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No. 1.

THE  
PHILATELIC

GAZETTE,

A Monthly Magazine,

In the Interest of Philatelists.

Published by

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# THE PHILATELIC GAZETTE,

— Published on the 15th of each month by —

THE PHILATELIC GAZETTE COMPANY, (LIMITED),  
ROOM 3, STEHLE BLOCK, ALTOONA, PA.

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# The Philatelic Gazette.

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1893.

No. 1.

## ALTOONA PHILATELISTS. No. 1.



W. M. FRASER.

William Mark Fraser, a cut of whom appears above, was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, on April 13th 1859. He came to the United States in 1866 and remained within its borders nearly ever since. In his profession, that of Civil and Mining Engineer, he ranks at the head in the Central part of this state. His first collection of stamps was made in 1874 and consisted of about 100 taken from letters. This was followed by two others of 2,000 or 3,000 varieties, all these were burnt at various times. In 1884 or '85 he started his fourth collection and in '87 it numbered 2,000 varieties mounted in one of Scott's International Albums and 2,300 in a Mekeel's Improved Album. From 1887 to '92 little was added to the collection although it was retained and his interest in Philatelic matters kept up. In October 1892 this collection followed its predecessors, being burnt up with his office, fortunately his duplicates escaped, and from these, with about 500 bought since, he has built up a general collection of 2,000 and a special (American) of 1,000 varieties which are mounted in two of Mekeel's blank Albums, these he considers the best stamp albums on the market to-day and the only ones entitled to rank as a Philatelic Album. Mr. Fraser is President of the Altoona Philatelic Society and a member of the S. of P. and is making a specialty of American adhesives.

## WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM A STAMP ALBUM

BY GEO. A. JOPLIN.

I have had occasion several times lately to show my album to parties who know nothing of Philately. It is interesting to notice the changing look of such a person and listen to the expression of growing interest. When you begin with your album you are considered a "crank," and stamp collecting an "idle hobby," but you do not finish the United States stamps before each one admits that it is both interesting and instructive. As they see stamps of our own country which they never before had heard of and become familiar with this and that portrait and learn something new of Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Stanton, Clay, Webster, Garfield, Scott, Hamilton, Perry, Taylor, etc., they admit that it is a very pleasant way to take a lesson in history. Of course the different colors and shades of stamps have been commented upon. Nine out of ten who look at your stamps confess that they had never heard of the department stamps before. Even the postal envelopes and the letter sheet will be new to the majority. As you pass the foreign stamps, it will not be long before you will hear surprise expressed that there are so many places and countries, they conclude that they either studied a part of their geographies or have forgotten most that they ever learned. They ask with astonishment for the location and history of Azores Islands, of Labuan, of Sarawak, of Macao, of Bosnia, of Ponta Delgada, of Dominica, of Heligoland, of the Falkland Islands and many more. You think most anyone can tell you all about these places, just try it, take the list enumerated, select ten persons and see what information you can gain in regard to them from all the ten, it may surprise you. The Philatelist should not be satisfied with possessing the stamps, but should study the countries issuing them. Learn all the interesting facts you can about your stamps, the countries, the representations on the stamps, the rulers of the countries, etc., Then when anyone asks to see your collection, your comments as you pass from page to page will arrest and hold the attention and in many cases arouse so much enthusiasm that a determination to become a collector will follow.

### THEY HOLD THEIR OWN.

Despite the criticism on the Columbian stamp, they are fast growing into popularity. The latest figures gathered from the chief cities of the United States and comparing them with the corresponding month of last year, leaves them far in the lead, as the following returns of sales during January will show. Of course the great lead, taken by the Columbian stamps, is accounted for chiefly by reason of their being a new design and therefore sought for by collectors and purchased in large quantities by dealers and speculators, knowing the series is issued for a brief period and will be replaced by others.

New York—Sales for January, 1893, amounted to \$474,076, or 25.02 per cent more than for January, 1892. Of this total 28.91 per cent came from ordinary stamps and 71.09 from Columbian.

Chicago—For January, 1893, sales, \$271,369, or 36.93 per cent more than for January, 1892. Of this sum 25.11 per cent came from ordinary stamps and 74.87 from Columbian.

## THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

BY J. PERCY STETLER.

The great World's Fair to be held in Chicago in a few months is a subject that has a fascination for everyone that can imagine its grand scope and power for enlightenment of the public at large. No affair of its kind ever approached it in magnitude; the world has never known its equal, for in cost alone many millions of dollars more will be expended than on any World's Fair before.

There will be fourteen immense buildings of the most beautiful styles of architecture for regular exhibition purposes. They are the Administration, Government, Women's, Forestry, Fisheries, Art Palaces, Electrical, Agricultural, Horticultural, Dairy, Transportation, Machinery, Mines and Mining and the Manufactures and Liberal Arts. This last building alone is 1,687,787 feet in dimensions, covers thirty-one acres, and is the largest building ever constructed for exposition purposes.

There will be also State buildings, and a large Naval display. In addition the exposition managers have arranged for street and Naval scenes, typical of life in strange distant lands, such as China, Japan, India, Turkey, Egypt, etc., etc. With tribes of natives from Africa, South Seal Islands, South America, and the extreme regions of the frozen north, habited, armed and living as in their primitive state, with the wild and domestic animals of these countries. The whole comprehensively arranged in a large beautiful park interspersed with lakes and lagoons, upon which the sight seer is transported in gondoliers, after the manner of Venice.

A trip to the Fair will not only be one continual round of pleasure, but as a source of knowledge of the world's progress in arts, sciences and manufactures, it will enable the visitor to gain a more thorough realization of the world's advancement than years of ordinary reading, study and travel.

It is now the aim and purpose of every philatelist in the broad land to have a stamp exhibit, one that will eclipse all previous efforts of its kind ever attempted before, as at the fair we will have the whole world for an audience, and such a grand opportunity should not be passed unnoticed, and every true philatelist should feel a deep personal interest in the stamp exhibit of 1893, and if we keep on waiting and has been done, it will be passed and all over and we will find 1894 with us and no great achievement accomplished in Philately in '93, as might there have been, when we can see what it is to wait, and if the collectors do not get a quicker gait on we will find that it will turn out to be the case. There has been some interest taken in the matter however but it all seems to me just as if it had met some obstacle soon after it started, and had given up the mission it had started with, at once, but I hope that such is not the case. Now Brother philatelist and members of the A. P. A., and others, shake off the lethargy which seems to have taken hold of you, and waken up, you have been sleeping too long now and we are open to severe criticism.

And remember that it is just about a month till all the philatelists will commence sending their way to Chicago and the fair will have few charms for a postage stamp collector unless he sees his hobby well represented to the world.

August will be the collectors month to go, as then nearly all the most prominent stamp societies of the world will hold their annual convention in the world's famous "Windy City," and then the philatelists will have their times, as many acquaintances will be made, some you probably have corresponded with more or less, while others whose names have been familiar to you ever since you were an admirer of Philately.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

CARE should be taken in mailing a Columbian stamp to see that the letter is attached to it.

MODERATELY sized exchange notices will be inserted free to subscribers and for non-subscribers a charge of ten cents will be made for notices not exceeding thirty words.

THE collection of Marcus Mayer, which was sold by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., on the 15th and 16th ult., contained nearly 7,600 specimens, none of which were duplicates. This is the kind of collections made before the introduction of the microscope in philately, and yet the making of it appears to have been a very creditable performance, as the amount realized at the sale averaged about seventy cents per stamp.

THERE is every indication that the interest in stamp collecting is constantly increasing, and there are clearly many more collectors to-day than ever before, all of which goes to show that philately has a hold on the public which can never be shaken off. The only thing which forebodes disaster is the large quantity of philatelic doggerel, (sometimes called poetry,) which, somehow or other, finds its way into stamp papers, and which, if not speedily suppressed, will no doubt drive multitudes of collectors out of the ranks.

WE are not aware that any demand or request has been made by anybody for the revival of the stamp publication which was issued in this city a few years ago under the title of the PHILATELIC GAZETTE, nor are we aware that there is any pressing necessity for its being resuscitated at this time; neither have we any apology to make for coming before the philatelic public with the first number of the new series which it is our purpose to publish. The main circumstance to which stamp collectors may consider themselves indebted for the great boon we propose to bestow on them, is the fact that the publishers find they have a little surplus cash which they have decided to spend for their amusement in this particular way. It must be conceded that it is a great satisfaction to a stamp collector to have his own little stamp paper, (provided it doesn't cost too much,) in which he can wield a free lance, (always amenable to the facts and the truth,) against the various philatelic frauds and impostures, which, from time to time, come bobbing up where least expected.

The present publishers of this journal include all except one, of those who were actively concerned in the publication of the old PHILATELIC GAZETTE, the first number of which appeared in June, 1884, and which was continued by them for four full years, issuing 48 numbers. We may therefore claim, with all due modesty, that we are not entirely novices in this business, and that the experience we have had in this line ought to enable us to say and do something occasionally, at least, which would interest and benefit our readers and subscribers, should we be so fortunate as to have any of the latter.

It may take us a little while to get the hang of the thing again, and in the meantime we ask our readers and patrons to exercise toward us all due patience and forbearance. Do not fail however to send in requests for sample copies, but we would caution you not to become subscribers before you see what kind of a publication this promises to be.

## A THREAD-BARE SUBJECT.

BY QUERICUS.

A few years ago the so called postage stamps of the Samoan Islands were as thoroughly discussed, and their utter worthlessness for the purpose for which postage stamps are ordinarily used, was so clearly shown that every collector who knew the difference between a real postage stamp and a mustard plaster was entirely satisfied that they had no claim whatever to what is called philatelic value. I was therefore, with a great deal of surprise, to say nothing of amusement, that I read in a San Francisco stamp paper, recently published, an essay on the stamps in question, which was read before the Pacific Philatelic Society. If the essay had been prepared by a boy who had just entered the philatelic ranks, his faith in these labels could be accounted for, but the language and style indicate that the writer is a full grown man. More's the pity.

Whatever may be the franking power of the 2½d stamp bearing the head of his royal highness King Malietoa, issued in 1892, as well as of the other stamps since the experimental arrangements said to have been made the latter part of 1891 by the United States with the Apia postmaster, there is not the slightest doubt that up to the date last mentioned, no Samoan stamp ever franked a letter anywhere. They were never intended for that purpose.

The first series of what some people call the stamps of Samoa, was procured by the Editor of the Samoa Times, a Mr. Agar, who was at the same time the local postmaster. The first of the series came out in 1877 and the others appeared during his term of office. About the year 1882 he died and the dies for making the stamps, as well as the remainders, passed into the hands of an English firm of stamp dealers who, for aught the writer knows, are still printing stamps from them. The postmaster who succeeded Mr. Agar didn't discover the necessity in his office for any nonsense of the stamp kind and got along very well without them for some five years. In 1887, whoever was then postmaster concluded it would be a good thing to get up another set of stamps. It is probable some stamp dealer suggested to him the advisability of the scheme from a financial point of view. Though the stamps could not frank letters or pay postage they could be sold to stamp collectors, and that appears to be the only thing they were ever good for. Every letter or other piece of mail matter that got away from Samoa during the currency of these stamps had to have on it either a German, English or U. S. stamp, or the money had to go with it with which the proper stamp had to be bought at the post office at Sydney, San Francisco, or some other port in the Postal Union. The U. S. consul's clerk, who was thoroughly familiar with these stamps, writing from Apia, under date of March 31, 1887, concerning this issue, says, that as far as ability to get a letter out of the Apia postoffice is concerned, a healthy finger mark or a wax seal will do as much in that direction as one of the Samoa stamps. The claim to be considered postage stamps, as far as relates to the first two issues, is therefore clearly shown to be without any foundation whatever, and there is little doubt that the very latest issues are equally worthless.

I am quite aware, however, that no matter how worthless these labels may be, there are plenty of so-called stamp collectors who will buy them, just the same as they do lots of other trash of the same character, and why should certain dealers not be willing to supply them?

**ARRANGE YOUR STAMPS.**

BY CINCO CENTAVO.

When a recruit to the ranks of Philately first becomes interested in the hobby of hobbies, he clings tightly to every specimen he chances across until he possesses probably two or three hundred varieties, perhaps one, two or three specimens of a great number of incomplete sets; then the thought generally comes to him to arrange them in their respective places in an album or on sheets. After a few months he has accumulated several more specimens which he assigns to their places and to his gratification finds he has almost complete sets of certain issues. The catalogue of some reputable dealer is then referred to and the sets filled out. What a pleasure it is to look upon a complete set. No matter if they are of no great value it is a source of delight to view and possess them. When he becomes a Philatelist of several years and complete sets in his album are a common thing, he purchases a large album, (if he has good judgement in choosing this it will be a large blank one,) and then usually follows the displaying of his taste in arranging them in striking designs. A manner which I and a number of my acquaintances have adopted is the arranging of the stamps of a certain set into the first initial of the name of the owner of collection; this will occupy one page; the initial letter to cover the entire page, leaving enough margin on the sides, top and bottom of the page to give the display a good appearance. Then the second initial to be made of the second set and so on until the name appears in full. If in arranging them in this way you find some sets are not complete, simply block off spaces for the missing stamps which can be filled in again, and insert what you have, commencing with the low denomination and ending with the high. Unless your name is as tiresome as that of the first King of Siam, you will likely run short of letters ere your pages are all filled; in this event it would be well to arrange the stamps into geometrical figures, which, if care is exercised in doing, will give great satisfaction. It would be well for collectors of United States stamps to collect, as far as possible, a set of used and a set of unused of each issue. Do not pay an exorbitant price for your specimens and you need have no fear that United States stamps will ever depreciate in value and you are perfectly safe in investing in them when reasonable prices are asked.

**PHILATELIC BREVITIES.**

Stamps of the Sandwich Islands ought to be a good investment now. Whether the result of the recent revolution be American annexation, or only a protectorate at any rate we are likely to have a new issue of stamps in use in the Islands shortly.

There are to be several new issues of U. S. soon. Two eight cent stamps, one for the Columbian series and the other of the 1890 design, and two special delivery stamps, a large and a small one, the large one to be orange-red in color. We have not learned the color of the small one but the design will include a profile of Gen. Sherman.

We would advise collectors to procure as many of the high values of the 1890 issue as they can, as there will likely be a new issue with the exodus of the Columbian porous plasters. The dealers at any rate seem to be hoarding them, as we have in several instances had remittances returned to us when ordering the 90 cent, used. There will of course, be a large advance in the price of this in a short time, as with the 1888 issue which today sells at three times the price asked four years ago. However we think the 30 and 90 cents of '88 good investments even at present prices.



**SCOTT'S 121st AUCTION SALE OF STAMPS.**

The very excellent and valuable collection of postage stamps owned by Mr. Marcus Mayer, of New York, was sold at auction by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., on the 15th and 16th ult., being their 121st sale. The collection abounded in rarities and the prices realized throughout were very good and must have been quite gratifying to both owner and cataloguer. We quote below a few of the prices realized:

Baltimore 1846, 5c., blue, entire envelope, signature in black, used,	\$225.00.
New Haven 1845, envelope, 5c., red, unused,	325.00.
New York 1843, 3c., blue, wove paper, used,	35.00.
" " " " " glazed paper, used,	12.00.
" " " " " green, glazed paper, used,	30.00.
St. Louis 1845, 5c., black, dies A and C on one original, used, both,	162.00.
" " " " " 10c., black, die B, used,	53.00.
U. S. 1856, 24c., lilac, unperforated, unused,	25.50.
" " 1856, 30c., orange, unperforated, unused,	35.00.
" " 1860, 30c., blue, unused,	5.05.
" " 1866, 3c., scarlet, used,	13.25.
" " 1868, 3c., rose, embossing covering entire stamp, used,	18 50.
" " " " " 90c., blue, original gum, unused,	12.50.
" " 1869, 90c., black and carmine, not a perfect specimen, unused,	7.00.
" " 1870, 10c., brown, used,	5.75.
" " " " " 30c., black, used, not a good specimen,	7.50.
" " 1849, carrier stamp, 1c., rose, used,	8 00.
" " 1851, carrier stamp, 1c., red, pale brownish color, unused,	8 00.
" " 1865, newspaper stamp, 5c., blue border, unused,	6.15.
" " 1875, " " " \$12.00, green, unused,	13.05.
" " " " " \$24.00, purple, unused,	16.25.
" " " " " \$36.00, red, unused,	21.00.
" " " " " \$48.00, brown, unused,	25.00.
" " " " " \$60.00, violet, unused,	30.00.
" " Department, Agriculture, complete set, unused,	8.10.
" " " Executive, complete set unused,	17.70.
" " " Justice, 90c., purple, unused,	13.00.
" " " State, \$2.00 black unused,	6.10
" " " " " \$5.00 " and green, used,	80.00.
" " " " " \$10.00 " " " " "	36.50.
" " " " " \$20.00 " " " " unused,	32.00.
Confed. States, Baton Rouge, 5c., green and carmine, pasted on envelope, unused,	77.00.
" " Charleston, 5c., blue, 1861, used,	9.00.
" " Columbia, S. C., envelope, 5c., blue on white, 1861, entire, used,	11.50.
" " Mobile, Ala., 1861, 2c., black, on part of original letter, used,	33.00.
" " Petersburg, Va., 1861, 5c., red, balls down, original envelope, used,	15.25.
Canada, 1858, 6p. lilac, perforation trimmed on one side, unused,	15.00.
The total proceeds of the sale were \$5,266.13.	

## PHILATELIC REMINISCENCES.

After several years of comparative quiet in a Philatelic point of view, my interest has been revived. In looking over the field I find many changes, some of a singular nature. In olden days all the members of our National societies were Philatelists or at least, collectors of more or less repute who joined for the mutual benefit of the societies and themselves; helping one another in the pursuit of their chosen hobby. Now, while the vast majority adhere to the original object, I find a considerable majority in the societies who are not collectors, yet who seem to take a deep interest in our literature and talk stamp and Philately as though they were veterans. My curiosity was aroused, and upon inquiring the cause of this, to me strange state of affairs, I was informed that it cost less to belong to a society than to subscribe for papers.

Six years ago we were wont to complain of the drain on our finances through the efforts of the postal authorities of Ceylon, Mauritius, etc., to increase their revenues by surcharging. Now I find them outdone by Sebeck and his South American contract. Then you could purchase a used set of the South American stamps at about one fifth their face value and an unused set at about twenty-five per cent over face value. Now we can get a lovely set of bright colored engravings for twenty-five per cent of the value represented, but a set of genuine used postage stamps is almost unattainable.

The French Colonies that were so much sought after and hard to obtain have been brought under the demoralizing influence till now they are of little more interest than spool labels. The only redeeming features about them is that we are not compelled to collect them. Those who can point to the pages of their albums containing these stamps and can show genuine used copies, are to be envied, this also reminds me of the fact that I have had sent me a number of used sets of Samoa stamps with the original gum on the back.

Of those prominent in years gone by—1883 to 1888—but few remain to-day. This is especially true of Denver; the Feldwisch's Carstarphen's, *et. al.*, who were in the front ranks are now silent as the grave, perhaps in it; Voute, the little Chicago bantam, is advance agent for a show, and his interests in matters Philatelic have almost died out. Chute, Cuno, Mitchell and others of their rank are little heard of.

Specialism, which was being agitated by a few is now the rule with collectors, much I think to the benefit of those interested in our hobby.

The old syndicate envelopes are still on the market but most of them are in the hands of the syndicate yet. By the way, is it not probable that Sebeck got his idea from this syndicate.

The papers devoted to collecting are about the same as in former days, some good ones with a large number of bad ones have joined the silent majority, many of the latter have been mourned by their subscribers, not for the papers but for the quarters they had invested in them, yet, we find new ones of the same quality springing up every day and the same story is being repeated, twenty-five cents for the paper that never comes. Two noticeable improvements have been made to the list: Mekeel's and Millers weeklies, both of which are being published by live Philatelists who deserve the support of every collector.

Yours Truly

Camp Onnalinda, April 14, 1893.

F. N. B.

No. 59. **E. T. PARKER'S**  
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NO. 59, IS OUT.

prices thousands of stamps, including very rare foreign, U. S., Envelopes cut square and entire; revenues, cement, match and medicine, and proofs. It is the best list of the kind ever issued. A nominal charge of 10 cents is made for a copy, which sum can be deducted from the first order amounting to \$1.00. No collector can afford to omit sending for a copy of No.

**E. T. PARKER, Bethlehem Pa.**

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# IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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Our first PHILATELIC ANNUAL AND ADDRESS BOOK will appear on or about May 1st, 1893.

This publication will positively appear at about the date mentioned above, and will not be several months late.

It will contain the following departments :

## Articles of General Interest to Collectors,

By the best Philatelic authors.

## Names and Addresses of Stamp Collectors

In all parts of the world. No charge is made for inserting your name, but if you wish your society number to appear, a nominal charge of 5 cents will be made.

Send in your name as early as possible, and if you wish a copy of the Directory, include 10 cents to pay for same.

## Stamp Dealers Directory.

A nominal charge of 10 cents is made for a two or three line card.

No dealer can afford to be left out, as many wholesale dealers and publishers will use this list in sending out their price-lists and publications.

## Directory of Philatelic Publications.

A nominal charge of 5 cents will be made for inserting name of publication, publisher and advertising and subscription rates.

## Exchange Column.

A charge of 1 cent per word will be made for insertions in this column. As several thousand copies will be circulated, many of which will go to foreign countries. Collectors and dealers will find this a paying investment.

## Advertisements.

We will accept a limited number of advertisements at the following rates:

1 inch 50 cents. 1 column \$3.00

1 page (14 inches) \$5.00.

Terms:—Small ads. and ads from parties who have no commercial rating, cash with copy, others payable on receipt of marked copy.

The price of this Address book has been placed at the small sum of TEN CENTS. Address

FRANK R. HOYT,

P. O. Box 350,

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Vol. 1.

No. 2.

THE

Philatelic Gazette.

...: A • Monthly • Magazine :...-

—PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF—

PHILATELISTS.

The PHILATELIC GAZETTE COMPANY,

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# The Philatelic Gazette.

VOL. I.

MAY, 1893.

No. 2.

## PHILATELISTS VS. COLLECTORS.

For nearly ten years I have been a more or less active collector of postage stamps and in following my hobby I have endeavored to bring to bear on it a due amount of common sense and intelligence. I have been an attentive reader of the best philatelic literature and have made an effort to inform myself in regard to the various issues of postage stamps, it being an article of faith with me that no sensible stamp collector could do any less than that. My collection is not very large, it is true, but I am well acquainted with the history and characteristics of every specimen in it, as well as of many hundreds I am not fortunate enough to own. I have had the advantage of personal acquaintance with but two or three collectors and these pursued the same methods as I did myself, and from this I inferred that all, or nearly all who were interested in stamps, gave the matter the same serious attention. Not long ago, however, I was awakened from the delusion under which I was innocently laboring all these years. I happened to meet some young "philatelists" of whom I had been reading in the stamp papers and on being introduced I anticipated a delightful time in comparing notes, and after the necessary preliminaries I at once commenced to "talk stamps." My surprise may be imagined when I discovered they knew almost nothing about stamps, not even being acquainted with those of their own country. Their collections were insignificant, of course, and no attempt had been made at arrangement or classification. Yet they were posing as philatelists and were members of one of our leading philatelic societies and took an active interest in its affairs. Their names appear from time to time in the stamp papers, as well as in most of the collector's directories, and the person who got his opinion concerning them from these sources would naturally consider them pretty well up in the "Science of Philately."

Now there is no law that I know of which compels a stamp collector to study his stamps, nor is he obliged to collect at all if he don't want to, but he is under obligation to act in a rational manner so long as he remains out of a mad house, and the young man is only making himself ridiculous who pretends to be a philatelist but who lacks every qualification for that title. He may talk as loud as anybody at the annual conventions about our "beloved fraternity" but he don't know much about stamps. Collectors of his kind make more racket in the stamp papers than all the genuine collectors do. In fact those who make the largest and most valuable collections are unknown to the philatelic world in general, until after years of quiet labor the results of their careful toil is brought to the notice of the public through an auction catalogue.

Is it any wonder that people look upon stamp collecting as a craze when all they know about it is learned from these sham collectors who pretend to represent the great army of genuine philatelists? Is it any wonder that real collectors who have self-respect prefer to go quietly about their work and remain unknown rather than be identified in any way with the noisy pretenders?

### F. N. B. MAKES A FEW OBSERVATIONS.

**He Believes in Blank Stamp Albums and Advances Good Reasons for Doing so.**

It seems to me there is very poor management in the Sons of Philatelia. When I was running around Altoona last week I found there were 16 members of that society there, or at least they think they are members, but not one of them has a certificate of membership nor can they get one, notwithstanding the fact that letters are being sent to the secretary almost daily. Some of the members are in arrears for dues but in conversation with one these I learn that they are all ready to pay up as soon as they see any chance of being recognized by the powers that be, but until then those that have already paid their money get something to show for it, no more will be sent in. I am in the same fix; I was admitted to membership about six months ago but as yet have nothing to show for it except a notice in the official organ. I also know at least seven good members that I can secure as soon as we get a secretary.

I had the pleasure of meeting an Altoona Philatelist a short time ago who has 76,000 United States stamps in his collection and only lacks 322 of having a complete set of adhesives, as catalogued by Albrecht.

Beside every Columbian stamp of the value of 10c. or over which comes to the post offices in this locality on letters, is found written "Please keep this stamp, I will call for it this evening, — ——" and — — — always calls.

I have just received a catalogue of an auction sale that has been post-poned on account of delay in having the catalogue printed. The list comprises 150 lots worth in all about \$25 00 and for quality of stamps and "get up" of catalogue it is the humblest affair of its kind I have ever seen. It is my opinion that the company (?) had better postpone their "exclusive auction business" for some months to come.

To the already large list of varieties of Columbian envelopes can be added one without the letter "T" in the word "Two" on the 2c. stamps. I have seen but one of this variety.

The long expected change in the stamps of Hawaii is about to be made. It will consist for the present of a surcharge on the current issue. I am informed that the surcharge is "Hawaii Provisional" in two lines, the values to remain the same as at present.

In a chat with a collector the other day about matters Philatelic, the question of Blank Albums came up. He prefers the printed album and gives as his reason that "most collectors seeing the blank spaces will ask why they are not filled, and when we enter into an explanation, giving all details, their interest will be awakened and they forthwith become one of us. Well let us see. About the first detail will be that the stamp is very rare, only eight or ten copies known and these not for sale. The next blank space will cost \$50; to fill the next, \$200; the next \$500 or \$1000 and so on till we run up to thousands of dollars. I have not the least doubt but that the prospective collector is interested by this time, but is his interest of such a nature as to cause him to become a collector? I think not. It is my opinion that this is the best reason that can be given for not using a printed album, our non-collecting friends become frightened at the cost of making anything like a complete collection and make up their minds to put their money to some better use while on the other hand if we have our treasures properly arranged in a good blank



Album, all their beauty can be shown up without being marred by blank spaces, all "details" can be given, leaving out such as are calculated to throw a damper on our hobby, and if the listener is at all inclined to become one with us he will more readily do so than from a view of blank spaces.

For many years I have been interested in Philately and have read numerous arguments for and against it and thought I had heard all that could be said in its favor, but a new and novel argument was brought to my notice this month. A case involving considerable money was up for trial in court and hinged to a certain extent on the fact as to whether some old papers had been altered or not. As a means of throwing light on this point the president of the Altoona Philatelic Society was subpoenaed as an expert because he was a stamp collector. The idea was a novel one to me but certainly a good one. Where can we find better training for work of this kind than in the "study of stamps."

A member of the Altoona Philatelic Society has a copy of Volume 1 of the Philatelic Herald, (now Philatelic Era), bound in cloth. It was published in October, November and December, 1884, by W. W. Jewett, of Portland, Maine; edited by W. W. Jewett, P. H. True and F. J. Jewett. The October and November numbers contained four pages each and the December number six pages, all 4x6 inches. The first page of No. 2 and the fourth page of No. 3 had one column to the page, all others two columns. The entire volume contained 2524 words. Jewett has made wonderful improvement in his paper since that time yet the owner of Vol. 1 would not trade it for any of his later issues.

According to Frederick S. Fox the friends of C. W. Kissinger of Reading are greatly elated over his apparent election as President of the S. of P. I can assure you that Kissinger's election is NOT being conceded on every hand, nor, so far as I am able to learn, any place outside of Reading. His supporters may claim a majority of 200, or 500 for that matter, but claiming and having are very different affairs. Personally I have nothing against the Reading candidate but his actions at the last convention show very clearly that he is not the kind of a boy we want for President of the largest philatelic society in this country. We want a man at the head of our organization, not a child who will cry over a defeat. Kissinger may be all right ten years from now.

"Nearly every collector in Chicago received during the last ten days, unsolicited assignments of Sebeckism from a prominent New York concern. About two years ago this sending out stamps unsolicited became a nuisance, having been revived by a concern that was thought to be above such business methods." P. M. Wolseiffer, *McKeel's Weekly*. Brother Wolseiffer might have given the public the additional information that the "prominent New York concern" was the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., and I am at a loss to know why he should consider them above such methods. There is one feature of this Sebeck business that puzzles me and that is why they would charge more for one stamp than another. It costs no more to print the 1 cent than the Centavo, and at the expiration of one year the one will carry a letter on paper as far and as rapidly as the other, then why not charge the same price for both. When the collecting public thoroughly understand the value of these stamps, some more liberal plan than even that now employed by Scott will have to be used to unload them.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE young philatelic editor will please observe that the GAZETTE is about a month or so behind time, and make a note of it in his journal. It will be something to fill up with.

\* \*

THE lateness of this issue is largely due to the delay in obtaining second class rates which have at last been received. We shall be up to time when the fall campaign opens.

\* \*

AT the rate the thing has been going of late, those of us who live long enough may expect to see, in one stamp paper or another, the portrait of every one who has ever dabbled in stamps.

\* \*

IT was very gratifying to us to observe the first subscribers received to the present issue of the PHILATELIC GAZETTE, were all from among those who had been subscribers to the old publication.

\* \*

IT has taken some dealers and collectors a long time to find out that "Ph. Heinsberger" was a humbug. We made that discovery nearly ten years ago and we don't claim to be particularly smart either.

\* \*

ONE of the supposed duties of the philatelic editor which requires the least mental ability and effort is that of finding fault with and picking flaws in his exchanges. The young editor has an eagle eye for small things.

\* \*

IF any of our readers will send us original contributions on philatelic subjects which are worth printing and reading, we shall be pleased to receive them and pay a reasonable price in cash for the same. Rehashes of old articles are not wanted at all. Any literary work of this kind we have ample facilities for doing ourselves.

\* \*

ANOTHER evidence of the value which collectors attach to the average stamp paper, poor as it is, is the fact that nearly all the collectors whose names are given in Rogers' Philatelic Blue Book answer affirmatively the question as to whether sample copies are wanted or not. It will be a cold day for philately when stamp collectors cease to want free sample copies.

\* \*

THE present is a good time to make contracts for advertising space and we shall be glad to quote prices to responsible and reputable dealers for continued advertisements. We print and circulate 1000 copies of the GAZETTE each month, and our purpose is to place sample copies where they will do our patrons the most good. We give due consideration to the fact that the better we can serve advertisers the greater benefit it is to us.

\* \*

MR. A. R. ROGERS' Philatelic Blue Book has reached us at last and we are bound to say it is a very creditable publication and has evidently been prepared at a considerable expenditure of labor and cash. It is the most complete and satisfactory philatelic directory we think we have ever seen and we trust the compiler has not lost any money on it. It contains a large amount of information of great value to both dealers and collectors.

WE have been reading with great pleasure of the English dealers who have been clearing their rooms and offices with reprinted stamps which, for many years, they have been trying to work off on the young collectors of this and every other country. Even the hardened Stanley Gibbons has relented and now declares that he believes reprints to be a nuisance to philately. It is due to Stanley, however, to say that he regards the matter from a purely business standpoint. He has no moral scruples on the subject.

\* \* \*

SOME of the arguments used by philatelic writers to prove philately a science are exceedingly funny. For example, a contributor to the American Philatelic Magazine delivers himself as follows: "A zoologist takes a single bone from an antediluvian monster and from it reconstructs the original animal. That is science. A philatelist takes an old and perhaps obsolete stamp and from it constructs the original sheet. That is science too." *Mirabile dictu!* On the same principle one could take a very small piece of meat or a raisin and construct a mince pie although he has never beheld any of this kind of pastry.

\* \* \*

SOMEbody, we don't remember just who, has been taking the Philatelic Journal of America to task for reprinting so many articles from foreign journals and having few original ones of its own. The critics should not be so severe on our contemporary. Good philatelic articles cost money and sometimes a good deal of it too. It is much cheaper, we have observed, to translate foreign articles than write original ones of the same grade. But the P. J. of A. should not attempt to excuse its position on the ground that the great majority of its readers never see the journals from which it copies, and would not therefore have the advantage of reading the contributions copied. It is well enough to reprint an exceptional article but a journal which claims to be "the great and only" stamp paper in this country should be very far above borrowing to the extent which it has done of late.

We must, however, in justice to our contemporary, say that it has furnished a great deal of first class philatelic matter to its readers and we are sorry to note its decline as a high class journal.

\* \* \*

WE have received the following kind letter from Mr. A. Weisz, Budapest, Hungary:

"Inclosed I send you 25 cents as subscription and pray you to put the enclosed advertisement six times in your honorable paper. Send me the bill please after the expiration and I hope that you will take also in place of payment, better Orient stamps which I would send you at your greatest satisfied."

The 25 cents we did not find enclosed, but this was no doubt due to an oversight on the part of the writer of the letter. We have heard of this gentleman before, and the information received is not of such a character as to lead us to think that the bill would be paid in cash or "better Orient stamps." Mr. Weisz will not have the pleasure of contemplating the "apparition" of his advertisement in the GAZETTE. There is a class of dead-beat dealers who imagine that a stamp paper just starting out will insert anybody's advertisement just for the sake of filling up its columns and making a show of business patronage. Such dealers need not waste postage stamps corresponding with us.

## What a Stamp Collector Ought to Know.

**How the Young Collector Can Make Himself Worthy to be Called a Philatelist.**

None of the duties connected with intelligent stamp collecting is so generally overlooked and ignored by collectors, as that of making themselves thoroughly familiar with every detail in the history and description of the stamps they place in their collections, and though the following article, or others like it, has been frequently reprinted, no apology is needed for printing it again. It ought to be useful to those who wish to be more than merely stamp collectors in name, and we hope they will give it a careful reading.

The different countries where the stamps have been successfully employed.

The dates when the stamps were created and suppressed.

The classifying of the stamps of each country in the order they were issued.

Their classification according to type.

The details necessary to distinguish genuine stamps from imitations.

The kind of printing adopted for every stamp; and consequently the characteristic features of lithography, and engraving on wood, stone, or metal.

The various kinds of paper employed for the impression, whether thick or thin, dull or glazed, watermarked or plain.

The various watermarks in the paper and what stamps have been struck on watermarked paper.

What stamps have never been perforated; those which were issued first imperforate, and have been perforated subsequently; and lastly, those which have never been issued otherwise than perforated.

What are the stamps where the sheets are composed of different types.

What stamps are struck on sheets in groups of types, differing from each other only in some slight particulars.

What stamps are found only in one type.

What stamps have been printed by mistake in colors that were not their distinguishing mark of value.

What stamps have been reprinted, and how the reprints are to be distinguished from the original impression.

What are the countries where the reprints are available for postal purposes.

The various sizes of envelopes on which stamps have been affixed.

On which side or sides the stamp was affixed.

What envelopes have or have not inscriptions on them.

The color of such inscriptions.

Whether the inscriptions are to the right or left, or on any other part.

Whether the paper of the envelopes is wove, laid or watermarked.

Designs of stamps on envelopes that have been affixed on various kinds of paper.

What stamps have been created for any special service; that is to say, for simple letters, registered letter, too late letters, newspapers, official correspondence, etc.

When an amateur has devoted himself to a somewhat serious study of these particulars, he will be able to give a rational classification to his collection, to keep it free from every false or doubtful specimen, and to talk of stamps with some degree of authority, regarding with pitying indifference those jests which are in such good taste, but are only variations of that well known refrain, "Can anything be more stupid than this mania for collecting postage stamps."

### Porte De Mar, Mexico.

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The Monthly Journal (England) claims to have discovered the use of the Porte de Mar stamps of Mexico which for so long a time have been a mystery to collectors. It says that "at the time these stamps were issued all letters for Europe passed through Vera Cruz (instead of most of them going via. New York as at present.) the minimum charge was fifty cents, and, there being no arrangement for paying a fixed subsidy to mail steamers, the postal officials in Mexico attached Porte de Mar stamps to the letters to indicate to the Governor of Vera Cruz the amount of sea postage he was to pay on each letter. The Governor of Vera Cruz is stated to have objected to the stamps on yellow paper; these consequently were never issued, and were not even gummed, officially. The stamps were not cancelled, except accidentally in cancelling the ordinary stamps or postmarking the letters; hence the rarity of used copies—so called. It appears, therefore, that these are not postage stamps in any sense of the word, indicating neither postage paid nor postage due, but merely conveying information on matters of accounts. They may be classed however with postal labels like 'officially sealed,' 'returned letter,' etc.

This explanation of the use of these labels is not very clear but it will have to answer until we get a more satisfactory one. We have not collected them heretofore because we never understood them and shall not collect them now because we know more about them.

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### The De Coppet Sale.

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The most valuable collection of postage stamps ever disposed of in this country was that of Mr. F. De Coppet, a New York banker and broker, which was sold at auction during April. The sale occupied eight evenings and the total proceeds were 24,391,10. While the catalogue was published by the J. W. Scott Co., it was prepared by Mr. De Coppet himself. Many of the stamps had a reserve price and though in some instances this price was not reached and the stamps not sold, in many cases the price realized was greatly in excess of and some times more than double, the reserve. We have room only to quote some of the prices at which U. S. stamps were sold, as follows:

New York, 1845, 5 cents, black, used, on entire letter \$60.00; 1851, beautiful genuine original used Carrier stamp, Franklin, blue on rose paper, \$40.00; the same, orange-red, used, \$15.00; 1851, 5 cents, brown, good margins, unused, \$8.25; 5 cents, yellowish brown, good margins, unused, \$15.50; unsevered pair, unperforated, 30ct. orange, unused, \$80.00; 24ct., lilac; unperforated, unused, \$32.00; 1857, 5ct., brick-red, unused, \$30.00; 90ct., blue, unused, \$6.00.; 1861, 3ct., scarlet, unused; \$22.00; 5ct., pink, vertically laid paper, used, the only known specimen, \$17.00.

The highest price ever received for a postage stamp was obtained at this sale for British Guiana, 1851, 2ct., circular on rose paper, cut round but mounted on a piece of the same colored paper cut square. It was bought by R. F. Albrecht for \$1,010.00. Another British Guiana, 1856, 4ct., blue on surfaced paper, on entire letter, brought \$427.00. Such prices as these are enough to make the impecunious collector's head swim.

## ALBRECHT'S 14th AUCTION SALE OF STAMPS.

R. F. Albrecht & Co.'s 14th auction sale of stamps took place in New York city May, 25. While there were few great rarities in the collection the character of the stamps was above the average and fair prices were realized. We quote some of those obtained for the rare stamps, as follows :

U. S. 1851, 5c, brown, used, \$5.25; U. S. 1857, 5c. red-brown, used, \$4.25; U. S. 1861, 5c, red-brown, unused, \$4.60; U. S. 1861, 5c, yellow, used, \$4.80; U. S. 1861, 5c, brown, unused, \$6.10; U. S. 1868, 9c, blue, used, \$7.75; U. S. 1869, 9c, used, \$9.60; U. S. 1869, reprints, 24c, unused, \$6.50; U. S. 1869, 30c, unused, \$6.70; U. S. 1869, 9c, unused, \$11.50; U. S. 1870, 10c, used, \$5.10; U. S. 1870, 30c, used, \$7.25; 1870, 9c, unused, \$13.25; U. S. 1865, newspaper, 5c, blue border, unused, \$7.60; \$36.00, \$16.00; Executive, complete set unused, \$17.75; Navy, set unused, \$11.55; State, 1c, 10c, unused, \$10.12; Envelopes, 1857, 10c, green on buff, entire, used, \$25.00; U. S. 1870, 10c, black on amber, entire, unused, \$8.75; U. S. 1870, Plimpton, 2c, die A, brown on cream, unused, \$7.89; Revenue stamps, first issue, \$200; green and red, unused, \$9.80; \$500 black, green and orange, used, \$150.00; Memphis, 1861, 5c, red, used, \$5.00; Petersburg, 5c, used, on part of original letter, magnificent used copy, \$17.80; Confederate States, 1863, ten cents, blue, unsevered pair, unused, \$5.20; Brazil, 1845, (Italics) 18c., black, used, \$6.10; British Guiana, 1850, 4p, blue, used, \$14.00; Cape of Good Hope, 1p, red, (wood block,) used, \$12.25; Ceylon, 1sh., 9p., green, unused, \$8.00; Columbian Republic, 1862, 10c, light blue, used, \$7.00; Costa Rica 1862, ½r., blue, imperforated, used, \$10.00; France, 1849, 1fr., vermilion, used \$26.00; Great Britain, 1840, 2p, Mulready envelope, unused, \$7.50; Great Britain, 2p, Mulready letter sheet, unused, \$7.50; Great Britain, 1882, 5c, used, \$9.00; Hawaiian Islands, 1864, 2c, black, white paper, used, \$8.75; Ionian Isles, 1859, ½p, orange, used, \$20.00; Mexico, 1864, 3c, brown, eagle, unused, \$25.00; Mexico 1868, 10c, brown on brown paper, unperforated, used; \$1.00; Montserrat, 1884, 4p, blue unused, \$19.55; Newfoundland, 6½p, vermilion, unused, \$25.50; New South Wales, 1p, red, bluish paper, \$6.50; Peru 1858, ½ peso rose, used, \$69.10; ½ peso yellow, used, \$8.10; St. Vincent 1880, 5sh, carmine, unused, \$13.10; Spain 1853, 3c, bronze, unused, \$27.10; Trinidad 1851, 1p, violet on bluish paper, unused, \$7.25; unsevered pair, 1p blue on bluish paper, unused, \$14.00; 1851, 6p, green, used, \$12.00. The collection contained 555 lots and the total amount realized was \$2,463.79.

The April number of the P. J. of A. contains a warning to collectors to look out for split stamps of New Brunswick on original envelope which are offered for sale or exchange by a young man in St. Johns, N. B. We have received one on the original envelope from Charles Fisher, Fredericton, N. B., which probably originated from the same source. The envelope bears the half of the 10 cent vermilion torn diagonally from the lower left corner to the upper right corner and is cancelled with the gridiron cancellation, a very indistinct post-mark being on the reverse side of the envelope. We have had the stamp for some time but the sender has not asked for its return or its equivalent in United States stamps which he is willing to accept for it to the value of \$6.00. He can have his specimen on remitting the necessary postage.

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Vol. 1.

No. 3.

— THE —

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PHILATELISTS.

The PHILATELIC GAZETTE COMPANY,

ALTOONA, PA.

June—July.

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# The Philatelic Gazette.

VOL. I.

JUNE—JULY.

No. 3.

## AN IDEAL STAMP ALBUM.

Many have aired their views on the subject of stamp albums and how to put stamps in them that I have begun to feel the weakness for seeing my own ideas in print. The *ne plus ultra* of stamp albums has been issued time and again by various publishers and will continue to be issued as long as people collect stamps, but it is doubtful if any real improvements will be made. The young collector, however, need not bother about the future. Let him make the best use of the album he has, and if it is one with absolutely blank pages, it is all the better, and let him never place anything on them except stamps. Nothing connected with stamp collecting worries me so much as the sight of one of those albums with the names of the countries printed or written at the top of the page, which is divided into compartments for the tyro to stick his stamps in, so that he will know them when he sees them again. If he is the right sort of a collector he will make himself so well acquainted with every specimen in his collection before he puts it in his album that he will recognize it on sight without its being labelled, no matter in what part of his album he finds it. Stamps should of course be systematically arranged so far as the various issues of each country are concerned, but there is no reason why the different countries should follow each other alphabetically, nor why the dates of issue or other distinguishing features should be noted anywhere on the pages of the album. These the owner of the collection should have stored away in his memory, and we may well imagine the pardonable astonishment with which he would interest and astonish his non-collecting friends by the display of so much valuable knowledge as he tells the name of each stamp.

It is hard for me to suppress a feeling of pity, not to say contempt, for the collector who gets his stamps and sticks them mechanically into an album which has all the directions as to where they should go. The required information should be in the collector's head and not in his album. I feel confident that everyone who is intelligent enough to follow the plan indicated will see the advantage it offers and will readily accept it.

G. E. D.

## NEVER WERE POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY QUERICUS.

In the April number of the PHILATELIC GAZETTE I made a few comments on an essay on the Stamps of Samoa, written by W. A. Cooper, and printed in *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*. In the June number of that journal Mr. Cooper takes exceptions to some statements I made, and though the subject under consideration is hardly of sufficient importance to justify the wasting of any more paper and ink upon it, I may perhaps be excused for making another effort to set Mr. Cooper right with regard to the first and second issues of these stamps. It is true he lives some three thousand miles nearer than I do to the Samoan Islands and ought to have better facilities for obtaining correct information concerning the stamps in question, but I'm afraid he has not made good use of his opportunities, and since he and I cannot agree concerning them, I think it best to refer the matter to actual residents on the Islands and get their opinion as to the postage paying abilities of the 1877 and 1887 issues.

I have in my possession a letter from B. Greenbaum, U. S. Consul at Apia, to whom I wrote for information concerning the first issue. The letter is dated December 14, 1885, and among other things relating to them he says: "At no time were they legal, and if bought they were as a toy, so to say, and I give you authority for saying the stamps referred to do not exist." At this time a new postmaster had come in who did not need stamps and there were then none in use.

In 1887 the postmaster procured a lot of stamps of a new design, and, desiring to know if these were of any more value for paying postage than the others I wrote to the then U. S. Consul, Harold Marsh Sewall, making the same inquiries that were made in the first instance, and under date of May 5th, 1888, he wrote that "These stamps do not pay postage to foreign countries, but the money with which to buy the proper stamps is enclosed with the letter. The stamps were printed on the sole responsibility of the local postmaster."

Now, one would suppose that if these stamps paid postage anywhere these men would be in a position to know it. They had frequent occasion to use the mails and it is fair to presume that in each case they would have availed themselves of the privilege of using stamps if such conveniences existed. No evidence could be more conclusive that these

stamps were not postage stamps in any sense of the term.

But Mr. Cooper insists that the first two issues, at least, "paid the postage from Samoa to San Francisco, the port of debarkation." I feel sure that his only reason for thinking so is the fact that letters would come from Samoa to San Francisco without any stamps on them except the Samoa stamps and this led him to suppose the stamps paid the postage. He loses sight of the fact that it was the five cents in cash which was placed in the mail bag with the letter that paid the postage; the Samoa stamp not figuring in the case at all. It was only placed there by the Apia postmaster for ornament. The letter would have reached San Francisco all the same if there had been no Samoa stamp on it, just as thousands of them did when the first issue went out of use.

It may be well enough to state that the person who was jointly selected by the consuls of the United States, Germany and Great Britain to act as postmaster at Apia was allowed to receive twelve cents for each half ounce letter placed in his hands to be sent abroad. Of this amount he was authorized to retain seven cents as his fee, the remaining five cents being sent by him with the letter to buy the necessary stamp when the vessel on which it was sent reached a port within the postal union, which was as a rule San Francisco. The carrying of the letter to this point was done without charge and wholly in consideration of the postage subsequently paid upon it.

At the time these two issues of stamps were in use Samoa had no postal arrangements whatever with other countries and the carrying of letters by trading vessels which touched at Apia was altogether an act of courtesy done out of respect to the foreign governments which had representatives on the islands. The natives had no correspondence with the rest of the world and no use for a post office. The postmaster at Apia had no power to make contracts for carrying the mails nor to make postage stamps which anybody else would recognize, and it seems to me ridiculous for anybody to claim that he did so or could do so. It has been clearly shown again and again that the first issue is due to the fact that the postmaster who got them up was a stamp collector, and to such a person the issue of a set of stamps for the Samoan Islands would quite naturally suggest itself.

In reply to Mr. Cooper's reference to my *nom de plume* I have only to say that my native modesty renders me averse to making my name public. Whether or not the statements I have made are true or false has nothing to do with my real name.

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT.**


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The man at the post office who cancels the stamps on the letters makes one think of the Irishman at the Donnybrook fair, who, whenever he sees a head, hits it.

\* \*

A concatenation of contravening circumstances are responsible for delaying the present issue of the GAZETTE far beyond the time we had fixed. We feel pretty confident we can do better next time.

\* \*

Notwithstanding all the labor and cash expended in the preparation of a stamp collector's directory, the best of them are quite unsatisfactory. If you strike out all the names of those who never collected stamps at all, in the proper sense of the word, of those who have quit collecting and of those who have changed their residence, the number you are likely to reach through the mail is reduced to a comparatively small proportion. Yet the compiler has no doubt done the best he could.

\* \*

The *Weekly Philatelist* wants to know why it is that government officials at Shanghai use U. S. postage stamps in payment of postage on letters to this country. If the editor will not give it away we will tell him. The Shanghai from which he received the letter he refers to is evidently not the Chinese Shanghai but a foreign settlement in China which is practically governed by the foreign residents. Shanghai stamps are not issued by the Chinese government, and they can only be used locally or on letters conveyed by sea to other ports in China. But the Shanghai post-office has American, British, French and Japanese branches, where stamps of these countries are sold and are used on letters to Europe and America.

\* \*

A late issue of the *Post Office* contains an article on the "Ethics of Philately" in which the writer deploras the existence of the numerous stamp monthlies, with which, he says, "the land is flooded." His idea is to have only one or two first class journals to be published at the "chief centre," which means New York City. This arrangement, no doubt, would be very satisfactory to the dealers who would publish the two journals, but the scheme is impracticable because the other publish-

ers could not be induced to withdraw from the field and to stay out of it, nor would it benefit philately if they did, unless we are prepared to admit that "philately" simply means three or four dealers who would have entire control of the publishing business.

The much abused and ridiculed little stamp publications are regularly read by thousands of quite young collectors who would never see more than an occasional copy of the proposed high-toned, scientific journals, and would take very little interest in their contents if they would see them. The minor stamp papers contain, as a rule, the kind of matter which interests the young collector, and it is through the agency of these publications that the philatelic ranks are recruited. A few high class journals are of course necessary, and we know of no bar to their advancement in popular favor, but the truth is they are too lofty for the mass of stamp collectors. It will be a dull, cold day for Philately when the youthful collector may no longer hope to gratify his ambition by becoming the editor of a stamp magazine and when the gossiping little sheets fail to pay us their regular monthly visits.

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### **Philately Against Speculation.**

I honestly believe that there is a pleasure in a general collection, part of which is thus acquired, that the mere speculator in stamps never feels. To a true philatelist there is much pleasure in merely handling his stamps. A friend of mine who was ill a long time passed many happy hours transferring his little bits of paper from one album to another, and thus drove dull care away, although almost helpless and nearly hopeless of being able to walk again in the bright sunshine. Often I have watched how he would examine his stamps and from a lot select the best specimen; and how critically he would examine them and, from a packet that cost but a trifle, arrange different shades and colors. Specialism may prove the best speculation, but there is no doubt in my mind, that the general collection affords the most pleasure.

The last is the principal reason. I am a philatelist; not for knowledge, not for any of the many apologies sometimes offered for philately; but for pure, unadulterated pleasure, of which I have extracted more to the square inch than from any other pastime or pursuit, call it what you may, in which I have ever engaged.

GEO. N. CAMPBELL, in *The Northwest*.

**F. N. B'S REGULAR CONTRIBUTION.**

I have to take a dose of "crow," and the sooner the better. Last month I spoke rather openly about Secretary Miller of the S. of P. Quite a number of the members of that organization paid their dues in January and another lot paid in April. No certificates could be procured from the secretary and we began to think there was something decidedly wrong in the management of affairs, and as a last resort the action last month was taken. The money which was paid in in January was never turned over to the Secretary by the party who collected it, and the dues for April went in all right but it seems that the President is a roving disposition and it takes time to get his signature to any document so that Secretary Miller is not to blame in either case.

Yes, I have seen a copy of the *Pennsylvania Philatelist* for June! If anything had been needed to show me who to vote for for President of the S. of P., that paper would have filled the bill. Clifford W. Kissinger is editor of the paper and must sanction all that is published in it, especially if it refers to himself, and any person who will allow such a tirade to be published as he sends out is no more fit to be President of the Sons of Philatelia than he is capable of filling the post now occupied by St. Peter. It reminds me of the olden times when we were sitting 'round our camp fires listening to the brags of some half tamed savage blowing of his exploits among the "white-livered" red skins. The entire paper from beginning to end, is filled with articles from Kissinger and his colleagues on the ticket, and is a tissue of misrepresentations, wilful lies, slander, villifications etc, etc. from one end to the other. True, the writers are but children. but even children ought to have a little respect for themselves if not for others. It strikes me that one at least F. S. Fox is given to an extensive perusal of the Wild West novels. Boys, how will you feel when the election is over and the "white livered opponents of whom you speak come out ahead? Do you never think that this is a free country and all are entitled to think as they please? Can anything your opponents say be as insulting as what you now say of them? H. C. Beardsley contributes a few notes to the paper but his writings are so radically different from the others that I think there was some mistake in the managing editor allowing them to be inserted. He seems to be out of his latitude this time and he is the only one who shows any respect for the feelings of others. Herbert, better you take an old man's advice and shear clear of bad company.

F. N. B.



**THE S. OF P. PRESIDENCY.**

atters in the Sons of Philatelia are becoming decidedly lively of Clifford W. Kissinger is very anxious to become president of the Society and is spending money with a lavish hand to attain his object. I have no objections to a candidate using all honorable means to secure election, but when he resorts to misrepresentations and villifications being done in the present case, then the sooner we rid ourselves of such a candidate the better. In a circular just issued by 21 of Kissinger's friends I notice the name of the Vice President of Pennsylvania, in an official capacity. I was not aware that one of the duties of a vice president was to advise members to violate the Constitution and slander and libel all those who wanted to uphold the laws of the Society yet this seems to be the view taken by Vice President Kantner. The circular referred to is a series of misstatements from beginning to end and the writer thereof knows it as well as anyone living. The Society was not started in order that the *Collector* could become the official organ of something. Over 50 per cent., and not 10 per cent., of the members are 21 years of age and over. Quite a number of members were once advocates of the election of C. W. Kissinger one year ago under the impression that he was 25 to 28 years of age and when they saw his papers and knew his age they naturally wanted someone else. The trouble they hash through regarding the 21 years, is childish in the extreme. In fact if my 12 year boy were to act as childish as they, in this respect, I would feel like spanking him. There is no injustice to anyone under a age limit and it should be made to cover the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Purchasing Agent and Auction Manager. C. W. Kissinger is a fair sample of the S. of P. members; on the contrary he is one of the most desirable ones he writes about in the last issue of the *Collector*. One who will shove himself ahead for office and spend the money he has been saving to secure his election to the highest office in the gift of the Society is not a desirable member and will not make a good officer. The President has no power to raise or lower the dues or place any other burden on the Society. In fact every statement they make is a misrepresentation, and shows to what ends Kissinger will go to secure his election. Members, vote for the man the office is seeking and not the one who is seeking the office.

W. M. FRASER, S. OF P. No. 608.

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**A NOVELTY IN POSTAGE STAMPS.**

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A series of postage stamps has lately been issued by the Belgian government which is so far out of the ordinary as to deserve special notice. To the bottom of each stamp is attached a coupon which bears the inscription in two lines, one in French and the other in Flemish, "Ne pas livrer le dimanche.—Niet bestellen op zondag," each of which means "Not to be delivered on Sunday." If the person who uses the stamp does not desire the letter to which it is attached to be delivered on Sunday, he allows the inscription to remain with the stamp; if he has no conscientious scruples against Sunday delivery or wishes to avoid delay, he tears off the coupon bearing the inscription. These stamps went into use on the first of June, and as soon as the old stock is exhausted will be used exclusively for postal purposes. When these stamps come into general use they will furnish an index to the general sentiment of the people of Belgium on the question of Sunday observance, though it is true many who have little or no regard for Sunday will not take the trouble to tear off the coupon and they will be classed with those opposed to Sunday delivery. There are ten stamps in the series ranging in value from 1 centime to 2 francs.

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The *Monthly Journal* for July prints an interview with Chas J. Phillips of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, limited, in which he gives his views as to the permanency of stamp collecting and the advance in prices of rare stamps, concerning which he says: The class of collectors has become so high in social rank and wealth that the rare stamps will, I am absolutely convinced, continue to very highly increase in value. The demand for standard rarities even now is at least six times the supply. The cause of this is, no doubt, due to the stability which is now afforded to a collector by the stamp auctions. Men have, therefore, as a natural consequence, much more faith in their hobby as an investment than formerly. The number of young collectors is also vastly on the increase. Again, a large number of collectors have been created lately by the demand for the United States Columbian stamps. Many people who have received a set of these stamps have been so pleased with them that they have made them the basis of a collection and become general collectors.



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