

should be reduced. It is only by experienced dealers that these mistakes can be rectified." Thus say the publishers. The C. H. Mekeel Publishing Co. of St. Louis, and a couple of large New York dealers, are the ones who are principally interested in the movement, which it is altogether probable will meet with the success that an enterprise of such proportions deserves.

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The De Coppett Sale. We are probably a little late in making mention of this sale, which was one of the largest auction sales of stamps ever held. The total amount realized by the sale was in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Space being at a premium this month, we are unable to give a list of the prices obtained. A British Guiana, 1850, 2c. pink, which Mr. De Coppett purchased some years ago for \$192, was sold to Mr. F. W. Hunter for \$1,010. Who in the face of this can say stamp collecting does not pay. This is the highest price which has ever been paid for a stamp by auction.

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Timely Warnings. Our esteemed contemporary, *The Post Office*, gives a couple of important warnings to its readers, which we must needs repeat. A certain society (?) Germania, or The German Philatelic Society of New York, which has been very extensively advertised through the medium of the philatelic press, has been investigated by *The Post Office* and has proved one of the greatest philatelic swindles ever discovered. The Society, which was said to have its headquarters in New York, claimed to hold very large local meetings, and that its total membership, local and corresponding, was about 800. The Society in New York consisted of but one person, Ph. Heinsberger alias F. Phillips, and following this up, of course no meetings were held. Dues were at the modest sum of \$3 per year. It can be readily seen the amount which this party must have secured annually from a large number of dupes. We congratulate Bro. Gremmel for his promptness in disclosing this swindle. The same paper also warns collectors against purchasing any of the Mexican Provisionals, so-called, Campeche, Monterey, Paty-cuaro, Zacatecas, as the editor claims to have almost positive proof that all of them are bogus. Full particulars are promised in their next issue.

Mexico Port de Mar. We quote the following extract verbatim from *The Monthly Journal* on the Port de Mar stamps of Mexico: "Finally, we have an explanation (which we have no doubt is the correct one) of the use of Port de Mar labels which have so long puzzled collectors. At the time these stamps were issued all letters passed through Vera Cruz (instead of going via New York, as at present). The minimum charge was 50 cents, and there being no arrangement for paying a fixed subsidy to the mail steamers, the postal officials in Mexico attached Port de Mar stamps to indicate to the Governor of Vera Cruz the amount of sea postage he was to pay on each letter. The Governor of Vera Cruz is said to have objected to the stamps on yellow paper and these consequently were never issued, and not even gummed officially. The stamps were not cancelled, except accidentally in cancelling the ordinary stamps, or postmarking the letters, hence the rarity of used copies, so called. It appears, therefore, that these are not postage stamps in any sense of the word indicating neither postage paid, or postage due, but merely conveying information on matters of accounts. They may be classed with *Postal Labels* like "Officially Sealed," "Returned Letter," etc.

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Terra del Fuego. *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* is a first-class investigator, and quite often settles questions on which collectors are in the dark. We quote the following on the Terra del Fuego stamp: "We have at last obtained some information in regard to this curious stamp bearing the name of this country, the history of which (the stamp, not the country) has never, we believe been fully known. Our informant is a naval officer who was enabled to make inquiries on the spot in February last. A small steamer runs occasionally from Ushuwaia, the principal town of Terra del Fuego, to Punta Arenas (better known as Sandy Point) in the Straits of Magellan, conveying mails to catch the Pacific Mail steamers which call at the latter place. The authorities at Ushuwaia state that a Mr. Popper, a member of the Argentine Trading Company there, had the stamps printed on his own authority, and had them used on one batch of letters by this steamer to indicate the postage (paid we presume to the Trading Company for the conveyance of the mails). The government of the Argentine Republic however, of which Terra del Fuego forms a part, confiscated the stamps and stopped their use, and the Chilian authorities at Sandy Point equally objected to them so that the circulation of the Terra del Fuego stamps came to an untimely end. It thus appears that they were not in any way a Government issue, though they may have been genuinely issued by a Letter Carryin Company."