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On Local Stamps.

The study and classification of local stamps has ever been a much neglected branch in the science of philately. Recently however collectors have had their attention called to them, by the articles which have appeared lately on those of the United States, Confederate States, and Russia. Although these are the most prominent, yet there are many other countries where locals have been used, which should have quite as much attention. The object then, of the present article is to bring forward into the full glare of philatelic light, the long but undeservedly neglected study of local stamps; to show what should and what should not be collected, by distinguishing between the real and the sham; and in a word, to give a concise history of all stamps issued for local purposes.

Locals are generally understood to mean private as well as local stamps, even if not used in one particular locality alone; taking this, then, as the definition of the term, we at once have two divisions, namely "Official or government locals" and "Unofficial or private locals."

Official locals may be divided into two classes:

I. Stamps issued by the government for use in some particular province or state, as those of the Swiss Cantons, Alsace and Lorraine, Antioquia, and others.

II. Stamps issued by the government for use in some particular city, as those for Madrid, Stockholm, the Russian towns, etc.

The stamps of the first class form the boundary between emissions for local and general purposes, and of them we do not intend to treat in this article, considering them almost altogether out of the province of local stamps. Those of the second class are issued either by the general government for local purposes, or by the local authorities for their own use, but whether one or the other they come under the head of locals.

Unofficial locals may be divided into three classes:

I. Stamps used for strictly postal purposes, namely those representing the fee for delivering *letters*.

II. Stamps used for purposes not strictly postal, such as those which represent the fee for the delivery of *parcels*.

III. Stamps made merely for sale and which if ever used in any way, are nothing better than advertising labels.

Having now dissected our subject, as the doctors say, we will proceed to the stamps themselves; it is probable that many of our readers may imagine that we intend considering the stamps belonging to each of our divisions separately, this we had at first purposed doing, but for readiness of reference we have decided to take each country in alphabetical order, but shall frequent-