

to his patronage, but in reply to this it can be stated that limitation must come where he drawn, and consequently he is distinctly a *postage* stamp collector and nothing more. Revenue stamps are all very well in their place, and their collectibility is not to be doubted. The present craze for them however, to the exclusion of good postage, is not to be commended as it lowers the standard of philately.

The model stamp collector aims at completion, although he does not strive after it to the detriment of his general collection. His stamps are especially strong in those countries which have comparatively few varieties, and which are obtainable at an average cost. He keeps up with the new issues in good fashion, choosing those he deems valuable and authentic.

Above all things the perfect stamp collector is not a speculator. It is entirely contrary to his nature to assume such a character. While he finds a certain amount of pleasure in the financial side of the hobby, yet all ideas of gain and profit are wholly foreign to him. He buys stamps in the regular way, but has a tendency to see specimens before purchasing. He is not a "condition crank," but the contents of his album show a careful selection. While unused specimens predominate to a certain degree, yet the cancellation and the postmark are fully in evidence. As regards neatness and attention to details, he is all that can be desired. If asked regarding his real object in collecting, the model philatelist will tell you that it is pleasure and amusement, and out of this there grows a desire to know more about his stamps and almost unconsciously he makes an exhaustive study of his specimens, and for this his fellow collectors dub him a scientist. His is a labour of love, and he confines his researches, not to any particular country, but to his whole collection.

It is in the local, state and national societies that the ideal stamp collector

is found in his glory. Not only are his dues paid regularly, but he takes an active, lively interest in everything that is going on. If new members are to be secured, if an especially laborious piece of work is to be performed, or if the welfare of the society may be served in any way, the model stamp collector is immediately to the front offering to do his utmost—and he does it. In political campaigns his voice is not heard, except in exposing some flagrant abuse; but if the obligations of office are heavy and not to be envied he does not hesitate to assume the burden. He patronizes every department of the organization and induces others to do likewise. As an investigator of fraud he is persistent and strives to become by every means a "terror to evil doers." He is the real backbone of the philatelic association and stands true to it in times of dullness and adversity.

The model stamp collector is a missionary worker. To an earnest conception of the future of philately, he adds a generous and unselfish disposition. He hides not his light under a bushel, but seeks to extend the domain of stamp collecting by acquainting others with a fascinating and instructive recreation. It is ever a pleasure to him to show and explain his collection and any interest displayed on the part of the listener is always followed up by a direct canvas, in which the claims of stamp collecting are intelligently advocated. He has a goodly supply of duplicates and is free in their dispersion among non collecting friends. To the small boy and beginner the model Stamp collector is indeed a friend. Now matter is too trivial, no trouble too great for his consideration. Such difficulties as watermarks, shades, and surcharges are willingly explained, and his guiding hand helps the tyro to surmount other stumbling blocks. The ideal collector sees the wisdom of increasing the number of philatelists and governs his actions accordingly.