

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

something. The intelligent collector can arrange his work along any of the above lines, or if his inclination tends toward natural history he can turn his album into a veritable zoological garden. The first country to depict an animal on its postage stamp was our neighbor on the north, who in 1851 placed a picture of a beaver on its most popular stamp. It has delighted thousands of stamp collectors the world over. Newfoundland started with a seal in 1866 and ended with a codfish. After awhile the young critic noticed that the seal had paws like a tiger, and perhaps this is the reason that the old brown seal stamp became so rare. However it was it was not until 1880 that the ruling powers saw how ridiculous the picture was, and had the stamp re-engraved with flippers as became such an intelligent animal. The head of the dog that has made the country's name so familiar to thousands is found on the half cent stamp; it was first printed in red and afterwards in black. We pass the figure of a stag, for it has been murdered, and charity compels us to cover the cruel deed with the blanket of oblivion. Our own country has occasionally given some national history subjects on its commemorative issues. In 1869 we had a pony and the Omaha set illustrated a bull and a buffalo; the latter is being hunted but by a savage Indian, a deed well within his character. The U. S. do not allow the making of pictures of its stamps, so we cannot show the beautiful types. China one of the last countries to issue postage stamps, has placed a fish on some of its

stamps, and a gull on others, to say nothing of the mythical dragon, which has so long been the emblem of that curious country. The picture habit appears to be growing among new countries, for there is the Congo Free State, but lately admitted to the family of nations, adorning one of its stamps with the likeness of an elephant with the inevitable savage in the distance trying to kill it. Cuba the latest aspirant to an independent existence places the gentle ox on its stamp of highest value, and he is shown in his legitimate capacity, drawing a plow for the benefit of his keeper and the world at large.

The Soudan, another newly represented State in our albums, uses for its sole device that ancient ship of the desert, the camel, an animal without which, large portions of Africa and Asia would be useless to man. He is well worthy of the place of honor on the stamps of the Soudan. Another African community, the French Congo, has chosen the treacher-tiger for the low values of its postal issues.

Tropical Guatemala has thoughtfully selected, the quetzal as its national emblem and consequently used this beautiful bird of freedom to adorn its stamps. It is stated that this bird will not live in captivity and with more truth than Patrick Henry could say, "Give me liberty or give me death." The dove of Basel, Switzerland is represented, with a letter half as large as itself in its beak. We are afraid that there is a very small chance of that epistle ever being delivered unless it is given to some stronger carrier. Labuan, a small island to the west of Borneo, ill-