

give a larger price for that one than it would otherwise bring. Stamp collectors will tell you that there is more demand where all stamps of a particular issue are easily obtainable with the exception of one or two. Issues that are practically obsolete have no active demand.

The highest price ever paid for a postage stamp was £1000, or \$4,810, by W. H. Peckitt, of London, who bought a penny Mauritius stamp of 1847 for that price at auction last year. It is the rarest stamp in the world.

A stamp the value of 3 c de peso surcharged on the United States 3 cent stamp has been issued for Cuba, so that the full set including 1 to 10 c de peso.

An error has been discovered in the 5 cent stamp surcharged for Cuba, the lower portion of the "B" is broken making the surcharge read "Cupa" instead of "Cuba."

A new United States revenue stamp 4 3/8 in value has been issued.

The United States Government are preparing special dies for the use of large proprietary firms.

Some years ago a well known collector, who is also a wag, caused the publication of a story that an old lady in Albany, N.Y., had died and left in her will a provision that her valuable collection should be divided among the collectors in the United States who were fortunate enough to own Brattleboro stamps. He announced himself as the executor of the estate. In that way he was able to locate all the Brattleboro stamps in the world, and succeeded in buying one, which he had long coveted.

Newspaper and Periodical Stamps.

At last the efforts of the stamp collectors have been rewarded. For years philatelists all over the world have been endeavoring to secure for their collections one or more newspapers and periodical stamps, but without avail, unless, of course, they had either been stolen or inadvertently got beyond the precincts of the Postoffice Department.

A few weeks ago Postmaster Brown of the Cincinnati Postoffice received a notice from Washington stating that the Postmaster General had decided to offer for sale at \$5.00 per set newspaper and periodical stamps. Some of the stamps were originally valued at \$100 a piece face value. The Post office Department has on hand about 50,000 sets, and of this number the Cincinnati Post office will get 3,893 sets, which will now represent a value of \$19,465. The stamps will be on sale only at first-class Post offices throughout the country. The last issue of stamps consisted of 12 denominations, as follows: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$2., \$5., \$10., \$25., \$50. and \$100.

The only way heretofore in which the stamps got into the hand of the public would be through careless Postmasters who use them in lieu of the regular postage stamps, or they were stolen from the Postoffices. The stamps were never put into circulation, and if the clerk in charge of them lost or misplaced any he was held responsible by the department and had to make up the discrepancy. These stamps were merely used by the Postoffices as a check on the clerk. Every concern publishing a newspaper or periodical of any kind must place on deposit with the cashier of the Postoffice an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the postage on each issue. This deposit is supposed to be kept constantly on hand, and the publishers are expected to pay promptly on the publications which they send out. Whenever such a mail is received at the postoffice it is weighed and the number of pounds entered into a record book. Then sufficient stamps are placed not on the package, but in the receipt book. The stamps are canceled and every three months the original receipt, with the stamps attached, is forwarded to Washington. A penalty was attached to any employee of the postoffice Department who sold the stamps.

Mr. Jacob Kiffer, who since November 1849, has been stamp clerk at the local postoffice, is thoroughly posted regarding the newspaper and periodical stamps. He said that the rating which is now called second-class mail matter came into existence January 1875. The rate then was two cents per pound for dailies and weeklies, and three cents per pound for semi-weeklies, semi-monthlies and monthlies and quarterlies. The rate was changed to one cent per pound, as it now stands about two years after the enactment of the law, the stamps then in use he says, were practically of the same size and design as the present ones. The designs are works of arts in ever sense, and it is no wonder that stamp collectors are desirous of adding them to their collections. The first newspaper and periodical stamps were of the following denominations: 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 12c, 24c, 36c, 48c, 60c, 72c, 84c, 96c, and \$1.92, \$3., \$6. \$9. \$12. \$24. \$36. \$48 and \$60.

The use of the stamps were discontinued last July, since then the clerk merely uses the receipt as made out heretofore. This simplifies matters considerably, and gives them less worry. J. EDWARD SOHIN jr.

A Queer Postal Service.

In certain parts of Sweden where the most absolute confidence is reposed in the honesty of the people, a very informal postal system is in vogue. As the mail steamer reaches the landing-place a man goes ashore with letters which he places in an unlocked box on the pier. Then the passer-by who expects a letter opens the box, turns over the letters, and selects his own, unquestioned by any one.

Immense Bargains

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Desirable Stamps.

All Stamps in Fine Condition and the prices are very low.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Canada, 5c beaver, used, catalogue price, .06... | 02 |
| Canada, 10c violet-black, used, \$2.50... | 1 00 |
| Canada, 3c carmine-red, ribbed paper, used, \$1.00... | 40 |
| Canada, 20c vermilion, used, 15c... | 09 |
| Canada, 50c deep blue, used, .35 | 20 |
| Canada, 2c registration, vermilion, used, .25... | 10 |
| Canada, 2c registration, orange, .04... | 022 |
| Canada, maple leaf, 1-2, 1, 2, 3 and 5c... | 10 |
| *Canada, maple leaf, 6c, scarce... | 10 |
| *Canada, jubilee, 1-2, 1, 2, 3 and 5c... | 35 |
| *Canada, jubilee, 8c violet... | 20 |
| Canada, jubilee, pair 1-2 on entire, orig. envelope, fine... | 40 |
| Canada, bill stamp, 1c brown, surcharged N. S., 25c... | 10 |
| Canada, bill, 2c orange, surcharged, 25c... | 10 |
| *Newfoundland, the royal set, 1-2, 1, 2 and 3, mint state... | 12 |
| Nova Scotia, 3p dark blue, used, \$1.75... | 80 |
| Nova Scotia, 2c mauve, used, .75 | 35 |
| Nova Scotia, 5c blue on entire original envelope, perfect... | 20 |
| New Brunswick, 1 shilling dull violet, fine, wide margins, \$3.50... | 200 00 |
| New Brunswick, 5c provisional, 1-2 of 10c, on entire orig. envelope, fine, would be cheap at \$15.00... | 8 00 |
| Cuba, 1896, set of six var... | 12 |

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