

After soaking stamps, always dry them by laying between blotting papers, which can be obtained at any book-store. Never lay the stamp on a table or any similar surface to dry, as they generally curl and crumple up, while when dried between blotters they come out dry, crisp and flat.

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Always be prompt in your dealings. Want of promptness causes a good deal of dissatisfaction and sometimes serious misunderstandings in the stamp business. The dealer who does not fill his customers' orders promptly seldom retains his trade, and as a collector you should also be prompt, else your brother collectors with whom you have cordial relations of exchange will soon seek others who will answer with some degree of promptness. It is especially important to examine and return approval sheets promptly. Do not lay it aside to return in a few days for in all probability you will overlook it. If it is a valuable lot relieve the mind of the sender by acknowledging its receipt by dropping him a postal.

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Exercise care and order in keeping of your duplicates. Do not have them all mixed up in a box so that when you desire to find a certain stamp you will have to look all through the box for it. Keep each country in a separate envelope, and as a result you can readily lay your hand on any duplicate you may desire.

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It is best not to leave rare stamps lying around loose or in envelopes. The best and handsomest method, one used by hundreds, is to get a small note book, such as will go in the vest pocket, and place said duplicates between the leaves. This keeps them in A1 condition. Try it.

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Do not be too anxious to obtain complete sets of the current issues, rather endeavor to complete your sets of the old issues which are rapidly increasing in value.

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Subscribe to a few of the best Philatelic papers; the knowledge gained will many times repay you for the small outlay.

CHICAGO NOTES.

BY THE EDITOR.

In the Spring ye editor felt that load in the pocket which all philatelic publishers are loth to feel; the golden shackles which result from the publishing of a magazine, created a resolute spirit in ye editor's mind, so that he must needs seek a change of air. Accordingly he went to Chicago, where he found little difficulty in spending his hard earned pennies.

It was not for Philately's benefit that he went, yet he must needs call in upon one or two of Chicago's leading dealers, otherwise they might feel slighted at being overlooked.

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I dropped in on Mr. R. M. Wolsieffer at 75 State St., and found him busy, yet not too busy to talk. Mr. Wolsieffer handles both music and stamps. He did not remark which paid the best profit. Music of course! The above gentleman does a large local trade and carries a first-class stock of albums and the cheaper grades of stamps. He informed me that he had disposed of over two hundred of Meekel's "World

Albums" already. He finds it a favorite. Mr. Wolsieffer does not care about Canadian trade, owing to custom duties, so be sure not to write him. He will not notice you! I received a cordial invitation to attend a meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society on that evening, but as I had come to Chicago to escape stamps and things stampy, I did not attend. How bad the members must have felt!

In Mr. Wolsieffer's store I met Mr. Carrol White, a Buffalo correspondent of our firm.

The A. P. A. stamp exhibit is not yet in place. President Tiffany left town the night before I arrived and fortunately for himself, escaped an interview.

The stamp exhibits of the Postal Departments of Foreign Governments in the U. S. Government Building at the Fair is exceptionally fine. Austria and kindred European countries exhibit almost complete sets of their respective countries. The Mexican exhibit is one of the best. In one frame are a large number of the rare local issues. Whether these are genuine originals or not I am unable to say. The general issues, Port de Mar stamps, etc., are complete and very tastefully arranged. Tasmania has the largest exhibit of the British colonies. Entire sheets of nearly all varieties from the first issue to date are shown, including 4d. and other rarities of the first issue. Trinidad also has a large exhibit, including a large number of cut provisionals. I suspect a collector has had something to do with this exhibit, as all the stamps are classified in a philatelic manner. Stamps perf. 14 and perf. 13, etc. are all arranged in their respective issues. A large upright case contains the adhesive exhibit of the U. S. Post Office Dept. Therein are arranged complete sets of proofs of all U. S. postage, carrier, department, newspaper, etc. These are all very artistically arranged. Dozens of a single variety are employed to fill up the case. In another case near at hand is the first sheet of 2c. Columbians printed, in unperforated condition. In another case is the remainder of the U. S. exhibit, in which are all varieties of entire envelopes on different varieties of paper, among which I noticed a number of rarities. The other exhibits I did not inspect, as I will be in Chicago a little later, when all the exhibits are arranged, and will then furnish the readers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST with a full account of the stamp exhibits at the Fair. These will not be all arranged for some time yet.

While viewing the stamp exhibit at the Fair, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. F. N. Massoth, who is well known through his *Stamp Collector's Figure*, which he at one time published from Hanover Centre, Ind. Mr. Massoth has gone out of the stamp business, but still maintains a brisk interest in things philatelic. He extended me an invitation to the meeting of the Chicago Branch of the Western Philatelic Union, but as it would be out of place to show partiality between this Society and the Chicago Philatelic Society, I did not go!

I dropped into an elevator and was conveyed into the spacious offices of the Western Stamp & Coin Co. This firm recently succeeded the S. B. Bradt Co., and is the largest in Chicago. They also control Cobbs' Circulating Library. The trade carried on is principally local. The manager informed me that the Auction Sales which proved so successful under the sway of the S. B. Bradt Co. were shortly to be