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PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

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The question is frequently asked, and seldom satisfactorily answered, why it is that even the best and greatest of philatelic societies are able to command the support of but a small proportion of the philatelists who should be numbered among active society members and workers. The membership of most all philatelic organizations of national scope is insignificant as compared with the number of those who remain outside the fold. Why is this?

It has always seemed to me that this failure on the part of so many otherwise enthusiastic collectors to sympathize with the aims of our societies, must be largely due to a misconception of their functions, and to an imperfect acquaintance with the important part which they are playing in the development of philately. Surely the collector who persistently refuses to ally with any philatelic organization cannot be familiar with the work performed by such of our societies as were formed to advance the interest of philately and philatelists, and not for the sole end of advertising their youthful founders, as has been too often of late the *raison d'être* of mushroom bodies.

It is incredible that any one who fully recognized the value of our societies, both for philatelists individually and the philatelic world in general,

would withhold his active support from bodies conferring such signal benefits upon himself and his brother collectors. It is a fact seldom alluded to, but one of vast importance, nevertheless, that the members of a society are not the only ones benefited by its existence. They are, it is true, benefited in much greater measure than outsiders, as, indeed they should, since they, and they alone, contribute to its support; but every philatelist in Canada is to some extent the gainer from the existence of the Canadian Philatelic Association, now being re-organized, and the Dominion Philatelic Association, just as every collector in the United States reaps some benefit from the existence of the American Philatelic Association and kindred bodies.

This, doubtless, seems a very strong statement, but let us see if it be not true. The very first benefit of organization is organization itself. That is, the banding together of any class of people for the advancement of mutual interests, renders their collective influence in any direction infinitely stronger than their weak and aimless efforts, when unorganized, could possibly be; while, at the same time, the power which each member can individually exert is vastly augmented, by virtue of his forming a composite portion of a powerful and united whole.

Organization is power. The mere existence of our great societies lends new dignity to the pursuit in which we