



Some Interesting Aerial Post Stamps.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

(Stephen Golder, Hon. Secretary).

President, Mr. S. Gintzburger; vice-president, Mr. W. A. Pound; Directors, Messrs. J. Coulthard, A. J. Croker, Dr. Eden Walker, Canon G. d'Easum, Major T. B. Thomas, Hon. sec. Mr. Stephen Golder, Room 145 Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, B. C.

The same year that witnessed the birth of the British Columbia Philatelic Society saw the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Royal Philatelic Society, which was formed on April 10th, 1869. This society by its work has achieved a splendid record of work on the study of stamps. It holds a record unparalleled in the history of philately. It has elevated stamp collecting to the plane of a scientific pastime and itself has been elevated to the status of a Royal Society. Few of the "philistines" realize how stable and permanent is the stamp collector's hobby. How few realize that for over fifty years men of brilliant talents and high positions have found recreation and stimulating occupation in the study of these little, but significant "scraps of paper."

Philately, what does it mean? is the question often asked by outsiders. The word from the Greek means "Love of things free from tax," the science of stamp collecting. This is a very different thing from the mere accumulation of postage stamps. It represents the development upon intellectual lines of the pastime of stamp collecting. It involves a study of the processes involved in the production of the stamps of the postal systems of the various countries and of the actual stamps themselves. Thus one issue of a set of the United States stamps was only discovered by Mr. J. N. Luff nearly sixteen years after it was issued, and the fact that it was in use was only proved by looking at the records of the then third assistant postmaster-general.

Stamp collecting has been a harmless amusement of the younger generation for nearly sixty years, but the scientific treatment of the subject dates from 1862 when the French started the movement in Paris. It gradually spread to England though its pioneers came in for a good deal of ridicule. The Royal Philatelic Society of London has its origin in the weekly meetings of a few enthusiasts who used to foregather in the rooms of the Rev. F. J. Stainforth, curate of the church of All Hallows, Staining. He himself was amongst the keenest students of the science and amongst other men of standing were Sir David Cooper, Judge Philbrick, Dr. Vinet, Mr. Mount Brown and E. L. Pemberton. Today such societies are legion and in London, Paris and Lyons, there are open-air exchanges at which all sorts and conditions of people jostle one another, including sometimes a member of the ministry.

The British Columbia Philatelic Society has been formed to give stamp collectors in the Province a chance to meet together, exhibiting their collections and exchanging duplicates. Already much good work has been accomplished and the membership roll includes the Swiss, French and Mexican

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Consuls, Dr. De Wolf Smith and Dr. R. Eden Walker, New Westminster; Canon G. d'Easum, New Westminster; Brig.-Gen. Leckie; Major Thomas and many prominent Government officials from Victoria, Port Alberni, Trail, and Vancouver. Several ladies have also joined the society and are regular attendants at the society's fortnightly meetings which are held at the Blue Dragon Tea Rooms, Georgia Street. The membership fee is only \$2.00 and the honorary secretary-treasurer will be pleased to hear from collectors in the district.

The Forest

There falls no shadow here of ancient Death:
Time's morning has not lost its young delight
Nor bleared with evil dreams its eager sight:
This world lives yet the measure of its breath
Free and unharassed. Envy, scorn, and spite,
Diseases dwarfing oft ambitious men,
Whose boundless hearts they shrivel to a pen
Of bestial passions, fate forbids to blight
The gentle woodland. Hither sweet Content
Has fled mankind; but O, the heavy loss
That we should sell our finest gold for dross!
Yet from this younger age a message sent
May soothe our hearts outworn; there is no ease
More deep than springtide blown from murmuring trees.

—DONALD GRAHAM.

Sey. **THORPE'S** Sey.
1 **PALE DRY** 1
8 **GINGER ALE** 8
1 1

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WHAT THE B. C. M. MANAGER SAID:

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The British Columbia Monthly

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