

## Rare Stamps.

The United States postage Stamps are in themselves full of history and literary interest and are also a study for every artist. The question of every particular shade and color has its place and value. It is not the age of the stamp which makes it valuable, neither does it consist in its beauty. All that makes a stamp valuable and rare is the fact that the stamp was used but a short time and hence but a limited number exist. The dainty little scarlet 3c stamp of 1862 is worth \$100 and the still more dainty 3c pink, of 1861, is worth \$8 used and \$35 unused while the early provisionals or, more properly, authorized postmasters' stamps, made before the U. S. government issued adhesive stamps, which were issued by the postmasters of Baltimore, Brattleboro Vt., New Haven Conn., Providence, R. I. and other cities, range in price and sell readily, and in fact are really sought after and advertised for, at from \$5 to \$4200.

It pays everybody to hunt up old letters, and when they find them not to tear them from the envelope but keep them whole. Wisconsin is a good field as the state has been settled by people from New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, who in early days had correspondence with their old homes and many of them have valuable letters. A still more fruitful source for people to pick up money is to hunt up old war documents, notes, mortgages, deeds, packs of playing cards, match boxes, old patent medicine bottles, etc and soak off the revenue stamps, for which there is a great demand. They are worth from a few cents to \$200 each. Look out for them; fortunes may be passing through your hands every day

## The D. P. A. Meet.

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If you are not a member of the D. P. A.  
 You had better get your application in  
 To our Secretary, and do not delay  
 To furnish him with the necessary "tin,"  
 Because the D.P.A. convention will shortly  
 be held  
 In that ambitious town named Berlin.  
 You will enjoy yourself but I dare not tell  
 Of the many sights you will see therein.  
 There are those who have been there before,  
 Who say that they would not miss it  
 For a ton of that, which we call ore,  
 With the yellow stuff glistening in it.  
 There you and I in one day will learn more  
 About our stamps and the stamp collectors,  
 Than we could in a month before,  
 With our millimetre gauge and detectors.  
 Don't forget to bring your duplicates along  
 But that I hardly need to mention:  
 And don't forget that we will own the town  
 On the day of the D.P.A. convention.  
 We promise a good time; it will be all right  
 Many friends and good fellowship you'll  
 win.  
 Your expression will be 'It was out of sight'  
 The D.P.A. convention at Berlin.

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Possibly no set of varieties are more puzzling, not only to the beginner, but also to the fairly advanced collector, than the first series of Peru. In the 1858 issue the inscriptions are in smaller letters than in the 1859, while the 1860 can be distinguished by the line work surrounding the circle enclosing the armorial design, being zigzag instead of wavy as in both the previous designs.

U. S. revenue stamps seem to be the best sellers now on the market. One sees at least two advertisements offering them for sale to one offering other stamps. They are interesting from an artistic, historic or philatelic basis.—Evergreen State Philatelist.