

The Ohio Philatelist.

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A Monthly Paper Devoted to the Interests of Philately

WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE in placing this magazine before the philatelic world. We believe there is a good field in Ohio, as yet undeveloped, and our purpose is to fill a long-felt want. While our publication will contain matter of local and State interest, we hope it may find an humble place in the permanent philatelic literature of the United States. You will observe its nature is largely literary, dealing in research and observation, rather than in the news feature of our stamp weeklies. This is the proper province of the magazine.

If you like this number, you should certainly subscribe and get the coming ones, as they are going to contain some hot stuff, which will be worth reading. We would be glad to receive any stamp news from any one, and pay liberally for same.

W. C. STAHLÉ, Editor.

WE WANT SOME GOOD STAMP STORIES, and in order to get them we are going to hold a contest. Any one is entitled to enter who remits ten cents for three month's subscription. All our subscribers are allowed to enter. Each story must contain at least one thousand words.

First Prize,	Stamps cataloging \$25.00
Second Prize,	\$2.50 Scott's Album
Third Prize,	\$1.50 Scott's Album
Fourth Prize,	500 Variety Packet

All stories must be in by December 30, 1904.
Prizes will be awarded in the February number.

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Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find

..... for years' subscription to the OHIO
PHILATELIST.

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About Stamp Values.

BY LEON V. CASS.

If a collector wishes to build a collection that will increase in value and sell for at least its cost in future years, one must study the stamp market well. My experience has taught me that old issues are, as a general thing, the best investment.

But one must collect the stamps of a stable government, as some impecunious countries have a habit of dumping a flood of remainders of old issues on the market and knocking prices all to pieces. Look out for South American governments and small European countries like San Marino.

Another thing that it pays to look out for is a boom in a certain country.

A boom often raises prices above their true level, but after the fashion changes prices will in time adjust themselves to their true market value.

Some advise the collecting of the stamps of unfashionable countries. When the stamps become fashionable, prices will advance.

But one may wait for years before the country he wishes to boom becomes fashionable. Never for a moment put your money into stamps selling at enormous discounts, expecting to make a profitable investment. The stamps that pay best as an investment are those that sell at the least discount.

As a general rule, surcharged stamps and unpaid and official stamps are not very profitable as an investment. The cause of this is that they are not as popular with the average collector as straight postage stamps.

I don't believe any true collector loses money in stamp collecting, even if he sells his collection for one-half its cost, as the pleasure derived from collecting is worth half the cost of the stamps.

The collector who collects for pleasure without thinking of profits, gets his money's worth in enjoyment.

But one can combine pleasure with profit by watching the market and buying carefully.

If you collect intelligently and do not sell for some years, you are sure to get at least the cost of your collection back and have all the pleasure derived from collecting thrown in free. That is more than you can say of most pleasures and pastimes, is it not?



Specializing.

Many stamp collectors specialize in a country which has a fascination to them. Usually a stamp album is bought and spaces marked out for the different stamps. Stamp collectors in this way, make a fine showing. A collector who has any taste at all can arrange his stamps so that they will make an excellent appearance. Or, if a collector should desire to specialize in two or three countries, a blank album would show up his varieties finely. It is much cheaper to collect in this way, besides all the benefits it has. How many times has the average collector wished that he had this country and that country. When you visit a collector friend does he not invariably take his greatest delight in showing you certain pages in his album which are nearly filled.

Netherlands is a country the stamps of which can be bought with little expense. A collector going through a stamp catalogue will find a good many countries which can be completed without much outlay. Of course there are always a few stamps of every country which are quite expensive, but consider the amount a collector spends to get three or four thousand varieties. He could complete several countries with it. Of course where money is no object, I would suggest that he collect all countries. As to beginners, they usually try to get quantity instead of quality, and looks mean nothing to them. There is no need to put a large amount into an album. Go to your stationer, he can fix you out with a blank book at a small cost.

The Other Side of the Question.

BY JOHN CROWELL.

Here is an experience that befalls many of us. A delightful old lady entered the office of a prominent stamp dealer lately, engaged him in conversation, and after purchasing twenty-seven cents worth of various stamps, announced proudly that she had eleven hundred and thirty-three varieties, with "some of the most beautiful new Panama surcharges you ever saw." The dealer being a kind-hearted man, congratulated her on this excellent showing.

It has been the custom for years to decry "speculative stamps," Seebecks, superfluous surcharges, etc. Yet here is one honest soul, delighted with the possession of a few handsome varieties of one of the latest and most opprobrious philatelic sins. Here is a question,—would you favor blotting out once and forever all stamps not issued legitimately for postal use? Not on your life. Yet that is exactly what is pointed to by some iconoclastic writers down New York way. Spear 'em, burn 'em, cut 'em out, wipe them off the face of the earth. "Beauty is its own excuse for being," and what stamps, outside of our own dear United States, have greater claim to beauty than the Guatamala 1902 issues. Compare them with some of the early issues of Great Britain (bulwark of philatelic morality), as well compared to a skunk-cabbage. Mind you, this is no plea for the Seebecks *exclusively*,—to pick out stamps for their beauty only would end disastrously. I do not say, eschew everything that is not pleasing to the eye (though many of my friends take the opposite view); I say, give them all a chance. We cannot logically encourage the issue of large varieties of stamps for sale to collectors, but given the condition, we can, and should, encourage collectors to have an eye to æsthetic values when buying, and arranging their stamps.

Where is the bulwark of philately to-day? Is it the great specialist? Most certainly not; it is the common people, i. e., the amateur who collects for the love of collecting, and takes an honest,

healthy delight in all his stamps, not the old Dry-bones, who scowls suspiciously at any suggestion of a speculative stamp,—if he tolerates them at all, it is strictly under protest. Furthermore, what would become of most of our pettifogging dealers if it were not for this great middle class mentioned above? By all means, let our old lady take innocent delight in the "beautiful Panama surcharges." She can't tell a Reay from a Plimpton three-cent envelope, but she can tell what she likes, and she is going to buy them. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."



Things that follow the flag.

BY JOHN CROWELL.

Among other things that follow the flag, not the least is philately. A youth writes us, "Send us ten cents worth of Russian and Japanese stamps right away," a short time ago it was South Africa, before that Spain and her erstwhile colonies. This tendency has been marked everywhere, and at all times. Panama has devotees among a certain class, and here there is no danger of the demand exceeding the supply. Hardly had the news of the Boxer outbreaks reached philatetic ears this side of the two oceans, when Chinese stamps of every kind jumped into favor, notably the local issues where disturbance occurred. Who knows but future enterprising dealers may anticipate this rush by cornering certain to-be-popular issues before the occurrence which makes them. Accident gave Baron Rothschild news of Waterloo hours before the rest of London; by skillful manipulation of the stock market, made possible by his knowledge he laid the foundation of his great fortune. In a more humble way such a coup is still possible.

Supposing a certain philatethist were to find that the people of Jamaica were planning to throw off the British yoke and become independent; a three months' foreknowledge of such a plan, whether successful or not, with judicious buying to anticipate the increased

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demand for Jamaica stamps would place the fortunate member of our craft in a position to dictate the price of Jamaica stamps for some time to come. Such a contingency is hardly likely to arise, it is true, but opportunity never comes knocking at your door but once, so dealers, keep your eyes open.

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