

In most cases however this is caused by some new recruit to philately or by some collector who desires to make himself famous as a publisher, but alas, his aspirations and expectations reach far beyond the strength of his purse and the result is his first effort is generally a very poor one.

The doubting philatelist is in most cases the exact counterpart of the speculator for anybody who is connected with philately for the education and enjoyment connected with the study, rarely, if ever, expresses suspicion of the future of our hobby. The speculator however continually has his suspicions as to the advisability of investing his money in stamps.

Stamps are now commanding as good prices as they formerly did with the exception perhaps that some formerly high-priced stamps are cheaper than before, but to balance this statement those which were not considered valuable now bring enormous prices. Speculative issues are becoming more numerous every year. Of course collectors residing in those countries which have not as yet had a speculative issue are continually upbraiding the other speculative issuing countries, but when their government do the same thing they usually advance plenty of good reasons to show that the stamps are not speculative.

The societies with a few exceptions are in a flourishing condition, although the political enthusiasm has considerably abated, the enthusiasm in stamps has increased rather than relaxed. The number of paid up members is not so large proportionately but those who are members in good standing make better use of the various departments. In United States the political enthusiasm has diminished to a greater extent than in Canada.

These arguments will generally convince the philatelist who is doubtful concerning the condition of philately, that we still have a bright future before us and that we may expect to make greater headway in days to come than we have in days past.

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Nulla Vestigia Retrorsum.

By RAYMOND S. BAKER.

It is not customary among philatelic journals to see articles with the caption in Latin phraseology. When an enterprising journal however as the PHILATELIC ADVOCATE bears on its editorial page a suggestive motto in the language of ancient Rome, the offence may be palliated if not entirely forgiven. At all events the expression, No Steps Backward, has been merely used in admonition of certain editors and publishers regarding the general lack of pictorial illustrations in the current literature of our pursuit.

The very early periodicals were limited to a few stamp cuts and the occasional photograph of some prominent collector. This is however as far as we can expect them to go, for in the first days of philately the publishing of a stamp magazine was a task of Herculean proportions and not the mere bagatelle it is at the present time. The innovation however was introduced and, considering the time which has elapsed and the opportunities which have been afforded, it cannot be said that rapid development has been the result in this particular line.

Coming down to the middle ages, so to speak, of stamp collecting we find that the art of illustrating, as far as philatelic journals are concerned, is still of a rather