

to collectors. Some were honest enough to advertise them as *fac similes*, but the majority left that matter for their customers to find. Until within about five or six years ago this was the collector's greatest stumbling block, and I think more people became disgusted with Philately through this cause than any other. But by a united effort on the part of our prominent Philatelists and the Philatelic press, we have been rid of this nuisance, and it has to be a very clever man that can cheat you with counterfeit stamps these days.

Such is the history of the origin of Philately, and is as much information as I have on hand at present. up to the year 1870.

If any of my readers find any errors in the above, or have any additional information they can give me, I will consider it a favor if they will communicate with me before next month, and I will put it in as an addition to this chapter before going on with chapter II.

I have a Canadian postcard which was posted in St. Louis, Mo., and arrived in Toronto all O.K.

The "Canadian Philatelist" is publishing a series of "Philatelic Handbooks" quarterly, number one of which is already out. This is a move in the right direction.

THESE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

Every few weeks some newspaper comes out with a highly original article entitled, "The popular mania," "The latest fad," or something of that sort. These articles are generally intended to give the public an idea of what stamp collecting is, but invariably fall very far short of the mark. They usually start off with an account of some enormous collection; sometimes it belongs to a Spanish prince and sometimes to a very wealthy Frenchman, but he always has every stamp but one, and is willing to give half his fortune for that precious stamp.

This is generally about all the probable matter the article contains, the remainder being a badly mixed account of shark dealers, counterfeiters, approval sheet frauds etc., etc. It is little wonder that we are sometimes laughed at.

Philately has among its followers many clever writers, who could make up as good a newspaper article as anyone, and what is wanted is for a few common-sense articles to be written in a way that will convince people that we are not the lunatics they take us for. It would do no harm to try the experiment, and if it only gave folks a better opinion of us it would be a great deal of good accomplished.

We intend adding a number of new features next month, one of which will be an exchange column. Send in an exchange notice of not more than forty words with your subscription and we will see that it is taken care of.