

Brazil,

Type a1, 90r. black.

Type a2, 300r. black.

Type a3, 90r. black.

All on grayish paper.

This lot was of a very rough engraving and the paper poor.

All the above mentioned stamps had been pasted to old paper and some were cut around the edges, while others had part of the paper off. I should judge that this had been done so as to make one think that they were genuine. The total catalogue value of the stamps was forty-nine dollars and five cents. The address of this party is as follows: E. Oneglia, Piazza Vittoria, Emanuele N. 14, Torino.

Stamp business with the local dealers during the last month has been somewhat dull.

E. A. MARRIS.

Relapsed Interest.

BY WILLIAM C. KNIGHT.

It has become a popular fad with our philatelic journals of the present day in publishing brief biographies or sketches of the lives of prominent philatelists. The idea, while not a new one, has much in it that is commendable, and of value to the cause and advancement of the science of philately.

To the observing collector it will be noticed that in many of these sketches the fact is mentioned that for a number of years Mr. ——— gave up collecting, but later on his old love for stamps returned and now his collection is one of the largest in ———; or words to that effect.

What collector has not felt inclined at times to give up his

album and cease collecting altogether? Many times this thought is followed by action.

In many instances it is not long—a few weeks, months, or probably years, but the interest that has relapsed asserts itself again with renewed force, and often is of the kind that lasts.

To the beginner and to those more advanced, while it may not have been the intention of the publisher, these sketches often have the effect in proving that though even an advanced collector give up his beautiful hobby, later on he will find his way back into the ranks, welcomed by his brother philatelists.

The Condition Problem.

Those words about the "condition crank" impress us. To be sure, we had thought of him before, and we have all admired the immaculate beauty of the pages of his album, in which not even a single corner perforation is missing, in which all imperforate margins are large enough to draw a picture on, and in which there is not an over-black cancellation mark to be seen. But, after all, we cannot all collect in that way. If we can get a really fine stamp and are willing to pay a fair price for it, that is the most desirable situation, but we must be willing to pay what such stamps are worth. We get a hint from Mr. Wolsiefer that he knows men who expect to buy stamps in the pink of condition at 50 per cent. discount. It can't be done; certainly not for long. We expect to see the time within a few years when catalogues will have prices for first and second quality