These stamp papers contain from time to time very minute accounts of all the stamp-issuing countries. Prizes are offered for the best piece pertaining to philately, and of course every boy wishes to try

his hand at journalism, and as the subject of "stamps" is so very familiar to him it is an easy matter to write a good piece, and thus the ice is broken for what may in time become a great journalist. The familiarity of the money of the different countries to which the stamp collector gets is another important benefit derived by stamp collecting. If we were called away to some foreign country we would be obliged to get our coin changed for money of that country, and out of one hundred persons three-fourths of them would not know anything about foreign coin, and therefore would stand a good chance of being swindled by some dishonest exchanger. But with the stamp collector it is not so. He can tell you all about foreign money, be it from Persia or Heligoland, it is so familiar to him as he sees it on his stamps daily in looking through his album. Some new collectors think that the time and money spent in stamps is absolutely wasted. This is not so. To be sure the true philatelist does spend a great deal of time and money for stamps, but the great good to be obtained from them is, as I said before, very beneficial. If it were not for his stamps his evenings would likely be spent on the streets or in the neighboring bar-room, and his money would also go for that which would never do him any good. But with an album of rare stamps at home his evenings are very profitably spent in studying the different styles of engraving, perforation, errors, water-marks, etc.; and as for money, his collection can be sold any day for what he paid for it, if not more. Another question that arises is this: Does not this fever or



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*mania* (as some call it,) interfere with a scholars' duties? This question can be answered in one word—no. It is *not* necessary to spend a great amount of time, and therefore even the youngest collectors' studies are not hindered.

In conclusion I would like to say a word to non-collectors. Non-collectors, if you ever expect to collect stamps, do not try and discourage your friend who is a collector by asking him "What good it does him?" Rather try and *encourage* him on with his collection, and when you have a little spare time look over some of the old letters that infest every house, and see if you cannot aid him by presenting him with a stamp that is "nothing" to you, but what may be a jewel to him.

#### Lost Letters.

The post office is the peoples' institution, and when anything goes wrong with their letters they freely exercise the privilege of blaming "the hundred handed giant." The wonder is not that blunders should be made, but that so few mistakes are committed. Not a few of these errors are due to those who send letters.

A gentleman called at an English post office to complain that two letters, one of which contained a bank note, had not reached their destination. He mentioned several circumstances associated with the posting of the letters to prove that they had been dropped into the letter box of that post office. The most convincing one was that he himself had posted the letters, and distinctly remembered doing it. The postmaster asked to see the letter which had informed him of the non receipt of the two letters. He put his hand in his coat pocket and drew out the very letters he thought he had posted.

Rats are very fond of stealing letters, being tempted by the gum of the stamp and envelope. A bookseller in a country town complained that he had not received several letters which belonged to him. Inquiry satisfied the postmaster that they had been duly delivered, but he explained their disappearance by supposing that they had been withdrawn from un-

der the street door by some thief. The fact that the door had a slit through which the letters were dropped, but no box to retain them, seemed to justify the supposition. A few days later the shop was altered, and in removing the flooring the remains of thirty-one letters, six postal cards and three newspapers were discovered. The corners of the letters where the stamps had been gummed on had been nibbled away, showing that rats were the letter thieves.—*Youth's Companion*.

#### Curious Collections.

*Philatelic Journal of America.*

I have seen numerous collections during my limited existence, not particularly of postage stamps or coins, but of other articles, such as shells, pictures, ores, buttons, cards, postmarks, minerals, Indian curiosities, monograms, autographs, fans, bangles, books, and thousands of other things, from trifles light as air all the way up to the most massive bric-a-brac. It seems a peculiarity of the human race to become either misers or spendthrifts, although there is a middle class who have not the snap to belong to one or the other of the above. For those mediocres I have a strong pity, not mingled with a feeling of compassion, that they must be of ordinary ability as the true reason for their neglect to amass something.

Give me the miser in preference to the spendthrift. The former always has something even if he does cling to it with a tenacity worthy of a better object, while the latter is generally out of pocket, and depending on his friends for a friendly lift every now and then. We are all misers to a more or less extent, and collectors we are certainly. What right-minded man who labors for his living does not seek to lay up sufficient for a rainy day and when the rainy day passes without being compelled to spend his savings, keep on laying up for another rainy day, until by and by he finds himself a wealthy man. We all respect a man who earns, and should give a double allowance to one who saves as well as earns.

If we look into the matter closely we

will find that most of our prosperous business men were savers in their youth. Watch a boy who preserves instead of destroying an article however mean, and you will see him at maturity a man of business and generally successful. Our skyrocket millionaires may not have been lads of this description, but if they had been their fortunes would perhaps stay with them a little longer. Easy come, easy gone, is their motto, and nobody the worse for it.

Collecting is peculiarly a civilized pursuit. I have never heard of the barbarous races collecting anything, although during my several years traveling among the Indian tribes in the Northwest I have noticed in several tepees a lot of scalps strung on a pole, which showed that the warrior proprietor must have been busily engaged in raising his brethren's hair at some not remote time. In one lodge of an old Sioux buck I ran across in northern Montana five or six years ago, I counted not less than thirty-nine Crow scalps, which the dusky owner proudly informed me had lifted from the heads of his red enemies at different times. It was no doubt a beautiful collection to him, but less sanguinary objects would suit me better, and so I thought to tell the old rascal, but didn't do it, as we were in hostile camp and a long way from home. One other article the red people collect with a great deal of zeal, and that is elk's teeth. These bits of ivory are a sort of circulating medium among them, and answer to some extent the standard for barter and sale.

The squaws place great store by them, and decorate their garments from head to foot with these fruits of the chase.

An Indian maiden with her clothing thickly dotted with elk teeth is as much an object of envy to her red sisters, as our wives, sisters, cousins and aunts are to each other when decked out in their best finery. Its the same all the world over. Speaking of collections, one of the best autograph albums I ever saw is in the possession of the Hon. F. L. Greene, of Billings, a member of the Montana Legislature. His book contains many rarities that would make some of our autograph hunters open

their eyes could they turn its pages. There is Spinner's first adorning one leaf, and Lincoln's, Buchanan's, Hull's, and a score of revolutionary heroes, that are perhaps not to be found in any other album on the continent.

Mr. Charles Diehl, of Chicago, has a cabinet of minerals that is most complete in every way, and the Rev. E. W. J. Lindesmith, chaplain in the regular army, has a collection of Indian curiosities, such as would do honor to any university or museum in the land. Up in the second canon of the Yellowstone, near the National Park, dwells a curious frontier character who has been known for years by both whites and reds as Yankee Jim. This old mountaineer has the collection mania also, but his fever runs to antlers and rattles. His cabin, located on the side of a mountain overhanging the magnificent gorge or gulch in which far below tumbles and runs the rapid Yellowstone, is a veritable curiosity-cabinet in the two particulars named above. On the roof, sides, all over the outside as well as adorning the wall, doors and window inside are varieties of every species of horned animals found in the Rocky Mountains and its various spurs. On a shelf were a score or two dozen wide-mouthed bottles, in which were safely encoined the harmless ends of, I should judge, not less than two thousand rattlesnakes. Yankee-Jim informed me he had been many years in making this collection of rattles, both the diamond and water rattlesnake being represented, and he evidently took as much pride in, and appreciated fully as much his twenty-four bottles of horny joints as we do our elegant coin cabinets or handsome stamp albums.

Back in the eastern cities I have seen boys, and girls too, for that matter, who though youthful in years, yet had already begun the pastime of collecting something. Usually they start with a string of spools or buttons, or else various colored marbles, and go on from good to better, passing the picture-card period successfully, and finally develop into a full-fledged philatelist or numismatist when they get sense enough to see the beauty and attraction in it. (*To be Concluded.*)

# THE PHILATELIC GUARDIAN.

Issued Monthly in the Interest of Stamp Collectors.

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JOSEPH HOLMES, JR., of Long Island City, has a novel way of exposing his "approval sheet frauds." At the head of all his price lists he publishes their full names and address, and warns all dealers and collectors to beware of them. This is a good scheme, and should be followed by all dealers who desire to put down these ever increasing *approval sheet thieves*.

WE intended to issue the first number

of this paper on April 15th, but owing to some important work that was received at the printer's office before us, were delayed nearly two weeks. This accounts for our being so late.

ANOTHER auction sale of stamps took place in New York on Saturday, April 7th, but could not properly be called a collection, but several dealers' lots combined for a sale. Total realized from sale \$380.

THERE will shortly be held by Messrs. Geo. A. Leavett & Co., 787 & 789 Broadway, New York, a very important sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, unused. It is the collection of Edwin Shorthouse, Esq., of Birmingham, England. This collection contains about 8,000 varieties, chiefly in unused sets, of every country on the globe, with the exception of U. S., England and Australia, and about 1,000 unused entire envelopes of every country, including many rare United States. As this collection has been in this country but a few weeks it is not definitely known when the sale will take place, but it is expected to be some time in May. A catalogue is now being prepared by Mr. Ed. Frossard, who has charge of the stamp department of Leavett & Co., and will no doubt be as complete as can be made.

WE learn from Mr. C. J. Fuelscher that *Our American Youth* will be changed to *The American Stamp Collectors' Guide*, change to take place at the beginning of Vol. III, April number.

WE will be glad to receive any article pertaining to philately from any of our readers, and as an extra inducement we will give one year's subscription to THE GUARDIAN, or, if it is a dealer, a one inch adv., providing it contains at least 500 words.

ACCORDING to a recent statement in the *Newburgh Register*, Newburgh should by all means support a good philatelic society. It says there are as many as half a dozen collectors who have collections valued at \$1,000, a large number valued at \$100, and at least three hundred collectors who would only be too willing to support a good stamp journal. Well, we have the former, now for the latter.

DEALERS should send us an adv., as all the collectors spoken of in the above will receive a copy of THE GUARDIAN.

#### What "The Guardian" Would Like to See.

Honest stamp dealers. By this we do not mean to reflect on all stamp dealers, or stamp dealers as a class. But if collectors will reflect upon the course some so called stamp dealers have taken; their many tricks and twistings to cheat collectors out of their money, we think we know they will agree with us when we say we would like to see not some honest collectors, but *all* dealers strictly honest and reliable. Many collectors will no doubt reply, "Of course we would like to see all dealers honest, but we cannot help it if dishonest dealers thrive." Collectors, this is where you make a mistake. It lies in your power to drive every dishonest dealer from the business. Do not patronize them, do not send orders to dealers who are not known to be strictly honest and reliable. Do not send a single order to a dishonest dealer, no matter how cheaply he advertises certain coveted stamps. Discourage other collectors from dealing with them, and, in short, do all in your power to break up their business. If all honest collectors would pursue this course, and if all honest publishers would refuse to insert advertisements which on their face show the dishonesty of the dealer, there would

in a short time be a scarcity of this unwholesome drug on the stamp market.

THIS journal is published in the interest of stamp collectors. A stamp collector who is not willing to pay 25 cents a year as a subscription to THE GUARDIAN, takes no real interest in stamp collecting, and is unworthy the name philatelist.

#### Our Bow.

We have no excuse to offer in adding another to the many good philatelic papers already in the field, except that the growing interest in making collections is such that information on the subject in so cheap a paper will be sure to meet with general approval.

THE PHILATELIC GUARDIAN does not propose to put its best on the outside, but will, with the assistance of correspondents, make its columns of real interest to every collector.

We cordially invite collectors to furnish articles to our next and following numbers. Through its exchange column THE GUARDIAN will endeavor to make its pages of use to all without charge.

The roll of honor (the subscription list,) is now open, and we are sure there are many who will, by favoring us with their prompt subscriptions, help make the paper what we intend it to be, the guardian of philatelic interests.

COLLECTORS please do us a favor by looking through this paper carefully from cover to cover, and if you think it worth 25 cents a year, subscribe, if not, hand it to some friend who is a collector; perhaps he may find something that interests him, and may subscribe.

WHY is it so many dishonest dealers thrive while dishonest dealers in any other business would be at once "set

down upon." Something wrong there somewheres. What say our readers?

OUR next number will be made very interesting as well as instructive. A very complete account of the sale of Edwin Shorthouse collection, spoken of in another column, will be given, and also the highest prices paid for the single stamps. A splendid description of the latest country to issue stamps (Monaco,) will be given by a gentleman who recently returned from there, and several new features will be added, which will make this number one long to be remembered by the philatelic public.

*Subscribe!      Subscribe!      Subscribe!*

WE have received the following papers addressed to THE PHILATELIC GUARDIAN. As we are new in the business we will not attempt to make any criticisms with this number, but will give all a chance to say what they will about us, first:

- Stamp World.* (Mills.)
- Garden City Philatelist.* (Mouat.)
- Philatelic News.* (Berry.)
- Capital City Philatelist.* (Hamlen.)
- Monthly Journal.*
- Philatelic Herald.* (Jewett.)
- Chemung Review.* (Beers.)

Publishers will please accept our thanks, and hereafter send two copies and we will return the compliment by sending two of THE GUARDIAN.

POSTMASTER GENERAL WM. F. VILAS announces that sealed proposals for furnishing the government with as many stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers as may be ordered for a period of four years, commencing on the first day of October, 1886, will be received at the post office department at Washington until noon on the 19th day of May, 1886. We will try and give our readers a com-

plete list of all the bids received, in our next number.

#### CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

Any person desiring information relating to philately, will do well to use this department. Their questions will be inserted free, and will be answered by our readers in the next number.

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Exchange notices will be inserted in this department free of cost. Notices to be written on one side of paper only, must contain less than forty words, and must reach us before the 20th for insertion in next number.

#### Fancy Prices Paid for Stamps.

We clip the following from the *New York World*:

In old hair-trunks stored with contempt and disdain in the garrets of the farm houses of the country there is many a small fortune lying neglected and despised. The mania for collecting postage stamps is no longer confined to the few. Every post office has its dealer and every village its little band of philatelomaniacs. The demand has increased prices to such an extent within the past five years that merely to obtain a perfect set of United States stamps will alone cost many thousand dollars. The "advanced" collector now requires his stamp on the original envelope or letter-back, and for that is willing to pay two prices. The ordinary collector, however, is willing to get his stamps at the cheapest possible price and that is often beyond his means. At the auction sale Tuesday of Col. Sandford's collection, the Battleboro (Vt.) 5c. stamp brought \$145; the St. Louis 5c., \$55; the Goliad 10c. (Tex.) \$95; a War Department 10c. envelope, \$50, and a Baton Rouge 5c., \$50. Among the foreign stamps sold the two Hawaiian 13c. stamps brought \$172; a Canadian 12d., \$50; a Newfoundland 1 shilling, \$55; a Cape of Good Hope 1d., \$56; a Roumania 27 paras, \$62, and a half peso of Peru, \$58.



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