

I think the aim of philatelic societies and philatelic papers ought to be to instruct and interest those who now collect stamps as well as to induce outsiders to take up the hobby. The meetings of societies could be made very interesting by discussions upon living topics, or contemporary history, without having too much "stamp" in it.—for all who ever tried will agree with me when I say that it is decidedly a dry job to be forever licking stamps.—Theo. Siddall.

No parent or guardian should discourage a child in stamp collecting, for in so doing they are holding back channels of learning in geography and government that may be of great use to the child in after life. Those persons who allow their children to spend a few dollars a year for stamps will never have cause to regret it.—Maud C. Bingham.

The pursuit of philately has attained such a standing that to-day he is indeed an unlearned follower who cannot readily distinguish between the varieties of paper, watermarks, etc. There was a time however when such was not the case. Then collectors (they were not philatelists) were content with a single specimen without any of the attendant variations.—Sydney K. LeMoyné.

When a genuine stamp is removed from a letter to make place for a trimmed envelope with fraudulent intent, some trace of the work of substitution will probably remain. It will be difficult if not almost impossible, to make the postmark of the stamp match with that on the envelope.—Gordon C. Corbaley.

United States department stamps are at once interesting to the average stamp collector, because they show the work of

skilled artists; because of their uniformity and appropriateness of the colors and designs assigned to each particular set, and because of their office, uniqueness and almost general scarceness. These characteristics have no doubt wrought their desirability and collection, and superinduced the general interest accorded them.—H. S. Swensen.

Many of the most famous men of to-day must have been collectors in their youth; but the old fancy has long been outgrown, and they turn to other recreations and pleasures now, in their hours of idleness.—Lewis G. Quackenbush.

If ever a stamp was universally criticised and its weak points brought to the surface, that stamp is certainly the Seebek. Collectors will not buy them and even some dealers refuse to handle them. Philatelic papers devote the majority of their space in condemning these mutually despised stamps to the darkest oblivion of philatelic hate. Everywhere we hear something to their disadvantage and not one word in their favor.—Chas. L. Barry.

Stamps pay for keeping, and a true collector will hesitate long before parting with a specimen, only doing so when a very good reason presents itself. Some effort should be made to inspect the books of other collectors, especially those of some experience, as thereby many valuable tips may be obtained.—S. F. Bickers.

The revenue stamps of United States, Canada and Mexico are very pretty and although entirely different from a postage stamp purpose, they show in which way the wind is drifting. They are collected because collectors find pleasure in them, and this shows that no rule can be laid down as to what shall and what shall not be collected.—Wm. R. Adams.