

perforating machine is not of modern origin and also that the operator of the machine was sometimes cross-eyed, as is always the case in the modern times.

Another point upon which I wish to speak and I am through. *Thank heaven!* Collectors should never become angry and abusive in the presence of their stamps. Besides learning the stamps bad habits, the sulphuric charged air will, in some cases, change the color of a stamp. *The five-cents, yellow, United States 1861, is probably referred to in this connection, for this yellow shade will be changed to the common brown color, if exposed to sulphuric air.*

There was some less important advice in the manuscript, but in the interests of humanity and myself, I will forego the pleasure of translating it. However, since I translated the above it has occurred to me that, as postage stamps were not introduced for some years after the venerable Egyptian's demise, he possibly did not refer to these particular bits of paper, and it may be that he meant to give some advice concerning money, if the slang expression for cash was current at that time.

But, as I do not wish to lose the time I spent in the translation, I have made arrangements with Mr. Staehler for the publication of same, paying him the sum of ten cents for so doing.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THE PROS AND CONS OF POSTAL CARD COLLECTING.

BY M. MORRIS.

THE collecting of post cards is becoming more general every year. A few years ago one scarcely ever met a Philatelist who collected postal cards, but recently a very large number have embraced this very interesting branch of Philately. I will endeavor in this article to state a few of the reasons why I collect cards, and also why a certain friend of mine does not.

I will first state my reasons for being a post card collector. Firstly, at the present time the price of most cards is low enough to place them within the reach of all. I do not know of more than twenty kinds of cards that are worth over \$3 apiece, while most of them range in price from 5 to 50 cents. While every reader of this paper is acquainted with the prices which are paid for some varieties of stamps, there are in reality some thousand varieties which are worth over \$10 each. The question of cost has a great deal to do with the size of a person's collection. A stamp collection of ten thousand varieties is not so very unusual, while a post card collection of five thousand varieties is considered a very fine one. Secondly, by being a post card collector I can collect from all over the world. Among stamp collectors nearly every one is a specialist, in one way or another, at the present time, and one of the principal reasons for this is the number of stamps which are necessary to begin to make an album look full, while a specialist only has to complete his favorite country; but to do this he reluctantly has to give up collecting the stamps of the rest of the world, which he as a rule does not like doing. It is not necessary that a post card collector become a specialist, as there are not over eight thousand varieties of postal cards, while there are

some fifty thousand stamps in existence. Thirdly, the engraving on the postal card is where the engraver gets in some of his fine art. On the postage stamp there is not sufficient room for him to fully display his skill, and in order to display it he must enlarge his stamp, which has proved a failure, as is amply illustrated by the manner in which the general public received the Columbian issue. In engraving the post card, however, he has all the room he wants. By this I do not mean to say that all the post cards issued at the present time are the finest possible specimens of the engraver's art, for many of them are meant for use and not for show, and consequently have the least possible amount of engraving on them. Such are the cards of the United States, Canada, France, Tunis, etc. The cards of Salvador, Honduras and British Central Africa are some examples of the fine engraving that appears on some of our postal cards. Another argument in favor of postal cards is that they have never been surcharged to any great extent, or counterfeited. A collector of cards does not have to fill his album up with surcharged cards, for cards have not been very extensively surcharged, and those that have been are principally legitimate issues for use in correspondence and not made for to sell to collectors. I know of but one or two exceptions where cards were made for the purpose of selling to collectors, one case of which occurred recently in the cards of Bermuda. Only three of the French colonies have surcharged their cards, while nearly all of the colonies have surcharged their stamps. The collector of cards does not always have to be on the lookout for counterfeits when he is buying cards, for only the cards of Japan, first issue, and Heligoland 1876 5x5 p f green, and this card surcharged in 1879, have been counterfeited, while hardly any varieties of stamps either common or rare, have been exempt from the efforts of counterfeits.

Now, as to the reason why my friend does not collect cards and my answer to his arguments. In the first place he states that cards are too large to handle readily and too bulky to keep arranged nicely. In reply to this I told him that cards were far easier to handle than the entire envelopes which he collects; as to their bulkiness, a collection of cards can be kept as nicely as a collection of stamps, although I must admit they take up a little more room. However, publishers are beginning to make albums especially for postal cards. Secondly, he stated that they were harder to obtain than stamps and that they contained too many printer's errors. In reply to the first part of this objection I would say that a great many of the dealers in America deal in postal cards, while it is quite easy to obtain the new issues through the purchasing department of the Postal Card Society of America, and the American Philatelic Association. As to the number of errors, a collector is not under any obligation to collect all the varieties of errors although they have a special attraction for me, he may collect only one each of the principal varieties. Still what are the errors on the cards compared with the errors that occur on many of the stamps?

In conclusion I will say that it is my candid opinion that there is more pleasure to be derived from the collecting of postal cards than there is from any other known branch of specialism that exists at the present time.