

# THE WESTERN STAMP NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Devoted to Stamps Only.

Price 3 Cents Per Copy.

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NO. 1.

## TWO METHODS OF COLLECTING

In short, there are but two ways of making a Twentieth Century collection of the stamps:

(a) To collect only the face varieties—i. e., stamps which are absolutely distinct in color, design and value, without taking heed of varieties of watermark or paper.

(b) To collect every conceivable variety of paper, perforation, watermarks, etc., etc.

One must do one or the other. To the young collector with limited means and restricted opportunities, we commend the former course, but to the collector who wishes to enter fully into the true spirit of philately we say emphatically make a complete collection of every conceivable variety.

## THE NEW COREAN STAMP.

The stamp recently issued by the Japanese authorities for use in their newly acquired dependency illustrates how the Eastern love of symbolic designs still lingers in the breast of the people. The artists who executed it have deftly combined the chrysanthem of Japan with the apple blossom of Korea, and have added thereto a number of pigeons to represent the swift and certain delivery of the mails under the new regime.

Pairs and strips of revenue stamps are worth a considerable advance over the price of single specimens. Especially is this true of private proprietary stamps.

An unused sixpenny Transvaal stamp with inverted red surcharge, was sold for \$5.25 at a sale at Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper's rooms in Surrey street, Strand, recently.

A simple and ready method to determine whether paper is chalky or ordinary, is to draw a line across the face of the stamp, using for the purpose a piece of silver, a 10c. piece, if convenient, will do. If the stamp is on chalk paper, a line will show, similar to that made by a lead pencil.

## STRANGE STAMPS FROM TONGA.

Various instances of postal economy have been recorded in the way of patched sheets of stamps, but we think the remarkable Tongan stamps, (if stamps they can be called), are the finest sample of official stinginess that we have ever seen. At the time of the overprinted issue of Tonga—the stamps bearing the curious inscription "Surcharge 21 2-d."—a number of sheets of the stamps (without surcharge) were supplied with the gum imperfectly dried. In consequence the sheets adhered one to another and the paper was partially peeled, giving many of the stamps a patchy appearance. Most people would have supposed that the postal authorities of Tonga would have discarded and destroyed these spoilt sheets—but not so. They were overprinted in the usual way just as if they had been perfect specimens.

The "stamp button" or, if you please, philatelic badge, is a matter which has fallen into disrepute on this side of the water, not because there is anything wrong with the idea, but on account of the many cheap and tasteless attempts which have been made to fill this "long felt want." Why should we not have a badge of recognition like the Masons, Odd Fellows, and other fraternal societies? The average adult collector is too reserved to ask a fellow guest at a hotel if he is a stamp collector. He may risk the answer: "No, I never got as crazy as that," or, "not since I was a kid." Now, an answer like that could not help but serve as a damper on the part of the first party, and he would most likely abstain from any similar attempts in the future. We must have something whereby we can at a glance recognize Philately's own.

This paper would have been eight pages this issue, but we were delayed by not getting our type here in time. We will have sixteen pages and cover next issue.

# The Western Stamp News

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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## WORRIED BY STAMP COLLECTORS.

If the young minister from Portugal is not heaping anathemas upon the postal department of his country he must have a singularly gentle and forgiving nature. Stamp collectors all over the country are making life a burden for Viscount Alte. It is all because Lisbon has marked the seven hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Athony of Padua by issuing a set of stamps which portray various portions in the Saint's life. He was born and lived in Lisbon, although he always is credited to Padua. The Viscount, who is a favorite in the Weite House, has presented to Kermit and Archibald Roosevelt sets of the ten stamps. But it is more than he can contemplate with equanimity to give stamps to several hundred girls in Washington and as many of their dear friends in the city.—New York Press.

A German dealer recently sold to a Russian nobleman two 2-cent British Guiana stamps, issued in 1850. The history attached to the stamps is truly remarkable. A Georgetown lady finding them amongst a bundle of old papers, placed them in the church offertory box. The minister sold the stamps by auction for \$1,000, and a few months later they again changed hands for \$3,250, showing a clear profit of \$2,225 to the first purchaser. The sum of \$3,900 was paid for the stamps by the German dealer to the second purchaser.

Buyers of Great Britain officials should be very careful. We hear, on excellent authority, that dangerous imitations now exist, and that they are so well executed it requires an expert to detect them. This probably accounts for falling off in prices which these stamps have experienced at the auction rooms.

Readers, you can also help us through the advertising department. Most of you know that the advertising carried by a publication is its greatest source of income, and that none of the large magazines today could live but for their advertisements. You can help us very materially by patronizing our advertisers, or at least by mentioning the Western Stamp News when you do patronize them, or get your friend advertisers to try our columns.

Our advice may not be very valuable, but collectors who consider the business side of philately will not find a small sum wasted if invested in the current Great Britain stamps on ordinary paper. The 2 | 6, 5—, 10—, and 20— values are certain to become scarce.

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