

THE MODEL STAMP COLLECTOR

BY RAYMOND S. BAKER.

In the world of philately there are so many different classes and divisions that it is a difficult matter to select a model that shall be suitable and applicable to all. The advanced collector, the specialist, the general and the occasional collector, each have their standard of excellence, their acme of perfection. He therefore, who would create a type meeting with universal satisfaction must needs attempt the impossible.

It may not, however, be a hopeless task to enumerate some of the leading qualities and attributes found in the model stamp collector, and even to make an analysis of the constituent elements of the ideal. While it is true that the great majority of philatelists are anything but models, and that a continual exhortation and improvement is not only tiresome, but comparatively worthless, yet there is a certain amount of interest in finding out from a fellow collector his conceptions of the highest and the best, even if they differ materially from our own. With this short introduction, let the model collector step forth and demonstrate his claim to this lofty title and also, with some latitude, point out the way by which others can attain to the ideal state.

He is *general* collector. But a large division of the body philatelic need not be offended, for the model stamp collector has a specialty, although he is not a specialist. There have been many battles fought on the question of generalism versus specialism with more glory and ultimate superiority to the latter. It is not the intention of the writer to inaugurate another contest as every species of collecting has a right to exist. We have reached an age of philatelic toleration, in which everyone collects just

what he pleases. Who then shall dare to invade the province of commending this branch of collecting and condemning that which happens to be dissimilar? But when it is necessary to choose a specimen which shall stand for the whole class, to form a model representative of the great philatelic division, to set forth a fitting example for the inspection of the entire world, then it is imperative that distinctions be made, and consequently the general collector is emphatically the result of our choice. The simple fact that he is international in his aims and collecting instincts, and is not monopolized by any single feature of the pursuit, is perhaps the strongest argument in his favour. To successfully represent a many sided hobby he is necessarily a collector of wide interests and all embracing sympathy. He admires alike the stamps of Canada and China, Japan or Borneo.

But the model stamp collector while essentially devoted to general collecting and making it his primary object, has nevertheless a specialty, and thus increases the security of his position as a satisfactory model. Specialism has secured such an extensive hold on stamp collecting that its claims cannot be overlooked, and he who would pose as a model among philatelists must devote no small amount of his time and attention to some particular phase of the pursuit.

Postage stamps only, will be found in the album of the model collector. He has nothing whatever to do with revenues and while not hostilely disposed towards them, considers that they are irrelevant and beneath the dignity of postal commissions. It may be argued that the general tendencies of the model stamp collector should lead him to admit fiscals

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