

PHANTOMS IN THE SMOKE.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

The open fireplace glows bright
 With a mass of ruddy coals,
 And the fleecy clouds of airy smoke,
 Unceasing, upward rolls.
 I drowsy sit with wand'ring eyes,
 Unconscious of time's flight,
 I'm thinking of the bygones,
 Past pleasures and delights.

My album seems to haunt me,
 I see its pages fair,
 In the background of the hearthstone;
 The smoke has outlined there,
 With stamps of royal purple,
 And deepest shades of green,
 All spaces filled completely;
 It's like was never seen.

From Iceland's fields of virgin snow,
 To Congo's burning heat,
 Each page is filled with treasures,
 And every set's complete.
 'Twill rival Von Ferrari's;
 Its value can't be told;
 Its worth a hundred thousand pounds
 More than its weight in gold.

I turn its pages slowly,
 Admire its size and form,
 The fire's dying slowly;
 The room is snug and warm.
 I drink full of my album
 As one quaffs ruby wine:
 The rarest of collections,
 And every stamp is mine.

My faithful watch-dog Towser,
 Arouses with a whine;
 He surely didn't mean to,
 My thoughts he can't divine,
 I woke to know my album
 Was but a horrid joke,
 The gorgeous greens and purples
 Were phantoms in the smoke.

LONDON PHILATELIC CLUB.

The fifth regular meeting of the Club was held in their rooms on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, with President Liddicoatt in the chair. Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted. The general business of the Society was carried through in a prompt manner and was soon disposed of. A debate was the next on the programme, and was enjoyed by all. Specialism vs. General Collecting was the subject under discussion. Messrs. Dickson and Bartram held out for Specialism while Messrs. Bernstein and Stockwell stood by General Collecting. After a lengthy debate, the subject was put to the vote of the meeting, and decided in favor of General Collecting. The auction sale, under supervision of Mr. Benson, our new auctioneer, was a decided success. Messrs. Liddicoatt, Staebler, Bartram Benson, McMartin, Bernstein, Dickson, Chapman, Stockwell and several visitors were in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 10.30.

THE WORLD'S FAIR STAMP EXHIBIT.

The World's Fair Executive Committee of the American Philatelic Association have at last completed the preliminary work and have announced the result of their work for the past year.

Meetings were held on Feb. 23rd and 27th, in New York city, and all the members were present at these meetings. It had been the hope of the Committee that the Government would not only furnish space in the Government Building for the display, but would also assist the collectors in securing the necessary cases; but the only fund from which this money could be drawn was exhausted by other needs of the P. O. Department, and so the collectors have to shoulder the burden alone. The estimated expense of the exhibit is \$3,000, but the Committee believe that that amount can be raised by voluntary subscriptions from the collectors of the United States and Canada. A large number of sub-Committees have been appointed, and others are yet to be appointed, each Committee having charge of certain countries, and it will be their duty to see that the collections of stamps of these countries are secured, properly mounted and delivered to the General Committee. At the present writing, we are told that over \$300 has been contributed and subscriptions are coming in rapidly. The announcement of the Finance Committee has been sent out, and also the circular giving the plan of work, which is published elsewhere in this number. In view of the willingness of the entire philatelic press throughout the United States and Canada to publish matter relating to the exhibition, the Committee decided that it was not necessary to go to the expense of sending these circulars direct to the collectors by mail, but to make the appeal and announcement through the papers. The Government of the United States has granted our Committee sufficient space in the Government Building at the World's Columbian Exposition to permit the display of a complete collection of the postage stamps of the world. The expense incident to the proper arrangement of this exhibition, including the purchase of suitable cases, will be about \$3,000, and as it is the desire of the Committee to interest every member of the Association, as well as collectors of postage stamps outside of the Association, it has been resolved that the necessary amount be raised by a popular subscription, to which every collector will have an opportunity to contribute. Subscriptions for any amount not exceeding \$25, and not less than \$1, will be welcomed. Every subscriber will receive the official catalogue, containing a complete list of the treasures exhibited, which catalogue will be ready for distribution some time during the summer, and the published price of which will be 50 cents. All subscriptions must be accompanied by the amount subscribed, and they will be duly acknowledged in the *American Philatelist* and by the Treasurer, Mr. George H. Watson, 36 Broad St., New York city, to whom subscriptions and remittances are to be addressed. A. R. Roger, Chairman; H. S. Deats, Secretary, of Executive Committee, World's Fair Philatelic Exhibit.

We have received a copy of the Standard Stamp Co's price list, consisting of 64 pages and cover and fully illustrated. The publishers inform us that 35,000 copies have been printed, and together with postage, the total cost will be \$1,500, the largest amount ever spent on a stamp price list. A copy can be obtained free from them at 925 La Salle Street, St. Louis, Mo. (Advt.)