

"special order" envelopes (probably speculative) just issued: 1 centavo green on blue and 2c Carmine on blue.

The newest alleged philatelic fraud, or rather pair of frauds, hails from Chicago and Detroit. A man in the windy city has just been arrested for counterfeiting foreign stamps, and the week before in Detroit a shrewd salesman of rare stamps on original covers managed to get arrested. However, so long as the swindling is on a large scale like this, collectors have on their side a powerful ally in the United States federal officials, who are going to prosecute this case to the end. There is a moral to be found in this success of this man who offered to sell rare stamps at far less than the market prices, but the reader will draw it for himself.

From my experience in auctions "buy in the East, sell in Chicago" would be a good thing to paste in your hat. Prices in that city run 10 or 15 per cent higher in auctions than here.

The new books of stamps are out. Each book contains 12 two cent stamps, 2 sheets of 6 stamps with oiled paper between, and is sold for 25c. The covers contain a lot of valuable postal information.

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Information.

BY CHAS. F. ROBINSON.

Benzine is the only thing that will locate a difficult watermark without injuring the gum. Many persons think that benzine injures the color or the paper. This is only true in the case of one stamp, the 10c Brussels Exposition in the first color. With this exception good benzine will not injure the most delicate color, or have any effect on paper or gum. To be sure, there

is impure Lenzine but this can be avoided, the de-odorized being the best.

The "insurance letter" stamps of U. S. of Colombia represent more than mere registration, as the same country has an issue intended solely for the registry department. The "cubiertas" are used in connection with a system of postal insurance, the fee paid being proportioned according to the value of the contents which are described in full on the large label at the bottom of the huge stamp. The latter is attached to the back of the envelope and has nothing to do with postage or registration.

All stamps of North Borneo from 1887 to date are sold in sheets "canceled to order" with the regular cancellation, consisting of an oval composed of parallel bars. After the gum is removed it is quite impossible to distinguish between the canceled to order specimen and one that has been genuinely used except by the position of the cancellation. In canceling by the sheet the obliteration is usually applied to two or four stamps at once, so that each stamp has a part of the postmark only. This is ordinarily along one side for the high values and in one corner for the others (1c to \$1). The same applies to recent Labuan issues also, including the bi-colored series and the lithographed "queen's head" issue.

The embossing on the issues of U. S. for 1867-70 was not a mode of cancellation, but the purpose was protection. The grilling die was to break the fibre of the paper and allow the cancelling ink to so saturate the paper as to make the removal of the ink by stamp cleaners almost impossible.

Collectors who intend to attend the D. P. A. Convention should send their names to the Secretary at once.