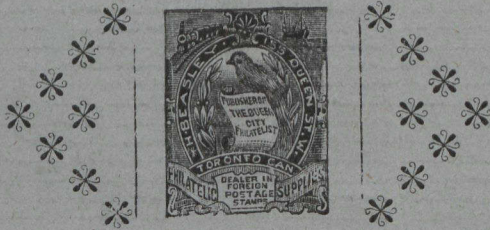


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THE QUEEN CITY PHILATELIST.



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THE QUEEN CITY PHILATELIST.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. 1.

TORONTO, CANADA.

No 1.

[Written for the Q. C. P.]

STAMP COLLECTING

AS AN AID TO THE STUDY OF
GEOGRAPHY, CHRONOLOGY,
HISTORY, GOVERNMENT,
AND THE FINE ARTS.

BY PHILO.

PHILATELY, or its kindred French term *Timbrologie*, has been defined by the leading lexicographers of France as "having for its object the study of stamps, both in themselves and also in their connection with Chronology, History, Geography, Government and Finances, Philology, and the Fine Arts."

This definition admirable as it is, is apt to confuse the beginner. Stamp collecting for the purpose of studying the stamps themselves seems rational enough to all, but the objection may then be raised, why neglect the ordinary methods and resort to stamps to acquaint us with the other sciences

mentioned?

The answer is simple enough—do not neglect the ordinary methods. The most ardent collector does not claim that postage stamps alone, can thoroughly familiarize us with Geography, History, etc., in their various branches but that in connection with them they are an invaluable assistant in impressing facts acquired in the school-room or study.

Starting with Chronology, History, and Government, take the stamps of Germany, first we have those of the various States, Free Cities etc., such as Hamburg, Bremen, Thurn and Taxis the Mecklenburgs, Lubeck, Prussia and Oldenburg; but in 1868 we see all these suppressed and a new and uniform series for use throughout the entire North German Confederation. And after the French war, these gave way to still another issue denoting that the German Empire was an accomplished fact.

The same with Italy. First came the stamps of the various States, Par-

ma, Sardinia, Modena, Roman States Naples, Sicily, Romagna, and Tuscany.

Later we find what at first was confined to the stamps of Sardinia, the head of Victor Emmanuel on a series of stamps issued for use in all Italy, with one exception, the Roman States (States of the Church) using their stamps for years after united Italy.

The stamps of Spain are equally historic, Isabella gives way to Liberty-Liberty to Amadeus, he to Liberty again her to Alphonso. Surely nothing could speak history plainer than these stamps.

Take Geography, how few of us would remember such names as Corea Deccan, Sirmoor, and Alwur, had we not had some peculiar reason for impressing them on our memory. Or even had we remembered the names, would we have had any idea as to their location? We might so continue quoting almost all countries in connection with the study of Chronology, History, Government, and Geography, but space will not permit.

As aids to the study of Finances and Philology, the sphere of stamps is, perhaps somewhat limited but still considerable information may be gathered therefrom. With scarcely an exception the stamps of all countries have their valuation expressed. Turn to Bavaria for instance, we have the cardinals *Ein, Drei*, etc, representing our units One, Three, etc. Or turn to Italy and find *Cinque, Dieci, Venti*. Nearly all stamp collectors can enumerate the cardinal

numbers in several languages after a few months collecting.

Or as to currencies; For Austria and the Southern German States we find the *kreuzer* as the unit of value. The States of Northern Germany have the *groschen*.

The uniform currency of France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium can be learned from their stamps, all the values being expressed in centimes and francs.

The fact that a decimal currency is rapidly becoming more general may be gathered from postage stamps. A large portion of the colonies of Great Britain whose early issues bore the values in pence, have since changed their currency to dollars and cents as Canada, Ceylon, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Singapore British Honduras, etc.

Some of the early Canadian stamps are records of the transition state, the values expressed in pence and equivalent in cents.

As to the Fine Arts, it must readily appear to anyone, that the study of postage stamps acquaints the collector with lithography and engraving in all its stages. What a contrast indeed is there between the early issues of forty years ago in most countries compared to the present issues. Take the fine productions of the American Bank Note Co and various other first-class engravers, they illustrate on stamps the perfection of the engravers art, and the more one studies them the more he becomes to appreciate minuteness of detail and finish.

[Written for the Q.C.P.]

SPECIALISM vs. GENERAL COLLECTING.

BY "TORONTONIAN."

In every stamp collector's album there are one or more countries in which he takes but little interest, and as a result the pages on which these countries are situated make a very poor showing. True, in some cases these pages are well filled, especially of those countries of which a large number of varieties may be purchased at a small cost, but the collector takes no interest in the collecting of them, further than that they help to fill up space, and therefore I ask, Why collect them at all? If you take more pleasure in collecting the stamps of say, the United States or the British Colonies, what sense is there in collecting the stamps of France, Germany, Spain or any other country in which you take but little interest or pleasure.

The beginner however, should make a general collection, as it will afterwards be greatly to his advantage, and at the same time he will find out by actual experience the various countries whose stamps he would prefer to collect. However every collector, whether he is a specialist or not, should give the preference to the stamps of his native country, and make as good a showing as possible of them.

There is probably less interest taken in the stamps of Turkey, than those of any other country, probably more by reason of the poor designs and colors, and the unintelligible characters on the stamps, than because the country itself is not sufficiently interesting.

Unless a general collector has little else to do, he cannot study his stamps as well as can a specialist who may have only a short time to devote to his album.

At the same time the ordinary collector loses a great deal of the pleasure of stamp collecting by overdoing it. Instead of taking great pleasure in placing new stamps in his album, (as the specialist loves to do,) it becomes actual labor, and the reason is, that while the specialist has only three or four stamps to place in his album, the other has from a dozen to a hundred to insert, therefore the very quantity of the stamps turn it from pleasure into labor.

Again, the specialist has the best of it in purchasing stamps, he knows the stamps he has, and stamps he wants, and he also knows the real value of the stamps he buys, being able to pick up bargains which would escape the eye of the ordinary collector.

Several writers in advancing reasons against specialism, claim that the specialist having but a limited number of stamps to obtain, soon tires of them owing to the high prices which the rarer issues command.

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EDITORIALS.

We made the announcement several months ago that we should publish the QUEEN CITY PHILATELIST, but numerous delays prevented its appearance until the present date, when we take pleasure in presenting the initial number.

With our next number we shall open a new department, to be known as "Everybody's Page." It will consist of letters received from collector's who wish to make known their views, or procure information on any subject of interest to stamp collectors.

* * *

We wish to receive a few letters of not over 200 words for insertion in our next issue. All letters should reach us before the 10th of each month. Let us hear from *you!*

* * *

In order to successfully inaugurate the above department, we offer a premium of one year's subscription to this paper for each of the three most interesting letters received.

(Continued from page 3.)

This is not always the case, for should a specialist get all the varieties it is possible to obtain without spending too much money, he will usually branch off and collect the stamps of adjoining countries. For instance, if he collects Canadian and provincial, he might take up the stamps of the United States then Mexico, Central America, and so forth. Or he could collect the issues of the various and widely separated British colonies, which offer probably the largest field of any.

In conclusion I ask you to give the above your earnest thought and decide whether the specialist or the ordinary collector enjoys his hobby the most.

[Written for the Q. C. P.]

MY STAMP COLLECTION

Is it of any use?

BY R. G. H.

A friend has just seen me pay \$ 2.00 for a fine specimen of a 50 cent British Columbia on the original envelope and he says "What foolishness, what sense is there in that stamp fad? All very well for children!" I say "all right" and drop the subject. Yet what a field those words open—a field so vast that one hardly comprehends it until it is fully brought to their notice.

First and foremost take the child's delight in a few old stamps, see how he will cherish them up, bye and bye he will begin to hunt every hole and corner to find them, then he will get a book and if his parents or an elder brother or sister help him he will put them into it perhaps they will be all mixed up (a general belief) or perhaps they will be put in according to the different stamp issuing countries, then he will begin to get proud of his collection, the coppers are jealously hoarded up for new stamps he will buy a packet, and trade or exchange with his schoolmates.

Next he will advance a step and buy them one by one as he can afford them from some local dealer until he has some few hundred varieties, now he becomes engrossed in his album, he begins to study the vast amount of

knowledge that is brought, as it were within his grasp.

Here is a stamp from Chili, he asks "Where is Chili? What is the capital and the population? what race of people are they, and what is the climate? and a hundred other things present themselves to his mind.

Then he wants to buy an album, perhaps a fond parent indulges him in his wish. What a heaven of bliss opens itself up to his vision, here is everything he wants to know, the Geographical and Historical account of nearly every nation and country under the sun.

And all brought to his hand in a way calculated to instill it into his mind, so as to remain there in after years. Here is the finest education a boy can have, or a girl too for that matter. Suppose he leaves off now, the small amount spent has not been wasted, the coppers would have gone for candies or perhaps the vile and filthy cigarette. On the other hand he may still continue to collect. He leaves school and takes his place in the world, he now has a better chance to get his hearts desire—his stamps are his idol—many an hour he will sit and look at his treasures examining them for this watermark or that perforation, for by this time he has become somewhat of a specialist.

He will look at a certain stamp and in will bring to his mind the face of some dear departed friend who presented it to him, another reminds him of some school-mate who is fighting his country's wars in foreign lands, this

who is fighting his country's wars in foreign lands, this one calls his attention to a sick brother in the antipodes, this to a sister in the sultry lands of India or China, perchance she is a missionary, toiling on wearily from day to day to convert the heathen, yet yet never tired of her self-imposed task.

Now my friend, there is my answer to you. "What foolishness? What nonsense?" I ask you, is it nonsense or is philately a study, which like the arts or sciences has obtained for itself a place in the world, commencing from a very small beginning and now grown to such dimensions as seem almost incredible as being a pastime for men of all degrees, from the autocrat of all the Russia's down to the humble school-boy.

NOTES.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Mekeel Co, announce a new standard catalogue, to appear shortly.

The *International Philatelist* has resumed publication with the September number.

There is a growing demand for cancelled Columbians in this city, and very few can be obtained, the 5 and 10 cent envelopes being almost impossible to obtain in used condition.

It is rumoured that another phil-

atelic society will be organized this winter, to be composed of the younger class of collectors. There is no doubt that such a society has long been needed in this city, and if properly organized with efficient officers, it should be very successful.

The annual election of officers of the Toronto Philatelic Club will take place on October 18th, the Club having reached the first anniversary of its successful existence. The membership which is composed of both City and Corresponding members is now 40.

The meetings, which are held twice each month, are as a rule well attended and with good management the membership should be greatly increased during the coming winter.

For some time past, several prominent dealers have been sending out approval sheets of stamps unsolicited. As a remedy for this, it has been suggested that the sheets should not be returned but either kept or destroyed. This is wrong, as any person who deliberately keeps or destroys stamps sent to him on approval, is almost as much a thief as the fraud or substituter.

Now, do not think for a moment that we wish to defend the dealer who sends out his sheets unsolicited. Far from it, as we should heartily endorse any legitimate plan by which the nuisance can be abated, and if possible entirely stopped.

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