

• THE • CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING

VOL. III.

JANUARY, 1897.

No. 11.

WHAT WE SHOULD COLLECT.

During an experience as a collector and dealer, of over twenty-five years ; I have seen many changes in the way or style or manner which you may please to ascribe it, of collecting and classifying the stamps of the world.

In a short retrospect I will try to give as full a list of the rise of philatelic periods as possible and afterwards tell you how I should collect if I were to start again. Many years ago say twenty-five, when there were no such thing as price catalogues, nor yet such a thing as a descriptive catalogue of the world, stamps were collected altogether as curious works of art, only one of the same design, or maybe color being desired, and these were well and securely glued (to stay) on the pages of some pocket note book, or sometimes put in a picture scrap book. There were very few stamp albums made in America at that time, and it was very seldom that European albums such as Lalliers, Gibbons, Moens Rou-sins, Grays or even Oppens were seen.

At that time the stamp collecting world knew only the stamp as a curiosity of design, and beyond that they did not care to come, being well satisfied with the knowledge that there was plenty of varieties (5000 to 6000 postage and revenue being in existence at that time) to keep up a greed or ambition without looking for such as tints, papers, water-marks, perforations etc., etc. At that time such stamps as the 1857 and the 1858 (perforated, 6d Canada were of the

same value (on sheets at 5 or 10 cents according to liberality of the party who had them up for sale, but never more). It was about, or maybe shortly after this that the first idea and commencement of specialism originated, it had its beginning by some three or four dealer collectors in the United States confining themselves only to the stamps of the United States, both postage and revenue ; such names as Sterling, Adams, Boyntan, etc. may be mentioned as some of the pioneers in the great field of specialism. Some little while after the United States specialism broke out an album for only one variety of each denomination issued, independent of perforations etc. etc., was put on the market, which, although called the common-sense album, was the opening up of variety in its many branches. Since it somewhat aroused the curiosity of even the humblest collector why such things should exist and still no place for them in the album.

At this period (say 1876—1878) such a thing as pricing a stamp at one dollar or more was unknown, as can be seen by referring to a few old price lists will show. I think it was in 1880 that the boom, or specialism first struck Canada, in that year a Mr. — of Quebec, in a list of his Canadian duplicates in which he showed shades, perforation papers and so forth, which was surprising in their number and distinctness, as also the price of some. This circular was really the starter, as it were, of the idea in Canada, and which has been ably added to by many larger lists and catalogues of the