

## HOW TO GIVE STAMP COLLECTING PUBLIC RESPECT AND INTEREST.

[FROM THE GERMAN.]

Never has a science made such progress in such a short time of existence than the collecting of postage stamps, but how much faster could it have grown, had it not, wherever it went, found so much opposition. Stamp collectors consider the counterfeiter as their greatest enemy, but a much more dangerous one is this public opinion of the "unuseful and damaging play" of stamp collecting. Against the former we can always guard ourselves through the exposure of the counterfeiter and the description of his make in the columns of our many journals, and in some cases through the law; but against the latter it is much more difficult to defend ourselves, as it has to go out from every single collector himself; but there is a remedy for this opponent.

Let us see why it is that the public oppose him so much? It is the collector himself the cause of it, and especially the thousands of small collectors. This can only be judged by persons who have the doings of beginners before them as a daily occurrence.

Now let us look at the album of a beginner; how does it look? Soiled all over, in the most cases. The book consists of torn and dirty leaves, stamps stuck on with glue; disorderly and without any knowledge of dates, one pasted next to another, no matter whether genuine or counterfeit. Such collections call on the counterfeiters to bring out larger and larger quantities of their stuff into the market and, on the other hand, they provoke the dislike of the public in a great measure.

Here can only the good model of advanced collectors be of valuable service, by giving those beginners a sight into their nicely arranged collection as often as practicable, with instructions, and they will wake a feeling for order and beauty in these minors.

### HINTS TO COLLECTORS.

Do not fill your albums with soiled, torn or heavily cancelled stamps.

Do not gum your stamps in; fix them in with gummed hinges.