

HOW TO GET OLD STAMPS.

My philatelic friends often express surprise at the amount of old U. S. stamps I sometimes bring from a trip through our little Nutmeg State.

The secret of getting old United States stamps is to visit some small town and get acquainted with the post master. When you and he are well known to each other, lead the conversation around to stamp collecting. Tell him that good stamps are often to be found in small post offices. Set him interested and have him look over his stock of stamps.

Now is the time to keep your nerve. Even if he should stun you by laying out the 90c of the '68 issue do not swoon, but glance at it and try it down very much as though it was nothing out of the common.

When he has laid out all he has, glance them over and decide how many of those treasures your purse can pay for at face value.

Remark to the post master that there is nothing very rare in these stamps and then say you guess you will take these 90c stamps for a friend who collects sheets or blocks. If you have not got "dough" to take them all at once get as many as you can, and don't excite the post master or make him believe that they are of any special value. Thus you may become the possessor of many rare and valuable stamps.

My latest find was a block of four

of the 10c of 1872. The above was worth about \$40. H B Steele.

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