

a philatelist, and as yet am considerable of a novice in stampdom. But, as Canada philatelists have been pretty good to me, and wishing to gratify my friend Widdicombe, I will do the best I can. Connecticut is a small state and though my letter will be penned in Hartford I shall go outside often for inspiration.

I am not a particular collector. The album I place stamps in is the property of my son, and he is not "fussy" at all, especially as he prefers to have me do the work, so Seebecks, reprints, locals, match, medicine, and other stamps find a resting place. But lately I have been more serious and am confining his book to Canadian and United States issues, while I have a separate book for blocks, strips, pairs, and foreign revenues, chief among which are the Canadian.

Perhaps some of my Canadian readers may not understand the title "Nutmeg Gratings." It is not an original one with me, but I believe has never been used in the philatelic press, and as there is no patent attached to it I make bold to appropriate it. We in Connecticut have a reputation of being shrewd and sometimes of being tricky, and it is traditional that the inventive Connecticut Yankee has made wooden nutmegs and sold them for the genuine article. Hence Connecticut which is usually known as the "land of steady habits," is also called the "land of wooden nutmegs" or the "Nutmeg State," and "Nutmeg Gratings" refer to news scraped up in Connecticut.

Hartford (the city of the Charter Oak) has many philatelists, and there are some who

have large collections. I believe one gentleman has, counting foreign revenues, a collection of 17,000, another over 10,000, several 6,000, and so on down, and there are a half dozen or more dealers who do a mail business of considerable proportions. I believe there is no regular stand confining itself to philatelic business, but hinges and albums are kept in the stores. Although 24 trolley lines centre here, going from thirteen miles in several directions to eighteen in one other, I doubt if a store confined to stamps and philatelic goods would pay.

There are a few collectors here who keep stamps on the cover, and I keep all extra good ones that way myself, partly for the novelty and partly for the postmarks. The largest collection I know of in the vicinity is owned by an elderly lady in an adjoining town. She has a large bureau with four drawers crammed full of envelopes with the stamps attached. Quite recently she sold one for \$50, after steadily refusing offers at a lower figure.

The Connecticut Philatelic Society has, I believe, been abandoned. It was never a very large organization. This state has many philatelists but they belong to outside societies of older growth and size. The secretary, however, who lives here, is a very efficient official, and he is still one of the best exchange superintendents in a larger society, being a very competent man.

A "Merchants' Exhibition and Food Fair" took place in Hartford the first and second weeks in February. The exhibitor, S. Miyanaga, gave away business