

pared an edition of his catalogue which omits all distinction of paper, watermark, perforation, etc., which he is supplying to the trade at a very low rate, enabling them to retail it at a nominal figure—25 cents. This is a step in the right direction. A catalogue of this description, and at this price, will have a large sale, and fill a long-felt want. However, the catalogue of the J. W. Scott Co. is not recognized as the Standard, the prices in many cases being far from correct; consequently, it is improbable that the catalogue will ever be adopted for general use. Now, were the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. to issue two distinct editions of their popular, though far from perfect, catalogue, as Mr. J. W. Scott has done, publishing albums on the same lines, the difficulty would be to a great extent solved; and I have no doubt that both catalogues and albums would have a largely increased sale, and cause a revival among many whose interest in stamp collecting has flagged. If this were carried into effect, the scientific collector would have a catalogue dealing with all varieties, which he studies so carefully, while the ordinary collectors would have an edition free from the varieties in which they take no interest. Philately's advancement during the past few years has been phenomenal. I trust that for the sake of the future of our science, the day will not be far distant when we will be able to obtain two such editions of the S. S. and C. C.'s catalogue, or some other equally as good.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

FROM OVER THE BORDER.

Seebeck is making hay while the sun shines. The 1896 issues for Salvador and Nicaragua are out.

* *

Mr. Theodore Toppell, a well-known New York dealer, formerly with the Bogert and Durbin Co., died a few days ago.

* *

In purchasing the U. S. 1861 10c. variety, caution should be exercised, as there is a very good counterfeit of this stamp being circulated.

* *

State Philatelic Directories are the order of the day. Mr. E. W. Hensinger, of San Antonio, announces the publication of *The Texas Philatelic Directory*.

* *

The Eastern Philatelist recently published an able article on the ribbed paper varieties of the United States, which stamps are at present receiving considerable attention from our leading specialists.

* *

A bill has been introduced in Congress which provides that any city of over 100,000 population may issue a special set of stamps commemorating events in its history. If the bill passes, it may have the effect of adding thousands of new collectors to our ranks.

* *

The government of the Republic of Cuba, whose headquarters are at present in New York City, has issued a set of stamps. Although these stamps will not at present do postal duty, they are having a good sale. Apparently there are many sympathizers with the Cuban cause among the vast army of stamp collectors.

* *

The now fast approaching annual elections of the A. P. A., S. of P. and P. S. of A., are already becoming a subject of discussion. Messrs. O. K. Carstarphen, of Denver, Roy F. Green, and R. W. Ashcroft, are among the candidates for the presidency of the latter society; while for the same office in the former the names of Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer, of Chicago, and Dr. S. G. Stein, of Muscatine, are suggested.

HENRY F. DOYLE.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

GENERAL CONTINENTAL NEWS.

An important philatelic exhibition will be held July 17th to 22nd in The Hague, Holland. I expect to be able to give particulars in my next letter.

* *

According to *The South African Philatelist*, the Natal 1d. rose, surcharged "Zululand" is spurious. It was never issued for use in that country.

* *

The accepted design for the new French stamp is receiving considerable adverse comment here. We certainly would be justified in expecting something better from a country that stands so high in the world of art.

* *

At the meeting of the City of London Philatelic Club, held on the evening of the 23rd ult., a tintometer was exhibited, a contrivance which is valuable for determining the colors of stamps. There was a large attendance at this meeting.

* *

A correspondent informs me that on June 25th the government of Ecuador will issue a series of seven stamps, which will only be available for postage on that and the following ten days. The issue is intended to commemorate the victory of the people over the government that humiliated the country by the sale of the cruiser Esmeralda.

* *

I notice in *The Australian Stamp Collector* that the Central Exploration Co. recently sold to the Black Flag Mining Co. leases of some sixty-six acres of land for a consideration of £525,000. The duty on the transfer amounted to £2,625, and in order to provide a stamp for this amount the government of Western Australia surcharged a 1d. revenue stamp, "£2625." This stamp is unique, and it may well be called an unobtainable rarity.

* *

The Philatelic Society, of Geneva, Switzerland, have just announced that they will hold an International Exhibition of Postage Stamps in the Museum of Decorative Arts, one of the finest public buildings of that beautiful little Swiss city, Geneva. The exhibition will be held August 8 to 23, inclusive, and it will undoubtedly be a success. The well-known collectors on the committee of arrangements justify this supposition. This society is one of the best of our continental societies, and among its members are such prominent philatelists as Messrs. M. P. Castle, of Brighton; Dr. E. Diena, of Modena; J. Bernichon, of Paris; C. Muriset-Gicot, of Geneva; J. Joerin-Suter, of Basle, and many others.

A. J. RINNERS

CORRESPONDENCE.

Under this heading I will publish any correspondence of interest to my readers, and answer such questions of general interest as may be submitted.

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