

PHILATELIC JOURNALISM.

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This subject, though often discussed by Ayres in the art of newspaper writing, who perhaps fail to appreciate its immensity less than the professional journalist, is one that appeals with great force to a person versed in the intricacies of daily newspaper work.

To him its possibilities are easily apparent, and its benefits readily perceived. It presents an alluring topic for the exercise of his pen, and calls into play all his peculiar talents.

It is not our intention to discuss the relation of the professional journalist to the broad field of philately, but rather the position occupied by the philatelic writer in reference to professional journalism.

Those who read the philatelic magazines are critical and cultured. Their hobby and their ardent pursuit of it renders them so. The scandals of the day, the topics of art, science, or literature, which present so charming a field for active research, are for the time forgotten.

Hence, he who writes for the philatelic press must be at least a person of keen discrimination and clear insight. Otherwise he would be incapable of following the peculiar "dips, curves, and angles" which present themselves in the multifarious variations of the stamps of the world.

The philatelic reader desires a scientific presentation of the interests relating to his favorite study, and a logical and truthful discussion of the old and new varieties of stamps. Anything short of this would bring down upon the luckless head of the writer thereof the utmost ridicule and the severest contempt of intelligent philatelists.

He, therefore, who has attained eminence in philatelic journalism, has already fitted himself to the demands of professional journalism.

Philately is a stepping stone to the reporter's desk. It is a training school, as it were, and a good one at that. The ethics of journalism and the principles of writing are the same, whether the subject be the latest issue of Columbian stamps or the debates on the silver question in Congress.

Indeed, if the roll were called of those who are now the writers of our daily news, there would be found there-