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removing parts of old hinges from the backs. Now, what collector is there who can say that in all his collecting experience he has never injured a stamp? Not one I vouch, even after he became advanced or a specialist. The decrease that is constantly going on in good specimens is greater than we have suspected, I believe.

I have always used it either marking price lightly in pencil on backs, or sending a list annexed with the stamp. Most unused stamps collected twenty years ago, were stuck in the albums, and consequently, are to-day without gum, except such as few as have been removed by some one who thoroughly understood the art.

And beyond and above all this, are we so very certain, when we look back and see the mistakes of our predecessors in removing stamps from original covers, cutting envelopes round and square, etc., that we to day are not doing other unsuspected harmful acts to our stamps which will make them less valuable to the collectors of the next century? If, by this article, I can have saved a few stamps only from mutilation, by making collectors more careful in handling their treasure, I shall feel it not written in vain.

*Philatelic Facts and Fallacies.*