

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

How to Mount Stamps Attractively.

BY FRANK C. BOWKER.

IN THE first place have an album that corresponds with the size of your collection. Do not get one of the large printed albums if you have a small collection, or a large number of illustrations offsets the appearance of the stamps.

Supposing, then, that you have purchased a small album in which there are not enough spaces for every stamp issued, and which contains no directions as to the spaces; do not arrange the stamps in sets as there is not enough room, and the spaces where the rarer stamps should be put would undoubtedly never be filled, and there would not be enough room for all of the issues. A much better and more satisfactory way would be to arrange them by color, regardless of date of issue. By gradually blending the gentler hues with the deep ones a most artistic page is made, and one that is very pleasing to the eye.

If, however, your collection numbers 1500 or 2000 varieties I would advise you to purchase one of the large printed albums, of which there are several good makes, Meekel's perhaps, being the best.

And now for the advanced collector. A blank album is most advisable. You can buy one or manufacture it yourself. Its beauty lies in the fact that the collector can arrange his stamps in any manner or design desired, and can devote as many pages to his country as he wishes. It is the only album for specialists, oddities or revenues.

If you desire to make your album yourself you can purchase, at any stationer's, suitable covers for about twenty-five cents. Paper suitable for a book can be bought at about forty cents per hundred sheets. You can rule with ink plates for the stamps, or not, as you please. A ruled border adds much to the appearance. Have each page as unlike the others as possible, and, if you use care and have an artistic taste you can make your album a thing of beauty, not only to the philatelist, but to outsiders as well. A pocket can easily be made from a sheet of paper, which, when stuck to the inside of the cover, will serve to keep entire envelopes in.

This is just one thing more which I wish to say, and although it may seem unimportant, is quite in the contrary. Don't use perforated hinges or any that are made of thick paper.

A Philatelic Possibility.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

WERE all dreamers. We all love to imagine things as true which very likely will never come to pass. And yet if there is a possibility that our fancies may not all be vain, our idle brain pictures are given an added charm, and may even be submitted to the public that it may pass judgment upon them. For some time I have thought in odd moments of a philatelic possibility, and I have tried to imagine what the result would be should that possibility become a fact. I have derived no little pleasure from a contemplation of my air castles, and thinking that perhaps my readers might be glad to share my delusions with me, I have decided to give them the opportunity, through the agency of this article. Thought kindles thought. One imagination stimulates another, and if what I shall say causes a single reader of this magazine to direct his attention to new lines, these

paragraphs will not have been penned in vain.

Having been more or less connected with philatelic journalism for the last five or six years, it is but natural that I should direct my attention more to the publications connected with our hobby than to any of its other sub-branches. Having done this, and having watched with a great deal of interest the growth and advancement of our periodicals. I have been wondering if something better than we have yet had does not await us in our little world of press and paper, and if we shall not some day be surprised by the appearance of a magazine, the only motive for whose issue is love of philately and love of literature.

There exists in the United States to day an organization known as the "National Amateur Press Association" or the "Naps" as it is familiarly called by its members. It is not a large society, one hundred members being a rather liberal estimate of its size. Those who support it devote themselves to the association, and to the work which it fosters simply out of love for it. They have no prospect of pecuniary gain before them. They pay out hundreds of dollars and receive nothing back in the way of money. They devote hours of their spare time to the support of papers in a contributory way, and to the issuing of them, and they expect and receive nothing but the good will of their fellows. Men whose work commands good prices from the professional press write for amateur periodicals out of sheer love for the "dom" as they affectionately term their organization. For instance, Everard Jack Appleton, who works on a southern newspaper, and who writes for such high grade publications as the *Detroit Free Press* and the *New England Magazine*, also writes his pen free of charge that amateurdom's columns may be brightened. Men of wealth and culture issue papers costing them hundreds of dollars each year, and they do not receive back a penny as a pecuniary return. Freeman J. Spencer, of New Britain, Conn., President of the "Naps" recently circulated a magnificent number of the *Investigator*, which was printed on the heaviest of toned paper, embellished with original drawings in colors, and fully illustrated throughout, the pictures being prepared by the text by competent artists. This was given away. There are many men like Spencer, but I have chosen him as an example. So much for amateur journalism. Perhaps I have said more concerning it than I ought.

In Philately's kingdom we have men as wealthy as those in Amateur's ranks. They, too, spend thousands of dollars on a hobby, but it is spent in such a manner as to insure to their direct benefit. Every dollar invested is almost sure to pay ten per cent interest. Their expenditures are not unselfish ones as are those of Spencer and others of his class. Spencer has a hobby, but it is amateur journalism and to it he devotes his time, and for it he spends much of his money.

It is said that no man can serve two masters at once. If I mistake not the Bible is authority for this statement; and the Bible is generally right. But let us suppose that the masters are similar, so similar in fact as to be practically one master in aims and aspirations. Under such circumstances a man could certainly obey them both. Imagine, if you can, a wealthy individual who has an intense liking for Philately, and who also has a profound admiration for journalism, but who does not care to enter the world of letters professionally. He wishes to publish a magazine, regardless of expense, which shall express his own views and the views of Philately's highest authorities, and which shall be perfect typographically, and in a literary way. In short the Philatelic and the journalistic inclinations unite, and the result is such a magazine as we have never yet seen, but which, if issued, will mark the accomplishment of a long-to-be-remembered wish.

Philately has wealthy men who are enthusiasts. Amateurism has them. If we ever secure

the individual who combines in his nature a love for the two hobbies of which I have spoken in this article, the result will be gratifying and surprising. I know of no one now who could successfully carry out such an undertaking as I have outlined. Perhaps H. E. Deats could accomplish it more satisfactorily than any other American. He has the means and the lack of parsimoniousness in his disposition necessary, and if I mistake not he has actually issued an amateur publication at one time entitled the *Jerseyman*. That he would carry such task to success, all who are at all familiar with the World's Fair exhibition can testify.

There are two or three other Americans who are amateur journalists and philatelists. Also Brubaker, who published the bright and interesting *Ink Drops*, is one of them. F. S. George, editor of the *Northwest*, is another. Speaking of George, it is a singular fact that while he was issuing his monthly as an amateur paper it was brought out in a more expensive form than it is at present, when it is supposed to be paying its own way, partially at least. For various reasons, however, neither Brubaker nor George can issue as good a monthly as Deats is able to send out.

But here I am dreaming again. Who will dare say that my dream will not some day come true. In the meantime let us hope for its ultimate realization. Had I the funds I myself should try to make my fancies real, but alas, I do not possess the wherewithal. I shall build my air castles as before, although I imagine that already some of my readers are quoting those lines of England's greatest poet, "Trice, I talk of dreams, which are the children of an idle brain, Begot of nothing but vain phantasy."

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

TERMS—Half cent per word each insertion, payable in advance. No exchange notice will be received for less than 25 cents. No display allowed.

COMPLETE set 3 special delivery stamps \$50. Mailed C in 1897 4c, carnive envelope \$15. Raynor Hubbell, 172 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.

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