

Canadian Philatelist.

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The Canadian Philatelist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. III. No. 10.

LONDON, OCTOBER 1, 1894.

WHOLE No. 34.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

A PLEA FOR SYSTEMATIC COLLECTING.

BY LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

IT NOW seems to be generally conceded, by those best qualified to judge, that Philately is more than a mere pastime and fully deserves to be called a study, if not, indeed, a science. The consensus of Philatelic opinion points to the conclusion that Philately possesses most of the qualities which are requisites of a pursuit wishing to fill the role of a science, though it cannot yet fairly be said to have attained that honor.

A large part of the contempt and ridicule with which the proposal to term Philately a science has been received is due to the fact that so very few collectors take up the study in a systematic way. The purpose of this article is to point out to those who have heretofore collected everything which came under their notice that was within reach of their purses, the superiority of a pre-arranged plan of collecting.

In any project whatsoever, a clearly defined plan of action is a vital necessity. In making a study of any subject it is impossible to obtain a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the subject, as a whole, by desultory and irregular reading. Educators have long recognized the necessity of systematic courses of study; the work of business men is systematized in every department of commercial life; even in the sporting world we find the value of systematic training and exercise recognized by all.

To reap the most good from such a study as Philately we must, from the very beginning, have a well defined object in view. Sporadic collecting cannot be satisfactory; it is that class of Philatelists who only snatch a moment now and then for their chosen pursuit who form a large part of the deserters. The true Philatelist has almost always a goal in mind which he is striving to reach; it may be the will-o-the-wisp of absolute completeness; or the easier goal of comparative completeness; or the still more sought for prize of specialist completeness, that is, completeness in the stamps of a certain country or portion of the globe; but in either case the collector knows what he is working for, what he should study, and to what end his efforts are leading him.

The phrase, "systematic collecting," as used in my title is, perhaps, a trifle obscure, and requires a brief explanation as to its exact meaning. I can best define it by illustration. Probably three-fourths of those who are interested in the collecting of postage stamps lack system. All beginners necessarily do, as they know but little, on first entering the field, of the real extent of the study.

But this lack of system is not by any means confined to beginners. Hundreds and thousands of experienced Philatelists have no well defined plan of collecting. As beginners they collected indiscriminately, and now, though they have long outgrown the place of the novice, they have made no change in their methods. They collect, haphazard, a stamp here and a stamp there; buying those varieties which look the handsomest on the approval sheets; one month bending all their energies to the stamps of one country, and the next, forsaking the old love for some other whose stamps happen to strike their fancy. He who collects thus cannot extract from the pursuit a tithe of the pleasure reaped by the careful investigator and the systematic scholar.

I do not advise all to make a systematic study of the pursuit. There are a few collectors, a very few, so circumstanced that they do well to eschew all system in their Philatelic studies. Some mortals are unfitted by nature for close application, or painstaking research; probably most of these fully recognize the fact themselves. If they pay any heed to Solon's famous maxim, "know thyself." But the great majority of Philatelists would, if they could only bring themselves to think so, gain several distinct benefits from a closer and more systematic study of stamps and stamp lore.

In the first place, the discipline to the mental faculties, which such study gives, should not be underestimated. The minute differences in stamps which seem exactly alike on a casual inspection, yet whose value may vary widely on account of those very differences, which are well nigh invisible to an ordinary eye, are detected by experienced philatelists with comparative ease. Why? Simply because the collector has made it his business to learn everything possible in regard to the specimens which he collects, and, in his study of the minor varieties, has so trained his eye that he recognizes at a glance what the careless loiterer in the Philatelic field would fail to detect. The skin-deep Philatelist may have a smattering of Philatelic erudition, but it is of little practical value to him. It is vague and unsystematized, and hence is anything but satisfactory to a studious mind.

It is a proven fact that those who collect scientifically are far more likely to retain their interest in the pursuit than those who make no effort to delve deeply into its finer side. There is a certain fascination to the study which increases as we become better acquainted with it. No one can really understand its claim until he has actually chosen some particular branch for his field and bent all his energies and becoming an authority on that particular division of the subject. It is the advanced collector who derives the greatest pleasure from his connection with Philately. With the school-boy collector, Philately

is but the pastime of an hour, while with the scientific collector it is the study of a lifetime.

As soon as a collector has passed through his novitiate in the primary class of the great school of Philately he should choose his field, and stick to it, unless, after a trial, he should find his selection injudicious and should believe that some other branch of Philately promises greater returns in the way of pleasure and learning.

Between specialism and generalism I cannot undertake to choose. Until very recently I was a rabid generalist and preached the doctrine on every possible occasion. But with the continual increase in the number of collectible varieties specialism is becoming more and more popular, and a systematic study of the stamps of all countries more and more difficult. It may be said, parenthetically, that a majority of those who collect with little apparent system are to be found in the ranks of the generalists. This fact, however, does not prove that a systematic study of the world's emissions is impossible. True, it is an herculean task and requires the expenditure of much time and money, yet, if one is really certain that he can devote a reasonable amount of both time and money to the study of the stamps of all countries he will certainly do well to attempt it. Generalists are quite inclined not only to collect the postage stamps of the whole world but the *revenue and telegraph* stamps (and even, sometimes the envelopes and cards), as well.

This is certainly running generalism into the ground. The postage stamps alone are sufficient to employ the attention of a student during his entire lifetime, and it is not politic to make your task so hard that you will shudder at the very thought of it.

The first point, therefore, is to decide exactly what shall be collected, and this decision is, perhaps, the most important step in the collecting career. The decision made, the collector finds his task mapped out before him and the consideration of ways and means next occupies his attention. I do not believe in the common method of buying the cheaper stamps first, mounting them in your album, and then purchasing the rarer varieties as fast as your purse will allow. I prefer to complete oneself before attempting the formation of another. In my collection I reverse the usual order by first completing the older sets, as far as possible since in all printed albums the older sets are placed at the top of the page. When these are completed the hardest part of the work is over, and I can secure the stamps of modern issue with comparative ease. I never buy single stamps of a set, unless tempted by a great bargain and, as a rule, find it much cheaper to buy entire sets.

I am not one of those who preach one thing and practice another, and I can say from my own experience that since I have forsaken the haphazard, go-as-you-please method of collecting and experimented along the lines which I have attempted to describe in this article I have reaped far more Philatelic pleasure with less labor, yes, even less expenditure than ever before.

There is no valid reason for the lamentable lack of system which no one, acquainted with many Philatelists can fail to have noticed. The true cause, perhaps, that many Philatelic enthusiasts hold the pursuit so lightly, is that they do not fully realize the possibilities of the glorious future of Philately. They consider it the fad of a day,

but it will, I firmly believe, prove a permanent study, and one which shall not lose one jot of its popularity in the years to come. A systematic study of its every phase will certainly be one step toward the Philatelic millennium.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

CHARLEY'S MISFORTUNE.

BY W. J. SABOURIN.

CHARLEY TURNER, a friend of mine, is an enthusiastic stamp collector, and when ill-luck sometimes follows him he is one of the most curious men I ever met. It is impossible to speak a word of stamp matter when something disgraceful has happened him some way. He would send you your corner or say words which are not, I might admit, quite exemplary. Anyhow he is built like that, and years to come will not change him a bit. I felt so glad the other day over one of his misfortunes that I cannot abstain from telling the story.

Six months ago a fellow named Dorset came to one of Charley's friends and asked him how much a million stamps were worth, the other, who was also a collector, made him a lot of questions and finally said that \$10 would be a fair price to pay for them anyway. Charley, who was working at the same place, on hearing the conversation inquired into the matter and decided to borrow the money and buy the whole lot the following week.

Dorset immediately wrote a few words to the woman who possessed the stamps in question, and living in York. He asked her to keep them for his friend if she was willing to accept the price agreed upon first. The next day he got the following letter:

York, October 15th, 1893.

DEAR SIR: Since writing you last I have been offered \$25 for my stamps. Please let me know if you will give more.

Yours truly,

Mrs. L. —

Charley was looking through his album when Dorset entered the room. It was only when the latter said "how are you Charley" that he lifted up his head. Thinking that there was good news about the stamps he was up in one second. He got so excited that an inkstand, placed on his desk, was upset while he was removing, and his Siebeck's issues were doomed. Dorset, knowing what kind of a fellow he was to meet, went to the door but his friend called him to know the result of his correspondence. After a few minutes conversation Charley decided not to take them.

"May be you are missing a snap," said Dorset.

"What kind of stamps are they anyhow?" inquired Charley.

"Don't know the first thing about 'em."

"Well, do you think I am going to pay such a price? This woman is trying to play something on us I'm sure. Who knows? You can drop it for I don't intend to buy a couple of barrels of continentals. I have no use for such trash." And Charley, without a word of thanks, returned to his album, trying to make all right the page of Seebecks.

Dorset quickly disappeared from the room and went to his house without even looking at passers-by. He had the idea to write again and get all the information required from the old woman.

He forgot all about it the next day and the day after. A week had elapsed, but no attempt had been made to finish the letter that was lying on the desk. A bright Sunday morning, at last, while alone in the house, he flew to his room and continued his terrible letter. A few days after, on entering his office, he noticed the following postal in the mail box :

DEAR SIR :

York, November 30th, 1893.

Very sorry could not wait longer, have sold them for \$35 to some one else. Stamps offered were all British North Americans : such as 3 pence 1 penny, 6 pence, 12 pence, New Brunswick Shillings, Nova Scotia Shillings, etc., etc. Thanking you for first offer, I remain,

Yours truly,
Mrs. L. ———

Later on an advertisement appeared in "Comfort" offering fine issues at a high price. It was from the fortunate fellow who bought them from the old woman. It took one day for Charlie to lose a lot of Seebecks and a fortune. He is crying again over his misfortune.

STRAY HUMOR.

She—I understand you are going to make a tour around the world?

He—Yes, I am just about to start.

She—I'd be delighted if you would write to me from all the countries you visit.

He—I feel greatly flattered that I may be allowed to write you, but I hardly believe that you will find my letters very interesting.

She—Very true, but you see I am collecting postage stamps!

Friend—If you are so bad off, why don't you apply to your rich brother in Boston for assistance?

Poor Man—I did write to him to assist me, and what do you suppose I got?

"I have no idea."

"He wrote to me that my letter, asking for assistance, had not reached him."

The young postmaster of an Eastern village was hard at work in his office when a gentle tap was heard upon the door and in stepped a blushing maiden of sixteen, with a money order which she desired cashed. She handed it, with a bashful smile, to the official, who, after closely examining it, gave her the money it called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was written on the margin of the order.

"No, I have not," she replied, "for I cannot make it out. Will you please read it for me?"

The young postmaster read as follows: "I send you \$3 and a dozen kisses."

(Glancing at the bashful girl, he said: "Now, I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses.")

"Yes," she said, "if he has sent me any kisses I want them, too."

It is hardly necessary to say that the balance of the order was promptly paid and in a scientific manner.

On reaching home the delighted maiden remarked to her mother:

"Mother, this post office system of ours is a great thing, developing more and more every year, and each new feature seems to be the best.

Jimmy sent me a dozen kisses along with the money order, and the postmaster gave me twenty. It beats the special delivery system all hollow.

"STAMPS, please," curtly said the young lady. "With or without?" queried the facetious drug clerk. "With or without! Without what?" was the indignant inquiry. "Whiskers, ma'am. One-centers has no whiskers on Columbus. The two-centers have."

"I feel better about lickin' this postage stamp," said the boy who had been sent to mail a letter. "It's nearer my size."

"GIVE me a porous-plaster; I've got a lame back." They're just out of them; but here is a Columbian postage stamp, which answers just as well and comes cheaper. We're selling lots of them just now. Wait a minute, and I'll punch a few holes in it for you."

He was a stamp fiend, young and precocious. The plain American stamp had no interest for him. He was making a collection of foreign ones, and so when they sent him down to the post-office for a package he did not pay much attention, but brought it home and handed it over, and skipped out to play tag. Next day they showed him a new sister who had arrived. He looked at her with some curiosity.

"Say, where did she come from?"

"Oh, from heaven."

"From heaven! I know. That was the package I brought from the post-office yesterday, and I never knew anything about it."

"Yes."

"Golly! why didn't you save me the stamps?"

A—I asked you for a hundred marks and you sent me only ninety-eight.

B—Oh, you see, I kept back two marks to pay for the stamps I'll have to use sending you letters requesting you to pay up.

"How many cards did you say?" asked the stamp clerk at the post office.

"Three," replied the purchaser.

"Give me five," said the next man in line, as he put down 5 cents.

Then the two men looked at each other, and a broad smile spread over the face of each.

Servant—Is there a letter for my master?

Clerk—Have you an order to get his letters?

Servant—No.

Clerk—Then you must get one.

Servant (returns in an hour)—Here is the order.

Clerk (looks through the letter)—Very well; there is no letter to day.

We have received a copy of the Standard Stamp Co's price list, consisting of 64 pages and cover, and fully illustrated. The publishers inform us that 35,000 copies have been printed, and together with postage, the total cost will be \$1,500, the largest amount ever spent on a stamp price list. A copy can be obtained free from them at 925 La Salle Street, St. Louis, Mo. (Advt.)

The Canadian Philatelist :

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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L. M. SIAEBLER, - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

185½ DUNDAS STREET,

LONDON,

CANADA.

VOL. 3.

LONDON, ONT.

No. 34.

EDITORIAL.

The Belgium 5 fr. stamp will go out of use the end of October.

The Porto Rico Columbian stamp has appeared in three different colors, up to date.

The American Philatelic Magazine is the new official organ of The Sons of Philatelia.

The 3c. reprint of the U. S. 1869 issue unused is worth \$20, according to the ruling market price.

Publication of *The Collector*, the old official organ of the Sons of Philatelia, has been discontinued.

The Michigan Philatelist (not the first of that name), is announced to appear from Coldwater, Mich., at an early date.

The Ottawa Philatelic Society held its second annual meeting on the 17th inst. The Society is in a flourishing condition.

It is said that at least thirty millions of the new United States playing card stamp will be issued, so they will never become rare.

We see by a contemporary that the first philatelic magazine issued was *he Monthly Advertiser*, which was published in Liverpool in 1862.

It is reported that the low values of the current issue of Swiss stamps will undergo a change of design so as to be uniform with the higher values.

Mr. W. F. Gregory has just issued another number of *The Philatelic Visitor*, a small paper which he publishes in the interests of his business.

In the advertisement of Mr. A. F. Wicks, on the last page of the cover, the figure "\$1" should be omitted in the second line of Packet No. 20.

It is announced that a new set of stamps are in preparation for Mauritius, each of the different designs representing one of the products of the colony.

A gentleman in Omaha, Neb., recently had 10 U. S. 95c. Justice Department stolen from him. The market value of these stamps is now \$25 each, so his loss is considerable.

The number in the bracket on the wrapper, indicates the number with which your subscription expires. Renew promptly, otherwise we cannot continue the paper.

The Native Indian States issue, or we should say have issued, over 1,600 varieties. We obtain this from a contemporary, as we never had the patience to count them.

Samuel A. Wood, of Hanley, England, announces that he will shortly publish *The Stamp Exchange Annual*, which is intended for free circulation, and will be sent gratis on application.

Mr. L. H. Benton says that the philatelic world are too hard on Henry Ades Fowler. He rendered philatelists a great service by purchasing *One Dime* and killing it, thereby putting its readers out of misery.

Mr. E. T. Parker, the well-known dealer will have charge of the postage stamp department of the great fair, to be held in the Madison Square Garden, New York City, which will open on the 5th of December, next.

Mr. L. G. Quackenbush, one of our regular contributors, has assumed the editorial control of *The Philatelic Review of Reviews*, and we already notice a great improvement in the paper, which now stands high among its older contemporaries.

The International Stamp Exchange is a new society formed at a recent meeting of a number of Toronto collectors. Those contemplating joining can obtain full particulars from the secretary, Mr. I. E. Weldon, 147 Portland St., Toronto, Ont.

Our fourth volume begins with our January issue, and promptly on January 1st, our subscription rates will be advanced to fifty cents per year. Now is the time to subscribe, as no subscription will be received after the end of December, at the present rates.

It is said that there are 21 stamp collectors for every 1000 of population in Canada. We would not vouch for the correctness of this estimate, but if it were correct, there would be some 105,000 stamp collectors in Canada. We think that one-half that number would be nearer the correct number.

We would call the attention of our readers to our list of Cheap Sets in this issue. A number of additions will be made to the same, month by month. The prices will be found low, and to every collector, not already a subscriber, ordering \$1.00 worth or more at one time, will receive as premium a years subscription to this journal.

As soon as we have overtaken Father Time, we shall resume our sixteen page form. We are glad to note the interest our readers are taking in the increase of our circulation. To any one who will secure us four subscribers and forward the subscriptions to us with \$1.00, we will give a years subscription free. Induce four of your collecting friends to subscribe.

The Indian Philatelist says: "Somebody writes that China is going to commemorate the 60th birthday of the Queen Regent with a set of stamps. We are afraid China has enough on her hands just now without thinking of such amusements." It might be that China is going to raise the money to pay her war indemnity in this manner. Stamp collectors, who have a grievance against their Chinese laundryman, should boycott this issue, or join the Anti-Speculative Society.

The Universal Stamp Review is announced to appear from London, England, in January next. Messrs Smith and Partridge are the publishers, and they claim that it will excel any journal of the kind at present published. If the new stamp papers would carry out all their proposals how

welcome they would be. Philatelic publishing is so uncertain that little dependence can be placed on a paper's merit till you have the copy before you. A publisher is so apt to have a better opinion of his publication than the readers.

We have recently made a study of the varieties of the current 3c envelope of Canada, and have found the following distinct varieties in the entire envelope which we have not as yet noticed in any catalogue:

1. 3c. red on cream, small size, laid paper.
2. 3c. red on cream, large size, laid paper.
3. 3c. carmine on white, small size, laid paper.
4. 3c. carmine on white, large size, laid paper.
5. 3c. carmine on cream, small size, laid paper.
6. 3c. carmine on cream, large size, laid paper.
7. 3c. carmine on white, large size, wove paper.

The majority of the above varieties are very scarce, and of No. 7 we have only seen two copies. We have two sets of the above envelopes entire, and used, in fine condition, and will be pleased to furnish the price on application.

New societies will soon be as bad as new papers. *The Queen City Philatelic Society* was formed in Denver, Col., on the 15th of September, and is now ready for business. If you are dissatisfied with the society you are now a member of, or if you were disappointed in securing an office at the late election, the fashionable method to heal your wounded feelings is to start a society of your own, and elect yourself and your friends to the important offices, and then appeal to the philatelic world to join. We are not trying to mislead you, dear reader! This experiment has been tried more than once with success to the promoter, but it is this kind of success that is having such a detrimental effect on the good work that our older societies might do if they had proper support.

It would appear as though the United States Government are not making a success of printing their own stamps. Two hundred million were recently rejected as of inferior workmanship. The Government claim to save \$50,000 per year by printing their own stamps. We think that it is false economy for the post office department to use such poor stamps as they are now selling, when for a slightly increased amount they could secure the superior workmanship of The American Bank Note Co. The gum on the new stamps is also very poor, and business men are complaining bitterly of this misplaced economy of the post office department. The work of the bureau of printing and engraving will possibly improve in time, but it is a shame for the public to suffer for the experiment.

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*Bavaria return letter, 6 varieties R.....	10	Japan, Telegraph, 4 varieties.....	03
Belgium 12 varieties.....	05	Japan, 10 varieties.....	05
Belgium postal packet, 6 varieties.....	10	*Kew Klang, 2 varieties.....	04
*Benin, 1-toc., 4 varieties.....	10	*Lahutan, 1829, 7 varieties.....	2 00
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Bolivar, 1879, 4 varieties.....	45	*Monaco, 4 varieties.....	10
Bolivar, 1880, 4 varieties.....	45	Natal, 5 varieties.....	03
Bolivar, 1882, 4 varieties.....	45	*Nicaragua, 1829, Official, 1c-top., 10 varieties.....	50
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Canada, Supreme Court, 6 varieties, complete.....	5 00	Peru, 5 varieties.....	05
*Canada, Gas Inspection, 5c. to \$10.00, 9 var. complete.....	10 00	Philippine Islands, 4 varieties.....	05
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*Cape Verde, 5 varieties.....	05	Porto Rico, 10 varieties.....	10
Ceylon, 5 varieties.....	05	Portuguese Indies, 3 varieties.....	03
Chili, 5 varieties.....	05	*Prince Edward Island, 8 varieties.....	75
Colombian Republic, 5 varieties.....	06	*Prince Edward Island, 1865, 2 and 3d.....	14
*Constantinople, 3 varieties.....	03	Quebec, Law, dark red, 10-60c., 6 varieties.....	25
*Cuba, 1894, 1/2-8m., 6 varieties.....	08	Quebec, Law, vermilion, 10-60c., 6 varieties.....	25
Cuba, 12 varieties.....	10	Quebec, Law, \$1 00, \$2 00, \$3 00, \$4 00 and \$5 00, blue.....	1 00
Ecuador, 7 varieties.....	10	Quebec, Assurance, 30 and 40c., 2 varieties.....	2 00
Egypt, 10 varieties.....	10	Roumania, 7 varieties.....	05
Egypt, unpaid, 1859, 3 varieties.....	07	Roumania, 25 varieties.....	05
*Eritria, 3 varieties.....	05	Russia, 12 varieties.....	10
Finland, 5 varieties.....	05	*Samoa, 1st issue, 8 varieties R.....	10
France, 25 varieties.....	20	*Saxony, 1863, 5 varieties.....	10
Fr. Colonies, 25 varieties.....	25	Spain, 50 varieties.....	50
Germany, 15 varieties.....	05	Straits Settlements, 5 varieties.....	10
Gibraltar, 2 varieties.....	05	Sweden Losen, 10 varieties.....	15
Gold Coast, 4 varieties.....	12	Sweden, 10 varieties.....	05
Great Britain, 25 varieties.....	15	*Swiss, Telegraph, 4 varieties.....	10
Greece, 7 varieties.....	05	*Swiss, 1862-81, 2-40, 6 varieties.....	01
Greece, 12 varieties.....	05	Tasmania, 3 varieties.....	05
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Guatemala 5 varieties.....	10	Uruguay, 2 varieties.....	03
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15	United States.....	05
10	Canada.....	05
20	Canada.....	05
10	Chili.....	15
6	Chili.....	05
30	United States.....	05
3	Portuguese Indies.....	04
6	Swiss.....	04
3	Venezuela 5, 20 and 1b.....	04
3	Shanghai.....	05
3	Egypt, unpaid.....	06
3	Natal.....	07
3	Transvaal.....	02
2	Orange Free State.....	02
1	United States, 1851, 10c.....	55
1	Prince Edward Island, 2d, used.....	30

2	Sts. Settlements.....	03
2	Nicaragua.....	03
2	Salvador.....	03
2	Mozambique.....	03
5	India.....	02
5	Porto Rica.....	05
5	Hamburg.....	05
4	Costa Rica.....	05
1	Sts Settlements, Prov., 3 on 32c.....	12
1	United States, 1856, 10c.....	25
25	South America.....	20
4	Br Guiana.....	05
8	Canada 1882-93, 1/2-20c.....	20
3	Constantinople.....	03
2	Gibraltar.....	04
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