

men.

Geography, like history, is closely related to the study of postage stamps. To the student it opens the geographical panorama of the world. Republics, whose positions, and even names, the collector would be ignorant of were he not brought face to face with the postage stamp of that republic.

Not only must the collector know the geographical position of the different nations, but he must also be familiar with the language of that country. This language he learns indirectly from his stamps. The stamps of the Oriental nations present a most interesting study. We have the names of the countries and the value in languages that are blind hieroglyphics even to the majority of educated people. The alphabets of some of these eastern countries require in themselves serious study and one who may say that the stamps of Asia have no secrets to him may be regarded as a learned man.

It is the object of the writer to place before the people the true benefit of stamp collecting, promote the study and diffusion of knowledge of Philately, and encouragement of closer intercourse between philatelists of the world and mutual benefit of all.

United States Minutes.

CONDUCTED BY USONA.

Private proprietaries are now legitimately a thing of the past, but the Marchand Company, fired by the success of the Lee experiment, have had 80 sheets of each value of the issue printed, presumably for collectors. "One of them is

born every minute" and this lot of stickers will soon be reposing in albums.

The letter of D. P. A. member 614, in the June number, is good. The member of a society who does not wish to pay dues should resign and not wait for suspension. The members, often, who are most blatant in their utterances and most free with their advice while in the society (to judge from the list recently published in the official organ) leave by this method.

One of our reviewers complains that the writers of really good philatelic stuff are fewer in number than they used to be, ten years ago. But how much wider and newer a field writers of ten years ago could use: everything was new and the painstaking research necessary today to bring out something fresh was not then required. The writer of today is in competition with hundreds where the one of ten years ago was alone, and consequently the good articles are divided among many, and no one builds up the worldwide reputation of the most discursive writer of ten years since.

The inverted vignette one and two cent Pan-Americans are held at \$17 and \$20 respectively, and these prices are very low. Those who can afford to invest should do so if they must have these freaks as they will soon be rare.

The registry of the center varies greatly, the locomotive is sometimes up so high as to obscure the "United States" and again so low as to cover the figure of value.

Two editors of monthly journals in the United States have, by working out to completeness an old idea, lifted their publications from the rut and placed them among the books a philatelic library must have. The Fraud Reporter in the N. Y.