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SCOTP STAMP \& COIT CO, ILd
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NEW YORK

#  

Vol. 1.
Amherst Janmary, $\mathbf{x} 9.4$.
No. 10.

## EYOLUTION OF A COLLECTIOE:.

Many are the articles that have been writien on "The I'koper Way to Collect," "Advice to Beginners,' cic., ecc., but nearls all of these have been advice to the older, and perhaps wealthier collector, as only a person with a strong mind and a full pocket book could meet the reguirements set forth.

The majority of beginners in the Iniled States are the "Young America," many just enterirg their teens and many others still in their boyhood. To tell these collectors that thay must haxe a standard album, complete catalogue, color chart, met-ric-rule, perioration gauge and numberiess other articles used by the elier members of the Philatelic family. is like putting the last straw on the camel's hack. Magnitude of the great beyond, the intricacies of wacermarks, perforations, roulettiugs, engrarings, lithographs and sureharges, still staggeis the older I'hilateiist; but what are they to the begingex, when complicated with the tastardly dealings of the councerfeiter. How he longs to have a collection numbering in the thousands; how happy would he be, if he could distinguish, the watermarks, prints, anci the many kinds of paper; bur his hopes and ambitious are all dashed 1 the the eround by the Lind, but in as:y advice of iriends, and the endless varjeties of stamps set forth in his newiy purchased catalogue. If it is impossible for him to have a complete collection, he will give up all hope and an: have any. Thus the hope of be-
ginner is dashed away in Philatelia's flood of discouragements; and many orerburdened by the weight of catalogues, metric-rules, watermarks, etc., sink in the Ocean of Bewilderment to rise no more.

As nature requires the infant to pass through boyhood and youthhood before the can become a man, so, also, it is generally necessary for the collection to first pass through a scrap-album, and then a stamp album, before finally it finds its rest-ing-place in an original self-prepared album, or on sheets of card-board made to suit the collector's taste.

When the collection is transferred to the publisher's album, the desire for metric-rules, chartes, etc., will come as naturally as did his first desire to found a collection. There is no need to press all these things upon the youthinl coliector, and force him under. First let him try his mettle on packets and sets, and then if he is still in the field, he will favor some dealer with an order for an album, and aiter this all the other thinis's will be added in due time.

## THREE POSTAE NEEDS.

Our Canadian postal service is one of which the country may well be proud, yet there are some improveme -nts still to be made before the service can be considered wholly satisfactory. It may as well be admitted chat for many years to come thcre is little probability that the posi:al revenue will equal the postal expenditures, and a self-supporiing service is not even to be aimed at at pressnt. It is, however, possible to
reduce the annual deficiency, and in order to achieve this result it may be necessary that cheaper postage shall prevail. In the Cnited states the twocent letter rate has been found most sitisfactory. It is true that the territory of the Dominion is larger, and that our population is smaller and more scattered, and the postal expenses therefore greater.yet we are conident that if a cheaper rate were granted the number of let -ters sent by mail would be so materially increased that there would be liiale increase in the annual deilcit. Another cause foriust complaint is the postage rate on drop-letters. A l.ote which has but a block to travel cosis as much to deliver as would one sent from Florida to British Columbia. This should not be. The old rate oi one cent for drop retters was fully enough, and when that rule was in force the letter boxes for city notes were used to a much greater extent. The third and last grievance is: wilh that illogical department of the service where letters are resis tered. A fee of five cents is charg -ed for registering a letter, and in return for the expenditure the citizen has only the guarantee that a little extra care will be taken by the department to ensure the safe keeping of the letter. If the letter is lost or delayed, the sender, and not the $T$. O.. is held responsible for the inclosure. In other words ihe lecter is insured for safe delivery, the premium is paid, but no insurance is guaran reed. The service would not be weakened, if instead of demanding the iee for unfulfilled services, an arrangement were made by which postal orders for small sums might be obtained. In the near future we must einher be supplied with postal currency or be provided with postal orders for small amounts. -Critic.

## SUGGESTIONS ABUUT YOUL COLLECTION.

A collector cannot be too earefnl in selec cing stampis ior his or her collection. Before selecting a stamp note that it is evenly centered, lightly cancelled and perfect in every res. pect. Sometimes it is necessary to put stamps in your album that are imperfect but as soon as better specimens can be obtained, they should be substituted for the poor ones. lin placing stamps in your album be sure to put them in square and straight, as noilhing oifends the eye more than to see the stamps put in irregularly. Be sure that all pieces oi paper, cic., are removed from the backs of the stampe and hinge them in neatly and sumarely with the hinges at the top, so they can be laid back wichout tronble. Cndemeath each stamp put the date when you received it. froin whom and the cost, also, if desirabie, and in a short time your collection will be one of pleasant memories.

Should a blank album be prefered to a printed one, the stamps maty he arranged to best suit the owner's taste.
A very pretuy and atiractive manner is to arrange the stamps in the iorm of:some emblem, or of the flag of the country which you desire to pat in. For instance rhe stamps of Cape colony might be arranged in the form, of an anchor, etc. A collection so arranged would be a pleasare to look upon. Again I wish to say, be carcful with your collection, and the results will more than pay you. I sir. cerely hope this article may proie e: benefit io some at least.

2:7 cents pay for a year's suisurj:vion io this paper.

EDITORIAL NOTES .
J. FI. Parr y, Sydney, N. S. W., has our thanks for his price list.

We received a letter on Jan. 17th prepaid by a 5 cent green New Brunswick stamp; it was post marked $\mathrm{St}_{\mathrm{t}}$. John, Jan. 15th '94.

Will the person who senc us a surscription to the N. S. IV from Wilkes Barrie, Pr., Dec. 28th please send us his name.

Canadian collectors and dealers are worried about the 35 per cent. duty which they have to pay on all stamps and albums they import.

A daily stamp paper is annourced to appear from Denver, Col., shortly with Mr. C. W. Plummer as business manager.

The sale of U. S. Columbians will be continued until the present stock of several hundred milions are exhausted.

The Mekeel Co. have our thanks for a copy of that valuable work "A Stamp Collector's "Souvenir." This work should be in the hauds of every collector; the price is only 25 cents.

Mr. H. F. Moders, of Fingston, Ont. informs us that the Thilatelic society of Canada is defunct. Dealers are talking of forming another society to take its place.

We have received Nos. 1 and2 of the Canadian Pliltelic Weekly, published by Mr. L. M. Staebler, London, Can. rt is sure to be a success with this enterprising gentleman at the helm.

Piressure is being brought to bear on the Canadian government to re-
duce the rate of postage from 3 cents to 2 cents. Pletitions hare been sent to Ottawa by the Boards of Montreal and Toronto. This would unaoubtedly be a great saving to Canadian dealers as postage is quite an expensiye `item.

The Hooper trial is drawing to a close and Mr. Hooper is still confident of being acquitted. The case is one of the most interesting which has been recorded in the annals of crime in Canada. The evidence, from beginning to end, is purely circumstantial, for it has not been proved that the woman was positively murdered. It is sad the case will cost the Province neari $\$ 30,000$.

We have received the advance pages of "Our Catalogue" which is being. published by some American dealers. The catalogue will be very complete, but: is somewhat crowded. Owing to the extent of the bool, and not to keep collectors waiting, it will be issued in three parts, the first part inciuding all the U. S. will be ready for delivery shortly.

I, G. Quackenbush writing on Philatelic crooks in the Canadian Pibilatelic Weekly says: "In order to outwit the philatelic crooks stamps dealers should organize and publish a weekly black list to circulate among dealers only."
r'It seems to me that it would be a good thing if there were in America an organization similar to the Philatelic Protection Association of England; and I should like to see such a body formed. Money spent on such a society would be a profitable investment. All that is needed to bring about the much needed change is to prosecute a lew culprits and make an example of them, and this could
be done much better by an association than by any private individual One reason why the philatelic crooks are so bold is because they believe themselves to be absolutely saie Once let them learn that the stealing of approval sheets, or stamps of any kind, will be punished to the full extent of the law, and they will seek fielus and pastures new. I can see no reason why the leading dealers of the country could not form such a protection association. The time and money used on it would be nothing compared with the large sums which could be saved annually through the society's efiorts. Why can't some-thing of this kind be done? Awake, ye dealers, from your lethargy, and bestir yourself in this matter. By organization you can arive the philatelic crooks from their chosen working place. Why not do it?"

We agree with brother Quacken-bush, and think that it is high time that the dealers of this continent had a protection association. In England they have a society for the protection of dealers against frauds and it is roing good work. Wont some one make a move.

## MY FAVORITES.

Nearly every collector has some iarorite set or country among his stamps, and to these he pays more attention than to his other stamps though he does not neglect tle others for them. The stamps of the United St. ates have always taken more of my attention than those of other countries though I do not claim to be a sper:alist upon them. However, I have studied them more than my oth -er stamps and find that there is alWays something new to be learned about them.

One reason for this special interest in them is the fact that they are the
stamps of my own country, and who does not think that the prodactions of his own country are better than those of all others on the face of the earth? Patriotism is almost the first thing we learn and it is almost the last one that we forget. It is part of the composition of all from the smalest boy who runs about the st" -eets to the most distinguished statesunan who helps to make the nations laws at Washingtoln.

Oi course my collection is not complete. Far from it! But who has a complete one! Or who having one of that character would be satisfica with it?. That the interest is kept up by the hope of adding from time to time, new specimens to tine collection, is another reason for having special interest: in the Uni ted States s'tamps.

Then too, we see upon them ine por -trates of the most distinguished men of the country and in studying the stamps a desire comes to study the lives of the men whose portrates are Eound upon them. dnu who could ste udy the lives of Washington, Lincoln, Gariield, Grant, or in fact any of the others without having his own life broadened and made better by the study? Incidental to this study oi the lives of our best men comes the study of the history of the country, which has been in a great measure influenced, yes made by them.

Then when we consider the less important considerations of coloring and engraving our own stamps are to my mind still in the lead, for whet country has or can produce anything superior or even equal to our 1869 , 1890 or 1893 issues in these respects? Other countries have beautiful stamps of that there is no doubt. But they do not surpass our own either in beauty of design, harmony of color or varity of subject.

PERFORATIONS.
By W. J. Plows.

Not so many years ago a perfor led stamp was not considered by collector to be vers different from one hot perforated, and certainly no colector ever thought of counting how many holes there were between two ftamps on a sheet, but now nous avons change tout cela. rerforations now are everything, a few years ago they were merely considered as a conven ience in separating the labels.
The ordinary perforation is that we fre so used to in our English stamps fween the engraved stamps, but, beides this method, there have been and are several others.
The principal differences are perfor ted-, rouletted and serpentine. This pst method is sometimes designed by the French lerce en scie. There is merely a succession of small holes bebesides species of perforation which is kin to rouletting, insomuch as the holes are straight and thin, but being placed at angles to one another the stamps, when separated, shew a saw-like edge: tinis methou is called l'erce en arc. Another varlety the pin periorated shews small ragged holes, as if they had been made with a pin. The roulette is simply a succession of minute straight cuts made with toorhed wheel-hence the name.
When we say that a stamp is perforated 14 we mean that there are 14 periorations in the space of two centimetres that being the space in which periorations are counted. This is the most frequently used gauge, nearly al our British stamps are periorated 14 and our colonies, except those in Oceania, hate iollowed the example of the Mother Country.
As examples of the various kinds of periorations and rouletite, we may
take for Perce en scie, the 1861 issue of Bremen or 1566 issue Finland. Mexican stamps of the 1868 issue may be found imper., Perce's en arc and pin perforated. The stamp of Chili are rouletted.
Oi course the gauge of the perforation makes all the difference in the value. For instance the Prince Ed-ward Island 2d. perforated 12 is worth 3 a., perforated 9 it is worth 6 shillings: a South Australia 1867 four-penny is worth 2d. perforated, 5 shillings rouletted, and I might quote such examples without end.
In some cases what is known as compound perforations exist, that is the stamps are perforated different gauges horizontally and vertically, as in the 1862 issue France perforated $13,1-2 \times 14$. This issue was also per Susse with a large size a auge for their own use. What was thein pre cise object in so doing is not known.
Curiosities of perforations may be found also curiosities of surcharge, but, to my mind they are more worthy of acceptation as they arise arise involuntarily, which cannot always be said of the latter. I ha'e a two cent Canada perforated horizontally across the middle as well as round the edges, and a penny red Engiisl: similarly treated vertically. Stamps perforated horizontally and imperiorate vertically, or co converso may be found, and some such varieties are catalogued as in the Transvol. and British Guiana, and in the Austral ian colonies, which have tried almost every guage, many curiosities in irregular perforations mạy be found.
The ordinary perforation, about 10 to 16 guage, seems now to be the general thing, and the goal to which the stamp maker is working, and will no doubt in a short time be the only way used in preparing stamps for di-

CHANGES IN STAAIP COLLEC'IINC: METHODS.

(By C. B. Severn.)

Within the confines oi philately, one of the most pleasing subjects to consider, is the farorable reception that has been accorded to innorations in collecting lines, and departures from the establishel modes of stamp collecting.

The fact of this being true, is a tribute to the broadness of view and liberality of mind of collectors. of course, there are some who are opposed to change of any sort and begrudge anything that is new, a change to demonstrate its merits or, for that matter. its defects. The world of philately is not altogether free from these well intentioned people of contracted vision.

In the-infancy of stamp collecting, collectors gathered the issues of all the postal issuing countries of the globe. Water marks were comparatively an unknown quantity, innd only two or three methods of severing were recognized; either periorated and imperferated or perferated, rouletted and imperforate; while the texfure of the paper of which the stamp was manufactured was not taken into consideratioon. Later an innovation came,, which noted the different sizes of perforations ete., and the quality of the paper, such as wove, laid, quadrille, etc., on which the stamp was impressed. The sligh:er rarieties were begun to be collecred and this had the tendeney of inspiring and accelerating research, with the result that philately was enrichell by the addition of many collectable stamps.

When specialism first came in vogue it was welcomed by many collecrors as a great improvement over genera
collecting. A large number of those who gave specialism a triul were so well pleased with it that they continued to collect in special fields; but, too, ouhers who for a"time essayed suecialism, were content to take up general coliecting abain. The value of speciaiism was a. once seen and appreciated ly aii coiivcuss, ineluding confirmed general collectors.

Now-a-days, even tie one beginning to tread philatelic paths is wise enough usually to examine the stamps of certain countries for water marks, as the various "Standard" catalogues list the varieties of water marks.
Distinction is made also, in the case of the paper of which a stamp is made so that most collectirs cannot help but notice the different varieties of paper.
It is not a great while since the gri.led stamps of the United States had no spaces allotted for their reception in stamp albums, and the Standard catalogue ás a rule, marle no mention of their existence. soon dealers;: here and there, began to catalogue them and collectors with practical unanimity decided in favor of their collectibility.

There is an ever increasing tide. flowing to the advantage of the more general collecting of the revenue stamps of the United States, Canda and Nexico. Collectors, especially of the sounger class, were wont to regari the revenue stemps of these coun tries with disfavor, although the Un ited States revenues always enjoyed some slight prestage in their eyes. It is noticeable that the collecting of the revenues of Canada and Mexico especially has received a great impetus the lasi few rears. The simns of the times certainly adduce sufficient evidence to convince one beyon? the possibility of a doubi that philatelys followers are progreasive, fair-minded and ever alive to assist the onward march of improvement and advance. ment in the domain of philately.

A FEW REASONS WHY.

## By Angelo.

Didy you eve ask a stamp collerstor why ine collecter stamps? If thas guestion was put to one hunclred dif. ferent persons, of a philatelic teaden as, how many would give the same reason?

For this ouery to be answered correetly a trial would be necessary.and perhaps several, beiore a satisfaciory decision could be arrived at.

It is true that the difierent motives that conleciors have are as varied in character as ihe stars of heaven are in irilliancy.
Our ten-year-old enthusiast begins to gailher the little curiosities because he sees his older companions do it; and besides, the different colors at!ract his attentinn, and to see how many he can get together, resardess of design or value, is the height of his ambition. Each day his little collection is increased by the kindness of a neighbor or perhaps, through his good iortune and perseverance 'to crade one oi bright color for two or more oí a darker shade that does not suit the taste of his fastidious companion.

Our attention is next directed to the youngster who has a particular :aste for mathematics and begins to work out his problems and fully appreciates the facinations of a transaction where a proiit is to be made and the capital to bare its fruits. He wonders what he can undertake in his small way that will be productive of a slight increase oi his limited allowance, for the purchase of a week's suppiy oi clewing gum.

At recess, or possibly on his way from sehool, his attention is attracted che oiler boys who are standing in a group for the examination of a
few seraps of paper which are being handled as though gems from an isolatel mine of wealth.

A few pennies and stamps change hands, and the youthful observer is charmed with the idea, and is found at school next day with his pockets overilowing with Continentals that he trades ofi with the boys, keeping, of course, one of each kind jusc for iun, to see how many he can get.

The smart boy in the History class passen, through the school yard and espies the effigy of che equeen on a bright Canadian stamp, and borrows it in order to see how she looks, and wonders why her pictire should be circulated around so freely.
By asking the other fellows he inds out why, and besides, they tell him that there are ocher kinds that would please him, for they, roo, had pictures oi great people on, and would assist in making up his photograph gallery and tend to mopress upon has mind the peopie he reads about, and whac zhey were noted for.
So, witl the boys, the reasons for their taking ap the iad are innumerabie, and if they were all obliged ro give a comnion reason for thier desire to gather ihese little parcels of his tory, the verdict, nine chances our of ten, would ve because the other fellowis do.

The reographical student enjoys a collection because he is remindeu on amost very island and country of the world, by alancin.! over the pases or his album, and iancy takes possession oi him so that bgiore the book is laid aside a journey of interest has beer travelled without the shiohtestciforl.

Our philatelist who enjoys ihis stamps because of the different enpraving andl ithographin processes put to use in their preparation, originaly acuuired luis iancy for stamps
on aceount of some peculiait design that had been beautifilly executed and prosonted a fine piece of work mamship. It was compared wioh onh er kimbis untll a collection for eomparison wat thonght to be of passing interes. It is commenced, and the method as of providing the stamps of every maion is stulied up, amb our scholar is iamiliar with every alas oi worli lnown, and the manner in whieh it is rentlered.

The business man assists his chil duen in amaneing the stamps they sernaie from the grand-mother's lecacrs, focther with a small jozhet; rent in answer to some atrerisement; anat the rest he derives from suel an hour spent, hesides the satisfaetion of peasing the littic ones, has its ciocet, and each night the programme take: jobace amill the pareat has found that the stamus surfest to him mamy things that the younger members of the monemold do net understand, and ne is taken ap with their stuly, while mathandally, he is arranging thom for ine youngrser.

The feren finds him a fit suliject, and $i o n$ an hour each evoning is whiled anay in this oecupation until oar derotpe is an acknowledged cramis, hand is'not ashamed oi it, but jegins a collechon of his own and soon learns a ine Enducements open to a stamp enhector when he has once stared to conlect

The ataturalist fimis many subjeres illustrated on the stamps of various countrios:hat have their special inter(si for him, atud he hegins principally on lijs atcount, ond makes a speciat: siney of ihese stamps amd rele various oibeces tiant they sumeses.

Almosi eroryone can find some jardicular joime in looking orea a glanbity wimincellancoms stamps that has a peonliar interest ior him, and for this reasom, ogedier wish maty oth.
ers, cab we attrilute the steaty in. erease of stamp collectors the worla oser.

It is a worthy indulacence. and only when carrier so far as to interiere with yonr ilails o ilisutions is it to be considered time wasted or energy lost.

## OFFICIALLE SEALIUI.

A few words regarding the "Officially sealed of $1 \mathbf{s s e}$ issue." There are many thalers still offering thest labels ior sale to the philatelic pub. lic. I have scen a number of articles, boill pro and con, in the philatelic jommals. but have failed to vel find one giving all the facts and particulare regarding this issue. These labl els (they camot and should not justly be calie:l stamps) are mannactured by Morrill Bros. of Fulton, A. Y., for the convenience of country postmasters. I cony the sollowing from their malomuc :
"Oficially sealed Labels some as this sample (rives illustration) mintell on arm paper, for sealing letrers opened liy mistake. One oi the many litile conviences that are always hands whave in an office. 'tbices: 50 for 25 cents, 100 for 40 cents, 250 for 55 cents, 500 ior 75 cents, postwaid." It can he reaulily seen that. the profits, espectaity as many are sonat at 25 ents apisee. mave by the dealers who hande rane latels is rablenl ayge.
1 wrote to both the Firsi and Tinisa Assistamt lonamasier rienerah at Wishington, D. C.. enclosiag one of these labels in eacin leiter and they each remied that they had never been rauilarized by their department. Conscouently I bail to see how ther can be called siamps, sucla as those jssued lay authority from the Fost Oifice nepartment.
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