

## Some Australasian Stamps

By CANADENSIS.

In taking up a scientific study of stamps it is necessary that collectors should learn the meaning of the different devices which we find depicted on the various issues. This can easily be accomplished by a little study, and then when you are showing your collection to a friend, you can explain the stamp and give a lucid reason why it bears that particular device. It is not enough to say "that is a Newfoundland stamp with a fish on it." You must tell them the particular kind of a fish it is, and let them know the cod-fish industry of the island has been the means of bringing out that stamp.

The "land of the golden fleece" as Australia is called, bears some designs of animals that you should know all about. First of all take the 2 cent stamp of New South Wales of the 1888 issue. What do we see on it? Nine out of ten would say an ostrich. Not much! It is a bird called an "emu." It is remarkable for its large size—standing several feet in height—and for its long hair-like plumage. It is one of the wonders of Australia, and is found in large numbers in the interior. On the same country's 8 cent stamp of 1889 we find one of the most beautiful birds in the world. It is the "lyre-bird" so-called from the magnificent lyre-shaped tail which adorns the male. The bird itself is the size of a pheasant, while its tail measures three feet. On the one shilling N. S. W. stamp we have the kangaroos. These animals have made great inroads upon grain and pasture lands, but by government bounties and the use of kangaroo leather they are gradually

declining. The kangaroos are so swift that they will often outrun a thoroughbred horse for miles. There are many varieties of these marsupials, from the "old man," standing seven feet high, through more than forty species and sizes to the little kangaroo mouse that can make its home in a tea-cup.

Western Australia was formerly called "Swan River." We see the swan on all her stamps. There they have the black swan, the most beautiful of its species, its ebony hue and proud symmetry being very picturesque.

Tasmania, however, has the most curious animal in all the wide world—some say it is half bird and half animal. It is the duck-billed Platypus or Ornithorhynchus. It is found on the revenue-postals of 1882, 1, 3, 6d and 1 shilling values. This animal has the bill and feet of a duck and the body of an otter, the connecting link between quadrupeds and birds. Though it lays eggs it suckles its young.

The information gained, by a thorough systematic study of stamps, will soon solve the problem as to the "science of philately"—*The Stamp*.

## To Get Subscribers

to the Philatelic Advocate.  
we offer

### \$1.05 FOR 25 CENTS.

18 Japanese stamps and 3 post cards mounted in a finely colored album made of rice paper worth	.50
12 blank Approval Sheets.....	.10
PHILATELIC ADVOCATE one year....	.25
20 word adv. on Bargain Page of same	.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.05</b>

All for 25c postpaid with 4c stamps  
STARNAMAN BROS., Berlin, Ont.