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The Pleasures and Profits of Stamp Collecting.

Many are under the impression that the collecting of stamps is merely "child's play" but such is not the case. When such as the Czar of Russia, Duke of York, Duke of Edinburgh, and other distinguished people are collectors it means there is something in it. In a collection of stamps a person can find out the money denominations, the coat of arms, the names of the different rulers, and many other things too numerous to mention in this brief article. A professor in one of the leading schools in the United States is the informant that the best scholars are or have been stamp collectors. He was asked the reason and his reply was, that whenever a collector got any new stamps he would turn to his geography and find out where the country was situated, who the ruler was, the money denominations, the chief exports and imports of that country, the principal towns and rivers, and in fact all about the place, so you can easily see that there is profit in it as well as pleasure, besides the value of his collection which increases from year to year.

The writer has a collection which was purchased about six years ago for \$15.00. To-day it would, if placed on the market, bring \$250.00 readily. You can

talk of your Klondyke gold mines but if the people who are investing in these mines were to stay at home and purchase some good stamps, they would find in these little bits of paper money satisfactorily invested.

May I ask the readers of this article if they ever seen a stamp collector hanging around the street corners as is the custom with so many young men? If you did they are few and far between. They are at home arranging their treasures which in a few years hence will bring them in considerable revenue should they be forced to sell, and would mean a help to them in their old age. In proof of these statements let me illustrate a few instances of the increase in value of certain stamps. Those that can be bought now for 50 cents and upwards, will, in six or eight years bring \$10 or \$12, according to the class of stamps the person buys.

In a future number I may be able to tell you more about them if the editor will allow me space in his valuable paper.

Any reader who has any stamps to sell, wishes to find out their value, who are anxious to know what stamps to purchase or how to arrange their collection can readily find out by addressing the writer of this article. Let me hear from any who need help.

W. A. BEATTY.