

fancy border Sandwich Island first issue valued at two hundred dollars or more, has an almost complete collection of Australian, Central American and Provincial stamps; another containing 6,000 adhesive and envelope stamps; still another consisting of 4,750 kinds; while collections ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 varieties are quite numerous. A leading San Francisco dealer has a sufficiently large enough number of varieties to supply any one who may wish them, with some 5,000 different kinds at any moment. His importations of stamps from foreign countries would count into the millions, and no less than half a million "continentals" or mixed European stamps have been received by him in one single instance from London. The growth of "philately" has grown to vast proportions on the Pacific Coast, and is constantly on the increase. Within a year or two past there has also sprung up various journals devoted entirely to the science of stamp collecting. The first stamp publication was published in Boston, Mass., in 1866.

It is estimated also that there are at least three hundred thousand active postage stamp collectors in America, who collect for their own amusement, and an immense number who collect Match Medicine, Document, Tobacco stamps, etc.

A new rage, and the latest is the collecting of unused entire United States stamped envelopes, some of which are sold at fabulous prices. In New York, Philadelphia and Boston monthly auction sales of stamps take place which are well attended by stamp buyers and are very popular.

The following is a partial list of single stamps, all exceeding rarities which brought five dollars and over at a most remarkable recent New York sale at Leavitt & Co.'s auction rooms: Brattleboro, 5 cents, \$175; New York, 3 cents, buff, \$75; New Haven, 5 cents, \$25; Nova Scotia, 1st, mauve, \$16; St. Louis, 10 cents (Arms of Missouri), \$15.25; Geneva, double stamps, \$11.50; Tuscany, 2 soldi, \$9.25; Tuscany, 60 cruzio, \$9; Buenos Ayres, 8 pesos, green, \$9; Brazil, 500 reis, italic, \$5.25; Spain (Madrid), 8 cents, bronze, \$5; Mauritius, the rare one penny of 1850, brought \$5.—*Grass Valley Union*.

### SWINDLING THE LITTLE ONES.

Rather an odd question has been raised in the Postoffice Department growing out of the rapid increase among the young folks of this country of philately, or the desire to collect postage stamps in albums. A prominent New York journalist has written to the department that he has discovered 12,000

stamp collectors among the children in the New York public schools, and that these children are imposed upon by firms who manufacture fac-similes of postage stamps and sell them as genuine cancelled stamps, thus swindling the little ones. He has requested that these firms be proceeded against by the Post-office Department for counterfeiting foreign stamps. Inspectors have been directed to report upon the matter, and a thorough investigation will be made by the department.—*Phila. Press*.

The letter carriers' delivery on the Island commenced for the summer on the 25th ulto.

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