

be cut square with wide margins, but when possible you should keep them entire, as there may be different sizes of the envelopes, some of which are worth more. This is the case with the U. S. Columbian issue.

Don't buy a few common stamps in preference to a good one. Remember, it takes time to form a collection. You must build it up 'ONE BLOCK AT A TIME'.

Avoid foreign correspondence until your collection numbers a few thousand varieties. When you receive a pack of stamps, sort them carefully. Rarities have been found in cheap packages. A party once purchased a 25 cent packet and the dealer by mistake had placed a Stamp (worth \$100.00) into it. Watch all U. S. issues for Grilles of different sizes. Do not pass the study of watermarks. In most cases you can see the mark by holding it to the light, or placing the stamp face down on a dark surface. If you want an Album to amuse and interest yourself in after years you should note down under each stamp the price paid, date, from whom obtained and its value at the time. Subscribe to a few Philatelic papers and procure all the Phil. Literature which you can afford and read.

A few hundred papers will be very help-