

The Prices of Stamp Collectors

The prices of stamp collectors is undoubtedly M. Ferrari, of Paris. Virtually priceless are the stamp collections of this gentleman, and his devotion to the hobby may be gauged from the fact that he keeps three secretaries especially to look after the precious bits of coloured paper, which are arranged and catalogued in luxurious libraries. M. Ferrari possesses no less than eight specimens of the famous "Post Office Mauritius," the rarest stamp in the world, of which only fourteen copies are known to exist. The actual value of this stamp—which has been known to fetch privately the large sum of \$1000, more than 90,000 times its face value—arises from the fact that it bears the words 'Post Office' instead of the regulation "Post Paid." It was issued in 1847, and is so very highly prized that not long ago a wildly enthusiastic collector advertised that he was willing to correspond, with a view to matrimony, with a lady possessing a copy of "Post Office Mauritius," 1847. The 2 penny blue "post paid" Mauritius is another very valuable stamp, and at an auction a copy of it has actually realized \$700—the highest price ever paid for a stamp sold in this way. His particular specimen was uncancelled, but even a cancelled copy has been sold for \$460.

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U. S. Notes.

There was recently a large sale of carriers' stamps from the F. W. Hunter collection in New York. The largest buyer was H. L. Calman, of the Scott Stamp Company who represented over a hundred collectors. J. C. Bidwell was a heavy buyer also on behalf of a large number of philatelists.

The lots offered at sale were of carriers, newspaper, unpaid letter; telegraph and local stamps, wrappers, envelopes and plate numbers, which, while rare are not so much desired by collectors and do not bring such good prices as postage stamps. The carriers' stamps brought the highest prices. Mr. Bidwell buying a New York carrier's stamp—two cent on three cent, on original cover—the only copy known, for \$261, the highest price paid at the sale. H. L. Calman bought a New York carrier's stamp of 1848 49 type (26 two cent red, cut close at left, pen cancelled, for \$125. Other notes were made but too numerous to mention.

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