

Philately is young. The time will come and before many more years, when all minor varieties will be catalogued and priced, and many of them will bear a good price. Do not be bound to present catalogues. Collect all the novelties and minor varieties now while you can. The time may come when your "minor" variety will turn out to be a "major" variety in the matter of price and scarcity.

All that is necessary to educate the coming generation of collectors is—in other words—to tell them what is speculative, and what not, and then leave it to them. No collector of good judgment will ever spend much money for seebeck trash.

In the opinion of the "old timers" the great interest in philately that is prevalent throughout the country has never been paralleled before. The enthusiasm of both old and new collectors is something to marvel at.

Stamp collecting has reached such a fine point nowadays that conscientious catalogues give the most minute description of the specimens to be sold. Thus we see stamps "well centered," "a little to one side," "unperforated to left owing to being centre of sheet," "two perforation gone," etc. If all would be as particular in describing the condition of the various specimens, many disappointments would be avoided on the part of the buyers.

The first auction sale of stamps held on the Pacific coast came off in March 1892. It was under the direction of W. Sellschopp & Co. Three hundred lots were disposed of in two and three-quarter hours while the amount realized was \$730.00.

As an indication of the immense trade in postage stamps, just see the dozens of auction sales held during a season, aggregating many thousands of dollars, and yet the stamp dealers apparently are not affected in the least. In fact their busiest season is while the auctions are being held.

Straits Settlements has a \$5 stamp, orange and carmine.

From the Post Office, June, 1892.

A Valuable and Interesting Find.

Mr. E. B. Stirling is the fortunate discoverer of one of the rarest stamps in existence, and the way in which it came into his possession showsthat Dame Fortune is indeed good to him. The stamp in question is one of the New Haven postmaster and is printed in red, on light blue paper, and on the original letter. The stamp as shown to us is a perfect specimen, while the postmarks, letter and other proofs in Mr. Stirling's possession, leave not a shadow of doubt as to the genuineness of this rarity.

The letter, which was enclosed in the envelope, was written by Professor Benjamin Sillsman, of New Haven Col-

addressed to "Francis Marlsoe, jr.," of the State Department at Washington, D.C.

The letter itself is folded and addressed on the back, as was usual at that time, the professor no doubt, intending to mail it in that way, but on going to the post office, the postmaster evidently told him to use one of his stamped envelopes, which he did, and the letter when it reached Washington received the stamp "Due 5," the regular rate being ten cents, while the postmaster's stamp only paid five of this sum.

We believe that up to the present there has only been one genuine original specimen of this stamp found, and that one was mutilated, thus leaving this one to be the only perfect specimen of this stamp known to exist.

Those ordinarily seen in collections are simply signed reprints, but even these are worth about \$30.

This specimen on the original letter is worth from five hundred to one thousand dollars, and cost Mr. Sterling ten cents.

Now as to how it was found.

A short time ago a sale of autographs was held in Philadelphia, at which Mr. Sterling was present. One of the lots catalogued was "Nine letters of Professor Selleman." On the day of the sale it was put up and bought in by Mr. Sterling for ten cents, or about one cent a letter. he at that time having no idea that it was anything but a few letters of an unknown personage.

These letters, among many others, bought at the same sale, were taken home and thrown on the floor, and there they remained until a day or so ago (June 15th, 1892) when Sterling started to sort them over.

When he struck the one with the New Haven stamp on, he jumped by actual measurements taken afterward three feet and nine inches, and drove his young daughter screaming from the room, to tell ma that papa had gone insane.

He soon got over it and at once informed the Postoffice of his great discovery, in order that the world might know of it at once and rejoice with him in his good fortune, and we think we will voice the sentiments of his many friends in saying, "May many such discoveries fall in your way."

ALVA DAVIDSON.

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