

Chinese Bibliography.

The *Bulletin de l'Institut International de Bibliographie* of Brussels, (vol. v. nos 1-2), gives an extract of a letter of the late Henry Lounyer, Belgium's Minister at Pekin, referring to the possibility of making a bibliography of the Chinese empire. Mr. Lounyer says that this work would require more than a life time of continuous research, without any satisfactory results. There are millions of Chinese writers who deluge the literary market with innumerable books of every kind.

The title of a Chinese book is always deceiving. For instance, a book entitled: *From West to East* treats of civilization; another *Please not to forget our precious host* simply means: lodgings for travellers.

Chinese historical works are divided into a great number of sections, and have all been written on the same plans by different authors. The last of these compilations called the *Twenty Four Histories*, comprises 3,264 volumes, written by twenty different authors, beginning with Sé-ma-tsien, China's Herodotus. Of the historical annals, those of the famous historian Sé-ma-Kuang, deserve mention: The *Annals* are called *Tze-Chils-Tung-Chin*, or the *Government's Mirror*, and they form 294 volumes.

Each province has its own work on topography and that of the province of Canton numbers 183 volumes. The most remarkable bibliography is the

descriptive catalogue of the present imperial dynasty, comprising 400 volumes. This catalogue also contains the *expurgatorius index*, prohibiting the sale or the possession of several thousands of books.

Chinese books are generally cheap, not bound but simply sewn, and they are printed on a very light paper.

Philatelic Treasures.

An exhibition of postage stamps was held in Paris, from the 28th of August to the 9th of September last. One hundred and fifty philatelists from all over the world, but particularly from France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States, had forwarded to the organizers parts of their collections.

It was in 1840 that the first postage stamps made their appearance in England. In France, they came into use in 1842. The first Canadian issue, consisting of three different stamps, was put out in 1851.

From the issue of the first stamps, to the present time, the number of philatelists, or *timbrophiles*, has rapidly and considerably increased, especially in Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and the United States. There are now several precious collections of stamps.

The richest collection is said to be that of Mr. La Renotière-Ferray which is valued at seven millions. It has more value than Baron Rothschild's or the Prince of Wales', and