

Description of New Columbian Stamps.

The denominations, designs and colors of the new U. S. Columbian stamps are as follows:

1-cent stamp. Columbus on ship-board in sight of land, color medium shade of blue.

2-cent stamp. The landing of Columbus, color maroon.

3-cent stamp. The "Santa Maria," the flag-ship of Columbus in mid-ocean, color medium shade of green.

4-cent stamp. The fleet of Columbus, consisting of the "Santa Maria," the "Nina" and the "Pinta," in mid-ocean, color light blue.

5-cent stamp. Columbus appealing to Queen Isabella for Aid, color chocolate brown.

6-cent stamp. Columbus entering Barcelona in triumph, color royal purple.

10-cent stamp. Columbus presenting natives at the Spanish court, color Vandyke brown.

15-cent stamp. Columbus reciting the story of his discovery, color dark green.

30-cent stamp. Columbus at La Rabida, demonstrating the theory of his enterprise, color Sienna brown.

50-cent stamp. The recall of Columbus by Isabella, after the rejection of his proposition, color carbon blue.

\$1 stamp. Isabella pledging her jewels in support of the project, color rose salmon.

\$2 stamp. Columbus in chains, color toned mineral red.

\$3 stamp. Columbus describing his third voyage, color light yellow green.

\$4 stamp. Portraits in three-quarters face, of Isabella and Columbus, color carmine.

\$5 stamp. Portrait in profile of Columbus, color black.

Philately's Greatest Need.

In considering philatelic literature, one of the first things to strike the observer is the lack of anything in the way of a book to initiate the beginner into the science of philately.

The only way he ever learns anything is the chance of stumbling on some article which has found its way into the pages of a philatelic magazine. Too much knowledge is taken for granted. And most of the instructive articles are read and understood by a very few older collectors only. From this and other reasons there springs up a natural desire for some book which will explain away the many difficulties encountered by the beginner.

Such a book would be useful in more ways than one. It would greatly add to the number of philatelists, by making philately's mysteries clear and easily understood, so inviting beginners and retaining many who otherwise would drop out discouraged at the array of unsolved problems presented.

Again the philatelic papers and magazines would receive large additions to their subscriptions; for if beginners could obtain some slight knowledge of terms used and references made, they would enjoy the articles which before they would skip, and would find it impossible to be without them.

Being not much more than a beginner myself, I will give a few of the subjects which have bothered me, and which I would suggest to be treated in such a book; varieties of paper, water-marks, how to tell retouched from original engravings, reprints, what they are, how desirable, the differences between United States dies (President Tiffany's articles might be given).

There might also be included a chapter or two of advice on many subjects about which collectors puzzle—bidding at auction by mail, duplicates, joining societies and a hundred other things which older collectors have learned by experience.

My ideas, of course may never be carried out, but I shall rest content if this article shall bring out in any way more clearly, the pressing need and the great advantage of such a book. — Meeker's Weekly.