

Submitted for Prize Contest.

King Philately.

By H. I. WATTS.

The other "fads" and "hobbies" have held sway over a certain portion of this world's pleasure loving people, not one has grown and flourished like Philately.—The King of Pastimes.

Yes, King Philately with his fair Queen, our mystical goddess, fair Philatelia, holds reign over twice a million willing subjects in all parts of the world.

From the cool calm Northland to the warm impetuous south—from the quaint, centuries-old, civilization of China, to the wide border life of palm-shaded Congo—the word goes forth that of all pastimes and pleasure Philately is king!

And Why?

Because around that mystic throne has been built a mighty structure of thought of learning and of wisdom.

No other pastime affords the rich opportunity of pleasure and learning at one and the same time in such profuseness as does Philately.

The girl or boy who cannot attend a business college will find a liberal education in philately. The acquiring of a collection will bring numberless chances of learning business and business ways.

Again, a well informed philatelist is a mine of knowledge on the subject of postal laws, both of his own country and of others.

Then there is its own peculiar literature,—papers and catalogues, stories and even novels. The youth aspiring to honor as a writer will find here opportunities of gaining experience and

wisdom, and he will find that the standard of philatelic literature is ever raising higher. And he or she who, wishing perhaps, to raise the means of attending college, will soon find a profitable investment in a small but well selected stock of stamps. Colleges usually teem with stamp collectors and a shrewd young person having the elements of business success enthroned in a level head, will find many a profitable sale.

But the great claim philately has upon the public fancy, is its cosmopolitan nature. On its common ground all are equal. Rich, poor, big, low famous, unknown, young, or old, all find in philately a pleasant pastime and in philatelists, cordial friends.

Many a life-long friendship has had its start from philately. There are many friends known to each other only by correspondence, and who philately has bound together.

Once there was a time when the world spoke of philately only in mockery. That day is gone; we command the respect if not the sympathy of all fair-minded people.

For fifty years our hobby has went on, ever growing, never ceasing, till now I feel fully justified in writing once more—Philately; King of Pastimes.



There are post-offices in Maine four days' journey from Augusta. Fourteen incorporated towns have no post-office at all. Stage drivers have quite a number of fees annually for taking mail from post offices and delivering it anywhere from eight to twenty miles.
—Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.