

The Philatelic Courier

AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

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The receiver of more than one copy of this number will please give copies to stamp-collectors in his vicinity.

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A UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Philatelists are now becoming tolerably well acquainted and are enabled to inter-communicate their thoughts and ideas to a certain extent through the several papers that are published in the interests of their science.

It has, however, been brought to our notice by certain leading philatelists that the advancement of philately would be much assured by the formation of a Universal Association, with which all Philatelic Societies throughout the world shall be affiliated. We presume that we have been approached on the subject because the PHILATELIC COURIER has a larger circulation in different parts of the world than any other similar paper published. We thoroughly approve of the suggestion and gladly give it publicity. The formation of such an association would, in our opinion, be of very great benefit. Bringing the various societies into close correspondence they would be enabled to act simultaneously everywhere. Proposed improvements in the postal systems of various countries would be fully discussed and, if decided to be advisable and beneficial, the several branches everywhere could at the same time bring the matter to the notice of their respective Post-Masters General. Acting thus together the Association would have a very considerable

influence and would be capable of accomplishing much good.

Such an association would be very beneficial also to philatelists generally. It will go a great way towards putting a stop to forgeries and to various other impostures that are from time to time practiced or attempted.

Again in the event of a World's Fair being held in any country such an association would take official charge of the philatelic department and make it a prominent feature of the exhibition. What was so successfully done at Vienna last fall could be carried out on even a much larger scale and be made a regular part of all great exhibitions. Indeed the Association could easily arrange to have annual meetings or congresses first in one and then in another of the great capitals of the world which would be attended by delegates from the different branch societies. At those meetings exhibitions of everything connected with philately and kindred sciences might be held and valuable prizes offered for the best collections shown, the best essays written on certain subjects connected with philately, etc. In this way a more general interest would be awakened in the subject and this would be of large benefit to the rising generation and to students of contemporary history.

Again Philatelists travelling from home would everywhere find friends belonging to societies affiliated with the Universal Association and would not, therefore, feel like strangers when away from the places of their residence. Anyone who has ever travelled will appreciate the advantage that this will be and this alone must largely tend to popularize philately and to increase the numbers of those interested in that and in kindred matters.

RULES OF THE U. P. ASSOCIATION.

Of course a set of rules and by-laws must be prepared and all members should be supplied with copies thereof and with certificates of membership. It would be well to make it a condition of membership that a candidate shall belong to a local branch where he lives, if such a branch exists, which branch shall recommend him to the Universal Society. It would also be advisable to make the certificates of membership good for the year only in which they are issued and renewable from year to year. Printing the rules and certificates will of course involve some labor and expense but this could be easily met by charging an admission fee of say, one dollar and a further annual fee of, say, fifty cents to each member. The rules might be altered from time to time if deemed necessary or advisable by the annual congress of philatelists which we have above suggested.