

PHILATELIC SUB-STUDIES.

VARIOUS MINOR DEFINITIONS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Continued from page 67.

A BLOCK of stamps when spoken of refers to four stamps of the original sheet unsevered and in the form of a square. Rarities are worth 50 per cent. more in this condition than singly; and collectors who are successful in securing rare stamps in block, should always preserve them in that form.

An Advanced Collector—I have been asked for a definition of this somewhat simple term. An advanced collector is one whose collection has become large, and who collects sub-rarities, shades, etc., and one who is scientifically interested in philately.

The "**Continental**," which are so widely advertised, are the common European stamps and are of little or no value.

A Counterfeit is an imitation of a genuine stamp of which there exists an original, while a *bogus* stamp is one of which there is no original, of which a like one was never issued, but are prepared with the intention to defraud collectors. For example of bogus stamps, I might refer to those of Sedang and many of these German Locals.

Stamps that are cancelled are those which are so obliterated so as to render them unavailable for use for postage. The common cancellation is that affixed to the stamp by means of a hand-stamp. At times they are cancelled by means of one or more pen and ink strokes. This is called *pen cancellation*. The word "**Cancelled**" is often found printed in ordinary block type across an unused stamp of an obsolete issue. This is a method often adopted by Governments, to render lots of remainders of old issues, sold to stamp dealers, unavailable for postage. For an example, see some of the 1876-78 issue of Mauritius. Again, another cancellation often met with is when the word "**Specimen**" is printed across the middle of the stamps. This is the outcome of the demand made by collectors for specimens of obsolete issues for their collections; and to supply them, Governments at times issued reprints of these old issues and sold them to collectors at face value or below, and surcharge the specimen to prevent their use for postage. Many of the department stamps of the United States were issued in this manner. While speaking of this "specimen" cancellation, I may say that this method of cancellation decreases the value of the stamp generally. This has led unscrupulous and dishonest dealers and collectors to partially remove the word specimen by means of acids, and then cover any remaining sign of the word by a heavy obliteration from an ordinary postmaster's hand-stamp. This practice is often resorted to with the rarer U. S. department stamps, but careful examination generally disclosed some trace of the word. Collectors purchasing used specimens of these stamps should always inspect them closely. In such cases as this, and in many other like cases, such as the detection of counterfeits, and distinguishing of sub-rarities, a powerful magnifying glass is invaluable, and every progressive collector should possess one.

Cut Envelopes are entire stamped envelopes from which the stamp alone is taken, it being cut square.

Dextrine is a substitute for gum arabic in the gumming of adhesive postage stamps and stamped envelopes.

Tete beche is a name applied to a stamp some part of which is printed upside down, or an inverted sur-

charge. The U. S. 1869 issue with inverted centre are printed in *Tete beche*. It also applies to stamps which are printed in sheets with each alternate row upside down.

A stamp is said to be *type set* when it is set up and printed with ordinary printer's type. For example, early issues of Hawaii, Br. Guiana, Bavaria, return letter stamps, and others.

(To be continued.)

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

PHILATELY'S ENCHANTMENTS.

II.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

BY A. R. E.

NOT only does philately offer us much of historical interest, as was shown in our last paper, but in the line of geographical studies it offers a still greater field for study.

A difference of opinion as to the value of any geographical knowledge acquired through philately has been expressed more than once. Now I contend that the collector who pays any ordinary attention to his stamps cannot but acquire fresh knowledge in this line. Of course, every rule has its exceptions. There are collectors who may not be benefited. Who are these? In the first place, the careless collector, who places a stamp in his album, and that is the end of it. Again, a collector may have pursued his geographical studies to such an extent that he knows all there is to be known; to him it is not probable that philately will teach much in this line.

However, to ordinary collectors, like you and I, philately has its geographical fascinations. How much we have learned through our stamps that we would otherwise have been ignorant of, and perhaps never known. "Here a little and there a little." It is not to be learnt at a single leap. You are well aware of that. Do you not recollect how you became the possessor of a stamp from Seychelles, Gambia, Sierra Leone, or some other distant country whose situation you did not know? How you became curious, and became possessed of a desire for research, and how you looked over your maps till you found it. Its situation became impressed on your mind through association with the stamp. Nor does the knowledge gained cease here. One thing after another is learned—population, coinage, inhabitants, climate, products, rulers, mode of government, etc.—all alike become impressed on the mind.

Now as to all this, I trust no one will think I claim the stamp itself teaches all this. Not so; but I do maintain that it is the stamp which stimulates the desire and interest in this research, and that the knowledge learned in this connection is less likely to be forgotten.

The standard stamp albums always give the statistics, etc., of the country at the head of the pages, that it may be easily acquired, being brought before the collector's eyes in connection with the stamps of that country.

School teachers are usually considered the most competent judges in this matter, and nine teachers out of ten will inform you that, as a rule, the brightest students in his geography class are stamp collectors. Study your stamps. Inform yourself in regard to every new stamp or country you secure. In this way much valuable knowledge may be pleasantly acquired.

With thanks to the editor of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST for his valuable space, I will close, trusting to have the privilege of again addressing you through these columns in the near future.