

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

agree with me. I mean, stick to the regular postal issues and leave alone varieties, errors, shades and oddities. It may seem strange that I who have written so much about the side lines of collecting should advocate this, but I am not inconsistent for the other articles were written for advanced collectors or at least those who for lack of new material were liable to loose their interest temporarily in philately. The printed International albums are one of the best guides for a beginner, although even into these creep some not strictly authoritative outputs.

Until after you have 2500 varieties in your collection leave alone shades, errors perforations and all the numerous varieties that specialists go into. Do not long for inverted Buffalo stamps or the peculiarly spelled surcharges of countries denominated by a philatelic printer. Of course if such come your way at no expense you may either save them or better still trade them for some more desirable standard issues.

Collect Old Issues.

This advice in these latter days will be contested by some collectors, of what I may call the new school. The advocate collecting the bright new issues as they come out, keeping up to date and affirming that they increase in value more rapidly than the old issues. This is only partly true; up to a certain extent they do, but not in the long run. They even go so far some of this new school as to

collect only stamps issued since 1890 or 1900. But stick to the old issues. They are growing scarcer every day, especially the common ones which are not guarded so carefully as the rare ones. If you do not secure them while they are common, some day you will wake to the fact that the despised has become scarce and have to pay well for what once you threw away.

Don't let the bright and gaudy new issues deceive you. Their colors will not last like some of the stamps now fifty years old and no better engraving is done to-day than on the earliest issues. Do our Buffalo stamps equal the 1869 issue either in beauty of design or excellence of engraving? Not by a long ways. And the ordinary current set with its aniline colors will be very insignificant when compared with our first issues, twenty years from now.

The first English coin was dated 1547.

The practice of dating coins did not come into use until the sixteenth century.

Gold coins, though hardened with alloy, wear so rapidly in abrasion by handling that simply moving and counting a million dollars in the treasury vaults at Washington, reduced the weight of the mass by some twenty-five pounds of gold—equal to \$6,000.

The English mint coins about 150,000 000 coins each year.

Whale teeth form the coinage of Fiji Islands. They are painted white and red, the red teeth being worth about twenty times as much as the white.