

THE BOYS' OWN PHILATELIST

A monthly
magazine
devoted to
young collectors.



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Suggestions for Young Philatelists.

By U. S. HAWKEYE.

In starting out to be a stamp collector do not lose sight of the fact that to succeed one must educate himself in the work. The best educators of the affairs of the world to-day is the daily paper. The best philatelic educator is the philatelic paper. Then about the first thing needed is a good philatelic paper or two. Subscribe to as many as you can easily afford to pay for. An outfit you may already have but if not then purchase as good an album as you can conveniently afford. To start in on packets if the contents of each are all different, is the cheapest and best plan of getting a good start with the least money. As the collection rapidly increases higher priced packets must be purchased. Where you buy from different firms one can often exchange the duplicates secured, to other collectors after benefitting your own collec-

tion with the finest specimens. This is not to be lost sight of. A good collection never has torn or badly cancelled stamps. With high priced stamps it is different, more will be said about this later on. Deal with good reliable parties and when you find anything not as advertised write the person or firm about it. Kind letters will make more friends than enemies and any firm will correct mistakes, if not, report the parties to the editor of your paper.

Cleanliness. To make a collection show up well and to make a stamp salable both must be clean and be kept clean. When one takes down his stamp book or looks over a consignment of stamps the hands should be scrupulously clean. In handling a stamp, even one of the most common kind never use a pencil but always use a smooth tooth-pick or stamp tongs. If you get into a good habit it will never leave you and it is as easy to remember as a bad habit, With one end of a common tooth-pick be-