

# The Canadian Philatelist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. III. No. 8.

LONDON, AUGUST 1, 1894.

WHOLE No. 32.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## THE PERFECT COLLECTION.

BY WALTER A. WITHROW.

**A** FEW days ago I had the pleasure and pain of examining two collections, the property of two boys of my acquaintance. I say both pleasure and pain, I experienced. The collections were made on the same lines, but oh! how different.

One of the collections was formed by a boy of neat habits, and it was a pleasure to look over his stamps. The other collection was made in a careless manner, and was painful for a careful collector to look upon.

In looking over the better collection I noticed that the album was well taken care of, the leather cover being as smooth and fresh as when it came from the binder's. The pages were fresh and clean, the corners of the leaves were straight, and the name carefully written on the fly leaf.

The specimens were carefully selected, only unused or lightly cancelled stamps appearing. Each stamp had been examined for slight tears, the hinges on the back of each stamp being removed, lest they covered some imperfection.

The face of each soiled stamp was washed lightly with water or cleansed with gasoline, and a new hinge of light onion-skin paper was attached, and the specimen hinged neatly in the middle of the place assigned for it.

An unperforated stamp must have good margins; a perforated stamp must not be minus a tooth of perforation if it would be placed in this collection, and the stamp must be perfectly centred. I had never realized before that this added much to the appearance of a collection, and I mentally resolved to advise collectors to accept stamps, not if the perforation did not cut into the design, but if it were perfectly centred in every respect.

Each country received its share of attention and consequently in examining the collection one would not turn over a dozen or more pages without encountering a solitary specimen, as was the case in the other collection.

The other collection gave me a pain, look at it as I would. The leather binding of the album was scuffed and streaked where it had been soiled by careless fingers, and the pages were finger-marked and dog-eared.

The stamps were selected in a hap-hazard way, without reference to condition, a good part of them being torn and dirty, no attempt having been made to cleanse them, and some were poorly centred. They were hinged to the page with those rank, perfumed, perforated hinges, and if a stamp were to be removed a part of the page would follow, or a part of the stamp would inevitably remain.

There is a moral to this article, but it is so ob-

sure that I fear it could never be determined, so I will inform you that a collection of fine specimens is thirty-five and one-half times more valuable than one of indifferent stamps.

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## SHORT STUFF.

BY LEO WAYNER.

News for collectors—reve-nues.

A case of blackmailing—a gentleman of color mailing a letter.

The cancelling machines used in all the large offices libel the men whose busts or portraits appear on our stamps. The father of his country and other celebrities are made to appear "behind the bars."

It would be a capital idea for Spain to display the portrait of the king on its stamps at different stages of his growth. Beginning with the present issue, the series would read thus: The "baby stamps," the "boy stamps," the "young man stamps," and "stamps with king's head." There will be some collectors who will carry things to extremes by referring to the "old man" stamps.

Gamin Collector No. 1—"Say, Patsy, why don't dey puts Corbett's picture on de postage stamps?"

Gamin Collector No. 2—"Why, don't yer know that it's only congressmen and sich what has dere mugs on stamps?"

Gamin Collector No. 1—"Naw, dat ain't de reason. Yer see der stamps has ter be as light as dey ken get 'em, an' Corbett's a heavy-weight an' nobody ken handle him."

A young lady asked a clerk in a New York stamp store: "Have you any of the United States stamps with the portrait of Washington's ghost?" The nimble brained clerk hesitated but a moment, and displayed before her a set of the 1865 large newspaper stamp, which she said, "are just what I want."

When the Columbian stamps first came out a number of readers wrote us asking why Columbus, in "The Discovery of Land," as depicted on the one-cent, has no beard, while in the "Landing of Columbus" he appears with a pointed beard. (Twelve hours are supposed to elapse between the two events.) We were not able to give a satisfactory answer at the time, but after reading up the best writers on the subject, we have come to the conclusion that it is a case of "before and after" using Dr. Geronimo's Celebrated Indian Hair Raiser.—*Daily Philatelic Bladder.*